

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Baptism of our Lord

January 8th & 11th, 2026

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



Image: "Behold My servant, whom I uphold, My chosen, in whom My soul delights; I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations." (*Isaiah 42:1*)

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 Spirit-Marked Servant*”

Today we hear that divine promise in Isaiah 42, identifying Jesus as God's chosen servant. From the beginning, however, we are told He is not only to be King of the Jews alone but a light to lighten the Gentiles also. The great news is that He is the Savior of and for all people, the descendants not only of Abraham but also of Adam and Noah! By repentance of sin and faith in Christ, worked by the same Spirit that marked Jesus as the chosen one at His Baptism, now all who are baptized into Christ—Jew or Gentile—are the chosen people of God. Praising and thanking God for calling and saving us, we echo the Gospel to all people in the words of the Psalm: “*Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!*” (Psalm 117:1).

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 ✠

Pre-Service Music (10:30am only) “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee” arr. Paul Curnow

Opening Hymn 645 Built on the Rock (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 2:7-11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a, read responsively)

Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,*
 my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.
I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your | heritage,*
 and the ends of the earth your pos- | session.
You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
 and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”
Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
 be warned, O rulers | of the earth.
Serve the | LORD with fear,*
 and rejoice with | trembling,
for his wrath is quickly | kindled.*
 Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Behold my servant, whom | I uphold,*
 my chosen, in whom my | soul delights.

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. Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same 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 42:1-9*

(The LORD's chosen servant)

¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶“I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. ⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8, read responsively*)

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

Epistle Lesson *Romans 6:1-11*

(Dead to sin, alive to God)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- 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 Baptism of Our Lord—*"Alleluia. You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia."* (*Mark 1:11b*)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 3:13-17*

(The Baptism of Jesus)

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

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

- C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message "Working Hand in Hand" (Isaiah 42:1-9) (The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents

of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)

Sermon Hymn 407 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “Jesus Is the Real Contender” (Isaiah 42:1-9)

Offertory (10:30am only) “Holy, Holy, Holy” arr. Stephen Bulla

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

Prayer of the Church (*After each petition the Pastor will say, “Lord in Your mercy,” and the congregation responds saying, “Hear our prayer.”*)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom You anointed by the Holy Spirit at His Baptism as the chosen Messiah, that in His mission to take away the sin of the world, all men may be made Your

chosen people by the faith given in Your baptismal covenant with them. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

- C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face. 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

-596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

-411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Collect LSB 212

A Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, who anointed Your only-begotten Son to be the chosen Redeemer of all mankind, we give You thanks for choosing us in Him to share in the fellowship of believers in this Sacrament. Move us to shine the light of His grace in our lives that all people hear Your invitation of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus LSB 212

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction LSB 212

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (vs. 1-4)

Postlude (10:30am only) “Fanfare” by William Duncombe

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); **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; **Paul & Karen** (healing & strength) Jim & Janine Pieper’s relatives; **Alex** (Milwaukee firefighter, healing & strength) friend of Bailey Miles & Sue Krueger; Carol LaBanco (pancreatic cancer) friend of Pauline Parker’s family; **Marilyn Pugh** (heart condition) friend of Carol Loveall

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

We mourn with the family of **Doris Sundeen**, **Grandma of Lacey Schaefer**, 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 **Doris** 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	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	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 1/8 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/11 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/11 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau	Tommy Szefflinski
	Jim Robinson	Jennifer Lau	Andrea Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

We give thanks to God for Mrs. Jessica Kindschi Walter, the ML Brass Choir Director, and the Martin Luther High School Brass Choir for beautifully accompanying our worship during the 10:30 a.m. service!!! We are grateful that the Lord continues to use their God-given talents to glorify Him—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to enrich our worship together. God's blessings to them as they continue their music ministry in service to Christ and His Church.

A friendly reminder to those who donated poinsettias for the celebration of Christmas: please be sure to pick up your poinsettia. Thank you for donating these gorgeous plants to help beautify our chancel area as we celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Each poinsettia is labeled on the bottom of the pot, so you can easily identify which one belongs to you. God's blessings, and thank you again for your generosity.

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.

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 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 "Solidarity" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Solidarity is how Christians understand their relationship to Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus, the Son of God, went where we had gone so that we might go where He goes. (Romans 6:5). [Listen online at: lutheranhour.org](http://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

"A baby is God's opinion that the world should go on." *Carl Sandburg - 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 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Catechism: Sacrament of Holy Baptism: What is Baptism? Which is that Word of God? What benefits does Baptism give? Which are these words and promises of God?

Verse of the week: Acts 2:38-39, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.*"

Psalm of the week: Psalm 72 (antiphon vs. 18)

Hymn of the week: LSB 405 "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord" (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17

Monday— Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father—Genesis 35:16-20, 22b-29

Tuesday— Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery—Gen. 37:1-36

Wednesday— Judah and Tamar—Genesis 38:1-30

Thursday— Joseph Is a Slave in Egypt—Genesis 39:1-23

Friday— Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison—Genesis 40:1-23

Saturday— Epiphany 2: Isaiah 49:1-7

Stewardship Minute A new year offers a new start for many of us. Like Paul, we “[forget] what lies behind and [strain] forward to what lies ahead, [we] press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14). Through Christ, Who has paid the penalty for our sins, the slate is clean; we can forget about the past. We are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are ready to go forward in His strength to serve Him with the gifts He has given us. “Now to Him Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

**WE BECOME DISCIPLES WHEN
JESUS CALLS US, AND WE
FOLLOW.**

“And He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.” (Matthew 4:19).



Growing in Grace – January 1st & 4th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$9216.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Week of 12/28)</i>	<i>\$620.55</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Current Week)</i>	<i>\$1705.18</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</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>Missions</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>New Years Day: 32</i>	<i>28</i>
		<i>Sunday: 74</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$11,671.73</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	1/11	8:0am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:00pm	Stephen Minister Training
Monday	1/12	6:30pm	6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/13	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	1/14	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30pm	Grace Church Council
Thursday	1/15	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	1/16	6:30pm	Jr./Sr. High Lock In
Saturday	1/17	7am	Jr./Sr. High Lock In
		6:30pm	Grace Bingo Night
Sunday	1/11	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class & Sunday School
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:30pm	Stephen Minister Training

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

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

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315

