

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share*

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

August 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

*God's Grace*

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



Image: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."  
(Luke 12:32)

# 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 “*Walking by Faith*”**

In His earthly life, Jesus chose to be a “*peripatetic*” teacher. Rather than staying in one place and having His learners come to Him, He went from place to place with disciples or followers who listened to the truths He taught as they went along. Walking with Jesus was the greatest of blessings! Whether we hear the Gospel teachings of our Lord in the same setting week by week and year by year or find ourselves in a variety of worship locations and settings, we, too, find blessing in hearing Him as did His first followers. The hymn writer Sigismund von Birken invites us simply: “*Let us ever walk with Jesus*” (LSB 685:1). May we be blessed in our walking and in our listening today!

## **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 798 The God of Abraham Praise (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 147:8-11; antiphon: v. 7, read responsively)**

Sing to the LORD with thanks- | giving;\*

**make melody to our God | on the lyre!**

He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain | for the earth;\*

**he makes grass grow | on the hills.**

He gives to the | beasts their food,\*

and to the young ravens | that cry.  
His delight is not in the strength | of the horse,\*  
nor his pleasure in the legs | of a man,  
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,\*  
in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

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.

Sing to the LORD with thanks- | giving;\*  
make melody to our God | on the lyre!

### 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. Almighty and merciful God, it is by Your grace that we live as Your people who offer acceptable service. Grant that we may walk by faith, and not by sight, in the way that leads to eternal life; 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 15:1-6*

**(God makes a special promise to Abraham.)**

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** (*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt., read responsively*)

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,\*  
**for those who fear him lack | nothing!**  
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,\*  
**but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.**

**Epistle Lesson** *Hebrews 11:1-16*

**(The examples of faith exhibited by some of God's people.)**

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

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 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost—***"Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia."* (Luke 12:32)

**Holy Gospel Luke 12:22-40**

***(Jesus calls His disciples to make serving Him the priority.)***

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

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup>For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

<sup>32</sup>"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

<sup>35</sup>"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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 T everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children’s Message “Jesus Promises—Unburdened” (Luke 12:22-40)** 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 748 I’m But a Stranger Here (vs. 1-3)**

**Sermon “By Faith Abraham . . .” (Hebrews 11:8-10)**

**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 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 give thanks and praise to You, O Lord, for in Jesus Christ, the servant of all, You have shown Your saving love and rescued us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. Grant that, in response to our salvation, we may live faithfully and generously, meeting the needs of others and bringing glory to Your name. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and thank You with songs of praise and hearts filled with love. 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 eternal, and blessed be Your name. In Your great love, You sent Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be the promised Savior, whose life of service fulfilled Your will and completed the work of salvation. Because of His sacrificial work, we are not orphans but have become Your beloved children who can live triumphantly. Gather into one, we pray, all Your people who now join at Your Holy Table. By Your presence in this Sacrament nourish us, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and blood may be strengthened to serve You and our neighbor, as You would have us do. To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in Your holy church, forever and ever. 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**

**-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. Gracious Lord, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal may be for us that life-giving food that nourishes us, allays our fears, and sustains us on our earthly journeys as we seek to bring You honor and praise all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- 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 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (vs. 1-4)**

**Pastor:** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord  
**People:** Thanks be to God!!!



*The flowers on the altar are given by The Szefflinski Family*

*In Celebration of the Birthdays of Lauren, Tommy and Andrea*



### **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* **Myles King** (blood disorder); **Michael Helzer** (cancer); **Michael Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (healing & strength); **Sindy Schmidt** (healing); **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Greg** (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **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 Guziewicz (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** (recovery from surgery); **Great niece of Donna Smith** (healing from burns); **Nathan**

**Taggatz, Pastor's brother** (safety fighting California forest fires); and **Mark Taggatz** (knee surgery in early November.)

**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 rejoice with Mike & Denise Hansen, who were united in holy matrimony yesterday. Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup>.** We pray that God will bless their marriage for many years to come!!! We pray: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the joy and blessings that You have granted to *Mike & Denise Hansen*, as they celebrate being united together as husband and wife on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Assist them always by Your grace that with true faithfulness and steadfast love they may ever honor and keep their promises to one another, grow in love toward You and for each other and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised through Jesus Christ their Lord and 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>Elders</u>	<u>Thursday 8/7 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8/10 9:00am</u>
<u>Readers</u>	Keith Goodle	Richard Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Connie Roettgen	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Linens</u>	Staci Scherer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Acolyte</u>	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Klipfel	Bob Buzzell
	Char Klipfel	Lynn Buzzel
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen

**Your 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>—Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!!** Please join us for our Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>.** You can register on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, or by contacting the church office via email [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents**

There will be a special Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders and ushering for our 8<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. It is for children preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 Abraham...**  
*Hebrews 11:8–10*  
**August 7th & 10<sup>th</sup>**
2. **By Faith Sarah...**  
*Hebrews 11:11–16*  
**August 14 & August 17**
3. **By Faith the Sacrifice...**  
*Hebrews 11:17–19*  
**August 21 & August 24**
4. **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 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!!!

**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 "Writing Him Off"** Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus. After Jesus claimed the Old Testament was written about Him, the people of His hometown wrote Him off. (Luke 4:21-32) 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 9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

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

**Verse of the week:** John 14:23b *Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 48

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 585 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— “Beware of False Prophets”—Matthew 7:15-23

Monday— Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus’s House—Luke 19:1-10

Tuesday— The Parable of the Minas—Luke 19:11-28

Wednesday— The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers—Luke 20:1-19

Thursday— Render to Caesar the Things That Are Caesar’s—Luke 20:20-26

Friday— St Mary, Mother of Our Lord—Luke 1:39-56

Saturday—2 Samuel 22:26-34

**Stewardship Minute** Just before Jesus’ ascension into heaven, He instructed His disciples: “*Go therefore and make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus commanded His disciples along with us to go spread the life-saving Gospel throughout all nations. God’s love overflowing from within us provides the motivation and power to share the life-saving Gospel with all people. He works through us to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10).

**THROUGH OUR GIVING, WE WORSHIP GOD, EXPRESS OUR  
THANKS TO HIM, AND RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO HIM.**

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of your produce” (Proverbs 3:9).



“Our Lord Jesus Christ assures us that the Heavenly Father makes His love for our kind evident in sunshine and rainfall (Matthew 5:45) along with sparrows and lilies (Matthew 6:25-33). So, we may expect to learn about the sanctity of every human life not only from His Word but also from His world.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – 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 – July 31<sup>st</sup> & August 3<sup>rd</sup>***

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2842.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$3762.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1000.00</i>	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	
<b><i>Total:</i></b>	<b><i>\$7709.00</i></b>	<b><i>Attendance Total: 32/41</i></b>
		<b><i>Communed: 67</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	8/10	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	8/11	-----	-----
Tuesday	8/12	7:00am	Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	8/13	6:30pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday	8/14	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	8/15	-----	-----
Saturday	8/16	-----	-----
Sunday	8/17	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	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		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315

