

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Stewardship Emphasis 2

October 9th & 12th, 2025

God's Grace

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



Image: *"Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do." (1 Corinthians 16:1)*

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 “Stewardship as a Way of Life”

This is the second week of our stewardship emphasis, *Everyday Stewards*. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed into new people who become God's stewards. As the Apostle Paul stated, “...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The theme for this week is “*Stewardship as a Way of Life*.” Christian stewardship involves more than what we do just on Sunday. Stewardship is faith in action, and it refers to all the activities that we do in Christ's name. We are God's stewards in our homes, workplaces, schools, and in our neighborhoods. We are stewards each and everyday. Our stewardship is a way of life. Where God places us, we are called to be His faithful stewards. Our theme for next week is “*Stewards Living with Purpose*.”

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 698 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill (vs. 1-3)

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 ✠

Stewardship Litany

Leader: Lord God, bless us with a zeal to be Your stewards as we serve You through serving others.

People: Lord, through Your Word, You have called us to be Your stewards. Help us to be faithful Everyday Stewards.

- Leader:** Lord God, we thank You for Your grace which enables us to understand that we were created for Your purpose, not ours. Change our mindset from what we want to do to what You want us to do.
- People:** Lord, help us to understand that all we are and have come from You and belongs to You.
- Leader:** Lord God, You direct us in Your Word to give freely because we have received freely. Through Your grace, make us channels through which Your blessings can flow.
- People:** Help us Lord, to be fruitful stewards of the opportunities You give to us. Help us to use our time, talents, and treasures for Your glory.
- All:** Lord God, we ask for loving and giving hearts so we can be Everyday Stewards. Through Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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. O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Psalm 119:33-40*

The Psalmist prays for the LORD to turn his eyes away from worthless things and to give him life in the ways of God

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. ³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. ³⁶Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! ³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. ³⁸Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. ³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your just decrees are good. ⁴⁰Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

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 *Corinthians 16:1-2*

St. Paul writes concerning the collection for the saints

¹Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

- 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 Stewardship Emphasis 2—*“Alleluia. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all. Alleluia.” 1 (Timothy 2:5-6a)*

Holy Gospel Luke 16:9-13

No one can serve two masters, you cannot serve God and money

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

⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed LSB 159

- 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

Children's Message "Stewardship as a Way of Life" (1 Cor. 16:1) (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 730 What Is the World to Me (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "Stewardship as a Way of Life" (1 Cor. 16:1)

Sermon Text—*1 Corinthians 16:1—Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.*

Offertory 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own (vs. 1-2)

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!

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 Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be

our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

-783 Take My Life and Let It Be

-743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

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 God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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 737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The flowers on the altar are given this week by:

Sharon Russell

In honor of October Birthdays!

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Myles King (blood disorder); Michael Helzer (cancer); Michael Parker (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; Jim & Kari (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; Greg Voss (healing & strength); Sindy Schmidt (healing); Gary Forsythe (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; Brittany (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; Greg (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; Judy (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew (Alzheimer's); Jenny Rice (cancer); Scott (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; Jennifer (diagnosed with MS); Steve Benzie (stomach pain, hernia); Cheryl (cancer) friend of Sharon Iseli; Carol Long (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; Sharon Iseli (healing); Mariya (cancer); Terri (healing and strength) friend of Joy Lussier; Cris Evers (healing & strength); Laura (Lou Gehrig's Disease) friend of Jim & Janine Pieper; Don Adams (healing & strength) relative of Pauline Parker; 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; Scott Brenton (on dialysis) Linda Maldonado's fiancé; Rose Adams (healing & strength); Tom (healing & strength) brother of Rod Novak; Gary (leukemia) friend of Marlene Voss; 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; Rachel Goodle (comfort & strength); Barb Praxel (healing & strength); Kurt Schmeiser (healing & strength); Joey (kidney cancer) Great nephew of Carol Loveall; Pam (melanoma, healing & strength) relative of Carol Thurber; Alexis (healing & strength) daughter in law of Lori Jablonski; Steven Gettelman (Healing & Strength) son of Steve Gettelman.

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 Gayle Stephen, cousin of Suzie Mirenda, who was recently called home to heavenly rest. We pray: Gracious Heavenly Father, We lift up to You the family and loved ones of Gayle Stephen, cousin of Suzie Mirenda, whom You have called home to her eternal rest. Comfort them in their sorrow with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Remind them that because Jesus lives, we too shall live, and that nothing can separate us from Your love. Grant them Your peace that passes all understanding and strength for the days ahead. In the precious name of Jesus, 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 10/9 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10/12 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 10/12 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Greg Nowakowski	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
<u>Acolyte</u>	David Penn	Alyssa Norton	
<u>Ushers</u>	Lance Kopperud	Nick Norton	Lowell Johnson
	Marlene Voss	Abigail Norton	Ron Savarino
		Glenn Dotson	Levi Van Vlaenderen
<u>Livestream</u>			

Mark your calendars, Grace Family—*Trivia Night is coming!* On **Saturday, November 15th from 6:30 to 8:00pm** in our school gym, the Fellowship Committee is hosting an evening of fun, food, and friendly competition. Think you've got the smarts? Teams of 6-8 will battle through three rounds of trivia to see who takes home the glory! Don't worry if you don't have a team—we'll put folks together. Just no cell phones—your brain is your best tool! It's free to join—just bring a finger food to share and non-alcoholic drinks for your family. Sign-up sheets will be out in October, but for now—save the date and get ready for a night of laughs, learning, and a little healthy competition!

“Everyday Stewards”

Grace Oak Creek 2025 Stewardship Emphasis.

Our stewardship emphasis, *Everyday Stewards* will be the first three weeks 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*)

Everyday Stewards Week 2: “Stewardship as a Way of Life”

WE ARE GOD’S STEWARDS, TOOLS IN HIS HANDS TO DO HIS WORK.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).



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 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.

Choir at Grace—Choir practice will be starting soon on Thursday evenings! Our first practice will be **Thursday, October 23rd, following our Thursday evening worship service.** The psalmist reminds us to “*make a joyful noise to the Lord*” (Psalm 100:1), and Martin Luther once said, “*He who sings prays twice.*” What a wonderful way to lift our voices in praise together! If you would like more information, please contact **Kathy Kolb at 414-744-7781.** Please join us—we would love to have you!

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>

Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee! Plans are underway for **Vacation Bible School in June 2026**, and we're forming a committee to help with planning and preparation. Volunteers are needed for areas such as **decorations, supplies, recruitment, fundraising, and more**. If you're interested in serving, please email [**apankow@graceoakcreek.org**](mailto:apankow@graceoakcreek.org)

Socktober!

In the month of October, we are having our annual SOCKTOBER drive for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

New socks of all sizes are welcome!

Information about the Milwaukee Rescue Mission can be found here

<https://milmission.org/>

Look for the pink tote in the narthex for your socks.

Thank you!

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/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.

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 "When a Cakewalk Becomes a Crucible" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Forgiveness isn't a formality with God. Forgiveness is formative. It changes us. (Numbers 14:30-31) Listen online at: 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

IN THE WORD FOR 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Creed—First Article

Verse of the week: John 1:1-3, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 2 (antiphon vs. 11)

Hymn of the week: LSB 954 "We All Believe in One True God"

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Man with Dropsy Healed—Luke 14:1-11

Monday— The Fall of Man into Sin—Genesis 3:1-8

Tuesday— The First Promise of Salvation—Genesis 3:8-15

Wednesday— The Curse of the Fall—Genesis 3:16-24

Thursday— Cain Murders Abel; the Birth of Seth—Gen. 4:1-18 (19-24) 25-26

Friday— Day of Supplication and Prayer—1 John 1:5—2:2

Saturday— St. Luke, Evangelist: Luke 10:1-9

All Saints Day—Any 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.



6th ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT TO BE HELD AT GRACE LUTHERAN 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

“We care about that precious baby, but we also care about the mom. We care about that woman who is haunted by the guilt and shame of a past abortion ... We care because Jesus cares for us. We love because God first loved us. And this we know! Our Lord Jesus—who died for us and took away all of our sin and guilt and shame—is risen and ascended to the Father’s throne. JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY’S WON!” *Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan – 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 – October 2nd & 5th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3329.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1857.00</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$1100.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$6316.00</i>

Attendance Total: 34/96
Communed: 130

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 week!

Sunday	10/12	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training
Monday	10/13	6:30pm	6-8 Grade Confirmation Class
		6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	10/14	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	10/15	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	10/16	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	10/17	-----	-----
Saturday	10/18	-----	-----
Sunday	10/19	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training

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
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ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

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School & Church Office Mailing Address

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