

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

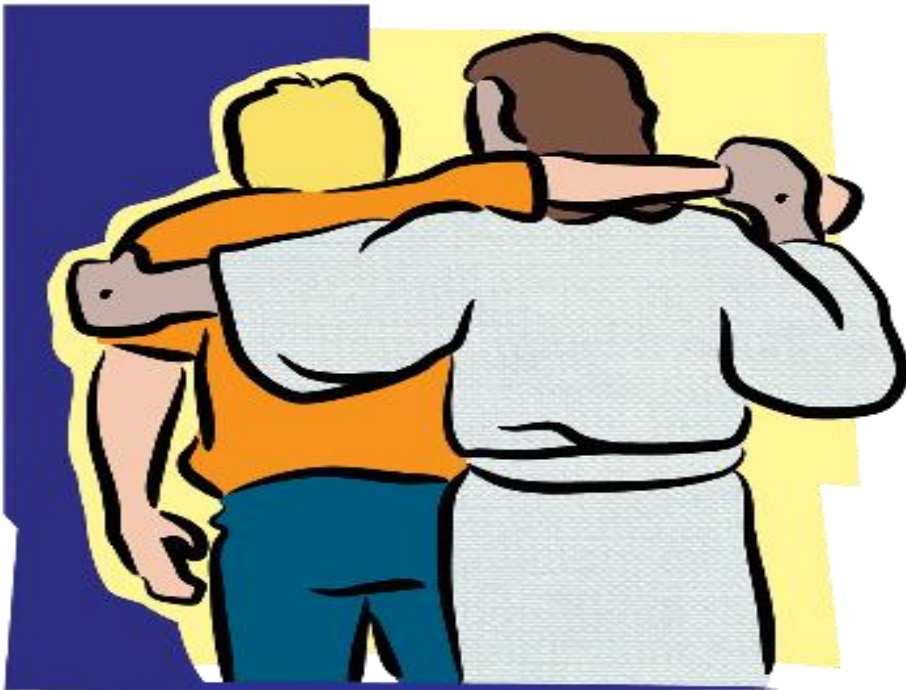
Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

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

May 22<sup>nd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



**Image:** *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)*

# 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 “We Can't Wait”**

It is almost the end of the Easter Season, and we would like it to continue. The non-festival half of the Church Year doesn't seem as, well, festive. But listen to the Readings! There are people, like Paul in the Reading from Acts, who need support today. And Lydia is an example of a new Christian, ready to help. The vision in Revelation showed John's readers the perfect city, ready to welcome all whose names are in the Book of Life (that's us)! We can hardly wait to get there. In the meantime, there's no time to lose. “Ask,” Jesus tells us in the Gospel, “*and you will receive, that your joy may be full*” (John 16:24). You see, even now He is with us. What would you like to ask Him?

## **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 869 With the Lord Begin Your Task (vs. 1-4)

*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 55:4, 16-18; antiphon: v. 22, read responsively)**

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- | tain you;\*

**he will never permit the righteous to | be moved.**

My heart is in anguish with- | in me;\*

**the terrors of death have fallen up- | on me.**

But I | call to God,\*

**and the LORD will | save me.**

Evening and morning and at noon I utter my com- | plaint and moan,\*

and he | hears my voice.  
He redeems my soul in safety from the battle | that I wage,\*  
for many are arrayed a- | gainst me.

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.

Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sus- | tain you;\*  
he will never permit the righteous to | be moved.

#### **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, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 16:9-15**

***(Paul goes to Macedonia and baptizes Lydia.)***

<sup>9</sup>A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup>And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

<sup>11</sup>So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup>and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. <sup>13</sup>And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. <sup>14</sup>One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup>And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

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 21:9-14, 21-27**

***(The Apostle John sees the heavenly Jerusalem.)***

<sup>9</sup>Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

<sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, <sup>11</sup>having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup>It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— <sup>13</sup>on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup>And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. . . .

<sup>21</sup>And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup>and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

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 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter—***“Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9; John 16:33b)*

**Holy Gospel John 16:23-33**

**(Jesus prepares the disciples for His leaving them.)**

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

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

<sup>23</sup>[Jesus said:] “In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. <sup>24</sup>Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no

longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. <sup>26</sup>In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; <sup>27</sup>for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. <sup>28</sup>I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup>His disciples said, “Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! <sup>30</sup>Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God.” <sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup>Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

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 "City of the Lamb" (Rev 21:22)** 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 469 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “The City of God” (Rev. 21:9-14, 21-27)

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**

**-556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

**-632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee**

*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. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.**

### **Closing Hymn 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise (vs. 1-4)**

**Pastor:** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God!!!



*The Altar flowers are given by Kathy and Bill Szefflinski*

*In Honor of their 33<sup>rd</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); **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); **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; **Julia Kahle** (healing & strength) friend of Taggatz family; **The Bowers and Korth Families**; **Rose Adams** (healing & strength).

**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](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
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker
		414-762-9615
		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 5/22 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/25 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Mike Huber	Craig Lau
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Kathy & Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>		
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel Char Klipfel	Tommy Szefflinski Andrea Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	

## **June 29<sup>th</sup> Voters Meeting following 9am worship at Grace!**

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending our next Voters Meeting at Church!!! It will be on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup> after the 9am worship service. Special topics will include: Pastor's Report, Election of new officers, and updates from church boards. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the ministries here at Grace!!! God bless you!

## **Giving Tree in our Church Sanctuary!!!**

The *Giving Tree* from our Board of Stewardship will be up in our Church Sanctuary on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the *Giving Tree* this year will go to support our *Church's Good Samaritan Fund*, which helps out those in need from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center, and the Oak Creek Community.

Thank you for your generosity and support for those who are in need!!!

## **Are You Interested in Serving on a Church Board?**

Elections are coming up for various boards at our Church at our June Voter's Meeting. Do you feel called to serve in leadership here at Grace Lutheran Church? Please consider contacting the Church Office and we will let you know what responsibilities each board position has. We will also connect you with the current board members who are serving so that you can ask them questions pertaining to their current board responsibilities. The term of service is three years, and your service would begin in July of 2025. Please call the Church Office for what board positions are currently available for the next term.

## **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> Please also see the VBS Table in the Narthex for various items that you can donate to our VBS this Summer!!!**

## **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!**

## **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>

## *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!!!



**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 "What's Your Story?"** Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning. Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness. Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power. (John 9:1-11) 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

## ***IN THE WORD FOR 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER***

**Catechism:** Table of Duties—To Widows: 1 Timothy 5:5-6; To Everyone: Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 2:1

**Verse of the week:** Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 107

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 773 “Hear Us, Father, When We Pray” (stanzas 1-4)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday—“Pray in My Name”—John 16:23-33

Monday— Jesus Cleanses a Leper—Luke 5:12-16

Tuesday— Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic—Luke 5:17-26

Wednesday— Matthew the Tax Collector—Luke 5:27-32

Thursday— Fasting and the Sabbath—Luke 5:33-39

Friday— The Ascension of Our Lord—Luke 24:44-53

Saturday— Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath—Luke 6:1-11



## Stewardship Minute Be a Witness

The Bible says, *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). Jesus took the initiative *"to seek"*; Jesus paid the price *"to save."* Reaching people with the Gospel is not optional; it's central.

When He lived on this earth, *"Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages...proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom...When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were...like sheep without a shepherd"* (Matthew 9:35-36). Jesus still feels compassion in His heart when He looks down on the world today, and He uses us to show His compassion.

God didn't say, "There are people out there who need Me, and, if you get around to it someday or feel like it, go for it." He said, *"GO!"* (Matthew 28:19). It's not optional; it's a command. This is a matter of life and death. God wants to use the gifts and stories we have. "You're My plan A, and there is no plan B." God is saying, "You're the one I'm counting on to reach the people in your life." What are we willing to do? Do we care in our hearts about people who don't have Jesus Christ? Do they matter to us?

**Prayer:** *Lord, use me as Your arms, feet, and mouth to reach those who do not know You. Amen.*

**Blessings on your journey as a steward!**

*"We rightly honor our dead who are near to us in time, realizing this is but a passing phase of memory, that in another already-determined Time, all the graves shall be opened, and all shall rise to meet the Judge of the Living and the Dead, whose Kingdom shall have no end. Memory eternal."* James M. Kushiner, *Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

## ***Growing in Grace – May 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>***

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1878.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$897.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<b><i>Total:</i></b>	<b><i>\$2810.00</i></b>

***Attendance Total: 98***  
***Communed: 77***

**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	5/25	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	5/26	-----	-----
Tuesday	5/27	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	5/28	-----	-----
Thursday	5/29	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/30	-----	-----
Saturday	5/31	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	6/1	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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