

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 20th & 23rd, 2025

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



Image: *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)*

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 “*They Shall Be Mine*”

There is a phrase familiar to both preschoolers and powerbrokers. When they see that someone else has something they want, they declare, “*That’s mine!*” seizing either toys or territory for themselves. This phrase is not unfamiliar to our God either. But where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind like a toddler may accidentally abandon her teddy bear, or neglect you like a king would treat those who supported his rival. When the Lord says, “*You are Mine,*” you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

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 905 Come, Thou Almighty King (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 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8, read responsively*)

Let all the earth | fear the LORD;*

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in | awe of him!

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants | of the LORD,*

who stand by night in the house | of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the | holy place*

and | **bless the LORD!**
May the LORD bless you from | Zion,*
he who made | **heaven and earth!**

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.

Let all the earth | **fear the LORD;***
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in | awe of him!

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. Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Malachi 3:13-18*

(The Lord makes His claim on His treasured possession, declaring “they shall be Mine.”)

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

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 *Colossians 1:13-20*

(By His blood, the Christ who holds all things together also holds us in His kingdom.)

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things

were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- 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 Last Sunday of the Church Year —“Alleluia. Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise. Alleluia.” (Verse Luke 23:43)

Holy Gospel Luke 23:27-43

(Upon the cross, Jesus is enthroned as King and speaks of forgiveness and paradise.)

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

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving

the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

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

Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

- 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 "God Knows the Difference" (Malachi 3:13-18) (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 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "The King on the Cross" (Luke 23:27-43)

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, by whom all things were created, and to whom all powers and dominion owe honor and obedience. Yet, it was Christ who humbled Himself, suffered in our place, and by the blood of His cross, made peace between God and humanity. He rose as the firstborn from the dead and was crowned with eternal glory. We eagerly anticipate the consummation of His redeeming work, as He gathers believers of every tribe and tongue, together with angels and archangels, to 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, heavenly King, for the grace You have shown to all creation in sending a Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ. To the condemned, He speaks: “Today you will be with Me in Paradise,” and we truly taste His Word fulfilled among us as He gathers us around His life-giving body and blood. Help us to partake of this heavenly feast in sincerity and truth, looking forward to the royal banquet that awaits as the faithful are gathered by Christ, the Lamb, in the midst of the throne, 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

-525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

-804 O Worship the King

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, we praise You for remembering us in Your kingdom, setting a place for us at Your Table, and bringing us into a life that lasts forever. As those forgiven by Your grace and sealed as Your treasured possession, bless us with firm faith and a holy purpose, that on this side of paradise we would dedicate ourselves to announcing Your righteous rule as witnesses of Your glory and servants of Your kingdom, where 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.**

Sit

Closing Hymn 837 Lift High the Cross (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); 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 & Karen (healing & strength) Jim & Janine Pieper's relatives; John Kohler (hospice) neighbor to Goodle family; Ruth Ann (healing & strength) neighbor of Marlene Voss.

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

We mourn with the families of Marie Soucek, the mother of Sandy Moog and Grandmother of AmberLeigh Moog, the family of Debbie Scott, great niece of Carol Loveall, the family of Christine, sister of Char Klipfel, and the family of Gilbert Kahle, a close family friend of the Taggatz family, who were called home to heavenly rest. We pray for God's comfort and strength for their families during this time. *We pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life and faith of Marie, Debbie, Christine, and Gilbert, whom You have now called home to heavenly rest. Comfort their families 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
3pm-9 pm

Carol Thurber
Pauline Parker

414-762-9615
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 11/20 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11/23 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 11/23 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Craig Lau	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Edward Tagatz	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<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 Tagatz	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!

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 **Saturday, 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! **We are in need of donations of cookies for this fundraiser!!! If you would like to donate cookies, you can bring them to school December 4th & 5th during school hours (8am-3:30pm, otherwise on Friday December 5th, between 5:30-7pm) Thank you for your support!!!**

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!!!

Rosie Miliacca is sponsoring a Toy Drive through the Make a Wish Foundation of Wisconsin. You can see the toy drive box back in the narthex if you are interested in donating some toys to children in need this Holiday Season. There are instructions on what toys they are looking for as well. Please see attached insert for the wish list.

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** – 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

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

—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 "An Unlikely King" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies. Christ is the King of an unlikely kingdom. Dr. Chad Lakies describes that kingdom's seemingly upside-down, illogical logic. (Philippians 2:5-11) 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

“Thankful hearts and people produce a grateful culture, a society that is set free to live freely, set free from the mere whims of others, allowing all to live, everyone from the smallest to the perceived greatest. Whether you trust in God or not, freedom exudes gratitude. Gratitude is the grace that blesses all in this life. It gives others some semblance of hope.” *Rev. Mark Frith, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty - 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 FOR THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

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 149 (antiphon vs. 2)

Hymn of the week: LSB 516 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” (stanza 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Wise and Foolish Virgins—Matthew 25:1-13

Monday— Isaac Blesses Jacob—Genesis 27:1-29

Tuesday— Esau Does Not Receive the Blessing—Genesis 27:30-45

Wednesday— Heaven Is Opened at Bethel—Genesis 27:46–28:22

Thursday— Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel—Genesis 29:1-30

Friday— The Children of Jacob—Genesis 29:31—30:24

Saturday— The Future House of God—Isaiah 2:1-5

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!

**WE PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM
ALL BLESSINGS FLOW, AND WE
LIVE OUR LIVES IN GRATITUDE
FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND
GOODNESS.**

"O give thanks to the LORD, for He is
good; for His steadfast love endures
forever!" (Psalm 107:1).



Stewardship Minute As Christians, we are in this world, but we are not of this world. We are warned not to "*love the world or the things in the world*" (1 John 2:15). We are not in love with this world because, as God's children, our love is directed toward Him rather than things in the world. We love and worship the Creator, not the creation. Through our faithful giving, we demonstrate both our love for Jesus and our ability, by His grace, to break the grip that things of this world can have on us. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to "*contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality*" (Romans 12:13).

Growing in Grace – November 13th & November 16th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1980.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>\$1245.55</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$21.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$17.00</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$3363.55</i>

Attendance Total: 44/75
Communed: 80

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	11/23	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training
Monday	11/24	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
		6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	11/25	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	11/26	6:30pm	Thanksgiving Eve Worship w/ Communion
Thursday	11/27	-----	No Thursday Evening worship
Friday	11/28	-----	-----
Saturday	11/29	-----	-----
Sunday	11/30	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
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

