

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 13th & 16th, 2025

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"

Ephesians 2:8

*Celebrate
Teach
Share*

God's Grace



Image: "Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
(Luke 21:28b)

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 “*Your Redemption Is Near*”

One of the great mysteries of the Christian faith can be summed up in the word “*near*.” “*Near*” can indicate something that is almost here but hasn't yet arrived. And at the same time, “*near*” can point to something already with us, like those “*near and dear*” to our hearts. The word “*near*” resounds with feelings of the here and now and the not quite yet. Today in worship, Your Savior, Jesus, is near! He is present in the here and now, delivering grace upon grace. And He is on His way, bringing the fullness of His freedom. Praise the God who comes near in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service: *Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 203*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 509 Christ Is Surely Coming (vs. 1-3)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 121:1-2, 5, 7-8; antiphon: Luke 21:33, read responsively*)

Heaven and earth will | pass away,*

but my words will not | pass away.

I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*

From where does my | help come?
My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.
The LORD is your | keeper;*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.
The LORD will keep you from all | evil;*
he will | keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

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.

Heaven and earth will | pass away,*
but my words will not | pass away.

Kyrie LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;

**You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may live and abide forever in Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Malachi 4:1-6*

(The Lord prepares His people to meet the sun of righteousness.)

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5, read responsively*)

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle Lesson 2 *Thessalonians 3:1-13*

(Paul commends believers to dedicate themselves to honorable work and doing good.)

¹Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, ²and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. ³But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. ⁴And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

⁶Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

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

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205*

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost —*"Alleluia. Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia."* (Verse Luke 21:28b)

Holy Gospel *Luke 21:5-28*

(Seeking a sign, Jesus offers His hearers assurance that amid disaster, their redemption is drawing near.)

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

⁵While some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” ⁷And they asked him, “Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is at hand!’ Do not go after them. ⁹And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.”

¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³This will be your opportunity to bear witness. ¹⁴Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, ¹⁵for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your lives.

²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, ²²for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ²³Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. ²⁴They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *LSB 206*

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

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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

Sit

Children's Message "Last Page of the Calendar" (Luke 21:5-28) (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 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near (vs. 1-5)

Sermon "Your Redemption- Accomplished, Received, & Completed" (Luke 21:5-28)

Offering/Attendance

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

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we would give thanks to You in every time and place, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bought our redemption through His sinless obedience and innocent suffering and death. Shedding blood more priceless than gold, Christ won for us pardon and peace, and now lives and rules at Your right hand, that He might intercede for those He has purchased from sin, death, and Satan's power. As we eagerly await His returning, gather our hearts and voices with all the redeemed, that along with angels and archangels we may bless and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

- P Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, for You have displayed Your power and Your provision in the merciful sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise You that He wore our flesh and bore our sins, and that He invites us to His Table to share in the fruits of His victory. Gather us in faith to receive the true body and blood of our Savior, Jesus, as those in need of His redemption. Give us hearts that overflow with gratitude and yearn for the nearness of our Redeemer, who died, who is risen, and who is coming again, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer *LSB 209*

- C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209*

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *LSB 209*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup* (1 Cor. 11:28). Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins?* (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins?* (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?)* (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit?* (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

Distribution Hymns

-821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

-785 We Praise You, O God

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 212*

A Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as You have enlivened our hearts through Your Holy Supper, keep us ever alert and awake, ready to meet You and rejoice in Your drawing near. By Your grace, allow us to stand in Your truth and lift our heads in firm faith, that free from fear, we would witness to Your redeeming love for us and for the world, for You live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction *LSB 212*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C Amen.

Closing Hymn 513 The Clouds of Judgment Gather (vs. 1-2, 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); 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; 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; Rachel Goodle (comfort & 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; Doug Klipfel (cataract surgery); Paul (recovery after stroke) Jim Pieper's brother; Gio Loveall (healing & strength) Carol Loveall's grandson; Gilbert Kahle (healing and strength) friend of Taggatz family

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

We mourn with the family of Marie Soucek, the mother of Sandy Moog and Grandmother of AmberLeigh Moog, who was called home to heavenly rest. We pray for God's comfort and strength for their family during this time. *We pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life and faith of Marie, whom You have now called home to heavenly rest. Comfort Sandy and her family with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Remind them of the sure hope we have in Jesus through His death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and His victorious resurrection from the dead. Help them look to the day when all believers will be reunited in Your presence forever. In Jesus' name 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 11/13 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11/16 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 11/16 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Greg Nowakowski	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glenn Dotson	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Janine Pieper	Janine Pieper	Janine Pieper
	Marlene Voss	Marlene Voss	Marlene Voss
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>	Celine Mould	Matthew Scherer	Henry Peppler
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Benjamin Tindall	Gabby Salzer
	Connie Roettgen	Martin Taggatz	Rick Weeks
			Cathy Weeks
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

Matching Grant Opportunity for Grace!!! Greetings from the Board of Stewardship, Many large companies have a matching grant foundation. They often match employee donations to various 501(c)(3) and other organizations including educational organizations. Though many may exclude religious organizations from their matching gift programs, they may make exceptions for those that provide secular services to the community. Since Grace Lutheran School does provide some secular services as a school, they may qualify for a matching grant. Grace Lutheran School has received grants through these programs in the past. If you are employed by a company with a matching grant foundation, and are interested in making a donation, please consider a donation to Grace Lutheran School. Thank you for your consideration and for your past generosity to Grace Lutheran School. (1 Peter 4:10) Blessings on your stewardship journey!

Thank You for Your Kindness and Appreciation!!! Dear Members of Grace, I want to sincerely thank you for the thoughtful cards and generous gifts that you shared with me this past month of October for Pastor Appreciation. Your kindness and encouragement truly mean a great deal to me. It is such a blessing to serve you here at Grace as your Pastor! I am deeply grateful that God allows me the privilege of ministering to you each week through His Word and Sacraments, proclaiming the forgiveness, life, and salvation we have in Christ Jesus our Lord. May God's richest blessings be with each of you as we continue to grow together in faith and in the joy of serving Christ our Lord! *-Pastor Taggatz & Family*

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>

Grace Lutheran Cookie Walk – Back by Popular Demand! Get ready to satisfy your sweet tooth and stock up for the holidays! 🍪 Grace Lutheran School's PTLs is hosting the **Grace Lutheran Cookie Walk** on **Friday, December 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** at **Grace Lutheran School**. Enjoy a festive assortment of **homemade holiday cookies and treats**, all sold **by the pound for \$7.00**—just in time for your family gatherings, parties, and Christmas celebrations! All proceeds will help support **Grace Lutheran School field trips**, providing wonderful learning experiences for our students. We hope you can join us for this delicious holiday tradition! Bring your friends, family, and a hearty appetite for cookies!

Georgie Porgie Dining Out Night – Thursday, November 20th from 4-8pm. Located at: 9555 S. Howell Ave. Oak Creek, WI 53154. We are blessed to have several wonderful opportunities coming up to enjoy delicious food, share in Christian fellowship, and support our Grace Lutheran School—all thanks to the efforts of our Grace Lutheran PTLs! This fundraiser not only helps provide resources for our school particularly to help support our school field trips but also strengthen the bonds of our Grace family. Join us for another great night of food and fellowship at Georgie Porgie's in Oak Creek! It's a wonderful opportunity to get out with friends, enjoy a great meal, and help raise funds for our school's field trips.

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!!!

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 is on Thursday evenings following our 6:30pm 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 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

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** – jlachel2@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

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m.

We are studying, *"Joy: A Study of Philippians"* By Deb Burma.

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!

The Lutheran Hour "The Name on the Front" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Mercy is an others-focused attitude because God is an others-first God. (Romans 12:5-6) [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

“When life around us is dark and despairing, when troubles are real and overwhelming, when our hurts outweigh our joys, take a moment to think about God’s beautiful creation given for us as a ‘good and perfect gift.’ Take a moment to remember that we have another Light in our world—our Lord Jesus Who is the Creator of all things and is the light of men.” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

IN THE WORD 23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

Verse of the week: 1 John 3:2, “*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 116:12-19 (antiphon vs. 13)

Hymn of the week: LSB

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Unmerciful Servant—Matthew 18:21-35

Monday— Sacrifice of Isaac—Abraham’s Faith Is Revealed—Gen. 22:1-19

Tuesday— Abraham Sends for a Bride for Isaac—Genesis 24:1-28

Wednesday— Rebekah—Gen. 24:29 (30-31) 32-38 (39-41) 42-49 (50-57) 58-67

Thursday— Jacob and Esau—Esau Sells His Birthright—Genesis 25:19-34

Friday— Isaac and Abimelech—Genesis 26:1-11

Saturday— The New Creation—Isaiah 65:17-25

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. Plants are red poinsettias in gold foil—perfect to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas!



AS OUR FAITH MATURES, WE TURN FROM LOVE OF SELF TO LOVE OF GOD.

“...He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised” (2 Corinthians 5:15).



Stewardship Minute When a worldly spirit is in control, giving generously seems foolish. Without faith and trust in the Lord, there is a much greater focus on taking and hoarding than giving. As our faith matures, we turn from love of self to love of God. We live lives in thanksgiving and gratitude because of Who God is and what He has done for us. “...He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised” (2 Corinthians 5:15). We use our time, talents, and treasures responsibly because we know that God gives us all things, and we want to use what He gives us to glorify and serve Him. By grace, we live for God. Paul put it succinctly, “*You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body*” (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Growing in Grace – November 6th & November 9th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3445.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1794.16</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$</i>

Attendance Total: 38/85
Communed: 85

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	11/16	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
Monday	11/17	6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training
		6:30pm	Confirmation Class
		6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	11/18	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	11/19	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	11/20	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	11/21	-----	-----
Saturday	11/22	-----	-----
Sunday	11/23	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	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
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

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315

