

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

14 Sunday after Pentecost

September 11th & 14th, 2025

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



Image: “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.” (Ezekiel 34:11-12)

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 “*The Sound Doctrine of God*”

A great temptation before Christians is to presume that sincerity is more important than doctrine. The reality is that both are deeply important. Jesus does not countenance hypocrisy but neither does He offer false consolation to those who refuse to hear the voice of His Word. Part of faithfully hearing the Word of God is discerning what is commanded from what is given—*what Lutherans describe as the Law and the Gospel*. Confusing or confounding the two will distort our picture of God and lead us away from that which Christ has done.

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 1, pg. 151*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 30:2-5; antiphon: vv. 11a, 12b, sung responsively*)



You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing;*

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*

and you have | healed me.
O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.

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.

You have turned for me my mourning into | dancing;*
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you for- | ever!

Kyrie LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 156*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11-24*

(The Lord promises to rescue His sheep and to set up a shepherd who will lead them to eternal life.)

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among

them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

- 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 1 Timothy 1:5-17

(Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.)

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 156

- C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**
Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia Verse for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost — "*Alleluia. I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Alleluia.*" (Verse Luke 15:10)

Holy Gospel Luke 15:1-10

(Jesus tells the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed LSB 158

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "The Law of God Is Great" (1 Tim. 1:5-17) 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 579 The Law of God Is Good and Wise (vs. 1-4, 6)

Sermon "The Law of God Is Good and Wise" (1 Tim 1:5-17)

Offertory LSB 159

- C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 160*

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we, Your unworthy servants, give You most humble and hearty thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us. We praise You for creating and preserving all things that You have made and for bearing with us sinners who deserved only Your wrath. Grant us grace that we hold fast to Jesus Christ, our Lord, and be kept by Your Word and Sacraments within Your favor until we are delivered to everlasting life. Hear us for the sake of Him who has offered to us His body for food and His blood for drink.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 162*

- 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 163*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

- C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

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

-864 Shepherd of Tender Youth

-611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Stand

Thank the Lord LSB 164

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy**

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect LSB 166

- A Let us pray. O Lord, merciful Father, shepherd us with Your grace and favor that we be guided by the voice of Your Word and nurtured by the Law and Gospel to confess our sins and believe in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Grant that what we have here received at the Table of His grace we keep in holy hearts and confess with holy lips to the praise of Your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Spirit, You are one God, one Lord, both now and forevermore.
- C Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

- 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 566 By Grace I'm Saved (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The flowers on the altar were given this week by

Sandra Hamburger



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; Cricket (eye tumor) daughter of Pastor Jay Winters.

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

We Mourn with the family of Jim Pieper, as they grieve the recent death of his cousin, Linda. *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38-39) **We pray:** Gracious Heavenly Father, we commend Jim Pieper and his family into Your loving care as they mourn the death of his cousin Linda. Surround them with Your peace that passes all understanding and strengthen their faith in Your promises. Help them to cling to the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting, where You will wipe away every tear and there will be no more death or mourning. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

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

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

Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Thursday 9/11 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 9/14 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 9/14 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Mark Olen	Adam Voss
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Glenn Dotson	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine Tuskowski	Janine Tuskowski	Janine Tuskowski
	Marlene Voss	Marlene Voss	Marlene Voss
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau	Eric Kamprath
	Jim Robinson	Jen Lau	Lisa Kamprath
			Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

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! **There will be a special informational meeting on Stephen Ministry Training following worship on Thursday September 18th and Sunday September 21st following each of the worship services...**

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

<https://tinyurl.com/bde23pnz>

Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday- Sept 25 & 28

You are invited to help Grace Ladies Guild to celebrate the work of the LWML!

- Wear your PURPLE to church!
- Stop at the Muffins for Mites event after each service. All donations for baked goods will be for mites.
- Pick up a mite box-children's boxes also available- to fill with your pennies, nickels and dimes. Bring back the box to church on **November 6th & 9th** to pour your contents into the BIG mite box in the narthex.
- Start gathering your socks for SOCKTOBER! Look for the pink tote in the narthex to donate your new socks. Socks will go to the Milwaukee Rescue Mission!

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.

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.

Attention 6th - 8th Grade Parents

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m. for Public School students. The Confirmation Classes for our Grace day school students 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 "It's All on God; It's All on Us" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. A paradox doesn't make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience. (Deuteronomy 1:31) 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 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Ten Commandments—Seventh and Eighth Commandments

Verse of the week: Matthew 5:37, *“Let your “Yes” be “Yes,” and your “No,” “No.” For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 32 (antiphon vs. 2)

Hymn of the week: LSB 812 “Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Good Samaritan—Luke 10:23-37

Monday— Holy Cross Day: John 12:20-33

Tuesday— Abram Gives Lot the Choice of the Land—Gen. 13:1-12 (13-18)

Wednesday— Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus's House—Luke 19:1-10

Thursday— Bless Those Who Curse—Matthew 5:33-45

Friday— Jesus Prays for His Enemies—Luke 23:33-43

Saturday— God Has Taught Us the Way of Wisdom Proverbs 4:10-23

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 Church, School, ECC, and Oak Creek community, specifically in helping with groceries or gas. May God richly bless you!!!

“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 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)

Stewardship Minute

As stewards, we manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. God uses our lives to accomplish His purposes. As stewards of the Gospel, our voices proclaim the Gospel. God calls us and empowers us to be stewards of the Gospel. As people of faith, we have the joy, privilege, and responsibility to share the Gospel. He uses our hands to do His works of love. God shows us opportunities to serve and help others. He directs our footsteps, and He puts love for others in our hearts. Our lives as God's stewards are made possible through the work of the Holy Spirit. With God's help, we do what God wants us to do with a free and joyous spirit.

BECAUSE OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH GOD'S LOVE, WE CAN GIVE CHEERFULLY. LOVE MOTIVATES US TO BE GIVERS RATHER THAN TAKERS.



“...for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

“If we expect to be the one to change hearts by sowing seeds of judgment rather than love, we are changing the mission we have been sent to fulfill. Please use your Gospel-motivated voice For Life in love and may God bless your efforts!” Virginia Flo, *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 – September 4th & 7th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$6149.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$2054.00</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$205.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
Total:	\$8448.00

Attendance Total: 43/146
Communed: 109

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	9/14	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15 am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30pm	Divine Worship
			Voter's Meeting after 10:30 Worship
Monday	9/15	6:30pm	6-8 Grade Confirmation Class
		6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	9/16	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	9/17	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	9/18	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	9/19	-----	-----
Saturday	9/20	-----	-----
Sunday	9/21	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

