

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

Reformation Day (Observed)

October 23rd & 26th, 2025

God's Grace

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"

Ephesians 2:8



JUSTIFIED



BY GRACE

Image: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (*Romans 3:23-24*)

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 “*Be Stilled and Be Gladdened*”

In our fallen humanity, we resist the reality that God is our mighty fortress, “*our refuge and strength*” (Psalm 46:1). We allow our fears to cause us to freeze when nations rage, mountains are moved, and waters roar and foam. We become afraid when life is not playing out the way we had planned. Our fears do not change the fact that “*the LORD of hosts is with us.*” Our God baptizes us in the river of life and promises us a place where “*there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.*” This paradise and God's ever presence are ours because of Jesus.

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 656 A Mighty Fortress is Our God (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 34:1-2, 11, 22; antiphon: Psalm 119:46, read responsively*)

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.

I will bless the LORD at | all times;*
his praise shall continually be | in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast | in the LORD;*
let the humble hear | and be glad.

Come, O children, lis- | ten to me;*
I will teach you the fear | of the LORD.
The LORD redeems the life of his | servants;*
none of those who take refuge in him will | be condemned.

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.

I will speak of your testimonies before kings, | [O Lord,]*
and shall not be | put to shame.

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. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 *Revelation 14:6-7*

(Another angel proclaims an eternal Gospel message.)

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading - Psalm 46

P: God is our refuge and strength,

C: **A very present help in trouble.**

P: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

C: **Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

P: Though its waters roar and foam,

C: **Though the mountains tremble at its swelling.**

P: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: **The holy habitation of the Most High.**

P: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

C: **God will help her when morning dawns.**

P: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
C: **He utters His voice, the earth melts.**

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;
C: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

P: Come, behold the works of the LORD,
C: **How He has brought desolations on the earth.**

P: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
C: **He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.**

P: “Be still, and know that I am God.
C: **I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”**

P: The LORD of hosts is with us;
C: **The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Epistle Lesson *Romans 3:19-28*

(God grants the gift of redemption through Jesus Christ.)

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

- 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 Reformation Day—*“Alleluia. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.” (Luke 12:32)*

Holy Gospel John 8:31-36

(It is only through Jesus that we become free.)

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

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free?’” 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

- 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Children’s Message “What’s the Little Word? (Psalm 46) (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 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (vs. 1-3)

Sermon “Stilled by God, Gladdened by His Presence” (Psalm 46)

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 good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, our refuge and strength, for You are with us. O God of Jacob, You are our fortress. You still our souls and gladden our hearts as You forgive our sins with the body and blood of Your Son. Lead us to Your holy habitation, where we will see the river of life that flows through Your holy city. Therefore with angels and archangels and 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, O Lord of hosts, the God of Jacob, our fortress, for You are with us so that we will not fear, though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. In Your righteous judgment, You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, which has enslaved the human race. In Your mercy, You sent a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who set us free from the power of sin through the cross and the empty tomb. We thank You for rescuing us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. In Jesus' name, we pray.
- 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

-617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

-821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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. Lord of hosts, we thank and praise You for blessing us with Your body and blood. Still our souls and gladden our hearts so that we exalt You among the nations and throughout the whole earth; 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.

Sit

Closing Hymn 664 Fight the Good Fight (vs. 1-4)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



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; 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); 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 & Jennifer Gettelman; Karen (hospice) Aunt of Janine Pieper; Drew Gottwald & family (recovery after a house fire); Mamaia (healing & strength) friend of Pam & Rod Novak.

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

We mourn with the families of Kurt Schmeiser, the son of Ginny Schmeiser, and also the family of Mildred Honsbruch, sister of Art Steinborn, and John McPhee II, son of Joanne McPhee, who were recently called home to heavenly rest. *"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.'"* — John 11:25-26

Prayer: *Gracious and merciful Lord, we thank You for calling Your servants, John, Kurt, and Mildred to their heavenly home and for the faith You granted them in Christ Jesus. Comfort their loved ones and all who mourn their deaths with the promise that death is not the end, but the door to everlasting life with You. Strengthen their hearts through Your Word and fill them with the peace that surpasses all understanding through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. 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 10/16 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 10/19 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 10/19 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Mark Olen	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Edward Taggatz	Glenn Dotson	Martin Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>	David Penn		
<u>Ushers</u>	Lance Kopperud	Nick Norton	Lowell Johnson
	Marlene Voss	Abigail Norton	Ron Savarino
			Levi Van Vlaenderen
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

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 are available in the narthex of church.** Save the date and get ready for a night of laughs, learning, and a little healthy competition! **Go here to sign-up online:** <https://forms.gle/VzjnCKcYq4suathKA>

Welcome to Our New Members at Grace Lutheran Church – Oak Creek!

We rejoice in the Lord as we welcome several new members into our Grace family! What a blessing it is to see God continuing to grow His church among us. Please join us in giving thanks to God and in warmly welcoming the following individuals and families who have recently joined our congregation:

- **Krista & Alexander Scudder** and their daughter **Charlotte**
- **Darin & Jill Kent**
- **Sandra Juntunen**
- **Susan “Sue” Krueger**

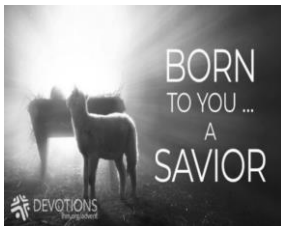
We are so happy to have each of you as part of our Grace family! May the Lord bless you richly as we grow together in faith, serve one another in love, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our community. Welcome to Grace!!!

Your 3rd Quarter *Grace Lutheran Giving Statements* are available to pick up in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We couldn't do the work of ministry at our Church, School, and ECC without your prayers and support. God bless you!!!

On Sunday, October 26th, the Martin Luther High School Instrumental Department will host a Fall Band Festival. This concert features the ML Choirs, Symphonic Band, and 6-8 grade Kadet Band. Along with individual performances, the festival includes a special 55-piece combined 6-12th grade band. This concert, free to the public, will be held at 2:00pm at Martin Luther High School in the gymnasium. A free will offering will be taken. Please come and enjoy God's gift of music with some very talented young adults!

During our stewardship emphasis, the previous weeks of October, you received a commitment form & a time & talents survey. Please fill those out and bring them to church and place it in the commitment box located in the narthex or return it to the church office when convenient. *(Extra commitment forms are available on the back table of the church.* 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.

2025 "Born to You ... a Savior," Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent Devotion



God in His incomparable love has made a way for us through the wilderness. He did this by giving us His Son, our Light in the darkness. In ***Born to You ... a Savior***, we embrace the Christmas joy and wonder of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

At Christ's birth, God the Father did a new and everlasting thing in our lives: He gave us His one and only Son for our redemption. In divine humility, Jesus joined us as a human being. Born of a woman, bearing the sins of the world, Jesus comes to us as our Protector, our Deliverer, our Savior.

We will have copies of the Advent Devotions available for pick up in our church narthex, which will include our Holiday Worship Schedule that you can share with your neighbors, family, and friends to invite them to worship at Grace during the holiday season!!!

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!



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2025

“All About Mary”

On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace during the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. The Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond.

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus’ mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David’s throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that’s coming. **Please note**, due to our special holiday worship there will be no Thursday night worship service on Thursday December 25th, as we will be having worship that morning on Christmas Day.

Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Wednesday, November 26 – 6:30pm

Thanksgiving Eve Service with Communion

“Think...Thank” – Deuteronomy 8:1–10

Thursday, December 4 – 6:30pm

Advent Midweek 1: “Introducing Mary” – Luke 1:26

Sunday, December 7 – 8:00am & 10:30am

Special “Trim the Tree” Service – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 11 – 6:30pm

Advent Midweek 2: “She Was Betrothed to a Man” – Luke 1:27

Thursday, December 18 – 6:30pm

Advent Midweek 3: “And Mary Sang” – Luke 1:46–55

Wednesday, December 24 – 4:00pm & 5:30pm

Christmas Eve – “The Nativity of Our Lord: She Gave Birth” – Luke 2:7

Thursday, December 25 – 9:30am

Christmas Day – “Became Flesh” – John 1:14

(Note: No Thursday evening worship on December 25th)

Sunday, December 28 – 9:30am only

Worship with Communion – 1st Sunday after Christmas

(Note: One service only this Sunday)

Thursday, January 1 – 6:30pm

New Year's Day Worship with Communion – “Digging in Dirt, Finding the Name of God” – Numbers 6:22–27

Sunday, January 5 – 8:00am & 10:30am

The Epiphany of Our Lord – “The Singing Camels of Sheba” – Isaiah 60:1–6

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

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

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 "Worn In" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Are you feeling worn down or worn out? Through faith, God conforms us to the pattern of Christ. (Numbers 20:13) [Listen online at:](https://lutheranhour.org/) 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 REFORMATION DAY (OBSERVED)

Catechism: Creed—Second Article

Verse of the week: John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 46 (antiphon vs. 7)

Hymn of the week: LSB 656 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Reformation: Suffering Violence—Matthew 11:12-19

Monday— The Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9

Tuesday— St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles: John 15:12-21

Wednesday— The Call of Abram—Genesis 12:1-20

Thursday— Abram and Lot—Genesis 13:1-18

Friday— Abram Rescues Lot; Pays a Tithe to Melchizedek—Gen. 14:8-23

Saturday— All Saints’ Day: Revelation 7:2-17

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.

Grace Lutheran School Night Fundraiser with the Milwaukee Admirals! Join us for a fun and exciting evening of hockey and fellowship at **Grace Lutheran School Night** as the **Milwaukee Admirals take on the Chicago Wolves** on **Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 7:00 PM!** When you purchase a ticket, you’re not only securing a memorable night out—you’re also making a difference! For every ticket sold, **\$10 will go directly**

to support Grace Lutheran School, helping to provide valuable resources, programs, and opportunities for our students to thrive. Don't wait—purchase your tickets today at:

👉 <https://www.gofevo.com/event/gracelutheran86?r=99>

Invite your family and friends to join us as we cheer on the Admirals and enjoy a great evening together—all while supporting our school!

Decorate the Chancel for Christmas! Order Your Poinsettia Today!

Bring Christmas joy to our sanctuary with a beautiful red poinsettia.

Deadline and Payment Due by: *Sunday, November 23rd, 2025*

Sizes & Prices: 6" (Width 16") \$17.00 7" (Width 18") \$22.00 10" (Width 28") \$42.00

How to Order: Sign up on the table in the narthex and include your payment in the envelope provided - or call the church office at **762-8990** to order by phone. **Checks payable to:** Grace Lutheran Church
Red poinsettias in gold foil—perfect to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas!



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 SHOULD PLAN OUR GIVING IN ADVANCE. GIVING LEFTOVERS DISHONORS THE LORD.

“On 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” (1 Corinthians 16:2).



Stewardship Minute Benjamin Franklin wrote, “Better to go to bed supper less, than wake up in debt.” What would he think today when debt has become a way of life? Because of our borrowing habits, we are in debt overload. Most of us live on the installment plan. Each year we waste tens of billions of dollars on excess interest payments, annual and late fees, and credit counseling. Scripture does not forbid us from borrowing money, but it does discourage it. *“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender”* (Proverbs 22:7), wrote Solomon, the wise teacher. Use God’s warnings and strength to help you get out and stay out of debt. Then we will be on our way toward financial freedom.

Growing in Grace – October 16th & 19th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1927.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1534.00</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$45.00</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>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$2.50</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$3529.50</i>

Attendance Total: 51/82
Communed: 89

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	10/26	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training
Monday	10/27	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
			Grief Share
Tuesday	10/28	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	10/29	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	10/30	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	10/31	-----	-----
Saturday	11/1	-----	-----
Sunday	11/2	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
		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
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

