

Equipper

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



February 2026

Pastor's Message

"A Much Disputed Passage" ***Matthew 16: 13–23***

Jesus said, *"On this rock I will build My church,"* here in Matthew 16. Which rock? The Roman Catholic Church believes that the rock is Simon Peter and that the Church is built upon him and his direct successors, the popes of Rome; that the papacy has been established to represent Christ on earth, to speak for Christ, and to proclaim the truths given by God; and that the pope makes infallible utterances that must be accepted by the Christian people as revelations of God.

Protestant scholars do not agree with this interpretation. The Greek text plainly shows that Jesus did not intend to build the Church upon Peter and the papacy. Jesus said, You are *petros* [masculine form], and on this *petra* [feminine form] I will build My Church. Jesus here uses a play on words that cannot be reproduced in English with the same word, rock. However, it can be accurately illustrated with the word confession in this way: *"You are a confessionalist, and on this confession I will build My Church."*

What confession? The one Peter made: *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* This puts Christ Jesus in the center. On Him the Church is built. That is why Paul says to the Corinthian Christians: *"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"* (1 Corinthians 3: 11). Again, *"the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone"* (Ephesians 2: 19–20).

As long as the Church adheres to this truth and makes Christ its foundation, head, and founder, the gates of hell cannot prevail. That makes sense and is in full harmony with the rest of the Scripture. Even Simon Peter understood the words of Jesus to mean that the Church was built upon Christ, for he says in his Epistle, quoting Isaiah: *"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame"* (1 Peter 2: 6).

We still confess that the Church has no other head than Jesus Christ Himself. Matthew 16: 13–23 says, *"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'"*

Then He strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that He was the Christ. Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You." But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

What do you think of Christ? We can make no improvement on the answers given by Simon Peter or by Luther in his explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism: *"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."*

This Jesus, the head of the Church, gave His life as a ransom for all, and our response is to teach, preach, and believe. If anyone comes with any other doctrine or claim than this—that Jesus sacrificed Himself for us and shed His blood for our redemption—we must say, *"Get behind me, Satan, because such teachings do not come from God."*

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, founder and foundation of the New Testament Church, grant that we do not turn aside from this glorious and comforting truth that You are the head of the Church and have given us Your Gospel to lead us to Your eternal throne. Grant us the grace to abide in You and Your Word and to not turn away from that narrow way that leads to glory. Give us faithful pastors and loyal members who confess with us at all times that You are the Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, our Savior, our Friend, and our Lord. Amen.*

See you in worship!

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Pastor John M Taggatz

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!

Your 2025 4th Quarter Giving Statements If you have not picked up your statement in the Narthex, it will now be mailed out to your address on file. Thank you for your generosity and faithful support of Grace Lutheran Church, School, and ECC. Your gifts make a real difference as together we continue Christ's work in this place.

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!

Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990

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

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

Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

Heidi, Church Secretary

Church office: 414.762.8990

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

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

The Mites dates are February 5th & 8th.
Look for the LARGE mite box to drop your
change and dollars into!



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

ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

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





Mitten Tree

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Hats: 84

Mittens/Gloves: 63

Scarves: 27

Total: 174!!!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

January 14th and 28th

8:00am-9:30am at Grace school



Mite Box Weekend

The large mite box will be in the

narthex on Thursday Feb. 5th & Sunday Feb. 8th.

We eagerly await to hear your noisy donations!

2026 Altar Flowers

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

February Meeting

Saturday, February 14th - 10:00am-Noon

Meeting at school

Bible study "Strong and Courageous Women of the Bible" and planning for 70th celebration!

Grace Lutheran Ladies Guild 70th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating 70 years of faith, fellowship, and service!

Sunday March 15th, 10:30am worship service with coffee and treat fellowship to follow!

Join us as we celebrate 70 years of God's blessings on the Grace Lutheran Ladies Guild. Together, we'll reflect on the work accomplished, give thanks for His glory, and look forward with joy as we continue our mission to serve the Lord with gladness. Mark your calendars!

We continue celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Grace Guild!

Each month we share some Guild history!

From the archives...June 14th, 1983

Roberta Steinborn came to the Guild board meeting to explain how to run a Kid's Christmas Fair. The Guild's 1st Kid's Christmas Fair was held on November 29th.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

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

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



Opportunities at Grace

Choir at Grace!

Choir practice is on **Thursday evenings following our 6:30pm worship service.** (*They are taking the month of January off, but will resume practice on Thursday, February 5th*)... 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!



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

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 towards technology at Grace Day School.

Orders can be picked up after January 11th.

Greeting Card Ministry

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

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!



What a wonderful Junior & Senior High Lock-In at Grace Oak Creek January 16-17! What a joy it was to spend time with our youth alongside the Youth Ministry college students from Concordia University Wisconsin. Between the games, singing, Bible study, fellowship, and (of course) some very good food, it was a night full of laughter and faith-building moments. A heartfelt thank-you to our chaperones for their time, care, and willingness to stay up late—true servants of the Lord! What a blessing it is to walk with these young people as they grow in Christ. Rejoicing in all that God is doing among us!

And yes... by God's grace (and perhaps a little caffeine), Pastor managed to stay up late too! Let's all pray he makes it through Sunday morning without nodding off in the pulpit—though if he does, we'll just call it a dramatic pause, right?

Thank you to everyone who braved the snowy weather and came out for Bingo Night at Grace! A big thank-you to our Fellowship Committee for putting this together, and to our Stewardship Board for the delicious chili that kept us warm inside and out. Nothing like good food and even better Christian fellowship to chase away the winter chill. Everyone went home smiling—and with prizes in hand! We're also grateful to Thrivent Financial for sponsoring this fun-filled evening.



Be sure to watch for our next Fellowship event: Game Night coming up in March—you won't want to miss it! And yes, even though the snow was falling outside, us die-hard bingo players were unstoppable. Fun was had by all... and despite having the Junior and Senior High Lock-In earlier in the day, Pastor stayed awake the whole time—a modern-day miracle worthy of at least a footnote in the church records! Thanks again for a wonderful night together. What a joy it is to laugh, fellowship, and make memories as the family of God. God bless!

Save the Date!

Grace Fellowship Committee Upcoming Events — GAME NIGHT IN MARCH

On Saturday March 14th from 6:30-8:30pm, we will be having a Game Night. You will be able to bring your favorite board game to play. If you don't have a board game or you would like to play a game, you will be able to join in the games that we will have available. More information to follow. We will also have an Ice Cream Social in the summer!

VBS 2026 Update!

Rainforest Falls (June 15-19, in the mornings at our Lutheran School, VBS at Grace for 2026) This year's Vacation Bible School will use Group Publishing's "*Rainforest Falls*" program. Amy Pankow, our 4K Teacher at Grace & VBS Superintendent, is inviting volunteers to prayerfully consider taking ownership of one or more key areas to help VBS at Grace run smoothly. Areas where help is especially needed include:

- ❖ Decorating
- ❖ Recruitment (station leaders, helpers, and crew leaders—often older students)
- ❖ Enrollment (tracking registrations, attendance days, and dismissal information)
- ❖ Props and supplies
- ❖ Follow-up and outreach
- ❖ Training crew leaders and station leaders

Training Opportunity: Amy Pankow previously attended a local VBS training that she found extremely beneficial. If there is interest, she is willing to look into dates this spring so a group from Grace could attend together.

Early Childhood VBS:

Jen Mendez, our 2nd Grade Teacher at Grace, will oversee planning for the early childhood portion again this year, which has worked well in making the program age-appropriate. However, she will not be available during the actual VBS week, so a volunteer is needed to help lead that section during the event.

Thrivent Support: A Thrivent Action Grant for \$250 has been applied for and approved to help support VBS this year. The funds should be available soon to assist with program materials and expenses.

Last year, over 80 students attended VBS, and there is great excitement and hope that even more children can be reached this year. Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to get involved or share names of others who may be willing to serve. **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

Visit from the Mayor!

The second week of January our Early Childhood Center had the privilege of welcoming City of Oak Creek's Mayor Dan and the Oak Creek Optimist Club who celebrated 2 of our classrooms as Oak Creek's Youth of the Month!





"Blessings for Faithful Obedience"

Connected to Christ as branches to the vine, we are enabled to live obedient lives. Scripture makes some exciting promises to those who love and obey Him. Our Savior declared, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5). The life we lead will depend on our relationship with Jesus.

When He lives within us, we receive His strength to serve and obey Him. When He abides in us, the love of the Lord will be seen through us. *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you"* (John 15:7). When Christ dwells within us, God will pour out His blessings upon us. Sometimes material blessings will be given along with the certainty of spiritual blessings. We will be blessed *"in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 1:8).

The blessings of God are given to those who love and obey Him; the curse of God will be on those who are disobedient. Some of God's blessings or curses, depending on obedience or disobedience, are recorded in Deuteronomy, chapter 28: *"If you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God"* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). The next twelve verses share God's blessings to the obedient. Verse fifteen is the first of fifty-three verses relating to God's curses for disobedience: *"But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all His commandments and His statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."*

As we face decisions, we need to remember the far-reaching consequences our choices will have. We can choose curses by disobedience, or we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, choose a blessed life by obedience. An old adage says, "We make decisions, and then our decisions turn around and make us."

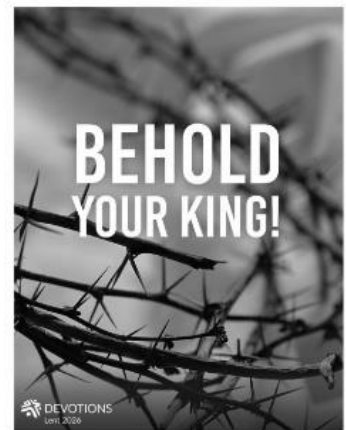
We live in a broken and rebellious generation. The obvious question, of course, is why? Many think the answer is confusing, but it is not. It is found throughout the record of Scripture; it is disobedience. How can we be obedient? We must learn, by the Spirit's power working within us through Word and Sacrament, to be obedient to Christ in the details of daily life. We rely on Jesus' words, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Blessings on your Stewardship journey!

2026 Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries Behold Your King!

In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In Behold Your King!, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by His death and resurrection. That the Son of God joined us in our frail state of humanity is testament to God's overwhelming love and concern for the world. And not only this, Jesus endured scorn and derision from His creation, His earthly subjects. And yet, as King, as Lord of all, He did the unthinkable: He laid down His life for the sins of the world. We are offering these devotions at our Church in both a physical booklet form and we will be emailing them out to our members. This devotional will include our Lenten Worship Schedule for Grace with contact information for our Church. To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/>

Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co-worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord's passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.





Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday February 18th – Easter Sunday April 5th, 2026

“Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus”

Join us for this exciting series as we meditate upon the Gospel, as it’s so richly proclaimed to us from the Book of Exodus, as we begin the season of Lent, the forty days we set aside to focus on our Lord’s Passion as we lead up to Easter. The Lord calls us to “Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning,” and Joel calls for a “solemn assembly” (Joel 2:12, 15). It is time to “to receive the grace of God” (2 Corinthians 6:1). And it is a time for active dialogue between each of us and our Father in heaven, as Jesus instructs in the Gospel. The readings from Exodus, which shall guide our worship throughout the season of Lent, though, also provide us with Good News. We do not deserve it, but God hears and answers our cries. Be ready to pray; be ready to thank our gracious God. **Please note: ASH WEDNESDAY will be on Wednesday February 18th with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m.** There will be no Thursday evening service that week. The Lenten Services following Ash Wednesday will be on Thursday nights at 6:30pm without communion.

Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Series Overview (2026)

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (with Communion; no Thursday service this week)

The Good News of a God Who Hears and Answers Cries, Exodus 2:23–25

Lenten Midweek 2 February 26, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)

The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us, Exodus 3:1–15

Lenten Midweek 3 March 5, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)

The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20

Lenten Midweek 4 March 12, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)

The Good News of a God Who Passes Over Us in Mercy, Exodus 12:1–14

Lenten Midweek 5 March 19, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)

The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us, Exodus 14:5–31

Lenten Midweek 6 March 26, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)

The Good News of a God Who Sustains Us on Our Journey, Exodus 16:1–18, 35

Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (with Communion)

New Passover, Luke 22:7–20

Good Friday (Noon Service) April 3, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. (no Communion)

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted by God, Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Psalm 22;
Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 19

Good Friday (Tenebrae/Evening Service) April 3, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. (no Communion)

New Death, John 19:17–30

Easter Sunrise Service April 5, 2026 – 6:00 a.m. (no Communion)

Christ Is Risen! So What?, 1 Corinthians 15:19–26

Easter Festival Services April 5, 2026 – 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. (with Communion)

“Middle C” and the Rest of the Story, Colossians 3:1–4

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

Matthew: “*His Kingdom Forever.*” (10 sessions)

Each study in the *God's Word for Today* series provides an in-depth exploration of a book of the Bible. Each session includes:

- Background information on the book of the Bible, its author, audience, occasion, and purpose; learning experiences that promote exciting and challenging discussions
- Notes for leaders that answer questions, suggest a learning process and
- Provide additional information and discussion starters that help participants apply God's Word to their daily lives.

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



Portals of Prayer Devotional

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Tour the Holy Land in Eastertide of 2026!

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

We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. Plus, there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai, and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. It only takes \$500 registration to hold your spot for this tour.

Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. Questions?

Please contact Pastor Aaron Koch at: 414-795-9005 or pastor.koch@gmail.com.

Register online at: registernow.ittworld.com. Tour code: Koch26 to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need.

We hope you will take part in this great experience!

A Place of Refuge Annual Meeting

February 22, 2026 at 4:00 pm



Come and hear about how God is blessing the work at Refuge House, Advocacy, and our Blessed Again Resale Shop.

Learn how you can support or be a part of the ministry

Worship begins at 4 pm with **Rev. Alfonso Prada** as our preacher.

That is followed by a short **business meeting**.

Then there is a time for fellowship with a **free Catered meal**.

Please register at:

www.aplaceofrefuge.org/annualmeeting,

by calling 414-760-2483 emailing apor.ministries.swd@gmail.com or following the QR code at the bottom of this flyer



This year's event is at

Covenant Lutheran Church
8121 W Hope Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53222



LIMITED
SEATING
AVAILABLE

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

2026 Tour

Dr. Louis Menchaca, Director



Tuesday, March 3
2:00 pm school clinic
7:00 pm concert

Grace Lutheran School
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Free Will
Offering

Order tickets by Feb. 22nd by calling the church/school office at
414-762-3655 or online at <https://forms.gle/zYG7V6DcKBNSFF46A>



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



gracelutheran_oakcreek



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



2/4 Jessica Mould
2/4 Stephanie Pulkownik
2/5 Renee Lutzke
2/6 Brad Abelt
2/6 Timothy Cooksy
2/6 Heidi Gottwald
2/11 Kelly Laabs
2/11 Tony Mirenda
2/12 Amy Pankow
2/12 Tammy Rowley
2/13 Dylan Schaefer
2/15 Terri Meyer

2/15 Emma Urbaniak
2/16 Evan Kopperud
2/18 Rebecca Kamprath
2/18 Elizabeth Murphy
2/18 Robert Olen
2/20 Jim Sauer
2/21 John Gottwald IV
2/22 Graciana Lutzke
2/25 Joel Banach
2/26 Melissa Peppler
2/27 Steve Gettelman
2/28 Matthew Campbell

2/3 Justin & Jennifer Mendez
2/19 Alex & Cory McIntosh
2/29 Andrew & Samantha Gonsowski





FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	2 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm - 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	4 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	5 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	6	7 9:00am - 3:00pm Stephen Minister Training
8 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	9 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	11 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	12 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	13	14 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00am - 12:00pm Ladies Guild
15 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	16 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	18 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion	19 7:30 Choir Practice	20	21
22 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship 6:00pm - 8:30pm Stephen Minister Training	23 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm - 8:00pm Grief Share	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	25 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	26 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	27	28 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Radio Worship Service

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

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

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

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

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



Prayer Hot Line

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

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

Pastor John M. Taggatz

PH: 414.762.8990

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

