

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

May 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



Image: "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!" (Psalm 98:1)

# 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 “One Love, One Life”**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter bears the traditional name of *Cantate*, from the Introit's “*Oh sing to the LORD a new song.*” Not only people but all of creation is urged to break out in song. Throughout our worship today we will do just that, for the resurrection news cannot be left to quiet contemplation. Though it was difficult for Peter to convince the others, when they realized Gentiles had received the Spirit, they rejoiced. The vision of heaven in Revelation has no more pain or sorrow; what can be left but joyful singing? Jesus' telling the disciples to love one another seems an impossible command, but He was reminding them how greatly God has loved them. That realization can only call for singing! So much of today's worship includes familiar hymn stanzas to share the joy inside.

### **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

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (vs. 1-2, 4)

*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 98:2-6; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively)**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\*

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.**

The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;\*

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.\*

**All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;\*  
**break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!**  
Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre,\*  
**with the lyre and the sound of | melody!**  
With trumpets and the sound | of the horn\*  
**make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!**

**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.**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!\*

**His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.**

### **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.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis LSB 154**

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.  
C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**  
**We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.**  
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:**  
**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**  
**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**  
**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 156**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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*

**Rite of Holy Baptism LSB 268 (8 & 10:30am only)** We thank the Lord that on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, *Camden & Emmarie Kobza (8am), children of Britnee & Alexander Kobza, and Maya Hegarty (10:30am), daughter of Phil & Lori Hegarty*, 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 11:1-18**

***(The apostles rejoice that the Spirit has been given to Gentiles.)***

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, <sup>3</sup>"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." <sup>4</sup>But Peter began and explained it to them in order: <sup>5</sup>"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. <sup>6</sup>Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup>But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup>But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' <sup>10</sup>This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. <sup>11</sup>And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. <sup>12</sup>And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup>And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' <sup>15</sup>As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup>If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" <sup>18</sup>When they

heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

- 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 21:1-7*

**(God and His people will live together in the new Jerusalem.)**

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup>And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup>And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup>The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

- 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.**

**Holy Gospel** *John 13:31-35*

**(God has loved us so much so that we are also able to love one another.)**

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

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Stand*

### **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 "Jesus Loves..." (John 13:31-35)** 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 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (vs. 1-2, 5)**

**Sermon "The Love of God in Christ" (John 13:31-35)**

**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](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 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**

**-465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds**

**-821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

*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. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us in every way through this life giving Sacrament. We pray that we may be strengthened through it to sing Your praises and love one another each day until we celebrate at the heavenly feast; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.**

*Sit*

### **Closing Hymn 680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise (vs. 1)**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



*The Altar flowers are given by Greg and Gail Nowakowski*

*In Honor of their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!* 

### 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.

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!** We thank the Lord that on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, *Camden & Emmarie Kobza (8am)*, children of Britnee & Alexander Kobza, and *Maya Hegarty (10:30am)*, daughter of Phil & Lori Hegarty, 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>Thursday 5/15 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/18 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 5/18 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Kieth Goodle	Adam Voss	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Cris Evers	Beth Jackson
<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	Craig Lau	Tommy Szeftlinski
	Char Klipfel	Camryn Lau	Andrea Szeftlinski
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

# *Congratulations to those who are graduating!*



**Kindergarten—those graduating from Grace Lutheran School:**

*Jacob, Jaxson, Eriqah, Garrett, Jenna, Carson, Charlie, Charlotte, Lilly, Ethan, Saige, Addelynn, & Bear*

**8th Grade—those graduating from Grace Lutheran School:**

*Marcus, Denis, Jackson, Levi*

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Oak Creek Public School:** *Brillee Simmons, from Oak Creek East Middle School*

**High School—***Carson Serdynski, Martin Luther High School*

**College—**

*Lisa Hengst, Graduating from Concordia University Wisconsin, with a degree in Masters in Administration*

*Natalie Vitek, Graduating from Carthage College, with a Bachelor of Science, Majoring in Neuroscience*

*Sarah Goodle, Graduating from Concordia University Wisconsin, Doctorate in Nursing, Nurse Practitioner*

*Tammy Rowley, Graduating from Shepherds College, Wisconsin, Majoring in Horticulture*

**A Prayer for our Graduates—***Lord God, Heavenly Father, You provide schools and teachers for faithful instruction and dedicated learning. Receive our thanks for the knowledge gained by those who are now graduating. As they continue to learn and grow, grant them Your Holy Spirit that their talents and abilities may be used for Your glory and as a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## **Special Voters Meeting - Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

We are calling a **Special Voters Meeting** for **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**, 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 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. 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!

**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! We look forward to seeing you in Adult Bible Class & Sunday School this Fall!!!

## **Military Bible Sticks**

**Campaign from Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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!!!

# *Worship* **SCHEDULE**

## ***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 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>. 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.**

**LUTHERAN HOUR "Truth That Takes Us In"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Jesus is the Truth Who will take you in to live like He lives, planted in God His Father's love. (John 15:9) 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 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Catechism:** Table of Duties—To Employers and Supervisors: Ephesians 6:9;  
To Youth: 1 Peter 5:5-6

**Verse of the week:** Acts 14:22b, “*Continue in the faith ...*  
*“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”*”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 98

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 768 “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” (stanzas 1-4)

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

**Sunday**—“The Promise of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15

**Monday**—The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus—Luke 3:(1-20) 21-38

**Tuesday**—The Temptation of Our Lord—Luke 4:1-15

**Wednesday**—Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth—Luke 4:16-30

**Thursday**—The Signs of the Messiah—Luke 4:31-44

**Friday**— Jesus Calls Fishers of Men—Luke 5:1-11

**Saturday**— Numbers 21:4-9



## **STEWARDSHIP**

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

**Stewardship Minute** Are you prepared with God's help to do all that you can to help others know Jesus? Are you using your time, talents, and treasures in ways that make an eternal difference in the lives of others? To make an impact on others is not easy. Although doing the Lord's work brings much joy, it does require sacrifice. For the sake of the Gospel, we need to commit our time and energy. In addition, the Lord's work often requires us to give sacrificially. For example, the early Christians sold land and houses to meet the needs of others (Acts 2:45). The Macedonian churches gave beyond their ability to the needs of other believers (2 Corinthians 8:1-7). Just as God worked in the hearts of the Macedonians, He changes our hearts so we can become generous people.

**FAITHFUL GIVING IS MERELY  
RETURNING TO GOD WHAT HE  
HAS ALREADY GIVEN TO US.**

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).

## ***Growing in Grace – May 8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>***

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3402.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1067.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>	
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	
<b><i>Total:</i></b>	<b><i>\$6738.00</i></b>	<b><i>Attendance Total: 98</i></b>
		<b><i>Communed: 89</i></b>

**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	5/18	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		11:30am	Special Voters Meeting
Monday	5/19	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/20	7:00am	Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	5/21	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	5/22	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/23	-----	-----
Saturday	5/24	-----	-----
Sunday	5/25	9:00am	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>
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### Church & ECC

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