

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 31st & August 3rd, 2025

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



Image: "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."
(Colossians 3:23-24)

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 "You're Wordly Rich!"

There is a lot of "wisdom" floating around our world on how to become wealthy. Some of the celebrities of our modern age are people like Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, and Elon Musk. They are people who seem to have a super abundance of everything. Many of us spend at least one-third of our lives working to accumulate enough wealth to hopefully retire in comfort and security. Yet, as Jesus reminds us, our focus is misplaced when we mistakenly believe that our investments, our retirement funds, and our possessions are actually our own—that we earned them all by ourselves. As we gather, we come together today to worship the King of all creation who generously gives us everything that we have for this world and the next.

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 506 Glory Be to God the Father (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 49:7-8, 13-14a, 15; antiphon: vv. 1-2, read responsively)

Hear this, all | peoples!*

Give ear, all inhabitants | of the world,

both | low and high,*

rich and poor to- | gether!

Truly no man can ransom an- | other,*

or give to God the price | of his life,
for the ransom of their life is | costly*
and can nev- | er suffice.
This is the path of those who have foolish | confidence;*
yet after them people approve | of their boasts.
Like sheep they are appointed | for Sheol;*
death shall be their | shepherd.
But God will ransom my soul from the power | of Sheol,*
for he will re- | ceive 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.

Hear this, all | peoples!*
Give ear, all inhabitants | of the world,
both | low and high,*
rich and poor to- | gether!

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 wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, that we may never despair but always rejoice and be thankful for the riches of Your grace; 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 *Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26*

(Enjoying your work is a gift from God.)

²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .

¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. . . .

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, ¹⁹and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? ²³For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and

knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

- 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 3:1-11*

(Live as the people you are in Christ.)

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

- 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 8th Sunday after Pentecost—*"Alleluia. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. Alleluia."* (*Colossians 3:23-24a*)

Holy Gospel *Luke 12:13-21*

(Trust in the Giver of all that is good.)

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

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- 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 "You're Rich!" (Luke 12:13-21) 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 809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1-3)

Sermon "By Faith Noah . . ." (Hebrews 11:7)

Sermon Text: Hebrews 11:7—By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

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 God, the giver of every good and every perfect gift, that in Your mercy You sent Your Son that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that we by His poverty might become rich. It is through His life, death, and resurrection that we receive the riches of Your kingdom—forgiveness, life, and salvation. 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

-783 Take My Life and Let It Be

-744 Amazing Grace

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. O God, the fountain and source of all that is good, who in Your mercy sent Your one and only Son into the flesh to be our Savior, we thank You for the rich

blessings You generously pour into our lives—our health, our families, our vocations, and our material possessions. We especially thank You this day for the gifts we receive in this Sacrament—forgiveness, life, and salvation. Rule our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit so that we are empowered to bless others with the blessings we receive from 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.**

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 789 Praise and Thanksgiving (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

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



The flowers on the altar are given by Dawn Jantz

In Loving Memory of her daughter's and her sister's Birthdays

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; **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; **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); **Jan Barrett** (upcoming surgery); **Great niece of Donna Smith** (healing from burns); **Nathan Taggatz, Pastor's brother** (safety fighting California forest fires); and **Mark Taggatz** (knee surgery.)

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

We Mourn with the family of **Carol Loveall**, as they grieve over the death of her daughter in law, **Chris Stampfle**. We also pray for Carol's grandson, **Nick Loveall**, who is deeply saddened by the death of his mother. **Let us pray:** *Gracious Lord, You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Be with the Loveall and Stampfle families in this time of sorrow, as they mourn the death of Chris. Give comfort to all who mourn, especially to Nick, who grieves the death of his mother. Point their hearts to the cross and the empty tomb, where Christ has conquered death and won for us eternal life. May Your promises bring them hope, Your love bring them peace, and Your Holy Spirit bring them the strength to carry on. In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we entrust Chris into Your merciful care. In Jesus' holy name we pray. 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. **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 7/31 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8/3 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Craig Lau	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Jen Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine and Marlene	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<u>Acolyte</u>		
<u>Ushers</u>	Marlene Voss	Bob Buzzell
	Lance Kopperud	Lynn Buzzel
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson

Your 2nd Quarter Grace Lutheran Giving Statements are available to pick up in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We couldn't do the work of ministry at our Church, School, and ECC without your prayers and support. God bless you!!!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Rise & Sonshine ladies will be volunteering at A Blessed Again resale store (which supports A Place of Refuge) on Saturday August 9th, 10-Noon. We will be carpooling from Grace school-meet there at 9am. **All ladies** are invited to join us for this opportunity of service. We may even lunch together afterwards!

Please let Jennifer Olen olenjennifer@aol.com or 414.305.3740 know if you would like to be a part of this day.

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>

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church beginning, **September 3rd, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.** We are studying, *“Patience & Perfection: Finding Peace in God’s Plan for You!”* by Rev. Dr. Paavola, who is a professor of theology at Concordia University Wisconsin. Here is some information about the book: *While you can’t know all that God plans to do with and for you, you can trust in His perfect plan and His will for you in this life. In this life, we’ll never be perfect. We take one step toward perfection and two steps back, losing confidence in ourselves with each movement. We might lose patience with ourselves—can’t we just be perfect already!?—but God gently smiles and continues walking with us. While you can’t know all that God plans to do with and for you, you can trust in His perfect plan and His will for you in this life. God is slowly but consistently sanctifying you. He is patient with you. He loves you. And He declares you perfect in Christ.* Join us!!!

Sunday, September 7th—Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!! Please join us for our Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 7th. We will have our Christian Education Sunday Worship Service at 10am in our Church Sanctuary. Then, the picnic will start at 11:30am at Grace Lutheran School. We hope you can join us for some good fun, food, and Christian fellowship!!!

Please register by Sunday, September 1st. You can register on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, or by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, or calling 414-762-8990. Please note that food and beverages will be provided for this event. Feel free to bring lawn games such as: *ladder toss and bean bag toss* for you and your fellow parishioners to enjoy. As you sign up, please indicate the number of people attending and if you can help with set up, serving, and/or clean up. We are looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Attention 6th - 8th Grade Parents

There will be a special Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the school with Pastor Taggatz. At this meeting you will find out the schedule for your child's confirmation instruction, the curriculum your child will be learning from Martin Luther's Small Catechism, and the expectations for the class regarding acolyting for our 6th & 7th graders and ushering for our 8th graders, along with worship reports and memory work that they will be doing from God's Word and the Catechism.

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m. for Public School students. The Confirmation Classes will be taking place in the school.

Sunday School Begins on Sunday September 14th

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 14th. It is for children preschool through 8th Grade. This year we also will be providing Sunday School for our High School Students. We are also providing Adult Bible Class at Grace. Adult Bible Class will take place in the School Library and Sunday School will be taking place at Grace Lutheran School. Sunday School & Adult Bible Class is between 9:15-10:15am on Sunday mornings. Adult Bible Class will be every Sunday of the month and Sunday School and High School Bible Study will be on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Mary Rowley at: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org.

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 Noah...**
Hebrews 11:7
July 31st & August 3rd
2. **By Faith Abraham...**
Hebrews 11:8–10
August 7th & 10th
3. **By Faith Sarah...**
Hebrews 11:11–16
August 14 & August 17

4. **By Faith the Sacrifice...**
Hebrews 11:17–19
August 21 & August 24
5. **By Faith Jacob Blesses...**
Hebrews 11:20–21
August 28 & August 31

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 "Proclaim His Glory" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer. Of course, we should search the Scriptures, but we search them for Jesus, the One to Whom the Scriptures point. (John 5:30-47) 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
Sun 6:30am

IN THE WORD FOR 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar—What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Verse of the week: John 6:51, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Psalm of the week: Psalm 47

Hymn of the week: LSB 619 “Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Feeding of the 4,000—Mark 8:1-9

Monday— The Kingdom of God—Luke 17:20-37

Tuesday— The Parable of the Persistent Widow—Luke 18:1-8

Wednesday— The Pharisee and the Tax Collector—Luke 18:9-17

Thursday— The Rich Young Ruler—Luke 18:18-34

Friday—Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus—Luke 18:35-43

Saturday—Jeremiah 23:16-29

Stewardship Minute Our lives as Christian stewards are made possible by the work of the Holy Spirit. On our own initiative, it is impossible to become faithful stewards. In the same way that the Apostle Paul said that no one can declare “*Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:3), neither are we able to declare ourselves God’s stewards apart from God’s grace. Filled with the Holy Spirit, our lives take on a new direction. The Holy Spirit plants faith in our hearts. Through faith, we express our gratitude for God’s love and grace through our stewardship. With the help of the Holy Spirit, our lives are devoted to doing God’s will and pleasing Him with how we use our time, talents, and money.

ARE YOU SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS, OR ARE YOU LIKE MARTHA IN BETHANY WHO WAS DISTRACTED BY THE DEMANDS OF THE DAY?

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:41-42).



“God isn’t a page in your book, you’re part of His. And He’s delighted to have you in the family.” Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, *The Lutheran Hour – 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 24th & July 27th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1810.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$2737.00</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$80.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$4657.00</i>

Attendance Total: 31/41
Communed: 62

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	8/3	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	8/4	-----	-----
Tuesday	8/5	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	8/6	6:30pm	All Boards Meeting
Thursday	8/7	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	8/8	-----	-----
Saturday	8/9	9:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	8/10	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) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	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		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315

