

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 17th & 20th, 2025

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

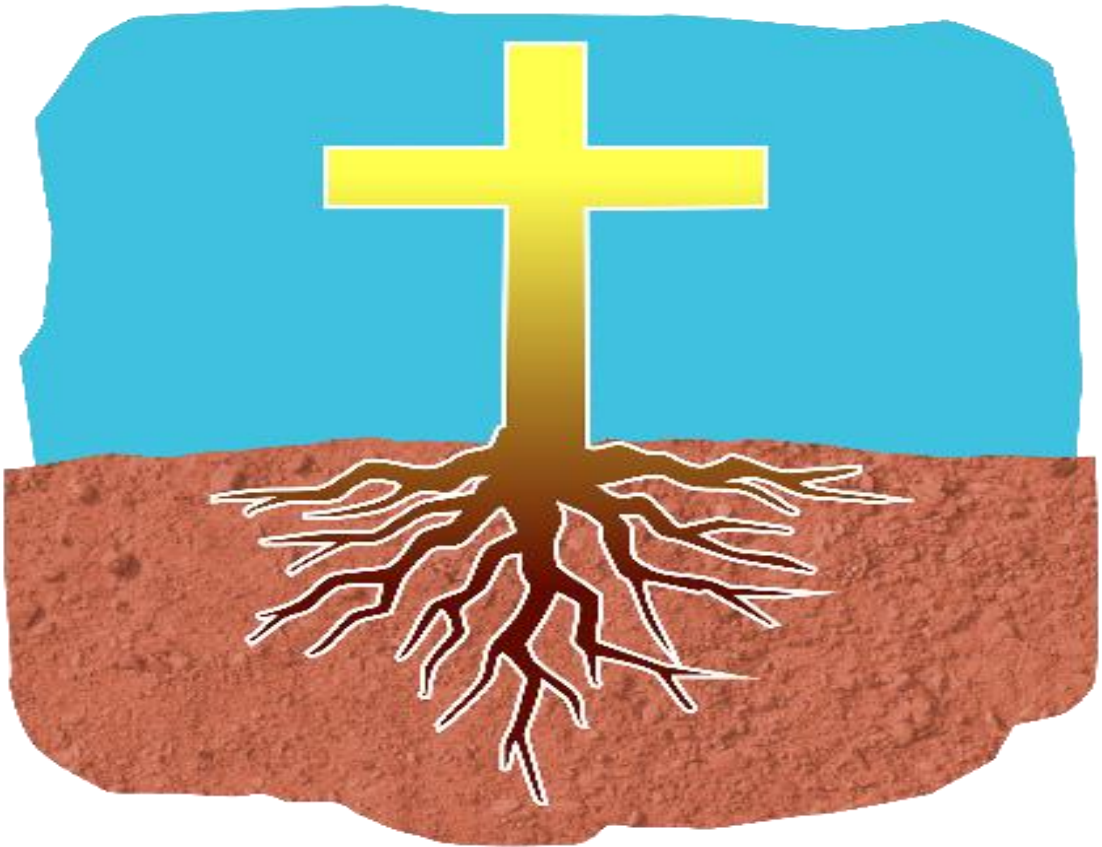


Image: "As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him."
(Colossians 2:6-7a)

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 "God's Word Gets the Last Laugh"

"Make God laugh," a wise man once said, "—plan something!" He meant that God always has the last laugh, especially when we make mistakes, and His will is done anyway. That's what God did with Sarah and has done every time someone uncovers His promised, gracious rewards. The Colossians were laughing with Him, and in the Gospel, Mary has enough faith to listen to Jesus. Don't try to get God laughing; join Him rejoicing in all His blessings.

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service...Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 649 Blest Be the Tie That Binds (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 119:57-60, 64; antiphon: v. 105, read responsively)

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*

and a light | to my path.

The LORD is my | portion;*

I promise to | keep your words.

I entreat your favor with | all my heart;*

be gracious to me according to your | promise.
When I think | on my ways,*
I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;
I hasten and do | not delay*
to keep your com- | mandments.
The earth, O LORD, is full of your | steadfast love;*
teach me your | statutes!

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.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

Kyrie LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,

Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; 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

Old Testament Reading *Genesis 18:1-14*

(Sarah laughs when she hears that she shall have a son.)

¹ The LORD appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." ⁷And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." ¹⁰The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Romans 10:15b, 18b; Isaiah 52:7b, alt., read responsively*)

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the | good news,*
who publish peace and bring good news of sal- | vation.
Their voice has gone out to | all the earth,*
and their words to the ends | of the world.

Epistle Lesson *Colossians 1:21-29*

(The mystery—that the Gentiles are included in God’s promises—is cause for rejoicing among the Colossian Christians.)

²¹You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205*

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for 6th Sunday after Pentecost—*“Alleluia. As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him. Alleluia.” (Colossians 2:6b-7a)*

Holy Gospel *Luke 10:38-42*

(Martha learns that her sister Mary has chosen to listen to Jesus; she has chosen well.)

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

³⁸Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, ⁴²but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

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

Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "What's So Funny?" (Gen 18:1-14) 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 433 Glory Be to Jesus (vs. 1-5)

Sermon “By Faith Cain and Abel . . .” (Hebrews 11:4)

Sermon Text— Hebrews 11:4—By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

Prayer of the Church (*After each petition the Pastor will say, “Lord in Your mercy,” and the congregation responds saying, “Hear our prayer.”*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless

blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
 Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
 Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
 Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer *LSB 209*

- C Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord LSB 209

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini LSB 209

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

Agnus Dei LSB 210

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup* (1 Cor. 11:28). Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins?* (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins?* (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?)* (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit?* (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

Distribution Hymns

-620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

-636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
 Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory
 Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles
 Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people,
 Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
 All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit,
 Forever Three in One;
 For as in the beginning,
 Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding
 Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect LSB 212

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one

another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction LSB 212

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

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



***The flowers on the altar are given by Mike and Barb Huber
In Honor of their 31st 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); 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); 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 Guzewicz (our School Secretary); **Scott Brenton** (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado's fiancé; **Rick Weeks** (cancer treatment); **Bill** (healing & strength) Jan Warmkessel's son; **The Bowers and Korth Families**; **Rose Adams** (healing & strength); **Tom** (healing & strength) brother of Rod Novak; **Lori Hegarty** (healing and strength); **Gary** (leukemia) friend of Marlene Voss; **Kelsi Luchterhand** (healing and strength from auto accident)

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

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com. **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:**

Church Office:			414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

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>Elders</u>	<u>Thursday 7/17 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 7/20 9:00am</u>
<u>Readers</u>	Lance Kopperud	Mike Huber
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Connie Roettgen	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Linens</u>	Janine and Marlene	Janine and Marlene
<u>Acolyte</u>	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Andrea Szefflinski
	Lance Kopperud	Tommy Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen

The Fellowship Committee will be having a Coffee Social after services on Thursday, July 17th and Sunday July 20th. If you would like to make a dessert, please call or email Pauline Parker at: 414-764-5574 Paulinemom@aol.com

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study - Summer Schedule 8am-9:20am

Saturday August 9-TBA-Possible Volunteer Day

ALL WOMEN are invited to join us for these outings! Check in with Jennifer if inclement weather will change plans. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Olen: olenjennifer@aol.com

We ask for your prayers for our Grace Youth Group and their adult leaders as they attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana, from July 19–23. Please pray for: **Lisa Kamprath, Elizabeth, Joey, Madilyn, Garrison, Taylor, Camryn, Eddie, Marty, and Amber,** *that the Lord would bless their journey with safety, spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, and a deepening of their faith in Christ.*

Prayer: Almighty God, We lift before You our beloved youth and adult leaders from Grace Lutheran Church—Lisa Kamprath, Elizabeth, Joey, Madilyn, Garrison, Taylor, Camryn, Eddie, Marty, and Amber—as they prepare to journey to the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this next month. You have called each of them by name, claimed them in the waters of Baptism, and set them apart as Your own. As they travel, Lord, grant them safety and joy. As they learn and worship, give them open hearts and eager minds. As they meet thousands of brothers and sisters in Christ, let them experience the beauty of Your Church united in faith and love. When the days feel long or the challenges seem heavy, remind them that they do not run this race alone.

Let the words of Hebrews 12:1–2 echo in their hearts:

“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”

Lord Jesus, You endured the cross for us. You have borne our sins and conquered the grave. Fix their eyes on You in every moment—whether in celebration or exhaustion, laughter or silence.

For our leaders—Lisa, Elizabeth, and Taylor—grant strength, wisdom, and gentleness as they guide and encourage.

For each youth—Joey, Madilyn, Garrison, Camryn, Amber, Eddie, and Marty—fill them with boldness in faith, courage to share the Gospel, and joy in their identity as redeemed children of God.

When they return home, may they come back renewed in spirit, rich in memories, and ready to live out their faith with endurance in the days ahead. We ask all of this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. Lord, in Your mercy, **All: *Hear our prayer.***

Are you interested in becoming a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

Trainees learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times in life. After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists.

We are going to begin a new training session for Stephen Ministers in October of 2025. The training is scheduled to take place on Sunday evenings from 6-8:30pm starting October 5th. If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, you can contact Jeanne Meyer at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-423-0010. Look for a special informational meeting between our Thursday night & Sunday morning worship services in September where you will have more information to learn about training to become a Stephen Minister at Grace!

To learn more about Stephen Ministry you can also go to this website:

<https://tinyurl.com/bde23pnz>

Summer Sermon Series on Hebrews 11: "*What Can Faith Do?*"

We invite you to a powerful Summer Sermon Series focused on Hebrews 11, often called the "Faith Chapter" of the Bible. Together, we'll explore how faith shaped the lives of God's people — and what faith can do in our lives today! This series will be part of our regular **Thursday evening** and **Sunday morning** worship services. We would love to have you join us!

Sermon Series Schedule:

1. **By Faith Cain and Abel...**

Hebrews 11:4

July 17th & 20th

2. **By Faith Enoch...**

Hebrews 11:5–6

July 24th & 27th

3. **By Faith Noah...**

Hebrews 11:7

July 31st & August 3rd

4. **By Faith Abraham...**

Hebrews 11:8–10

August 7th & 10th

Giving Tree in our Church Sanctuary!!!

The *Giving Tree* from our Board of Stewardship will be up in our Church Sanctuary on Thursday, May 29th. 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!!!

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 Plan = Jesus" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God's plans for us are not me-centered; they are Christ-centered. Dr. Zeigler talks with "Soul Surfer" author, Bethany Hamilton. (John 16:33) The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org scroll down the page and click on, "*listen now.*" Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ 620 AM
WGN 720 AM

Milwaukee, WI
Chicago, IL

Sun 6:30 am
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IN THE WORD FOR 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: The Office of the Keys—What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written?

What do you believe according to these words?

Verse of the week: 2 Corinthians 4:5, "*For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the*

Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

Psalm of the week: Psalm 84

Hymn of the week: LSB 682 "God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons"

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday—"I Will Make You Fishers of Men"—Luke 5:1-11

Monday— A Man with Dropsy Is Healed on the Sabbath—Luke 14:1-14

Tuesday— St Mary Magdalene—John 20:1-2, 10-18

Wednesday— The Parable of the Great Supper—Luke 14:15-35

Thursday— The Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Luke 15:1-10

Friday— St James the Elder—Acts 11:27– 12:5

Saturday— Exodus 20:1-17

Stewardship Minute

God's nature is to love and give, and He has made us to be giving people. We are his instruments or channels through whom He works to help those in need, build His Church, and to expand His kingdom. God never stops giving and blessing us. The most important gift that God has given us is a gift of a Savior. Through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, we have the forgiveness of sins and life eternal with Him. One of the most important ways that we express our gratitude to God is through our giving. When we acknowledge that God has created and owns all things, our mindset should change from how much am I going to give to how much of God's money am I going to keep?

**HARD WORK AND AMBITION ARE
COMMENDABLE CHRISTIAN VIRTUES,
BUT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO
ALLOW THEM TO BECOME SINFUL
OBSESSIONS.**



"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23).

"Sometimes the answer to a problem is as simple as asking for help. Let's not hesitate to bring all our questions, troubles, and needs to the Lord. Thank Him for the people He provides for our help. Pray that He will give you the opportunity today to be His help to others." *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

Growing in Grace – July 10th & July 13th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2116.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1209.00</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$80.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$145.00</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$3570.00</i>

Attendance Total: 35/46

Communed: 75

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	7/20	9:00am 10:00am	Divine Worship Grace Coffee Fellowship after Worship
Monday	7/21	-----	-----
Tuesday	7/22	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	7/23	-----	-----
Thursday	7/24	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	7/25	-----	-----
Saturday	7/26	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	7/27	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.

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