



Equipper

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

October 2025



Pastor's Message

"Don't Forget Your Valuable!"

Mark chapter 10:17-22—17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 And Jesus said to him, "... 19 You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" 20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

I know, you are worried about my grammar. You think the title should be "Don't Forget, You're (You ARE) Valuable," right? Or, you might think my title should be "Don't Forget Your 'Valuables,'" not "Valuable!" Well, I wrote the title as it was meant to be written. For this devotion, the word needs to be valuable. I meant to write that word in the singular because this lesson is talking about the one thing in your life that is the key to it all. In our lesson for today from Mark's Gospel, an individual comes up to Jesus and asks the million-dollar question, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" That's the big question; that's the one that really matters. You see, the Bible talks about life as precious, purposeful, and eternal. Those three all go together. Jesus wants you to know that your life is eternal; you are not just here today and gone tomorrow. He wants you to know that you are precious to Him, that your life matters to Him.

That is exactly what Jesus was trying to show the rich young man in our reading. Jesus offers him what He also offers to you and me today --- love, His love, the eternal and lasting love of God in Jesus Christ, and a life that is purposeful and eternal because of what He has done for you on the cross and by His resurrection. When Jesus tells the man that he lacks "one thing," He's trying to get him to receive life, now and forever, as a gift from God. He's leading him to see that a relationship with Jesus is the key to it all.

So, today, ask yourself questions like these: Is there anything getting in the way of knowing and receiving the one thing that is truly valuable for your life? Are the things of this temporary world more precious to you than knowing the love of God in Christ Jesus now and forever? Are the trinkets of the moment to be more prized than God's mercy in Christ? Is there anything more precious than knowing that no matter what you've done or where you've been, life in Him can be fresh and new today? He offers you eternal life right now as a gift, apart from any works you have or have not done. Only Christ Jesus can remove everything that stands in the way of having a life that is good, meaningful, and enduring.

Trust in what is truly valuable today -- your life in Christ! Then the very same Jesus who urged this man to follow Him urges us to live for Him as well. But, first, hear another promise from Him as you face this week. Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Prayer: *Dear Lord Jesus, it's easy to get caught up in the treasures of the here and now. Give us eyes to see that only in and through You does life become precious, purposeful, and eternal. Then give me the wisdom to follow You as I take up the challenges of today. Amen. See you in worship!*


See You in Worship,

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Pastor John M. Taggatz




GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL NIGHT FUNDRAISER!



MILWAUKEE ADMIRALS VS. CHICAGO WOLVES
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2025
7:00 PM
ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY
[HTTPS://WWW.GOFEVO.COM/EVENT/GRACELUTHERAN86?R=99](https://www.gofevo.com/event/gracelutheran86?R=99)

✦ When you purchase a ticket, you're not only securing a fun and memorable experience, but you're also making a difference! For every ticket sold, \$10 will go directly to support fundraising for Grace Lutheran School. These funds help provide valuable resources, programs, and opportunities for students to thrive. Don't wait—purchase your tickets today and be sure to invite your family and friends to join in. Together, we can enjoy a wonderful event while giving back to a school!



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
October 2nd and 5th



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!!!





Portals of Prayer Devotional

Over the years the church has provided the Portals of Prayers devotional book to our members. Throughout these years the church has carried this expense. To help offset that burden we now have envelopes available in the narthex for our members to designate funds to this devotional book. It is our goal to continue to provide this amazing tool to our members in their faith journey.

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

October 2nd & 5th

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

Thank you for helping us support missions local and worldwide!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

October 11th & 25th 8:00am-9:30am at Grace school





No Grace Guild meeting this month!

Instead, we will all be attending the
LWML SWD Zone 1 Fall Rally on Saturday Oct 4th.

More information below.

Any questions, please free to contact Jennifer Olen

We continue celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Grace Guild!

Each month we share some of Guild history...

October 9th, 1958 Grace Guild assumed responsibility for the church Nursery, with Mrs. Ball leading the effort. Fundraisers held were selling bottles of vanilla and Christmas cards from Concordia and hosting bazaars.

Missions were the Prayer and Penny project and they decorated one pound coffee cans which were filled with homemade cookies and candy for the residents of the Milwaukee County Infirmary.

Projects that Guild funds were used for were kitchen cabinets, dutch doors and plumbing for the church kitchen. Utensils and 100 place settings of china and silverware at a cost of \$6 per setting were also purchased for the church kitchen.

SOCKTOBER begins October 1st!

*The glove said to the sock, "Looks like you
could use a hand!"*

Yes, we can use a hand to fill the bin full of
socks for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

New or gently used socks in all sizes, men's,
women's, and children's are needed.

Look for the designated sock bin in the
narthex!

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 Seminar and Support Group at Grace

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/57tkyiy8

For more information, please call our Church Office at **414-762-8990** or email 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.

Giving Tree

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

We were able to raise \$325 towards this ministry!

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. If you would still like to contribute to the *Good Samaritan Fund*, you can do so by calling the Church Office at 414-762-8990.



Worship Services at Willow Crest Nursing Home

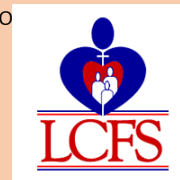
Volunteers Needed! Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services at Willow Crest Nursing Home on Sunday mornings. We have started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this ministry. The worship services are roughly 30 minutes 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 414-423-0010 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!

All Saints Day November 2nd

Members who would like to recognize those of the Christian faith who have fallen asleep in Jesus this last year from November 2024 to the present, please let our church office know by Monday, October 27th. We will be remembering the saints who have gone to heaven in a special All Saints Day worship service on November 2nd, 2025.

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

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 and 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!



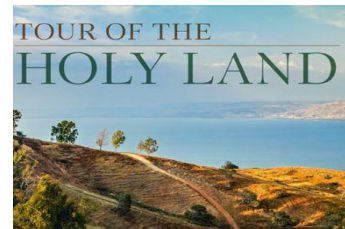
6th ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

At Grace School Parking Lot! Children from Grace Lutheran and the surrounding community are invited to come to a “Trunk or Treat” event at Grace Lutheran School’s parking lot on Friday October 24th from 6:00-7:00pm. The children can come to our school parking lot to receive some Halloween Candy, some Christian tracts, and they will be able to have fellowship with other children and with members of our congregation.

We are in need of volunteers for this event, please contact Pastor Taggatz or the Grace Lutheran Church Office if you are interested in helping out with this event and providing candy for the children through the trunk of your car, truck or van: 414-762-8990 or church@graceoakcreek.org. During a Trunk or Treat event the trunk of one’s car is opened displaying candy, and often games are made available, and certain Halloween decorations. Because this is a Christian event, please do not decorate or come in costume with goblins, witches, and other occult attire. Ideas for how to decorate the trunks of your cars for this event can be found on Pinterest. The Oak Creek Fire & Police Department will be at this year’s Trunk or Treat to talk about fire and public safety with the children and *Better Together Café* will also be there to offer sweet treats and drinks for all who come to this event. Grace Lutheran School is located at: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave Oak Creek WI 53154

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!



"Called to Be Ambassadors"

In Webster's New World Dictionary, ambassador is defined as "the highest-ranking diplomatic representative of one country to another." An ambassador of the United States to another country holds a very prestigious position. This person speaks for our country. The honor of a country is in the ambassador's hands. The responsibility of an ambassador is to represent his/her country in a very honorable way.

By His grace, God calls us to be ambassadors for Jesus by representing and speaking on His behalf. We bring Jesus' message to the world. As important as it is to be an ambassador who represents a country, it is a much greater privilege and a much more significant responsibility to represent Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"All this is from God, Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us"* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Just as Jesus sent Paul to be an ambassador, He is sending us. As ambassadors for Jesus, we share the Gospel with whomever God places in our paths.

God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God. We choose to be among those workers in the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38) who share our testimonies of faith, always pointing others to Christ and His Gospel. As ambassadors, we share the good news that God has reconciled us sinners with Himself through His Son, Jesus. Because Jesus, Who knew no sin, took upon Himself our sins, we are made righteous in Jesus. We are called to take this life-saving message to our homes, neighborhoods, schools, places of work, and the entire world.

God not only gives us His marching orders; He empowers us to carry them out. What God expects He enables. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God changes us into people who are up to the task of being ambassadors. As we spend time in God's Word and in prayer, we are emboldened to speak the Good News so that others may experience the joy and peace that God gives.

*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.



ON THE FRONT LINES

Stephen Ministry in Action Story of a US Army Captain

"I've given enough," U.S. Army Captain, David Rozelle told his wife, Kim, from the hospital in Iraq. Overcome by grief, he thought his ability and desire to serve were gone for good. But God had other plans.

It was on June 21st, 2003, David's life changed forever. Commander of Troop K in the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, he was riding in a Humvee near Fallujah when a landmine exploded, damaging the vehicle and severely injuring his right foot. In spite of extreme pain and shock, David immediately thought of the safety of the 140 soldiers under his command. Hours later, doctors at the combat support hospital amputated David's lower right ankle and foot. After surgery, David was flown to Qatar, then to Germany, and finally, on the eve of Independence Day 2003, to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., where he joined the amputees on Ward 57.

A HERO'S JOY AND SORROW

Weeks later, David returned home to Fort Carson, Colorado, arriving in time to be with Kim for the birth of their son, Forrest. In addition to becoming a father, David was also a hero, receiving three awards. But any joy was short-lived; he spent day after day lying on the living room couch in a haze of depression. Kim's love and patience and his joy in Forrest gave David the strength to move forward. A meeting with President Bush--and the President's invitation to join him someday for a run--encouraged him even more. He resolved to overcome his fears and pain by strengthening his body.

MAKING PHYSICAL PROGRESS

Eight surgeries and three months after the explosion. David received his prosthesis. He resumed rigorous physical activity and was soon fully functional. Before long, he was on the Colorado slopes learning to ski again. More sports followed--running swimming, snowshoeing, and marathons and triathlons. He encouraged others with disabilities to return to the sports they loved too.

A NEW MISSION

Physical activity provided a temporary respite, but around six months after the explosion in Iraq, a new reality struck. "I was lying on the couch icing my leg, when it hit me, it's going to be like this forever. I was slowly realizing that I was going to have to adapt my lifestyle. My heart broke. It was after that day that my mind started to heal."

David now focused on two goals: his determination to return to the Army and his concern for the needs of others with injuries like his own. The second challenge was more difficult. "I had left Walter Reed unarmed with what I needed to heal," he said. "There was no established support system to take care of me." Because he wanted to help other amputees, the Army sent him on a visit to Walter Reed Hospital. He went directly to Ward 57, where he sat, talked, and prayed with the amputees. Although they deeply appreciated his gift of time, David found their grief difficult to handle and knew he needed to be a better listener.

CALLED TO STEPHEN MINISTRY

In May 2004, David's church, First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs--a Stephen Ministry congregation since 1981--was preparing to train another class of Stephen Ministers. David attended an information session and applied to serve as a Stephen Minister.

Soon David was part of the congregation's eighth training class of Stephen Ministers. At each training session, he made an effort to speak with everyone there. He really cared about them and how they were doing. During the training class on grief, David talked about the grief that people experience after losing a part of their body. He shared how there can be a delay before the loss sinks in. For him it was six months before it hit him really hard that his life had changed. But it was also obvious that he worked through it well because he was so open to talking about it.

A STEPHEN MINISTER ON THE BATTLEFIELD

During Stephen Ministry training, David received notice that the Army considered him "fit for duty." He wondered where he'd want to serve. He discovered the answer when he welcomed his troop back from Iraq. As he celebrated their home coming, he realized how much he loved being an Army Captain. On June 17, 2004, he resumed command, just four days before the first anniversary of his injury. Two weeks later--just a few sessions before he completed his Stephen Ministry training--David returned to Iraq, the first soldier in history to become an amputee and then resume his command on the same battlefield.

Back in Iraq, he frequently found himself using his Stephen Minister caregiving skills. David is working towards achieving those goals. He is ministering to those at Walter Reed and working to establish an amputee center there. God continues to use David's personal experiences, caregiving skills, and unwavering commitment to serving his country and his fellow soldiers.

How can you get a Stephen Minister at Grace? Or Become a Stephen Minister?

If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to Pastor Tagatz 715-467-1231 - or to one of the Stephen Leaders Jeanne Meyer 423-0010, Lori Kachelmeier 414-828-0290.



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 October



10/1	Haley Morris	
10/2	Anthony Puetz	10/14 Nicole Kisley
10/2	Kristin Toth	10/19 Scott Brenton
10/3	Aaron Cotter	10/19 Susan Herzog
10/4	Amber Kendrick	10/21 Richard Flower
10/5	Jerry Urbaniak	10/21 Doc Medek
10/6	Laurie Wenzel	10/24 Virginia Schmeiser
10/9	Connie Roettgen	10/27 Kathy Szefflinski
10/10	JoEllyn Pfeilstifter	10/30 Carsen Serdynski
10/12	Alice Behling	
10/13	Sharon Iseli	

10/4 Tony and Suzie Mirenda
10/5 Ryan II and Annie Olen
10/5 Jonathan Riffer & Alayna LeDoux-Riffer
10/6 Andrew and Natalie Jaskie
10/8 Joshua and Ariel Hagar
10/13 Hunter and Elizabeth Murphy
10/13 Jareb and Emilee Zunker
10/14 Kyle and Danielle Kadlec
10/22 Rick and Cathy Weeks

Happy Anniversary!

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





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	2 6:30pm Divine Worship	3	4
5 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	6 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	8 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	9 6:30pm Divine Worship	10	11 8:00am - 9:30am Rise & Sonshine
12 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	13 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	15 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	16 6:30pm Divine Worship	17	18
19 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	20 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	22 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	23 6:30pm Divine Worship	24 6:00pm - 7:00pm Trunk or Treat	25 8:00am - 9:30am Rise & Sonshine 9:00am - 3:00pm Stephen Minister Training
26 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	27 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	29 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	30 6:30pm Divine Worship	31	1

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 Tagatz.

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. Tagatz

PH: 414.762.8990

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

