

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 24<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*"By His Grace you are saved through faith"*  
Ephesians 2:8

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*



**Image:** “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.” (*John 20:19–20*)

# Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

**Worship bulletins & worship activity bags** (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again! If your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

**We're glad you're with us.** Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

## **As We Gather “*Believing Thomas*”**

Thomas is forever marked with the qualifying adjective “*doubting*.” How Thomas is known is due to one episode in a career marked more by faith and faithful discipleship. Could it be that the doubts that plague us are less marks of our unfaithfulness than they are challenges we must daily face in order to be Christ's own disciples? What defines you are not the doubts but what you do with them. Thomas brought his doubts to Jesus. We, too, are called to bring our doubts to the Lord and to be strengthened in faith and encouraged in a life of following our Savior.

## **We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer**

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

## Order of Service...Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203

Opening Hymn (Thur. & Sunday 8am only) 487 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (vs. 1-4)

Grace School Choir—(Sunday 10:30am only, *Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song*) “Waymaker”

*Stand*

### Confession and Absolution LSB 203

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

### ✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 105:1-5, 8; antiphon: 1 Peter 2:2-3, read responsively)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—\*

if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;\*  
**make known his deeds among the | peoples!**  
 Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;\*  
**tell of all his | wondrous works!**  
 Glory in his | holy name;\*  
**let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!**  
 Seek the LORD | and his strength;\*  
**seek his presence con- | tinually!**  
 Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,\*  
**his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered.**  
 He remembers his covenant for- | ever,\*  
**the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to sal- |  
 vation—\*  
**if indeed you have tasted that the | Lord is good.**

**Kyrie LSB 204**

**C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204**

**C 1 To God on high be glory**  
**And peace to all the earth;**  
**Goodwill from God in heaven**  
**Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!**  
**We praise and bless You, Father;**  
**Your holy name, we sing—**  
**Our thanks for Your great glory,**  
**Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,**  
**The Father's Son, we pray;**  
**O Lamb of God, our Savior,**  
**You take our sins away.**  
**Have mercy on us, Jesus;**  
**Receive our heartfelt cry,**  
**Where You in pow'r are seated**

At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
“Amen!” our glad reply.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 205**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Sit*

**Rite of Holy Baptism LSB 268 (Sunday 8:00am only)** We thank the Lord that on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, *Camden & Emmarie Kobza, children of Britnee & Alexander Kobza*, are baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God's Word in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at Grace!

**First Reading Acts 5:12-32**

***(“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”)***

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

<sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** (adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, read responsively)

Christ has risen | from the dead.\*

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.**

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;\*

**he has put all things un- | der his feet.**

**Epistle Lesson** Revelation 1:4-18

***(To Him who loves us be glory forever.)***

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven

churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse LSB 205**

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Alleluia Verse for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter—***“Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9; John 20:29b)*

**Holy Gospel John 20:19-31**

***(Thomas confronts Jesus with his doubts and Jesus confronts him with His wounds to show that the news of the resurrection is true.)***

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place

my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Apostles’ Creed *LSB 207***

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children’s Message “Blessed When We Believe” (John 20:19-31) (Thurs. 6:30pm & Sunday 8am only)** The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)



## Questioning of the Confirmands (Sunday 10:30am service only)



**Congratulations to our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Students!** God's blessings to **Levi Van Vlaenderen & Amberleigh Moog** upon their journey with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, that was started on the day of their baptisms, and has continued to this day of his Confirmation Questioning! Next Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>, during the late service, Levi and Amber will be confirming their Christian faith that God gave to them in their baptisms! Congratulations!

**Sermon Hymn 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King (vs. 1-5)**

**Sermon "Believing Thomas" (John 20:19-31)**

### **Offering/Attendance**

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write 'online giving' on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church** (After each petition the Pastor will say, "Lord in Your mercy," and the congregation responds saying, "Hear our prayer.")

## **✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

### **Preface LSB 208**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### **Sanctus LSB 208**

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving LSB 209**

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

#### **Lord's Prayer LSB 209**

- C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord LSB 209

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini LSB 209

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.

## Agnus Dei LSB 210

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

## Distribution

### We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup* (1 Cor. 11:28). Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins?* (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins?* (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?)* (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit?* (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE**—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

### **Distribution Hymns**

**-336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending**

**-517 By All Your Saints in Warfare (vs. 1, 6, 3)**

*Stand*

### **Post-Communion Canticle 774 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy (vs. 1)**

- 1 Feed Thy children, God most holy;  
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.  
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,  
Bless the food Thou here hast given!  
As these gifts the body nourish,  
May our souls in graces flourish  
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor  
At Thy feast due thanks we render.**

### **Post-Communion Collect LSB 212**

- A Let us pray. O Lord, from Your goodness have come mercy after mercy. Give us one thing more—a grateful heart—that acknowledging Your goodness we may be made ever more confident of Your grace and content with Your mercy, until that day when all our labors shall cease, our doubts shall no more trouble us, and, with blessed Thomas, we shall wear the new and glorious flesh Jesus already wears; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
- C Amen.**

### **Benedicamus LSB 212**

- A Let us bless the Lord.**
- C Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction LSB 212

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

## Closing Hymn 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King (vs. 6-9)

### Announcements

P: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* Myles King (blood disorder); Michael Helzer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; Jim & Kari (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; Greg Voss (healing & strength); Cindy Schmidt (healing); Gary Forsythe (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; Brittany (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; Greg (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; Judy (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew (Alzheimer's); Linda (brain cancer) friend of Carol Thurber; Jenny Rice (cancer); Scott (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); Steve Benzie (stomach pain, hernia); Cheryl (cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli; Carol Long (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; Blaine Goldner (kidney transplant surgery) friend of Carol Loveall; Sharon Iseli (healing); Mariya (cancer); Brooke Bzdawka (healing & strength) relative of Sharon Bzdawka; Jake (cancer) Grandson of Rose Adams; Terri (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; Cris Evers (healing & strength); Laura (Lou Gehrig's Disease) friend of Jim & Janine Pieper; Don Adams (cancer) relative of Pauline Parker; Linda Stecker's Son in Law (battling brain cancer); Gayle Stephen (pancreatic cancer) cousin of Suzie Mirenda; Martha Rowley (healing & strength) Grandma of Mary Rowley; Grace Miskimen (cancer) sister of Beth Jackson; Dale (pancreatic cancer) brother of Joy Lussier; Mary (broken hip) friend of Joy Lussier; Evan Kopperud (healing & strength); Tina Drapp (breast cancer); Annette (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's cousin; Susan (liver cancer) co-worker of Chris Cotter; Pete (healing & strength) friend of Marlene & Greg Voss; Tony Mirenda (healing & strength); Skip (hospitalized) relative of Pauline Parker; Debbie Parker (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's daughter in law; Anthony Bartlein (heart transplant) father of Dena Guziewicz (our School Secretary); Scott Brenton (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado's fiancé; Rick Weeks (cancer treatment); John Penn (recovery from shoulder surgery).

*For our Homebound Members at Grace:* Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, Art Steinborn, Gloria Kilponen, Doc Medek, and Joanne Morgan.

We mourn with the family of John Loveall, brother-in-law of Carol Loveall, who was called home to heavenly rest. We pray: *We come to You with heavy hearts as we mourn the death of Your servant, John Loveall. In the midst of our sorrow, we hold tightly to the promise of the resurrection and the hope we have in Christ Jesus. Be near to John's family, Lord—wrap them in Your comfort, fill them with Your peace, and strengthen them with Your love. Amen.*

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!** We thank the Lord that on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, *Camden & Emmarie Kobza, children of Britnee & Alexander Kobza*, are baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God's Word in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at Grace! We praise the Lord that their names are written in God's Book of Life!!!

***All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues;*** Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: [Paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:Paulinemom@aol.com). **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:**

Church Office:			414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

## **Assisting with the Divine Service**

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Sunday 4/24 6:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/27 8:30am</u>	<u>Sunday 4/27 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Staci Scherer	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Bob Buzzell	Mike Huber
	Lance Kopperud	Lynn Buzzell	Martin Taggatz
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

**Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> following our 10:30am worship service.** At this Voters Meeting we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next year. We will also have Board updates, a report from Pastor Taggatz, the treasurer's report, and we will have an update on new members at Grace. Please plan on attending the Voters meeting, as your support and involvement in our ministries here at Grace is deeply needed and appreciated. The election of officers will take place at the Voter's meeting in June of this year.

**Public Hearing for Grace Lutheran Church - Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** We invite all members and supporters of Grace Lutheran Church and School to attend an important **Public Hearing on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm** at the **Oak Creek Civic Center** (Lake Vista Room), located at **8040 S 6th St, Oak Creek, WI 53154**. This hearing concerns the **zoning approval for the new garage** on our school property. Your presence and support at the meeting will be greatly appreciated and will help us move forward with our plans to build this much-needed facility. **Please make plans to attend and show your support!**

Welcome to our new families who have recently joined Grace this past month: *Lori & Maya Hegarty, Michael Vlach, Carl Branch, Scott Brenton, Linda Maldonado, Bailey & Liam Miles, and Hope Grams.*

We are so glad that you have joined Grace!!!

**Your 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Giving Statements are available in the Narthex.** Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace!!!

**Sign up for Grace Lutheran's week-long VBS Scheduled June 9-13 from 9:00am to 12:00pm, each day!!!**

Mrs. Amy Pankow, our VBS Director, already has a team of very talented and enthusiastic helpers to make this year's VBS at Grace a memorable and exciting experience as we learn about Jesus our Savior and Lord. We have camp Graceland running before and after VBS if needed on those days. Texas Roadhouse in Oak Creek will be partnering with us on the last day and SO much more exciting things! Get those kiddos signed up! And for middle schoolers and high-school kids (come on back Grace alumni!), there are great ways to volunteer and help out! If you want to help out (even a day or so) sign up!! Thank you, Mrs. Amy Pankow, for all your hard work on this!!!

**Here is a description of this year's VBS:** *Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!* **To sign up for VBS at Grace Oak Creek please follow this link:** <https://vbspro.events/p/graceoakcreek>

**Celebration for Mrs. Amy Pankow & Mrs. Lisa Hengst - Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** Join us in celebrating Mrs. Pankow's 10 years of teaching at Grace Lutheran School and Mrs. Hengst's graduation with a Masters Degree in School Administration from Concordia University Wisconsin! Worship with us at 9am on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and then join us for a potluck meal in the school gym at 10:30am, served by our Grace Lutheran PTLs. Let's come together to celebrate Mrs. Pankow & Mrs. Hengst's dedication and service to our school.

**You can sign up for the potluck for Mrs. Hengst & Mrs. Pankow at church in the narthex.**

**Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Grace Lutheran Youth Group Easter Breakfast that was held on Easter Sunday April 20th!!!** We greatly appreciate the hard work of our youth group and their parents who put on this event as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to our members who also donated items for this event. We appreciate your support of our Youth Group!!!



**Grace Youth Group Stock Sale!!!!** What better investment can you make than giving our youth an opportunity to praise Jesus? In July, many of the high schoolers in our congregation will travel to New Orleans, LA, for the triennial LCMS National Youth Gathering. There, they will have the opportunity to worship with about 25,000 other Lutherans from around

the world. **How you can help:** 1.) Buy stock in our youth during the month of April - Any amount is appreciated. (Special envelopes are available in the Narthex at church). 2. Pray for us while we travel and participate in the gathering. 3. Follow our adventures on Facebook and Instagram. 4. Join us after we get back for a stockholder's luncheon so we can share our experiences with you. We are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as they prepare for this life-changing event. Thank you for being a blessing to our youth!

**Important Date for Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Coming Up--**This is a reminder that the last day of Sunday School & Adult Bible Class will be Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for having your children attend Sunday School this year, as they have had the opportunity to learn more about God's love for them in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord!

**Military Bible Sticks— Campaign from Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.** Our congregation has faithfully supported this mission for many years. We prayerfully ask you for this support again this year. The change this year is that Military Bible Sticks will be paired with a new mission from Faith Comes by Hearing. This new effort is called Vision 2033. Vision 2033 involves partnering with other missions, such as Lutheran Bible Translators, to translate the Bible into mission languages. These Bible sticks would have native speakers reading the Word and would be given to the missions in countries all over the world. That way people would be able to hear the Good News in their own languages. We are looking forward to being able to be a part of this new mission by Faith Comes by Hearing. Envelopes will be available for donating to Military Bible Sticks in the narthex on the white board. A video will be shared with the congregation soon to share this mission's vision. For more in-depth information please go to: <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/> Here is an interview on the history of Military Bible Sticks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-6mwlc1Bvo>

**Adult Bible Class Topic— Lectionary Bible Study on the Bible Readings for Each Sunday.** On Sunday mornings in the school library from 9:15-10:15am, we will be studying the Bible Readings for each particular Sunday through Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. This will focus on the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, the Epistle reading, and the Gospel reading for each Sunday, please join us as we grow together in our understanding of God's Word!!!

**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!!** Graduation is coming up for our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at Grace Lutheran School, but also for those in our congregation that are graduating from High School and College. On Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> we will be acknowledging those in our congregation that are graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, High School, and College. We are asking that any High School or College age students of our congregation that are graduating would join us for this event. They may also wear their cap and gown to be recognized for their graduation. Please let us know what school they are graduating from, and if it is from college, what is their major? We will publish this information in the church's bulletins on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please email this info to our Church Secretary Heidi at: [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org)

#### **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

We will be switching to our Summer Schedule here at Grace starting Memorial Day weekend. This means that our Sunday morning worship time will be at 9:00am starting on Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and this will go through Labor Day Weekend. There will not be Sunday School and Adult Bible Class during the summer. Thursday evening worship at 6:30pm will remain the same throughout the summer. We look forward to seeing you in worship!!!



**Grace PTLs is hosting their annual Panther Palooza on Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>.** This event is fun for the whole family and members of Grace Lutheran Church & ECC are welcome to join our School families for this event!!! We will have multiple bounce houses, a bubble station for the littles, games, prizes, food, even a DJ and glitter stencils! We are also hosting a silent auction during the event with some amazing things to bid on. This event will take place in the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup>.



**Annual Grace Lutheran School Dance – "Red Carpet VIP" Hosted by Grace PTLS on Friday, May 2nd, 2025- 5:30 - 8:30 PM @ Oak Creek Community Center 8580 South Howell Ave, Oak Creek, WI 53154** Join us for a glamorous night of fun, food, and dancing! This event is open to the households of Grace Lutheran Church, School, and ECC—so dress your best and dance the night away! **Tickets:** \$10 – "Red Carpet VIP" Admission & \$5 – Children 5 & Under (Ticket price includes entry, pizza, and punch!) **Extras Available for Purchase:** Corsages & Boutonnieres – \$5 each & Bake & Craft Sale Station. Don't miss this special evening of fellowship and fun! For more details or to purchase tickets, contact Grace PTLS.

**OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PANTHER NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX HERE AT CHURCH FOR ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PICK IT UP TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL.**

**Ladies Bible Study** Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m. We are studying, *"Patience & Perfection: Finding Peace in God's Plan for You!"* by Daniel Paavola. Join us!!!

"Knowing that God is always near as our Help moves us to reflect the Savior's love in helping others. 'Carry each other's burdens' (Galatians 6:2)." *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Through Locked Doors"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

When Jesus shows up, it's no longer "us vs. them," because Jesus is for everyone, even if everyone is not yet for Jesus. (John 20:19) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) scroll down the page and click on, *"listen now."* Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ 620 AM Milwaukee, WI Sun 6:30 am

WGN 720 AM Chicago, IL Sun 6:30am

## **Grief Share Group at Grace Lutheran School**

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? We have started a special seminar that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share grief recovery seminar and support group meets on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm in the school library and it will end on Monday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We will take off April 21<sup>st</sup> for Easter Monday. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?" "The Challenges of Grief," "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?" and "Guilt and Anger."* For more information or to register: go to the website: [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.

## **IN THE WORD FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Catechism:** Table of Duties—To Wives: Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:5-6

**Verse of the week:** John 15:5, *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 81

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 461 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” (stanzas 1-3, 8)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— Jesus Appears in the Upper Room—John 20:19-31

Monday— The Resurrection of Our Lord—Luke 24:1-12

Tuesday— The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus—Luke 24:13-27

Wednesday— Jesus Is Revealed in the Breaking of the Bread—Luke 24:28-35

Thursday— Jesus Eats Broiled Fish in the Upper Room—Luke 24:33-49

Friday— St Philip and St James, Apostles—John 14:1-14

Saturday— Jesus Ordains the Apostles—John 20:19-31

**Stewardship Minute** Perhaps at one time we had little more than a passing interest in spiritual things. Then, as the Holy Spirit worked in us through God’s Holy Word and Sacraments, our commitment deepened. An intimate relationship with Jesus developed and was manifested by the use of our time, talents, and money for His purposes. We willingly started devoting time daily to the reading of God’s Word as well as spending time with Him in prayer. We found ourselves eager to attend weekly church services and Bible studies so we could worship the Lord and receive His nourishment. A desire to commit a generous portion of our money to the Lord through giving to our churches and to others was born in us. Our lives and blessings were turned over to God to be used in His service.

**STEWARDS ARE TOOLS IN GOD’S HANDS TO DO HIS WORK.**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).



## Growing in Grace – April 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$4166.40</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$982.00</i>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5148.40</b>

*Attendance Total: 347*  
*Communion Maundy Thursday: 63*  
*Communed Sunday: 98*

**Please note:** In order to meet budget each week we need to receive \$6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!

### Opportunities at Grace this coming week!

Sunday	4/27	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship Voter's Meeting
Monday	4/28	5:30pm	Graduation & Confirmation Pictures
Tuesday	4/29	7:00am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	4/30	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	5/1	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/2	-----	-----
Saturday	5/3	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	5/4	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship

## SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262

Pastor		
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

