

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## The Ascension of our Lord (Observed)

May 29<sup>th</sup> & June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

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



**Image:** "God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet." (*Psalms 47:5*)

# 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 “Looking Up”**

Some days we don't want to get up at all, and some days it seems that we have to do it all by ourselves. Although the disciples felt that way at first on the day of Jesus' ascension, today's Readings tell us to look up in hope and confidence, for our Lord is still with us through everything. Jesus' promise about power from the Holy Spirit is ours, for we have been given faith in our great God. Whether we see much evidence, Paul writes that the Father gave His Son complete authority. And we are the Body of Christ! Jesus' instruction to await power is now past tense; we have received authority to proclaim forgiveness of sins to all nations. Bodies and minds may be mended, but complete forgiveness to spirits provides comfort and strength for today and forever!

## **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 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

#### Confession & 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 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5, sung responsively*)



God has gone up | with a shout,\*  
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,\*  
until I make your enemies your | footstool."

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,\*  
“You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”  
The Lord is at your | right hand;\*  
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

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.

God has gone up | with a shout,\*  
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

#### **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. Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

## First Reading *Acts 1:1-11*

***(Angels promise that Jesus will return and that Jesus' followers are witnesses.)***

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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 *Ephesians 1:15-23*

*(The Apostle Paul thanks God that we know the power of Christ over all things.)*

<sup>15</sup>For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup>that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup>having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup>And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 Ascension of our Lord—***"Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia."* (Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b)

## Holy Gospel *Luke 24:44-53*

*(Jesus commands forgiveness to be proclaimed, and then ascends in front of the disciples.)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

<sup>44</sup>Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And behold, I am

sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup>and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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 Cares Enough to Write" (Acts 1:1-11)** 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 492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build (vs. 1-3)**

**Sermon "The Bigger Picture" (Eph. 1:15-23)**

**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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## **Sanctus *LSB 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*

### **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**

**-525 Crown Him with Many Crowns**

**-495 Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious**

*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 Sacrament, and we pray that we shall reflect our Savior's continued presence with us in all that we think, say, and do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C    **Amen.**

**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 491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels (vs. 1-4)**

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

**People:**    Thanks be to God!!!



***The Altar flowers are given by Lowell & Pat Johnson.***

**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; 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.

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!** We thank the Lord that on Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>, ***Miles, Bree, and Ella Kadlec, children of Kyle & Danielle Kadlec***, 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!!!

**We mourn with Teri and Michael Nameth, members of our Church and School, as they grieve over the tragic and sudden loss of Teri's parents, Sharon & Thomas Robe, who passed away in a car accident near Crivitz, WI Friday May 23. Their children, Walton and Ellorie, are students at Grace Lutheran School. We pray:** *Heavenly Father, You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. In Your tender mercy, look with compassion upon the Nameth family in their time of grief. Grant them Your peace which surpasses all understanding. Remind them daily of the victory over death won for us by Christ's death and resurrection. Keep their hearts anchored in the promise that those who die in the Lord are not lost but live forever with You. Comfort them with the assurance of the joyful reunion in the life to come in heaven, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.*

***All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: [Paulinemom@aol.com](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 5/29 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 6/1 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Adam Voss	Craig Lau
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Martin Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Donna Dotson
<u>Acolyte</u>		
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel	Ron Savarino
	Char Klipfel	Lowell Johnson
<u>Livestream</u>	Glenn Dotson	

## **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.

## **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 Master's 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>

**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 "God's Gumbo"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Church is like a pot of Louisiana gumbo, a diverse stew bound together by the power of Jesus' love. (John 17:20-21) 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 THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD***

**Catechism:** The Lord's Prayer—Sixth Petition and Explanation



**Verse of the week:** Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 27

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 539 “Christ Is the World’s Redeemer”

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— The Spirit of Truth Will Bear Witness to Jesus—Jn. 15:26– 16:4

Monday— The Twelve Apostles—Luke 6:12-19

Tuesday— The Sermon on the Plain—Luke 6:20-26

Wednesday— Love Your Enemies—Luke 6:27-38

Thursday— A Disciple and His Teacher—Luke 6:39-49

Friday— Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant—Luke 7:1-10

Saturday— Genesis 11:1-9

**Stewardship Minute** Through the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus illustrates the foolishness of living only for ourselves. Jesus tells about a wealthy and successful farmer who needed to build bigger barns to hold his abundant crops. The farmer was interested only in his own pleasure and well-being. His goal was to become wealthy so he could eat, drink, and be merry during his retirement. He didn’t acknowledge God as the provider of what he had. Because of his self-centered attitude, Jesus calls Him a fool. St. Augustine wrote, “The beginning of all sin is the love of one’s own self.” By the power of the Holy Spirit, self-love is replaced by love for others, and we learn to focus more on the eternal than the temporal.

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT**

## LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10 NIV).



“Watch and prepare for Jesus to return. Set your hearts on Him and on your life in Him. He is the beginning and end, the purpose and goal of your life. So there’s no need for tears as you see Him ascend. He is with you always. He will come back for His people soon. Then we will appear with Him in glory.” *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – 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 22<sup>nd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>*

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1,912.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$275.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<b><i>Total:</i></b>	<b><i>\$3,187.00</i></b>	<b><i>Attendance Total: 81</i></b>
		<b><i>Communed: 72</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	6/1	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	6/2	-----	-----
Tuesday	6/3	7:00am 6:30 pm	Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry
Wednesday	6/4	6:30 pm	All Board’s Meetings
Thursday	6/5	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	6/6	-----	-----
Saturday	6/7	-----	-----
Sunday	6/8	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 Brunzelle, Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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