



Equipper

Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.

September 2025



Pastor's Message



"Celebrating God's Love."

Luke 14:1-14, *"One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, 'Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?'"*

Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" And they could not reply to these things. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

In the text from Luke 14, Jesus tries to open their eyes to see that the Sabbath is a time for saving life, not seeking to destroy it, for experiencing the love of God, not for practicing hatred. In Proverbs 25, we hear about practices of humility and honor in the presence of a king and in Luke 14, we see Jesus, the true King, at a dinner, reflecting on practices of humility and honor. In a sense, we see Jesus, Wisdom itself, recalling the wisdom of Proverbs. But, I wonder what it would be like to read this text with a different proverb in mind. Rather than Proverbs 25:2-10, I would like to read these verses in light of Proverbs 15:17.

Proverbs 15:17 reads, *"Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fatted calf where there is hatred."* In that proverb, we are encouraged to see how hatred can destroy even the most wonderful feast and how love can bless even the humblest meal. When you look at the gospel reading with that text in mind, you begin to see what Jesus is doing more clearly. Jesus is helping God's people see how their lives are filled with opportunities for showing and sharing in His love.

Luke tells us Jesus was invited to dine at an occasion of some importance. It was the house of a ruler of the Pharisees and it was the Sabbath. Unfortunately, this was an occasion when hatred tried to destroy a wonderful feast. Luke tells us, *"They were watching Him carefully"* (Luke 14:1). The Pharisees were turning this meal on the Sabbath into an occasion of entrapment.

Earlier, Jesus had a conflict with the Pharisees and teachers of the law (Luke 11:37-54). He contrasted their detailed fulfillment of rules and regulations of their own making with their neglect of the love of God. As Jesus departed from them, Luke tells us the scribes and the Pharisees were *“lying in wait for Him, to catch Him in something He might say”* (Luke 11:54).

It is now another sabbath and another dinner and they are still lying in wait. They are carefully watching Jesus. Although Luke tells us the scribes and the Pharisees are watching Jesus, He wants us to see something else. *“Behold,” Luke says, “there was a man before Him who had dropsy”* (Luke 14:2). Whereas the Pharisees were watching Jesus to entrap Him, Jesus was seeing someone who needed to be freed. Rather than use this dinner as an occasion for hatred, Jesus sought to use it as an occasion for love. Jesus took the man *“and healed him and sent him away”* (Luke 14:4). It would have been wonderful if the man could have stayed. We would have then had a Sabbath meal turned into a celebration of the love of God. But Jesus still had work to do, to change these hearts which were looking for sin into hearts that could see and celebrate God’s love.

The proverb teaches us that it is better to have a meal of vegetables with love than a fatted calf with hatred. But what is best of all is to have a feast with love. That is what Jesus tries to teach the Pharisees in this text. He tries to open their eyes to see that the Sabbath is a time for saving life, not seeking to destroy it, for experiencing the love of God, not for practicing hatred. Jesus will continue to teach this until they kill Him for it and then, when He dies on the cross to forgive all sin, the table will be opened to celebrate God’s unfailing love.

In the closing parable, Jesus offers us just a glimpse of what the Kingdom of Heaven will be like. Jesus prophesies of a feast where *“the poor, the crippled, the lame, [and] the blind”* (Luke 14:13) are present. In His ministry of mercy, Jesus will open the Kingdom of Heaven to everyone who does not deserve it and to anyone who can never repay Him for the gift He gives. God’s Kingdom comes by grace. God surprises us with the power of His love to bless any table.

When Luke’s text is read in light of Proverbs 25:2-10, the question posed for us is, *“What seat do you choose at the table?”* When Luke’s text is read in light of Proverbs 15:17, the question is, *“What do you see at the table?”* Jesus encourages us to look carefully, to watch and see. The Lord will surround you with moments for practicing mercy every day.

You are eating dinner with your family. Who do you see at the table? Is that your brother with whom you are still angry because, when your mother got sick, he was not around? Or do you see something different? Do you see an opportunity for love, an occasion to show mercy? You are standing out on the porch, listening to the sounds of a party inside. Your dad has come out to invite you in. Your brother has come home and your dad wants to celebrate. Who do you see at the table? Your father’s younger son who took his inheritance early and squandered it all, a fool who has now come back to take even more from your dad and make him out to be an even greater fool. Or do you see your brother, a sinner in need of forgiveness, and this meal as an opportunity to show love? God’s love has the power to transform any meal, no matter how tense and conflicted, into a celebration.

You come to the Lord’s Table for Holy Communion and, as the minister brings you the chalice, you see your reflection in the silver. Who do you see? A proud member of this congregation? An upstanding parent of a model family? Or a sinner in need of forgiveness whose life is transformed by this meal of love?

See You in Worship,

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Pastor John M. Taggatz



Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.

Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

Heidi, Church Secretary

Church office: 414.762.8990

Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm

REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.

Look for the LARGE mite
box to drop your change and dollars into on
September 4th and 7th



When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Principal Lisa Hengst. Her email address is: principal@graceoakcreek.org

ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: graceoc to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!



Welcome to our new members at Grace! We are excited to welcome a new family at Grace!!! Mike & Denise Hansen!!! Welcome to Grace, we are so glad that you have joined our church!!!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

During the month of September, we will be worshipping at:

Sunday September 7th at 10:00am in the church, as we observe Christian Education Sunday, the Church Picnic will follow at 11:30am in our Lutheran School building.

Sunday, September 14th (and moving forward) at 8:00am and 10:30am, with Sunday School and Adult Bible Class being in the school from 9:15-10:15am. (Adult Bible Class is every week. Sunday School is 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month)

Thursday evening worship will remain the same at 6:30pm.

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!!!*

Mite Box Sunday

September 4th & 7th

The large mite box will be in the narthex to accept your change to support grant #5 - Journey Lutheran School-to purchase 2 passenger vans. Journey school was hit with terrible flooding during the August storms, so they need our support now more than ever!

Muffins for Mites

September 25th & 28th

After each worship service a variety of baked goods will be available for a donation to mites. Thank you for helping us support missions local and worldwide!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

One meeting this month! Saturday-Sept 13th 8am-9:30am at Grace school





Saturday, September 13th

10:0am-Noon at Grace School

Welcome Back & LWML Convention report

ALL LADIES of GRACE ARE INVITED!

Any questions, please free to contact Jennifer Olen

As we begin this new year we are excited to be celebrating the 70th anniversary of Grace Guild! Each month we will share some of Guild history... *March 6th, 1956, Reverend Raabe opened the meeting. The name "Grace Guild" was chosen unanimously. It was decided that meetings would be held on the 1st Monday of the month, monthly dues would be 50 cents and a constitution would be established. Elected officers were:*

President- Mrs. David Wilson, Vice President- Mrs. Hans Haklick, Secretary-Mrs. Carl Saker and Treasurer- Mrs. Roy Hales.

Oh how times have changed, we use our own first names now!

Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday Celebration

September 25th & 28th

This year's theme begins a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025 we focus on Proclaiming Christ. The Ascension text of "GO" (Luke 24:44–53) is the mission emphasis for Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025.

We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, have a responsibility to proclaim the message of Christ, to be that body which proclaims repentance and forgiveness, showing forth the merciful Christ in what we do and say. As Lutheran Women in Mission we continue to support, encourage and uplift missionaries, and provide physical support and compassion to all people. It is the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name that motivates us to do this work. All Glory be to Jesus!

To celebrate LWML Sunday and the 70th anniversary of Grace Guild a new Lutheran Women in Mission banner was created last year. We are excited to reveal it to you this special weekend!

Don't forget to wear purple and bring along your change for the offering mite box!

LWML Sunday will kick off our annual **SOCKTOBER** drive for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

New socks of all sizes are welcome! **Information about the Milwaukee Rescue Mission can be found here:**

<https://milmission.org/>

Look for the pink tote in the narthex for your socks. Thank you!

LWML SWD Fall Retreat!

September 26 & 27, 2025

Armor of God - Your Strong Suit

Speaker: Author Donna Snow

Embassy Suites

1200 S. Moorland Road Brookfield, WI

Registration is open

www.lwml-swd.org/events/retreat

LWML SWD Zone 1-Fall Rally

Saturday, October 4th 9:00am-11:00am

St. John's Lutheran-Cudahy 4850 S. Lake Drive

Lutheran Children Family Services-Carol Flanary will

be the guest speaker. Items to be collected for

LCFS: Printer paper, Stamps, Legos- used and new,

Liquid Soap, Puppets, and Paper towels. **ALL LADIES**

ARE WELCOME to attend! If you have any

questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Olen.



Opportunities at Grace

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Worship!

We are in need of additional people to assist as ushers and lay readers during worship services, especially for Sunday mornings at 8am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.

Ushers arrive early, greet people and hand out bulletins before service, gather offerings and assist with communion during service, and straighten up the church after service. Lay readers proclaim God's word to the congregation by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons during the worship service. If you are able and willing to help in either of these capacities, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church -- your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to approach the elder on duty with any questions you may have about these opportunities. Call the church office at 414-762-8990 or email Pastor Tagatz at: pastor@graceoakcreek.org if you are interested in helping out with lay reading or ushering at Grace!!!

Greeting Card Ministry

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can't be at church regularly. *'Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.'* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven't been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry, please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex of the Church. Remember...you are giving joy to these people. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-807-6338 or paulinemom@aol.com.

Grief Share Group at Grace Lutheran School

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? In the middle of September, we are starting a special seminar and support group that we sponsor for people dealing with the loss of a family member here at Grace Lutheran. We understand how deeply grief and loss hurt people and families, and we simply wanted you to know about our Grief Share group. It's a place where many people have found they can begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help and with the love and encouragement of His Church. Our Grief Share recovery seminar and support group will meet on Monday evenings starting September 15th from 6:30-8:00pm in the school library and it will end on Monday December 15th. There will also be a special lesson on "Surviving the Holidays," for those grieving the death of loved ones, which will take place on Monday December 1st. The cost for attending is \$20.00. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lori Kachelmeier and Jeanne Meyer will be the leaders for this Grief Share Group. Grief Share features nationally recognized experts on grief recovery topics. Seminar sessions include *"Is This Normal?" "The Challenges of Grief," "Grief and Your Relationships," "Why?" and "Guilt and Anger."* For more information or to register: go to the website: www.griefshare.org and enter our zip code "53154" to the left of "find a group" box and do a search. It will bring up our Monday 6:30 pm meetings. For further questions please call Lori Kachelmeier at: 414-828-0290.

Giving Tree

Thank you for your donations to the Board of Stewardship's *Giving Tree* for this Summer!

The proceeds that have been given to the *Giving Tree* will be going to our Church's *Good Samaritan Fund*, which helps those in need in our community, specifically in helping with groceries or gas. The *Giving Tree* will be up through Labor Day weekend.



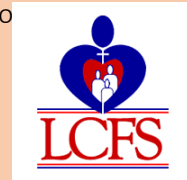
Worship Services at Willow Crest Nursing Home

Volunteers Needed! Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services at Willow Crest Nursing Home on Sunday mornings. We have started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this ministry. The worship services are roughly 30 minutes long and are held at 10:00am on Sundays at Willow Crest Nursing Home located at: 3821 Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. You may end up leading a worship service at Willow Crest once a month, or every 5 to 6 weeks, depending on how many people are willing to volunteer in leading worship services at Willow Crest. We would also provide you with resources to help you lead worship services at Willow Crest. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanne Meyer at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-719-2257 or Lori Kachelmeier at jlkachel2@gmail.com or 414-828-0290. You would also be able to shadow a current Willow Crest Worship Leader if you are wanting to learn more information about this ministry.

Please Support Your Local Thrift Store!

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services operates thrift stores which help to support services for adoption, mental health, family counseling and substance abuse. Each store is run by amazing volunteers and support their communities by providing an outlet for clothing and household items to be reused and repurposed, offering affordable prices and by donating surplus items to local homeless or veteran shelters. Please consider supporting these essential stores and the mission they support. Volunteers are in need at each store for a variety of tasks and services.

Hours and additional information can be found at www.lcfswi.org.
[The Economy Center](#) - 7814 W. Burleigh, Milwaukee, WI (414) 442-2272



Tele-health (virtual) counseling now available!

Did you know that the counselors of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin are available for virtual counseling sessions? For those struggling with any mental health issue such as depression, anxiety, trauma, an addiction or relationship issues, professional help is just a phone call away. Through faith-based Christian counseling, there is an opportunity to model Christian faith and share the promises of the Gospel while utilizing clinical expertise and skill. Speaking with a counselor can help reduce anxiety, monitor depression, control addictive behavior, identify triggers and create solutions to instill hope and faith. Most insurance plans accept telehealth/virtual counseling as a viable option to conduct therapy. Check with your plan in advance to see if this is covered or the staff at LCFS can assist you. Call 800-291-4513 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Save the Date!

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, by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, calling 414-762-8990 or **clicking here or going to this link:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n74wxa8> 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.

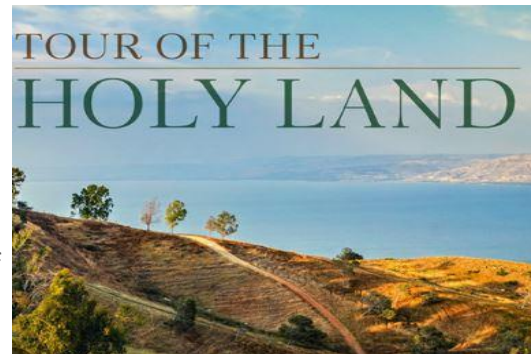
Confirmation classes will begin **Monday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m.** for Public School students. The Confirmation Classes will be taking place in the day school.

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.

Tour the Holy Land in Eastertide of 2026!

There is something special about meditating on the Scriptures in the very places where the events occurred. Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield, LCMS, will be leading a tour back to the Holy Land next April. Destinations include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Mt Carmel, Caesarea Philippi, Qumran, Masada, and of course the Temple Mount, Gethsemane, and the places of Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem.



We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. Plus, there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai, and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. It only takes \$500 registration to hold your spot for this tour. Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. Questions? Please contact Pastor Aaron Koch at: 414-795-9005 or pastor.koch@gmail.com. Register online at: registernow.ittworld.com. Tour code: **Koch26** to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. We hope you will take part in this great experience!

“Giving Cheerfully”



In the Old Testament, the people knew what God expected them to give because He commanded the people to tithe, which required the people to give one-tenth of their harvest or produce (income) to the Lord. As New Covenant Christians, we have the freedom to decide what to give, but we are expected to give cheerfully. *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Giving is not to be based strictly by the percentage we give to the Lord but by the largeness of our hearts toward God. God appreciates bighearted people who give their money to Him cheerfully. It's not always easy to give cheerfully, because we need to spend money on rent or mortgages, food, and clothing, and we would like to take some nice family vacations or drive newer cars, etc. It is tempting to scrimp on generosity or to give with a frown.

Our human spirit has been profoundly twisted by Adam's sin, and this present world is a hard place to live. There is only one way that we can rise above those circumstances to live a new life where generous and cheerful giving is the norm and not the exception. In order for us to do this, we must have a personal faith relationship with Jesus Christ and day after day tap into God's rich supply of life-changing grace. The only power that can consistently overcome the sin nature that still clings to each of us is the cross of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul declared this Gospel truth in Galatians 2:20. He emphasized, *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”* If we believe in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, then our sinful flesh has been nailed to the cross with Christ, and the self-absorbed and fearful human ego no longer has any right or power to direct how we as Christians live. We can take this truth and apply it to the way we give. Through faith, we are empowered to withstand our flesh and the world who wants us to spend more of our money on things of this world and to give less to God. When we place our trust in God, we can honor Him by giving cheerfully.

As new covenant Christians, we give under grace so we are free to decide in our hearts and minds how much to give. Cheerful givers experience giving as a privilege. Giving changes from a “got to” give to a “want to” give. Cheerful giving comes from new hearts that God through His Holy Spirit has changed. Giving is to be inspired and voluntary, not an obligation or only out of necessity or possible recognition. Giving is an outward expression based on an inner conviction. Through faith, we understand that we are God's instruments through whom He works to help people in need, to support His Church, and to extend His kingdom. May God find us willing and cheerful to use our time and money to do His work.

*Blessings on your Stewardship
journey!*

“Everyday Stewards”

Grace Oak Creek 2025 Stewardship Emphasis

Our stewardship emphasis, *Everyday Stewards* will be the first three months of October. An everyday steward is someone whose way of life is stewardship rather than just token acts of kindness here and there. By God’s grace, everyday stewards continually express their gratitude and faithfulness to the Lord. Through faith, they break the grip that money and possessions can have on them as they place their trust and security in the Lord. Everyday stewards love because God first loved (1 John 4:19). They serve because God first served them (Matthew 20:28). They give because God first gave to them (John 3:16). They give themselves as *“a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God”* (Romans 12:1). Everyday stewards strive to follow and use God’s guidance, strength, and wisdom. With God’s help, they live lives in accordance with the Gospel of God’s love and grace.

Everyday Stewards - The weekly themes are:

“Stewards Walking by Grace” October 5th

“Stewardship as a Way of Life” October 12th

“Stewards Living with Purpose” October 19th (Harvest Sunday for Time/Talent Commitment Forms)

During our stewardship emphasis you will receive a commitment form & a time & talents survey. Please fill those out and bring them to church on Harvest Sunday (Commitment Sunday) Oct. 19th or return it to the church office when convenient. *(Extra commitment forms are available on the back table of the church and will be included next week in your bulletin).* I ask that, as you approach your commitment decisions and how God can use your time, talents, and treasures for service in God’s Kingdom and in His Church, you seek God’s guidance in prayer. Let the love of God guide you in your decision.



Some of us go through this journey of Grief, and feel so lost, and Stephen Ministry has books that you may like to read or give to someone who is in need of God's direction, during this very difficult time in their lives. These books are not to replace having a Stephen Minister, but an added help to get through this difficult time or if there is not a Stephen Minister in your area to help you.

These books are free. All you need to do is ask a Stephen Ministry Leader or Stephen Minister for the set. Grief is one of the most universal experiences we share as humans—and one of the most painful. Just as universal is the need for comfort and hope after losing a loved one. Receiving care during these times can make a profound difference for those who are grieving, and the [Journeying through Grief](#) books are one powerful way to offer someone that kind of support.

Here's what four people said about
Journeying through Grief after someone sent them the books:

"By the time I was in my mid-50s, all my immediate family had passed away. I read the Journeying through Grief books long after those losses and was amazed by how helpful they were, even eight years later."

"When my husband died thirteen years ago, a friend sent me Journeying through Grief. Although I'm an atheist, I learned a lot about grief from the books and have been sending them to friends ever since."

"I'm a pastor who has walked with many families through loss. But nothing prepared me for my own grief when my daughter died. The Journeying through Grief books were such a blessing to me at that time, helping me process my feelings and experiences."

"Journeying through Grief helped me understand the emotions I felt after my wife passed away. I read the books with my two teenage daughters, talking with them after each chapter."

Encounters with grief vary from person to person, but reaching out with care and concern can transcend those differences, bringing us together in the deeply human experience of caring for one another.

Giving *Journeying through Grief* to those you know who are grieving, whatever their situation, shines a light into their darkness. The books let them know they're not alone and offer ongoing comfort and hope as they travel the road of grief.

If you are interested in having a Stephen Minister please contact Pastor Taggatz, or one of our Stephen Leaders Jeanne Meyer or Lori Kachelmeier.



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>

GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and non profits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership.



******Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program******

Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1- 800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT(800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice."

For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:

<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>



**Grace Lutheran Church,
School & Early
Childhood Center
Oak Creek, WI**



gracelutheran_oakcreek



We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.

Most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!

LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!

Introducing RaiseRight -- the new name for Scrip The same program and process, just a different name.

What is RaiseRight? It's a no-cost fundraiser that helps support the ministries at Grace. We purchase gift cards at a discounted rate and sell them at face value. Each merchant sets their own discount. The discount percentage is on the form.

How does it work? You complete an order form to purchase gift cards through a RaiseRight coordinator. Forms are on the table in the Narthex, in the church office or from a RaiseRight Coordinator. Return the completed form and payment to a RaiseRight Coordinator, who will be in the Narthex after each service or to the church office. You receive the face value of the cards you ordered. If the card you ordered is in our stock, you will receive it immediately. Otherwise, we will order the card and you will receive it the following week. The difference between the face amount and the discounted amount is used to support the ministries at Grace for our church, school and ECC.

An added benefit to parents of students at Grace School, ECC or Martin Luther High School

You will receive half of the discounted amount we receive toward the tuition you pay. If you do not have tuition to pay, you can indicate on the form to "Support a Student" and have half of the discount goes toward a student who needs help with their tuition. For example: You purchase a \$100 gift card for Woodman's. You pay \$100 and receive a \$100 gift card. We receive a 5 percent discount, so pay \$95 for the card. You will receive \$2.50 toward your tuition. The more cards you purchase, the more tuition credits you receive.

Help with the process The RaiseRight coordinators are: Gail Nowakowski, Donna Dotson, Beth Jackson and Marlene Voss. You can call Gail Nowakowski at any time at 414-791-4075 with questions, or talk with one of the coordinators in the Narthex after each service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries in September



9/1 Sandra Hamburger

9/3 Meredith King

9/4 David Pankow

9/6 Justin Mendez

9/8 Rose Adams

9/10 Nathan Kamprath

9/10 Mary Rowley

9/12 Alayna LeDoux-Riffer

9/13 Gail Olen

9/14 Benjamin Heinen

9/15 Jordynn Gottwald

9/17 Sydney Campbell

9/18 Susan Kopperud

9/20 Sandra Herte

9/21 Pauline Parker

9/22 Ryan Scherer

9/22 Staci Scherer

9/23 Donna Dotson

9/24 Darlene Urbaniak

9/25 Suzann Paradise

9/26 Douglas Klipfel

9/27 Julia Oelke

9/30 Laura Elliot

9/9 Mark & Rachel Miliacca

9/15 Timothy & Christine Cooksy

9/24 Rodney & Pamela Novak

9/25 Jason & Beth Stone

9/26 Douglas & Charlotte Klipfel

9/27 Steven & Laura Urbaniak

Happy Anniversary!

May God's love continue to shine
upon your marriage, filling your
hearts with joy and peace.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Divine Worship	1 Labor Day	2 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30p-8:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	3 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	4 6:30pm Divine Worship	5	6
7 Christian Education Sunday 10:00am Divine Worship 11:30am Church Picnic	8 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Meeting	9 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	10 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	11 6:30pm Divine Worship	12	13 8:00am-9:30am Rise & Sonshine 10:00am- 12:00pm Ladies Guild
14 Voter's Meeting after Service 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Divine Worship	15 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	16 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	17 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	18 6:30pm Divine Worship	19	20
21 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	22 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm8:00p m Grief Share	23 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	24 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	25 6:30pm Divine Worship	26	27
28 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	29 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	30 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)				

Radio Worship Service

"*The Lutheran Hour*" can be heard anytime on the internet at lhm.org – scroll down the page and click on, "*listen now.*" You can also listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

"*The Lutheran Hour*," which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



Prayer Hot Line

In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

Pastor John M. Taggatz

PH: 414.762.8990

Thursday Worship 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship 8:00 am and
10:30 am

