

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

4th Sunday of Easter/Good Shepherd Sunday
May 8th & 11th, 2025

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

Celebrate
Teach
Share

God's Grace



Image: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (*Isaiah 53:6*)

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 *"The Good Shepherding Continues"*

Even as we celebrate Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we also acknowledge that His shepherding love and care continues through the undershepherds whom He sends to protect, preserve, and provide for His sheep. The pastors do not replace Jesus, our Good Shepherd, but are the means by which our Lord continues His work among us through His Word and Sacraments. His Word and promise continue, and He is among us just as He has said, still leading us to the still quiet waters, the rich green pastures, and the safe refuge so familiar to us in the words of Psalm 23.

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 1, pg. 151

Opening Hymn 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (vs. 1-3)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 78:70-72; 79:13; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b, read responsively)

I am the good | shepherd.*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

He chose David his servant and took him from the | sheepfolds;*

from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his in- | heritance.*

With upright heart he shep- | herded them*

and guided them with his | skillful hand.

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you for- | ever;*

from generation to generation we will re- | count your praise.

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.

I am the good | shepherd.*
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Kyrie *LSB 152*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

C **This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

**This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 172*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O Merciful God, You have provided for us Your own Son to be our Good Shepherd and, through Him, pastors to serve as undershepherds for Your people. Continue to work in us through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we may be kept safe from harm and led to everlasting life through Your Word and Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

First Reading *Acts 20:17-35*

(St. Paul exhorts Pastors to, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock.”)

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you

this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- 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 7:9-17*

(The Lamb who sits on the throne shall be their Shepherd.)

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- ¹⁵"Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
- ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 156

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 4th 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. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9; John 10:14)*

Holy Gospel John 10:22-30

(No one can snatch the sheep out of Jesus the Good Shepherd’s hand.)

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

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

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed LSB 159

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 "He's So Good a Shepherd!" (Acts 20:17-35) 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 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4, 6)

Sermon "The Good Shepherd Cares for The Church" (Acts 20:17-35)

Offertory LSB 159

- C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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.



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 160*

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, 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 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 162*

- 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 163

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

Agnus Dei LSB 163

- C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

-725 Children of the Heavenly Father

-735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

Stand

Thank the Lord *LSB 164*

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 166*

- A Let us pray. Almighty God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for providing for us
Your own Son to be our Shepherd and Lord. Grant that through the means of grace
and those undershepherds who administer them to us we may continue to be fed
and nourished to eternal life and bring us at last to that day when we shall gather
as one in Your presence on high, without trouble or trial to afflict us, and we shall
know His love face to face; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benediction *LSB 166*

- 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 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (vs. 1-4)

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); 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; 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); 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); Bill (hospitalized) Jan Warmkessel's son.

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

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



**Altar flowers are given by Tony and Suzie Mirenda
in honor of Suzie's birthday.**

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 5/8 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/11 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 5/11 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Brandon Dachel	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glenn Dotson	Kathy Szefflinski
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Kathy & Morgan	Kathy & Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel Char Klipfel	Garrison Hundt Madilyn Hundt	Tommy & Andrea Szefflinski

Livestream

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.**

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. To sign up online for this please go to: <https://forms.gle/qj7SNongirP9SMT28>**

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>

The Martin Luther High School Music Department is pleased to present its annual Spring Concert on Friday May 9 at 7:00pm in the Worship/Fine Arts Center at Martin Luther. The concert, entitled, *“Showstoppers & Blockbusters”* will feature the Jazz Ensemble, Spartan Band, Symphonic Band, Troubadours, Chorus, and Concert Choir. A wide variety of music will be performed by each of the ensembles. In addition to the concert, the Art Department will present a Student Art Exhibit and have ceramic items for sale. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 421-4000 for reserved seating. Doors will open at 6pm, for the art exhibits.

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. The event starts at 5:30pm and goes till 8pm.

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.

“As Christians, we know that God’s commitment to upholding life started long ago—before photos—before the beginning of time even. From His ordered creation of the world to His ordered creation of you in your mother’s womb, God’s work has always been life-affirming. Grafted into His family through Baptism, we have become children of God and inheritors of eternal life.” *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – 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 "How to Be Happy" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Lasting happiness is found in surrender, rather than control. (John 15:11) 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 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism: Table of Duties—To Workers of All Kinds: Ephesians 6:5-8

Verse of the week: Romans 3:28, “*A man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 66

Hymn of the week: LSB 482 “This Joyful Eastertide” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—“Your Sorrow Will Be Turned to Joy”—John 16:16-22

Monday—Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas’s Office—Acts 1:12-26

Tuesday—The Feast of Pentecost—Acts 2:1-13

Wednesday—Peter’s Sermon on the Prophet Joel—Acts 2:14-21

Thursday—Peter Calls the Church to Repentance—Acts 2:22-36

Friday—The Life of the Church—Acts 2:37-47

Saturday—Isaiah 12:1-6

Stewardship Minute Jesus tells us that temporal and worldly things have no lasting value. We are to be in the world but not of the world. We are warned not to store up treasures on earth. No earthly treasures will give us long-term happiness and security. Material things become a distraction. The things we own will either become worthless due to inflation, become obsolete, wear out, or be stolen. Earthly treasures have limited value and purpose. In contrast, Jesus directs us to store up treasures in heaven that will last. We store up treasures in heaven by helping, serving, and witnessing to others. When God opens our hearts and minds, He changes our desires and enables us to store up treasures in heaven. We store up treasures in heaven because we know, by God’s grace, that our real home is with Him.

**AS GOD’S REDEEMED CHILDREN,
WE ARE HIS STEWARDS BY HIS
CALL AND THROUGH HIS GRACE.**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you
and appointed you that you should go
and bear fruit...” (John 15:16).



Growing in Grace – May 1st & 4th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3902.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1707.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1020.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>	
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$6654.00</i>	<i>Attendance Total: 122</i>
		<i>Communed: 86</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	5/11	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship
Monday	5/12	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/13	7:00am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	5/14	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday	5/15	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/16	-----	-----
Saturday	5/17	-----	-----
Sunday	5/18	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship Special Voters Meeting

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

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

