

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

First Sunday in Advent

November 30th, 2025

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

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



Image: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!" (*Matthew 21:9b*)

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 "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Today is not only the First Sunday in Advent but also the commemoration of St. Andrew, whose day governs the start of Advent. In this way, Andrew continues to point to Christ as we begin a new Church Year. How odd it is, then, that the Gospel for the First Sunday in Advent is the same as the Gospel for Palm Sunday! This reminds us that Jesus came for the cross and empty tomb, and this is the only Gospel that can save us from sin and death. The cry of Advent is "*prepare the way of the Lord.*" We will echo the words of John the Baptist, heralding Christ's coming. We will join in the chant of the crowd: "*Hosanna to the Son of David!*" (Matthew 21:9). We will hear Him speak to us through the voice of His Word. We will feast upon His flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all sin. In all our preparations, we acclaim Him as Lord and receive Him and all His benefits.

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 343 Prepare the Royal Highway (vs. 1-4)

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 118:25-28; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt., sung responsively*)



Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*

O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

You are my God, and I will give | thanks to you;*

you are my God; I will ex- | tol you.

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.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Kyrie LSB 204

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

The Gloria Excelsis is omitted for Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 205

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 2:1-5*

(“Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.”)

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt., read responsively*)

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 13:8-14*

(“Put on the armor of light.”)

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 First Sunday in Advent —“*Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.*” (Verse Psalm 24:7)

Holy Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

(Rejoice, Jerusalem, for Your Lord comes to You.)

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

¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

- ⁵“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹⁰And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” ¹¹And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

- 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

Sermon Hymn 332 Savior of the Nations, Come (vs. 1-4, 6)

Children's Message "Hosanna!" (Matt. 21:1-11) (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 "The Advent Call- Wake Up!" (Romans 13:11-14)

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 should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 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, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. 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

-349 Hark the Glad Sound

-350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

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. With praise and thanksgiving for all Your mercy shown to us, we proclaim Jesus Christ, both true God and true man among men, whom You sent to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant that we may ever cling to Him whom we have heard in His Word and whom we have received in this Holy Sacrament, that we may be ready to receive Him when He comes in His glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy 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 333 Once He Came in Blessing (vs. 1-3)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!





*The Thanksgiving Eve flowers on the altar were given with blessings by
Marlene Voss*

&

*The Sunday flowers on the altar are given by
Pauline and Morgan Parker
In honor of Chet and Morgan's Birthdays*

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. Myles King (blood disorder); **Michael Helzer** (cancer); **Michael Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (healing & strength); **Sindy Schmidt** (healing); **Gary Forsythe** (dementia) friend of Carol Loveall; **Brittany** (cancer) daughter of Denise Afelt; **Greg** (cancer) brother in law of Mike & Pat Toman; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **Jenny Rice** (cancer); **Scott** (kidney failure) brother of Pat Toman; **Jennifer** (diagnosed with MS); **Steve Benzie** (stomach pain, hernia); **Cheryl** (cancer) friend of Dennis Iseli; **Carol Long** (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier; **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; **Pam** (melanoma, healing & strength) relative of Carol Thurber; **Alexis** (healing & strength) daughter in law of Lori Jablonski; **Karen** (hospice) Aunt of Janine Pieper; **Mamaia** (healing & strength) friend of Pam & Rod Novak; **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 **Debbie Scott**, great niece of **Carol Loveall**, the family of **Christine**, sister of **Char Klipfel**, and the family of **Sharon Iseli**, 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 Sharon, Debbie, and Christine, 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>Wednesday 11/26 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 11/30 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 11/30 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Craig Lau	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Edward Taggatz	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>		Matthew Scherer	Henry Peppler
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Benjamin Tindall	Gabby Salzer
	Connie Roettgen	Martin Taggatz	Rick Weeks
			Cathy Weeks
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	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!!!**

Special Voters' Meeting - Sunday, December 14th A *special Voters' Meeting* will be held on Sunday, December 14th, immediately following our late worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to seek congregational approval for the sale of property connected with the Zanardi Estate and to cast our congregation's votes for the Synodical President and Vice President. Your participation is important as we tend faithfully to the blessings the Lord has entrusted to our congregation and take part in the wider work of our Church & Synod. Please plan to join us.

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 donate any new store bought items in their original packaging (unwrapped) from the list below. Toys play a vital role in a child's wish journey, bringing excitement and anticipation as they look forward to their wish coming true. **Here is the list of toys they are looking for:** *Hot wheels sets, Lego Sets, magnetic dart board, nerf basketball hoop, coloring books, playdough and kinetic sand, puzzles (200 + pieces) colored pencils, bubbles and chalk, nerf sport items, pool floats, portable hammocks, sports balls, Disney items, squish mallows, throw blankets, travel pillow. TEEN Toys: advanced Lego sets, bath and body works items, earbuds, portable speakers, water bottles, Wisconsin Sports Team items.*

Your 2026 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you! ****Please do not use until January 2026.****

SAVE THE DATE!!! LOCK IN FOR GRACE YOUTH—Junior and Senior High Lock-In (Grades 5 through High School) Scheduled at Grace on Friday January 16th with Concordia Mequon Students from around 6:30pm that night through Saturday January 17th by 7:00am... This lock in is open to our 5th grade through High School youth. For this event to be a success, we need your participation and support. Parents or adult members willing to chaperone and assist during the lock-in, please reach out to Pastor Taggatz at: pastor@graceoakcreek.org. Your involvement will greatly contribute to creating a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. During the lock-in, we have an array of activities lined up, including devotions centered on God's Word, snacks, a Friday night dinner, and engaging games. To ensure we accommodate everyone, kindly inform us if your child will be attending by no later than Tuesday January 13th. Also, please have your child bring snacks, a pillow, a sleeping bag, a Bible, and a comfortable sleeping mat for the night.

Save the date! Saturday January 17th - Fellowship Bingo - Our Fellowship Committee will once again have a Bingo Night from 6:30-8:00. It will be a free night of fellowship, fun, food and prizes. We will ask that you bring finger food to pass and your own nonalcoholic beverages for your family. (We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages on school property). This event is for all Church, School and ECC families. **We will have signup sheets posted soon!**

2026 Altar Flowers

- ❖ Sign-up for 2026 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet will be posted soon on the white board in the narthex.
- ❖ Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.
- ❖ Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.
- ❖ You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.
- ❖ Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services.
- ❖ Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Also, there are special offering envelopes in the narthex for Altar Flowers that you can use to make payment.

Mitten Tree

Once again this year, the Mitten Tree has been placed in the narthex. Guild will be collecting mittens, hats, scarves and gloves which will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns group. Please help us to "decorate" the tree! *All sizes are needed!* If you are a knitter or crocheter...Pauline Parker has bins of yarn to be used for this project...please reach out to her if you need some.

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/57tkyjv8

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 “Rise and Shine” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is no siesta. It’s a 5am wake-up call, a jolt out of bed that will turn your world upside down. (Romans 13:11) [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

“As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to the day of His return, His second Advent. On the Last Day, we will see Jesus returning in glory as King and Judge. The Good Shepherd will come again to gather His flock to Himself forever.” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries - 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 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Second and Third Petitions

Verse of the week: 1 Peter 5:7-8, *[Cast] all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 122 (antiphon vs. 6)

Hymn of the week: LSB 341 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (stanza 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Triumphal Entry—Matthew 21:1-11

Monday— St. Andrew, Apostle—John 1:35-42

Tuesday— Laban Agrees to Divide the Livestock with Jacob—Gen. 30:25-43

Wednesday— Jacob Flees from Laban—Genesis 31:1-21

Thursday— Signs of the End of the Age—Luke 17:20-37

Friday— Laban Pursues Jacob—Genesis 31:22-42

Saturday— Laban’s Covenant with Jacob—Genesis 31:43-55 & Isaiah 11:1-10

Stewardship Minute The four Sundays prior to Christmas are the four Sundays of Advent, which begin the Church year. The purpose of Advent is not only to prepare us to celebrate the birth of Jesus which occurred over two thousand years ago but also to prepare us for His second coming. Jesus, Who came to us in a stable, will come again when the trumpet sounds in glory on the Last Day. The New Testament stresses that Christians must be ready at all times for the second coming. We are to live with joyful expectation. Whether by Jesus’ return or our own deaths, we should always be prepared to meet Him. Peter wrote, “*The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers*” (1 Peter 4:7).

**AS GOD’S STEWARDS, WE ARE TO
LET THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE
THROUGH US SO THAT OTHERS SEE
CHRIST IN US.**

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



Growing in Grace – November 20th & November 23rd

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1497.00</i>
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	<i>Holiday Delay</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Debt Reduction Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Total:</i>	<i>\$1502.00</i>

***Attendance Total: 33/78
Communed: 111***

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	11/30	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6-8:30pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship Stephen Minister Training
Monday	12/1	6:30pm 6:30pm	Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	12/2	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	12/3	6:30pm	Grace All Boards Meeting
Thursday	12/4	6:30pm	Advent Midweek Worship
Friday	12/5	-----	-----
Saturday	12/6	-----	-----
Sunday	12/7	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6-8:30pm	Divine Worship Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Divine Worship 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
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Church & ECC

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