

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Christian Education Sunday

September 4th & 7th, 2025

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



Image: "Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."
(Luke 14:27)

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 “*Following Jesus*”

Bette Davis once quipped that growing old isn't for sissies. Neither is the Christian life. To be a disciple of Christ requires both courage and strength. Thanks be to God that these are not qualities inherent in the person but the gift of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. The same Spirit who calls and gathers the elect also enlightens and sanctifies them in the one true faith. Through the resources of the Word and Sacraments, God is at work in us so that we may know the cost of discipleship, the scope of the battle before us, and the stakes as salt of the earth. He who calls us is faithful, and He will bring to completion all that He has begun in us.

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 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (vs. 1-3, Thursday Night Only)

Grace Lutheran School Choir—"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" (Sunday Only)

(Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 119:28-32; antiphon: v. 27, read responsively*)

Make me understand the way of your | precepts,*
and I will meditate on your | wondrous works.
My soul melts away for | sorrow;*
strengthen me according | to your word!
Put false ways | far from me*
and graciously teach | me your law!
I have chosen the way of | faithfulness;*
I set your just decrees be- | fore me.
I cling to your testimonies, | O LORD;*
let me not be | put to shame!
I will run in the way of your com- | mandments*
when you en- | large my heart!

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.

Make me understand the way of your | precepts,*
and I will meditate on your | wondrous works.

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 merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

BLESSING OF BIBLES (*the Bibles are generously provided from the Grace Lutheran Matt Meyer memorial fund, SUNDAY ONLY*)

Pastor: The Lord God, by His Holy Spirit, has caused all Holy Scripture to be “written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” Such learning takes place when we hear “the Word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.” It is fitting that these Bibles be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. (Romans 15:4, Luke 8:15)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You have given us Your holy Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We implore You to bless these Bibles. Enlighten the hearts and minds of those who read them, and open the ears of all who hear the Gospel proclaimed from them, that by Your Spirit they may earnestly hold fast to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord Almighty, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these Bibles.

People: Amen.

THE REDEDICATION OF OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL & ECC TEACHERS & STAFF & GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (SUNDAY ONLY)

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be re-dedicated as *[name of position(s)]* at *[name of congregation]*, a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy. Hear the Word of the Lord:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Beloved in the Lord, you are to assist me, the minister of Word and Sacrament, in the instruction of God’s people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism. While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

Teachers: I do.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness Spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in Their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

People: We do.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I re-dedicate you as *[name of position(s)]* at *[name of congregation]* in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PROMISES OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Pastor: Now, then, all you who are parents: Will you promise to raise your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your teaching? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

Parents: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: And how about you children? Will you promise to listen to your parents, learning from them, and obey them, helping wherever you can? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your learning? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

Children: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Finally, I ask all of you: Will you study the Word of God when you have opportunity, here in church and with your families or friends? Will you endeavor to share the faith in your hearts, teaching others by word and example? Will you seek to exhibit Christ as the heart of your living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

People: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful leaders and teachers in this congregation, and as teachers and learners in your daily living, to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

INSTALLATION OF MRS. LISA HENGST, GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MR. STEVEN GETTELMAN, VICE PRINCIPAL, & MRS. NICOLE TINDALL, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

(I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil.)

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

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 *Philemon 1-21*

(Paul's letter commending the slave Onesimus back to his master, not only as a slave but as a brother in the Lord.)

¹Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ²and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, ⁶and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹(Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹²I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. ¹⁵For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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 Christian Education Sunday—*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

Holy Gospel Luke 14:25-35

(Jesus speaks of the cost of discipleship and calls on those who would follow Him to deny themselves and take up the cross.)

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

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- 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

Sermon Hymn 688 “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake” (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “The Cost of Discipleship” (Luke 14:25-35)

Offering/Attendance

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

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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

Sanctus *LSB 208*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

P Holy and mighty Lord, in Your mercy You created all things and still preserve them, and by Your will and purpose You sent forth Your Son, born of the virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, to rescue and redeem us from the sin and death we chose. As He has fulfilled Your holy purpose and won for You a holy people, grant that we may here receive with faith the fruits of His redeeming work and in this Holy Communion be fed and nourished to everlasting life in Christ. Here 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

-725 Children of the Heavenly Father

-865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

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. Blessed Lord, You were born in flesh and blood to walk with us the path of our sin and death in order that we might walk with You by Baptism and faith. Lead us in the way of the cross that we may not depart from it but follow its path to everlasting 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.**

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 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-3)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The Altar flowers were given this week by Carol Loveall

In Memory of Lee Loveall's Birthday



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 (healing & strength) 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 (bladder cancer); Great niece of Donna Smith (healing from burns); Mark Taggatz (knee surgery in early November.); Karen (surgery); Jen (recovery from torn hamstring) daughter of Lori Kachelmeier.

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

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

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

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Thursday 9/3 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 9/ 9:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Mike Huber	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine and Marlen	Janine and Marlene
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>		
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Eric and Lisa Kamprath
	Jim Robinson	Elizabeth Murphy
		Glenn Dotson
<u>Livestream</u>		

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: mevorch@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>

Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

Monday, September 15th

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? On **Monday, September 15th**, Grace Lutheran will be starting a **Grief Share Seminar and Support Group** to help those walking through the difficult journey of grief. This group is designed to offer comfort, understanding, and encouragement through God's Word and the fellowship of His Church. Many who have attended Grief Share have found that it helps them begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help.

When: Mondays, September 15th – December 15th

Time: 6:30–8:00pm

Where: Grace Lutheran School Library, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Oak Creek, WI

Cost: \$20.00

There will also be a **special session**, “**Surviving the Holidays**,” on **Monday, December 1st**—a time when grief can often feel even heavier.

Our Grief Share group will be led by **Lori Kachelmeier** and **Jeanne Meyer**, who will walk alongside participants as they learn from nationally recognized experts on grief recovery. Topics include: “*Is This Normal?*” “*The Challenges of Grief*,” “*Grief and Your Relationships*,” “*Why?*” and “*Guilt and Anger*.”

Register online here: tinyurl.com/57tkyjy8

For more information, please call our Church Office at **414-762-8990** or email [**church@graceoakcreek.org**](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org)

Jeanne Meyer – meyorch@sbcglobal.net

Lori Kachelmeier – jlkachel2@gmail.com

Please share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be struggling with the loss of a loved one. May our gracious Lord use this ministry to bring His comfort, peace, and hope to many.

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 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.

Sunday, September 7th

Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!!

Please join us for our Annual Church Picnic TODAY 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!!!

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.

New Members Class on Sunday September 28th from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. I am looking to have the New Members Class on Sunday September 28th from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library

Starting Sunday September 14th—Matthew: “*His Kingdom Forever.*” (10 sessions)

Each study in the *God’s Word for Today* series provides an in-depth exploration of a book of the Bible. Each session includes:

- background information on the book of the Bible, its author, audience, occasion, and purpose;
- learning experiences that promote exciting and challenging discussions;
- notes for leaders that answer questions, suggest a learning process, and provide additional information;
- discussion starters that help participants apply God’s Word to their daily lives.

The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, Matthew proclaims the universality of Jesus’ love. Let’s take a look at the Gospel of Matthew and learn and grow!

LUTHERAN HOUR "Dying, We Live" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God's love finds His people in the wilderness, the place where God gives bread from heaven, water from a rock, and streams in the desert. (Numbers 14:19-20) Listen online at: www.lutheranhour.org/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

**There will be a Voters Meeting
Sunday, September 14th
After the 10:30am Worship Service.**

Please plan on attending as your participation as a member of our congregation is very important for the ministries here at Grace Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center. Topics of the meeting will include: Pastor's update, Goals for the next year from our Church Boards, Treasurer's Report, and update on Church Membership here at Grace.



IN THE WORD FOR 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Fifth and Sixth Commandments

Verse of the week: Mark 10:6-8a, *“From the beginning of the creation, God “made them male and female.” 7 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh”; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 146 (antiphon vs. 8)

Hymn of the week: LSB 701 “Draw Us to Thee” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Jesus Heals the Deaf Mute—Mark 7:31-37

Monday— Jesus Blesses the Children—Lk 18:15-17

Tuesday— Cain Murders His Brother Abel—Genesis 4:1-12 (13-15)

Wednesday— The Parable of the Good Samaritan—Luke 10:25-37

Thursday— Joseph Flees from Adultery—Genesis 39:1-21 (22-23)

Friday— Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil—Matthew 4:1-11

Saturday—2 Chronicles 28:8-15

Stewardship Minute

Giving is connected to grace. Giving is a sign that we "get it," that we understand grace, and that we truly believe what God has done for us in Jesus. Grace is God's attitude of undeserved favor toward sinners; it also means God's unearned mercy is powerfully working within us. Faithful management of God's resources, then, is part of a relationship created by grace. It is not governed by rules – we must do this, and we must give that – but by grace, that is, by our relationship to God in Christ Jesus. How much we earn and how much we give, then, are deeply spiritual matters. We cannot go from paycheck to paycheck without thinking carefully about what we are doing with our money. We cannot use God's gifts without carefully considering the ways in which our actions affect others. Not if we are faithful managers, we cannot!

**GOD'S LOVE FOR US TRANSFORMS
US INTO PEOPLE WHO ARE CARING
AND LOVING, AND WE SHOW IT
THROUGH OUR ACTIONS.**

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12).



"Difficult situations like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can tempt us to forget our Savior's presence and power. Comfort comes not from making deals with death but from the gifts He wrings and the privileges He brings even in and through hardship. An everlasting, unchanging, and all-sufficient Creator and Keeper not only provides life, He protects it as well!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – 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 – August 28th & 31st

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3352.00</i>	
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1492.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1380.00</i>	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$6284.00</i>	<i>Attendance Total: 40/60</i>
		<i>Communed: 81</i>

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	9/7	10:00am	Divine Worship Christian Education Sunday
		11:30am	Church Picnic
Monday	9/8	6:30pm	6-8 Grade Confirmation Parent Meeting
Tuesday	9/9	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	9/10	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30pm	Grace Church Council Meeting
Thursday	9/11	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	9/12	-----	-----
Saturday	9/13	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
		10:00am	Grace Ladies Guild
Sunday	9/14	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	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

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315



