

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

## Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

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



**Image:** *"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." (Psalm 139:13-14)*

# 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 “Fearfully & Wonderfully Made”**

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.

## **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 the bulletin...*

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 402 The Only Son from Heaven (vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

#### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**

#### Confession and Absolution *Psalm 139*

- P O Lord, you have searched me and known me!  
C **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- P You search out my path and my lying down  
C **and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- P Even before a word is on my tongue,  
C **behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.**
- P You hem me in, behind and before,  
C **and lay your hand upon me.**
- P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
C **it is high; I cannot attain it.**
- P Almighty and Everlasting God, Your understanding comprehends all things. You see how Your creatures have departed from Your wise design. You know the desires of all humankind have become entirely unrighteous. Our thoughts, words, and deeds worship us above You and serve self instead of one another. Yet Your Son has assumed our feeble nature and feels our weakness and need. For the sake of His sacrifice, remember us in mercy. Lay not Your hand of reckoning upon us and grant remission of all our sins.  
C **Amen.**
- P Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
C **Or where shall I flee from your presence?**
- P If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
C **If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

P If I take the wings of the morning  
C **and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

P even there your hand shall lead me,  
C **and your right hand shall hold me.**

P If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
C **and the light about me be night,"**

P even the darkness is not dark to you;  
C **the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

P O Lord, our Heavenly Father, You pursue us in jealousy to the ends of the heavens and earth. We cannot flee from Your judgment nor hide from the punishments we deserve. But Your Son, our Savior Christ Jesus, has traded our guilt in exchange for His glory. His death and resurrection have brought us the light of life everlasting. Drive our evils away from us with repentance, forgiveness, and faith, that we may behold Your goodness now and evermore.  
C **Amen.**

P For you formed my inward parts;  
C **you knitted me together in my mother's womb.**

P I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
C **Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.**

P My frame was not hidden from you,  
C **when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

P Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,  
C **the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**

P How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
C **How vast is the sum of them!**

P If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
C **I awake, and I am still with you.**

P Children of men, do not fear! Incarnate Christ Jesus has come among us, sharing both womb and world, plumbed the depths of the earth, plundered death and the tomb. Take heart, for the Almighty Maker has created, redeemed, and called you

His own. Upon your confession, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**Responsive Reading from Psalm 139 & Collect of the Day**

P Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God!

C **O men of blood, depart from me!**

P They speak against you with malicious intent;

C **your enemies take your name in vain.**

P Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?

C **And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?**

P I hate them with complete hatred;

C **I count them my enemies.**

P Search me, O God, and know my heart!

C **Try me and know my thoughts!**

P And see if there be any grievous way in me,

C **and lead me in the way everlasting! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Lord God, our Father and Savior, open our hearts to receive and delight in Your wonders. Open our lips to rejoice and proclaim all Your works. Strengthen us in flesh and spirit to refuse wickedness and replace the lust for control with Your own truth and love. Give us courage to rescue the vulnerable and compassion to relieve the victim that together we may share Your life.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading *Job 10:9-13***

***Job's Plea to God***

<sup>9</sup>Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? <sup>10</sup>Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? <sup>11</sup>You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. <sup>12</sup>You have granted me life and steadfast love,

and your care has preserved my spirit. <sup>13</sup>Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Lesson Hebrews 2:5-18**

#### ***Jesus, the Founder of our Salvation***

<sup>5</sup>Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup>It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? <sup>7</sup>You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>putting everything in subjection under his feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup>But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

<sup>10</sup>For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” <sup>13</sup>And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia Verse for Sanctity of Life Sunday**—“*Alleluia. Everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.*” (Matthew 10:32)

### **Holy Gospel Matthew 10:24-33**

#### ***Jesus says, Fear not...You are of More Value than the Sparrows...***

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

**C    Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. <sup>28</sup>And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup>So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

**P    This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**C    Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Apostles' Creed *LSB 159***

**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 "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" (Gen. 2:7-17)** (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 790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" (Gen. 2:7-17)**

Sermon Text— Genesis 2:7-17— Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

**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](http://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 160**



- 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.**

### **Proper Preface *LSB 161***

- 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; 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 161***

- C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
 Hosanna. Hosanna.  
 Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161***

- P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

### **The Words of Our Lord *LSB 161***

- 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."

### **Lord's Prayer *LSB 162***

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
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.**

### **Pax Domini *LSB 163***

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C **Amen.**

### **Agnus Dei *LSB 163***

- C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*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**

-801 How Great Thou Art

-725 Children of the Heavenly Father

*Stand*

#### **Nunc Dimittis LSB 165**

- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of  
ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### **Post-Communion Collect LSB 166**

- P** 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.

**Benediction LSB 166**

- 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 877 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven (vs. 1-4)**

**Pastor:** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

**People:** Thanks be to God!



*The flowers on the altar are given by*

*Dawn Jantz*

*In loving memory of Bob's Birthday*



**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; **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; **Shirley Stachowiak** (cancer) niece of Dennis Iseli.

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

**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](mailto: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 1/13 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 1/15 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 1/15 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Keith Goodle	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Glenn Dotson	Martin Taggatz
<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		
<u>Ushers</u>	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau	Tommy Szefflinski
	Jim Robinson	Jennifer Lau	Andrea Szefflinski
<u>Livestream</u>		Glenn Dotson	

**Please note: We are in need of ushers for the 8:00am Sunday worship services in February and March. Please contact Pastor Taggatz or call the church office at 414-762-8990 if you can help. Thank you!**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

**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.\*\***

## 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 5<sup>th</sup>.**

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

## **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 18<sup>th</sup>    **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/57tky8](https://tinyurl.com/57tky8) For more information, please call our Church Office at **414-762-8990** or email [church@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org) **Jeanne Meyer** – [meyorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meyorch@sbcglobal.net) **Lori**

**Kachelmeier** – [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto:jlkachel2@gmail.com) Please share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be struggling with the loss of a loved one. May our gracious Lord use this ministry to bring His comfort, peace, and hope to many.

### 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 "Outstanding Universal Value"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The Christian faith has the power to make us act better. But that’s not the goal. (1 Corinthians 1:18-19) [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

“Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother’s womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16).” *Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life - 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 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY***

**Catechism:** Sacrament of Holy Baptism: How can water do such great things?

**Verse of the week:** 1 Peter 3:18, “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 40:1-11 (antiphon vs. 3)

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 594 “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It” (stanzas 1-5)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— Behold the Lamb of God—John 1:29-42a

Monday— The Confession of St. Peter: Mark 8:27—9:1

Tuesday— Joseph Interprets Pharaoh’s Dreams—Genesis 41:1-36

Wednesday— Joseph Becomes the Prince of Egypt—Genesis 41:37-57

Thursday— Joseph’s Brothers Journey to Egypt to Buy Food—Gen. 42:1-24

Friday— Joseph Feeds Brothers, Sends Them to Jacob—Gen. 42:25-38

Saturday— Epiphany 3: Isaiah 9:1-4

**Stewardship Minute** In order to be a credible witness to his Lord, the Apostle Paul asked for no special consideration. Willingly he endured beatings, imprisonment, hunger, and whatever else God saw fit to allow. The secret of his joyful service in the name of Christ lies in his faith. *“We are treated as imposters, and yet are true; as unknown, yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything”* (2 Corinthians 6:8-10). How small our sacrifices for the sake of the Gospel are compared to Paul’s! Let us joyfully serve Christ in whatever ways He gives us opportunity.

### **THE DEEDS OF OUR STEWARDSHIP GIVE EVIDENCE TO THE FAITH THAT GOD GIVES US.**

“Show me your faith apart from your works,  
and I will show you my faith by my works”  
(James 2:18).



## ***Growing in Grace – January 8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>***

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2030.00		
<i>Online Giving (Current Week)</i>	\$913.24		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$5.00		
<i>Missions</i>	\$105.00		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$105.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	\$0.00	24/89	84
<i>VBS</i>	\$0.00		
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$3158.24</i></b>		

**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	1/18	8:0am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		6-8:00pm	Stephen Minister Training
Monday	1/19	6:30pm	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class
Tuesday	1/20	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	1/21	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	1/22	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	1/23	-----	-----
Saturday	1/24	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
Sunday	1/25	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
		1:30-5:30pm	New Members Class
		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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
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		<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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Principal		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
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### Church & ECC

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### School & Church Office Mailing Address

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