



# Equipper

*Equipping God's people as we celebrate, teach, and share God's Grace.*



## December 2025

### *Pastor's Message*

#### ***"God With Us"***

**Matthew 1:21 and 23b, [where an angel of the Lord tells Joseph this about Mary:] *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins....they shall call his name Immanuel* (which means, God with us).**

Who could refuse a peace that lasts because God Himself is with us? Well, many do. Why? Because as sinful, rebellious people by nature, we tend to settle for counterfeits, instead of the real thing. When offered an eternal peace that comes from sins forgiven, we would rather settle for peaceful circumstances, or just our temporal "*peace of mind*," right? We want the peace that comes with bills paid, relationships intact, body/health doing fine, and purposeful work to do for as long as we'd like to do it. Instead of "*God with us*" no matter the circumstances, we would rather just have circumstances to our own liking. Let the celebration of Christmas later this month, then, be a time of reflection when you think about what it means to have faith in the Savior who is "*God with us*" no matter the circumstances of the moment.

That's the offer that faced Joseph that first Christmas. He had so much on his mind. Mary was pregnant, but the child wasn't his. What would he do? How would he face the sneers of the people of his community? He had a bit of courage; he reasoned that he would try to protect Mary amidst his disappointment, "*divorcing her quietly*" (Matthew 1:19). But then things changed dramatically. Suddenly, an angel appears saying, "*Do be afraid to take Mary as your wife*" (Matthew 1:20). Why? Because God is at work in ways that you can't totally understand. Joseph could have run for the hills. But, thankfully, Joseph put His faith in God's Word and wouldn't settle for anything less than Mary as his wife, and Jesus as His Savior, no matter the personal cost of the moment.

Christmas and Easter are vital to us because they deliver what we really need. It's the reality of sins forgiven and eternal life secured. It's the promise of a peace that lasts, peace that endures no matter the present trouble. And that's what our Bible verses tell us today. They tell us about the peace that God brings when He comes into our world, when He promises to be with us in all circumstances in this world, and that in Him we will live forever in heaven.

It's the peace that comes when you know that there is one who is able, one who is capable, and one who is with you in all things to bring you blessing. Faith in Him says, *"Nothing else, and surely nothing less."* *"O come, O come Emmanuel,"* come mightily into our daily lives. For when *"God with us"* is also God *"for us,"* we can face whatever comes because our lives are secure in His hands. When we realize that in Christ we have more than enough, then life becomes a journey of *"God with us"* that experiences His abundant joy, eternal life, and a peace that lasts amidst whatever circumstances come our way. A blessed Christmas to you all later this month and we hope that you will join us for worship this holiday season!!!

**Prayer:** *Dear Jesus, give us the wisdom and the faith of Joseph to take You at Your word, even when circumstances seem to the contrary. And give us a sense of what it means to live life with faith in the God who came into our lives to save us, "God with us" even now. Amen.*

See you in worship!

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Pastor John M Taggatz

### **2026 Altar Flowers**

Sign-up for 2026 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex. Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral 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.

**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.\*\*

# Announcements

## Please Note

### Call the church office at 414.762.8990

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

*For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.*

*Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231*

*Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm*

*Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm*

*Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm*

*Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm*

*Friday Pastor Off*

*Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons*

*Heidi, Church Secretary*

*Church office: 414.762.8990*

*Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm*

**REMINDER:** If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org) by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Look for the LARGE mite  
box to drop your change and dollars into on  
December 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>



When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Principal Lisa Hengst. Her email address is: [principal@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org)

### ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!! Text the word: graceoc to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site: [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!





**December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**  
**At school**

Ladies join us for some Christmas fellowship!

Feel free to bring along a sweet or savory snack to share with the group as we chat - and enjoy a short Advent program of songs and readings.

Gift Exchange for those who wish to participate  
\$10.00 maximum

Any questions please contact Jennifer Olen

### **November Mite Report**

Thank you to everyone who brought their small mite boxes for mite box weekend.

**\$197.36** was collected to help fund paying grant #5 - Journey Lutheran School.

**The next mite box weekend will be December 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**

### **Mitten Tree**

The annual mitten tree is displayed in the narthex waiting to be filled with hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. All donations will be given to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns mission.

We look forward to seeing the tree get fuller and fuller with donations!

### **Rise & Sonshine Bible Study**

Decmber 13<sup>th</sup> 8:00am-9:30am at Grace school



### **Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study**

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again.  
Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at  
9:30 a.m. We are studying, **Joy: A Study of  
Philippians** by Deb Burma.

This close look at Philippians, the letter of joy,  
unpacks messages of contentment, confidence,  
humility, and hope.

### **LWML SWD Winter Getaway**

January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

Radisson Hotel

625 West Rolling Meadows Drive, Fond du Lac, WI, 54937

**God is with you**

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.*

*Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your  
God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).*

**Guest Speaker:** US Army Chaplain Rev. Kevin GeRue

Registration form and more information available at [www.lwml-swd.org/events/retreat](http://www.lwml-swd.org/events/retreat)





# Opportunities at Grace

## ***Volunteers Needed to Assist with Worship!***

We are in need of additional people to assist as ushers and lay readers during worship services, especially for Sunday mornings at 8am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.

Ushers arrive early, greet people and hand out bulletins before service, gather offerings and assist with communion during service, and straighten up the church after service. Lay readers proclaim God's word to the congregation by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons during the worship service. If you are able and willing to help in either of these capacities, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church -- your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to approach the elder on duty with any questions you may have about these opportunities. Call the church office at 414-762-8990 or email Pastor Tagatz at: [pastor@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org) if you are interested in helping out with lay reading or ushering at Grace!!!

## ***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 15<sup>th</sup>

**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/57tky8](http://tinyurl.com/57tky8)

For more information, please call our Church Office at: **414-762-8990** or email [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org)  
**Jeanne Meyer** – [meyorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meyorch@sbcglobal.net) **Lori Kachelmeier** – [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto: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.





## ***Worship Services at Willow Crest Nursing Home***

Volunteers Needed! Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services at Willow Crest Nursing Home on Sunday mornings. We have started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this ministry. The worship services are roughly 30 minutes long and are held at 10:00am on Sundays at Willow Crest Nursing Home located at: 3821 Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. You may end up leading a worship service at Willow Crest once a month, or every 5 to 6 weeks, depending on how many people are willing to volunteer in leading worship services at Willow Crest. We would also provide you with resources to help you lead worship services at Willow Crest. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanne Meyer at: [mevorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mevorch@sbcglobal.net) or 414-423-0010 or Lori Kachelmeier at [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto:jlkachel2@gmail.com) or 414-828-0290. You would also be able to shadow a current Willow Crest Worship Leader if you are wanting to learn more information about this ministry.

## ***Choir at Grace***

Choir practice is following 6:30pm worship on Thursday evenings at Grace! 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!

## ***Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee!***

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

## ***Greeting Card Ministry***

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can’t be at church regularly. *‘Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.’* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven’t been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry, please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex of the Church. Remember...you are giving joy to these people. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-807-6338 or [paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:paulinemom@aol.com).

## ***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 PTL 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!

## ***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!

# Save the Date!

## **LOCK IN FOR GRACE YOUTH**

**Junior and Senior High Lock In Scheduled at Grace on Friday January 16<sup>th</sup> with Concordia Mequon Students from around 6:30pm that night through Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, please have your child bring snacks, a pillow, a sleeping bag, a Bible, and a comfortable sleeping mat for the night.

## ***Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> - 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. **To register for this Bingo event, please go to:** <https://forms.gle/PvPnS9YKMjzFqApd9> A paper registration form is also available in the narthex.



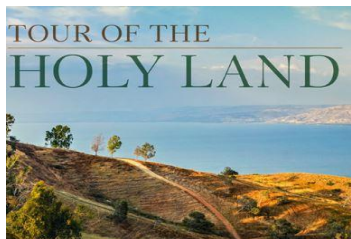
## ***Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library***

### **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 and discussion starters that help participants apply God's Word to their daily lives.

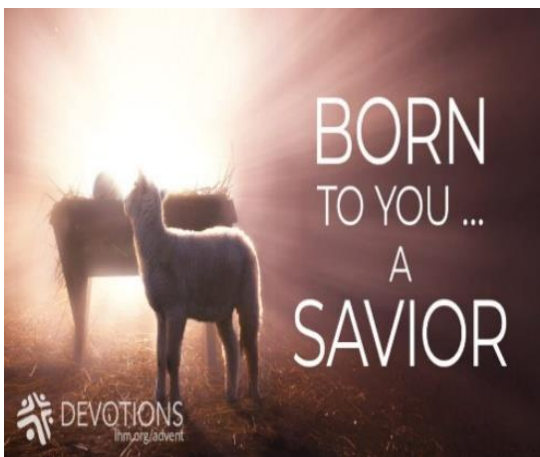
The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, Matthew proclaims the universality of Jesus' love. Let's take a look at the Gospel of Matthew and learn and grow!



## ***Tour the Holy Land in Eastertide of 2026!***

There is something special about meditating on the Scriptures in the very places where the events occurred. Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield, LCMS, will be leading a tour back to the Holy Land next April. Destinations include Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Mt. Carmel, Caesarea Philippi, Qumran, Masada, and of course the Temple Mount, Gethsemane, and the places of Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection in Jerusalem.

We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. Plus, there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai, and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. It only takes \$500 registration to hold your spot for this tour. Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. Questions? Please contact Pastor Aaron Koch at: 414-795-9005 or [pastor.koch@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.koch@gmail.com). Register online at: [registernow.ittworld.com](http://registernow.ittworld.com). Tour code: **Koch26** to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need. We hope you will take part in this great experience!



## 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.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox by going to this link: <https://www.lhm.org/newsroom/default.asp>. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons. 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!!!

### What is Advent?

The church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the church. Beginning on Sunday, November 30, 2025, we will enter the season of the church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to Epiphany January 6, 2026.



### Holiday Worship Schedule for 2025

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.



# Holiday Worship Service Schedule

**Thursday, December 4 – 6:30pm**

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

**Sunday, December 7 – 8:00am & 10:30am**

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

**Thursday, December 11 – 6:30pm**

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

**Thursday, December 18 – 6:30pm**

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

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

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

**Thursday, December 25 – 9:30am**

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

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

**Sunday, December 28 – 9:30am only**

*Worship with Communion – 1st Sunday after Christmas*

*(Note: One service only this Sunday)*

**Thursday, January 1 – 6:30pm**

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

**Sunday, January 5 – 8:00am & 10:30am**

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





## ***"His Ways Are Not Our Ways"***

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ later this month – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw the angels with *"... the glory of the Lord [shining] around them ..."* They heard the message the angels brought: *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord ... You will find a baby ... lying in a manger"* (Luke 2:9,10). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it. *"When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them"* (Luke 2:17-18).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? *"All who heard it were amazed,"* Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and *"spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child."*

God wants all believers to be willing to tell others what He is doing in their lives. He exhorts us to proclaim the Gospel in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, and throughout the world.

*Blessings  
on your  
Stewardship journey!*



## **Portals of Prayer Devotional**

Over the years the church has provided the Portals of Prayers devotional book to our members. Throughout these years the church has carried this expense. To help offset that burden we now have envelopes available in the narthex for our members to designate funds to this devotional book. It is our goal to continue to provide this amazing tool to our members in their faith journey.

## **GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM**

When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and non profits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership.



### **\*\*\*Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program\*\*\***

Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1- 800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT(800-847-4836) and state "Thrivent Choice."

**For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:**

<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>





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.



**Our goal is to raise 2,850 toys for our toy closet!**

Reaching our goal will benefit approximately  
315 families in the wish journey.

These toys go directly to Wish kids and their siblings.

#### **TEEN** *PRIORITY NEED*

- Advanced LEGO® Sets
- Bath & Body Works Items
- Earbuds
- LED Room Lights
- Portable Speakers
- Selfie Ring Light
- Spa Items
- Water Bottles
- Wisconsin Sports Team Items

#### **TOYS**

- HotWheels Sets
- LEGO® Sets
- Magnetic Dart Board
- Nerf Basketball Hoop

#### **GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS**

- Coloring Books
- DIY Craft Kits
- National Geographic Kits
- Playdough & Kinetic Sand
- Puzzles (200+ pieces)
- Colored Pencils

#### **OUTDOOR**

- Bubbles & Chalk
- Nerf Sport Items
- Pool Floats
- Portable Hammocks
- Sports Balls

#### **OTHER**

- Disney® Items
- Sensory/Fidget Toys
- Squishmallows
- Throw Blankets
- Travel Pillows

#### **NOT ACCEPTED**

- Clothing & Slippers
- Holiday Items
- Reading Books
- Religious Items
- Violent Toys
- Items over 18" x 18" in size

THANK  
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. Please donate any new store bought items in their original packaging (unwrapped) from the list above. Toys play a vital role in a child's wish journey, bringing excitement and anticipation as they look forward to their wish coming true!



**Grace Lutheran Church,  
School & Early  
Childhood Center  
Oak Creek, WI**



**gracelutheran\_oakcreek**



***We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.***

***Most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!***

***We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!***

***LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!***

### ***Introducing RaiseRight -- The new name for Scrip The same program and process, just a different name.***

You can now order gift cards from Raise Right in the comfort of your home through your phone or computer. You receive the same tuition credit and it is more convenient! Many cards are available that are not on our order form because we cannot list them all.

There are three options. You can order physical cards, E-cards or reloadable cards. Physical cards are mailed directly to you. There is a postage fee of \$1.00 for the first card and \$.50 per additional card. The convenience fee is 1% if using a debit card and 3% if using a credit card. E-cards appear immediately in your wallet in the Raise Right app. The convenience fee is the same as physical cards, but there is no mailing fee.

Reloadable cards have a \$.29 reload fee per card. Some cards cannot be mailed directly to you and need to be sent to the coordinator, Gail Nowakowski. There may be a delay receiving those cards because we do not place orders every week.

Simply download the Raise Right app and set up an account. The code for Grace is **6EA22B9E8287**. The current process has not changed and you can order Raise Right using the form and give it to one of the Raise Right coordinators in the Narthex after each service.

If you are interested in using the online process, or have questions,  
please contact Gail Nowakowski at 414-791-4075





## ***“Poinsettias for Christmas!”***

*(Given in Honor/Memory of)*

***The Pankow Family – John Peplinski  
Lori Kachelmeier – Norman, Jim and Steve  
Bailey Miles – Mel & Lolly Kruger  
Mark & Jennifer Olen – Susan Olsen  
Bob & Lynn Buzzell – Rev. James Reichmann  
Steve Pawlack – Oleta Partl  
Susan Krueger – Barb Krueger  
Rick & Kathy Weeks – Mother***

***Tony & Suzie Mirenda  
Greg & Gail Nowakowski  
Sharon Russell  
Ron & Mary Savarino  
Sarah Goodle  
Dawn Jantz  
Sharon Bzdawka  
Mike & Barb Huber  
LeRoy Handle  
Janice Barrett  
Anonymous***



***12/1 Meyer  
12/1 Joanne Morgan  
12/1 Jan Warmkessel  
12/4 Camryn Lau  
12/6 Dennis Iseli  
12/8 Gail Nowakowski  
12/11 Christine Cotter  
12/11 Sarah Durant  
12/11 Charlotte Klipfel  
12/11 Erika Zeimentz  
12/12 Rickard Jackson  
12/13 Lauren Frank  
12/13 Michael Simmons  
12/14 Rita Heinen  
12/14 Ron Savarino  
12/18 Glenn Dorson  
12/18 Penelope Ryan-Thiessen  
12/18 Craig Salzer  
12/19 Christine Cooksey  
12/21 Donna Smith  
12/23 Carol Thurber  
12/24 Laura Morrisette  
12/24 Arthur Steinborn  
12/31 Jacob Zalar***

*Special thanks to those  
who placed poinsettias  
in the chancel area  
this year!*

*Thank you for making  
our Church Sanctuary  
beautiful during the  
seasons of Advent &  
Christmas!!!*

*God bless you all!!!*



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>2</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Advent Midweek Service	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00am Trim the Tree Service 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Trim the Tree Service 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	<b>8</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>9</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>10</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Advent Midweek Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8:00am - 9:30am Rise & Sonshine 10:00am - 12:00pm Ladies Guild
<b>14</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	<b>15</b> 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	<b>16</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>17</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Advent Midweek Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> 9:30am Christmas Day Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Divine Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	<b>31</b>			

### Radio Worship Service

"The Lutheran Hour" can be heard anytime on the internet at [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) – scroll down the page and click on, "listen now." You can also listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

"The Lutheran Hour," which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



### Prayer Hot Line

*In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.*

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

#### Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

[paulinemom@aol.com](mailto:paulinemom@aol.com)

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



#### CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

#### SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

#### WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

**Pastor John M. Taggatz**

**PH: 414.762.8990**

**Thursday Worship 6:30 pm**  
**Sunday Worship 8:00 am and**  
**10:30 am**

