

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

3rd Sunday of Easter/Confirmation Sunday

May 1st & 4th, 2025

God's Grace

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



Image: "When they [the disciples] got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord." (*John 21:9-12*)

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 ““I Am Jesus” Changes Everything”

Was there a more dramatic conversion story than with Saul of Damascus? Even the one who orchestrated the persecution and martyrdom of the first Christians surrenders to the power of Christ and His resurrection. Without Christ, all his knowledge of the Old Testament was incomplete, but in Christ, he is born anew by Baptism and the Spirit. Instead of turning his world upside down, at last Paul has his life right side up. We may not have experienced the drama of the Damascus road, but our lives have been set right in Christ fully and finally. Knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection means that all things have been made new and right with the Lord, for the living of this life and for the assurance of eternal life.

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 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)

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 145:4-7, 9; antiphon: v. 10, read responsively)

All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!

One generation shall commend your works to an- | other,*
and shall declare your | mighty acts.

On the glorious splendor of your | majesty,*
and on your wondrous works, I will | meditate.

They shall speak of the might of your | awesome deeds,*

and I will declare your | greatness.
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant | goodness*
and shall sing aloud of your | righteousness.
The LORD is | good to all,*
and his mercy is over all that | he has made.

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.

All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!

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. Merciful Father, in Your great love You bestowed forgiveness upon Saul, and by Your Spirit, You brought him to faith in Your Son. Grant that we, too, may be rescued from unbelief and, by Your grace, be granted the favor of Your friendship and redemption to believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior, and to serve His purpose in all that we do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading *Acts 9:1-22*

(Our risen and ascended Lord Jesus asks, "Saul, why are you persecuting Me?")

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has

sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

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 5:1-14

(“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.”)

¹Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” ³And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation,

¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,

and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” ¹⁴And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- 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 3rd 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. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32)*

Holy Gospel John 21:1-19

(After directing the disciples to a great catch of fish, Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twenty-first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So

Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

- 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.

Children's Message "Baptism Brings You to Jesus" (Acts 9:1-22) (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)

Sermon Hymn 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "Meeting Jesus Changes Everything" (Acts 9:1-22)

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. 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.



Rite of Confirmation, LSB pg. 272 (Sunday 10:30am Service Only)

Levi Bui Van Vlaenderen & Amberleigh Marie Moog

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

-912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

-644 The Church's One Foundation

Stand

Post Communion Cantic—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. We give You thanks, O Lord, that You have rescued us from our rebellion and redeemed us from sin and its death. Grant us grace that we may keep in holy hearts and live out in holy lives what we have here received in the Word of the Gospel and the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, and preserve us in this faith even to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, 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.

Sit

Closing Hymn 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: 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); **Sindy 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; **Sharon Iseli** (healing); **Mariya** (cancer); **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); **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); **Jim Robinson** (heart 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.*

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. **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>Thursday 5/1 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/4 8:30am</u>	<u>Sunday 5/4 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Greg Nowakowski	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Erica Vitek	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Kathy & Morgan	Kathy & Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>		Abigail Norton	
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel	Craig Lau	Rick Weeks
	Char Klipfel	Camryn Lau	Cathy Weeks
<u>Livestream</u>			Jennifer Olen

Congratulations to our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Students!



God's blessings to ***Levi Bui Van Vlaenderen & Amberleigh Marie Moog*** upon their journey with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior that was started on the day of their baptism and has continued to their Confirmation TODAY! Congratulations to them both as they have confirmed their Christian faith that God gave to them in their baptism!

❖ Levi Bui VanVlaenderen

Baptism Date—March 21st, 2011

Confirmation Verse—John 14:6, *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

❖ Amberleigh Marie Moog

Baptism Date—September 28th, 2008

Confirmation Verse—1 Timothy 4:12, *“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”*

We pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for **Levi** and **Amberleigh** as they confirm their Christian faith in You today. Bless them with Your Holy Spirit, keep them strong in Your Word, and guide them in Your love. Help them to trust in Your promises all their days, until they are with You forever. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Easter Flowers Pickup. Thank You for Decorating Our Church for Easter! We are grateful to everyone who helped beautify our sanctuary with Easter flowers for the celebration of our Lord Jesus' resurrection from the dead! If you purchased Easter flowers, you may now take them home. The Easter Flowers you purchased are also labeled for you so they should be easy to find for you to take home from our Church Narthex. Thank you again for your generosity and for helping us celebrate the joy of Easter! **God bless you!**

Special Voters Meeting - Sunday, May 18th We are calling a **Special Voters Meeting** for **Sunday, May 18th**, following the late service. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on **Teacher Calls for our Lutheran School**. A *quorum* is required, so **please plan to attend**. Your participation is important as we prayerfully make these decisions together. Thank you for your commitment to Grace Lutheran Church, School, and ECC. God's blessings!!! **Tony Mirenda, Grace Church President.**

Public Hearing for Grace Lutheran Church - Monday, May 5th We invite all members and supporters of Grace Lutheran Church and School to attend an important **Public Hearing** on **Monday, May 5th 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!**

Your 1st 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 1st 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 1st, 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.**

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 18th. 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 22nd through Sunday, July 6th. 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 18th. This will focus on the 1st 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 8th Graders at Grace Lutheran School, but also for those in our congregation that are graduating from High School and College. On Sunday May 18th we will be acknowledging those in our congregation that are graduating from 8th 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 18th. Please email this info to our Church Secretary Heidi at: 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 25th 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 16th. 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 16th.

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!!!

"By the washing of water, John made God's divine intentions clear. Jesus was our brother indeed, on a heavenly mission to rescue and purify us from all sin. Dear Lord, keep us patient as we wait for You. Amen."

Rev. Paul Koelpin, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

LUTHERAN HOUR "An Old Place, A New Beginning" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola.

God is the Searcher Who will not stop looking for us. In our lonely hiding place, He says, "I knew I would find you here." (John 21:1-19) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: 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 19th. We will take off April 21st 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 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 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism: Table of Duties—To Parents: Ephesians 6:4; To Children: Ephesians 6:1-3

Verse of the week: Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 23

Hymn of the week: LSB 709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—“I Am the Good Shepherd”—John 10:11-16

Monday— Jesus Eats Breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias—John 21:1-14

Tuesday— Jesus Restores Peter—John 21:15-25

Wednesday— The Great Commission—Matthew 28:16-20

Thursday— Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53

Friday— The Ascension of Our Lord—Acts 1:1-14

Saturday— Isaiah 40:25-31

Stewardship Minute As people saved by God, we show our gratitude not only by thanking and praising Him with our lips but in our actions and deeds. We demonstrate our thanks by doing good works which He Himself prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Through His Word and Sacraments, God shares His will with us so that we know the good works that He calls us to do. Through the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2), God not only tells us of His will, but He also gives us the power to perform the tasks which He has prepared in advance for us. For those who believe, God’s *“great might that He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places”* (Ephesians 1:19-20) is available to us.

“TITHING IS A VENTURE OF FAITH AND TRUST WHICH LEADS TO GREATER FAITH AND TRUST.”

(Paul R. Lindholm)

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7).



Growing in Grace – April 24th & 27th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3268.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$577.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>80.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>10.00</i>	
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$3935.00</i>	<i>Attendance Total: 174</i>
		<i>Communed: 97</i>

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	5/4	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship - Confirmation
Monday	5/5	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/6	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	5/7	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study All Boards Meeting
Thursday	5/8	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/9	-----	-----
Saturday	5/10	-----	-----
Sunday	5/11	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class 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) thewordendures.blogspot.com
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	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

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