

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed)

January 4th, 2026

"By His Grace you are saved through faith"

Ephesians 2:8



Image: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. . . . A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD." (*Isaiah 60:1, 6*)

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 “*The Singing Camels of Sheba*”

We humans aren't the only ones celebrating Epiphany! Though the whole earth shall be covered with darkness, “*nations shall come to Your light*” (Isaiah 60:3). Isaiah mentions the wealth of all nations, and we are reminded of the Magi bearing gifts. We have gifts, too, of a spiritual nature, connecting other people with our gracious God, “*in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith*” (Ephesians 3:12). “*Singing camels*”? Well, who really carried the gold and silver so far? The camels, Isaiah writes, “*shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD*” (Isaiah 60:6). If the camels are praising God, so must we. Get ready to celebrate!

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: *as outlined in your bulletin...*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “Arise and Shine in Splendor” (LSB 396 vs. 1-4)

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Ephesians 3:12; Psalm 72:11*

Pastor: In Christ, we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

People: May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!

Pastor: In repentant faith, we come before our Lord in confession.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God, King of all,

People: we confess to You that we are sinful by nature. We have lived in darkness rather than light. Our selfish thoughts, harmful words, and faithless actions reveal our sinfulness. But for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who became flesh for us, we pray, forgive us our sins. Amen.

Pastor: God’s grace is revealed in the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He has brought light to this world darkened by sin. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I announce to you the full forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” (LSB 395 vs. 1-4)

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord of all creation, You announced the birth of Your Son by arranging a new star to appear.

People: As all who saw it and believed were included in His saving work, lead us and people around the world to receive the light of Your grace with joy, becoming lights ourselves, that many others may join us to praise Your gracious love;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 60:1-6*
(The Lord's coming will be good news for everyone.)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

GRADUAL *Psalms 117:1-2a; 96:8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: Extol Him, all peoples!

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

People: bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE LESSON *Ephesians 3:1-12*
(Everyone is welcome to partake in the promise in Christ Jesus.)

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE *Matthew 2:2b*

Pastor: Alleluia.

People: Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

Pastor: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 2:1-12*
(The Visit of the Wise Men.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the

child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *Nicene Creed*

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

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

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

Sit

SERMON HYMN “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here” (LSB 399 vs. 1-5)

SERMON “The Singing Camels of Sheba” (Isaiah 60:1-6)

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

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come. We pray for the church here and around the world. For as the Magi saw the star, many people will see the glory of the Lord and come to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Wonderful Counselor, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For the leaders of this nation and the nations of the world, that they use their many resources for the poor, remember the disadvantaged, provide for lawful order within their borders, and seek peace with their neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Mighty God, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lift up your eyes all around and see. We pray for the lonely—those alone at home; those separated from loved ones, including armed forces deployed; and all those forgotten by the rest of society—that God would move caring people to surround them with His love. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Everlasting Father, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: The Magi brought gold and frankincense. We pray for charitable organizations in our parish and community, that by the grace of God, we all may experience growth in faith as the Gospel moves from ears to heart, and from conviction to serving God and loving one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, gracious God, who sent Your Son to be light in this dark world, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

People:Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People:And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People:We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People:It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. 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 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed be You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You sent Your only-begotten Son for us and for all the people on this planet. All who partake of this Sacrament and believe receive the blessings of His body and blood, of the sacrifice He made. Gather us together from near and far to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

People:Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

Pastor: 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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB 198*

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

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

- “Hail to the Lord's Anointed” (LSB 398)
- “Alleluia Let Praises Ring” (LSB 822)

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “O Lord, We Praise Thee” (LSB 617 vs. 1-3)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Thanks be to You, heavenly Father, for You have stopped at nothing to assure us of a place with You forever.

People: Guide and protect us that whoever sees us will be drawn to the light that shines through us to all the blessings You have prepared for those who love You;

Pastor: through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God,
now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

Pastor: 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 ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN “As with Gladness Men of Old” (LSB 397 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); **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; **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 family of **Dawn**, sister of **Joy Lussier**, who was recently called home to heavenly rest. We pray for God's comfort and strength for her family during this time. **We pray:** *Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life and faith of Dawn whom You have now called home to heavenly rest. Comfort her family with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. Remind them of the sure hope we have in Jesus through His death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins and His victorious resurrection from the dead. Help them look to the day when all believers will be reunited in Your presence forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com. **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:**

Church Office: 414-762-8990

Requests on prayer line: 10am-3 pm
3pm-9 pm

Carol Thurber
Pauline Parker

414-762-9615
414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Thursday 1/1 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/4 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/4 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Mark Olen	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>	Samara Svick	Ava Hobart	
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau	Tommy Szefflinski
	Jim Robinson	Jennifer Lau	Andrea Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>	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.

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.

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.**

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/57tkyjy8 For more information, please call our Church Office at **414-762-8990** or email church@graceoakcreek.org **Jeanne Meyer** – meyorch@sbcglobal.net **Lori Kachelmeier** – jlkachel2@gmail.com Please share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be struggling with the loss of a loved one. May our gracious Lord use this ministry to bring His comfort, peace, and hope to many.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Please Note: *We are taking a break during the holidays but it 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

—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 “Knowing and Being Known in a New Year” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God invites us to speak with Him in prayer and hear from Him in the

Bible, to know Him and to love as we are loved. (John 17:3) 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

“Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther’s. It might not be as exciting as David’s or as tumultuous as Rahab’s or as terrifying as Mary’s. But you don’t have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.” *Grace MacPherson - 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 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED)

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Seventh Petition and Conclusion

Verse of the week: Matthew 7:7-8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Psalm of the week: Psalm 119:97-104 (antiphon vs. 99)

Hymn of the week: LSB 403 “O Savior of Our Fallen Race” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:40-52

Monday— Purification of Mary & Presentation—Luke 2:21-24

Tuesday— Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ Child—Luke 2:25-40

Wednesday— The Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12

Thursday— The Flight to Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents—Matt. 2:13-23

Friday— The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52

Saturday— Baptism of Our Lord: Isaiah 42:1-9

Stewardship Minute The new year provides a new beginning along with a new resolve, but so often that resolve fades before the first week is ended. The Apostle Paul advised the Corinthians, “...A year ago [you] started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have” (2 Corinthians 8:10-11). By ourselves, we grow tired or get bored or just plain lazy. Let us ask the Lord to give us the desire to give generously, to serve joyfully, and to expend our time eagerly in response to what God has given to us and done for us.

**LORD, IN THIS NEW YEAR, HELP US
TO BE BETTER STEWARDS OF THE
GIFTS THAT YOU GIVE TO US.**

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as
unwise but as wise, making the best use of
the time, because the days are evil”
(Ephesians 5:15-16).



Growing in Grace – December 24th, 25th & December 28th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$7633.0</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Previous Week)</i>	<i>\$748.47</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Current Week)</i>	<i>Holiday Delay</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Christmas Eve: 131</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Christmas Day: 50</i>	<i>31</i>
		<i>Sunday: 39</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$8426.47</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	1/4	8:0am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:00pm	Stephen Minister Training
Monday	1/5	6:30pm	Public School Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/6	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
		6:30pm	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	1/7	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30pm	Grace All Boards
Thursday	1/8	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	1/9	-----	-----
Saturday	1/10	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	1/11	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship with ML Brass Choir
		6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315

