

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28th, 2025

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

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



Image: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." (Galatians 4:4-7)

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 *"It's Still Christmas"*

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

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 389 Let All Together Praise Our God (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 (Jeremiah 31:15-17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1, read responsively)

When Israel was a child, I | loved him,*
and out of Egypt I | called my son.
Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in | Ramah,*
lamentation and bitter | weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her | children;*

she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they | are no more.”
Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from | weeping,*
and your | eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work, de- | clares the LORD,*
and they shall come back from the land of the | enemy.
There is hope for your future, de- | clares the LORD,*
and your children shall come back to their own | country.”

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.

When Israel was a child, I | loved him,*
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

Kyrie LSB 204

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

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

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

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

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;

**You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 63:7-14*

(Although the Israelites have rebelled, God will help them.)

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a, read responsively*)

To us a child is born, to us a son is | given;*
and the government shall be upon his | shoulder.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a | new song,*
for he has done | marvelous things!

Epistle Lesson *Galatians 4:4-7*

(All God's promises are sure because we are God's children.)

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- 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 after Christmas—*"Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia."* (Luke 2:30, 32)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 2:13-23*

(The holy family is protected from Herod.)

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

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

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 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (vs. 1-4)

Sermon

Guest Pastor: Rev. Jim Klug

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 proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, merciful and everlasting God, whom we are privileged to call upon as our Father. Mercifully grant that we live in thankfulness for the right we have been given to be called Your children and await with joy the eternity that is to come in Your glorious presence. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore 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 the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. 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

-364 Away in a Manger

-380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.

Sit

Closing Hymn 390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice (vs. 1-4)

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 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; 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 (healing & strength); Mark Taggatz (recovery from knee surgery); 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; Mamaia (healing & strength) friend of Pam & Rod Novak; Paul & Karen (healing & strength) Jim & Janine Pieper's relatives; Ruth Ann (healing & strength) neighbor of Marlene Voss; Brian (healing & strength) friend of Marlene & Greg Voss; Steve (prayer of thanksgiving for successful liver transplant) Son in law of Dawn Jantz; Alex (Milwaukee firefighter, healing & strength) friend of Bailey Miles & Sue Krueger.

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

We mourn with the families of Marlene Leonard, and Dawn, sister of Joy Lussier, who were recently 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 Marlene & Dawn 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	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Special thanks to Pastor Jim Klug for filling in for Pastor Taggatz, while he is on vacation with his family through Wednesday December 31st. God's continued blessings to him and his family as he continues to minister to God's people!!!

Pastor Away on Vacation—As Pastor Taggatz is away on vacation Dec 26-31, Pastor Doug Schroeder of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greendale, LCMS, is covering his pastoral calls during this time. If you are in need of pastoral care while Pastor Taggatz is away, Pastor Schroeder can be reached at: (414) 840-6016 or dougs@ourshepherdlutheran.org.

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 12/24 4:00pm/5:30pm</u>	<u>Thursday 12/25 9:30am</u>	<u>Sunday 12/28 9:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski/Eric Kamprath	Richard Jackson	Craig Lau
<u>Readers</u>		Martin Taggatz	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>			Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Edward Taggatz/Eric Kamprath Martin Taggatz/Lisa Kamprath	Edward Taggatz Martin Taggatz	Mike Huber Bob Nuzzell Lynn Buzzell
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	Jennifer Olen

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!

The Board of Stewardship Presents the 2026 Chili Fundraiser

Order now through February 8th Chili orders can be dropped off at church services or at the school office between 8 am - 3 pm. Orders can also be placed by calling the school office at 414-762-3655. **Proceeds will be used to purchase technology for our school....** *Orders can be picked up after January 11th.*

New Members Class on Sunday January 25th from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. I am looking to have the New Members Class on Sunday January 25th from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need child-care. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

We are delighted to share that the **Martin Luther High School Brass Choir** will be helping to accompany our worship service on **Sunday, January 11th**, during the **10:30am worship service**, as we celebrate the **Baptism of Our Lord** in the Season of **Epiphany**. Please come and warmly welcome the Brass Choir members along with their director, **Mrs. Jessica Kindschi Walter**. Our own Martin Taggatz is one of the members of the Brass Choir!!! What a joy and blessing it is to have them join us and enrich our worship with their beautiful, uplifting music on this special Sunday of the Church Year!!!

National Lutheran Schools Week – Special Worship Services Near the end of January and the beginning of February, during **National Lutheran Schools Week**, we will hold special worship services in our **School Building** on **Thursday, January 29th**, and **Sunday, February 1st**. These services will be **non-communion worship services**, allowing our entire congregation the opportunity to see firsthand what our school children and teachers are doing and to rejoice in the many blessings God has given to us through our school and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” is Lutherans For Life’s theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for **January 18, 2026**. Our Life Sunday 2026 theme is based on Psalm 139:13-14: ***“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”*** This Word of God reveals the care and intention that God takes in the creation of each and every human being. It teaches us that from the very first moments of our conception, God’s hands are upon us, carefully and lovingly crafting each one of us through our fathers and mothers. And while each person is created by God with their own unique characteristics and personalities, the care that God takes in creating each person shows us that every person, from the moment of fertilization on, is precious to God regardless of their age, size, condition, or ability.

“Poinsettias for Christmas!” (Given in Honor/Memory of)

The Pankow Family - John Peplinski
Lori Kachelmeier - Norman, Jim and Steve
Bailey Miles - Mel & Lolly Krueger
Mark & Jennifer Olen - Susan Olsen
Bob & Lynn Buzzell - Rev. James Reichmann
Steve Pawlak - 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

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!!!

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.

Saturday, January 17th – Fellowship Bingo Night! Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as our Fellowship Committee once again hosts Bingo Night from 6:30–8:00 pm! This is a free event for all Church, School, and ECC families, and it's a wonderful way to enjoy time together in the middle of winter.

We'll have games, prizes, food, and plenty of laughs. Please bring a finger food to share and your own nonalcoholic beverages for your family. (As a reminder, alcoholic beverages are not permitted on school property.) **To register, please use the online form: <https://forms.gle/PvPnS9YKMjzFqApd9>**

2026 Altar Flowers

- ❖ Sign-up for 2026 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet will 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! **Choir is taking a break in January and will resume on February 5th.**



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2025

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. Also, Sunday December 28th will have one service with Holy Communion at 9:30am.

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, February 9th**, 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, February 9th – May 18th **Time:** 6:30–8:00pm

Where: Grace Lutheran School Library, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Oak Creek, WI **Cost:** \$20.00. 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/57tkvjy8 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 Note: *We are taking a break during the holidays but will resume on January 7th, 2026*

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

(Please note, there will not be Bible Class on Sunday December 28th, since Pastor Taggatz will be on vacation that weekend)

—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 "Get Ready for the Best" Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros. Christ will return—maybe this year, maybe even today! Pastor German Novelli helps us to prepare for the blessings and challenges of a new year. (Luke 12:36-37) 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

“Look back at how God changed you. Look ahead to what God promises for you. The future looks bright when you’re connected to the crucified and risen Lord Jesus. May the Lord continue to strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life.” Rev. Peter Sulzle, *St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota - 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 AFTER CHRISTMAS

Catechism: Creed—Third Article

Verse of the week: Galatians 4:4-5, “*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 111(antiphon vs. 9a, b)

Hymn of the week: LSB 372 “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is My Paradise”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Holy Innocents—Matthew 2:13-23

Monday—“Do Not Be Afraid to Go to Egypt”—Genesis 46:1-7

Tuesday— The Ark of the Covenant into the Temple—1 Kings 8:6-13

Wednesday— New Year’s Eve: Luke 12:35-40

Thursday— Circumcision and Name of Jesus: Luke 2:21

Friday— Simeon Receives the Christ Child—Luke 2:25-32

Saturday— Christmas 2: 1 Kings 3:4-15

Stewardship Minute In the Christmas story, we are told that the Magi followed the brilliant star in the sky to find Jesus. These noblemen were seeking the “*King of the Jews*” (Matthew 2:2). The star led them to Bethlehem and “*going into the house, they saw the child with His Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh*” (Matthew 2:11). When the Magi entered the house and saw the baby Jesus, they immediately “*bowed down and worshiped Him.*” Before they gave their gifts, they first showed their reverence. In essence, they gave themselves. Their hearts were filled with joy to be in the presence of the King. After they had shown Jesus their adoration, they gave their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**LET US ADORE OUR SAVIOR LIKE
THE SHEPHERDS DID – WITH OUR
PRESENCE – AND LIKE THE MAGI
DID – WITH OUR GIFTS.**

“Praise our God, all you His servants,
you who fear Him, small and great!”
(Revelation 19:5)



Growing in Grace – December 18th & December 21st

<i>General Offering</i>	\$4445.00		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>Holiday Delay</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	<i>Total Attendance</i>	28/74
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	\$0.00	<i>Total Communed</i>	50
<i>Missions</i>	\$100.00		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$4545.00</i>		

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	12/28	9:30am	Divine Worship
Monday	12/29	-----	-----
Tuesday	12/30	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	12/31	-----	-----
Thursday	1/1	6:30pm	New Year's Day Worship w/ Communion
Friday	1/2	-----	-----
Saturday	1/3	-----	-----
Sunday	1/4	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

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