

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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



**Image:** "From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might; From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!" (LSB 578:4)

# 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 Noblest Work”**

In the stewardship hymn “*Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness*,” author William Watkins Reid Sr. includes the thoughtful line “*Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast*” (LSB 788:5). The text, written in 1965, reflected a growing understanding of the need for service in Jesus’ name by all who had received His blessing. In the concluding stanza of the hymn, he also writes, “*May thankfulness be days in service spent, reflection of Christ’s life and love and light.*” In this Epiphany season, when we celebrate the radiantly expanding light of Christ, we are directed to find new ways to reflect that light into all the areas of our life. Paul says it simply and directly: “*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone*” (Galatians 6:10). Those opportunities are just waiting for us!

### **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 1, pg. 151**

**✖ PREPARATION ✎**

**Opening Hymn 825 Rise, Shine, You People (vs. 1-4)**

*Stand*

**Confession and Absolution LSB 151**

*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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 119:9-16; antiphon: v. 12, read responsively)**

Blessèd are you, | O LORD;\*  
    **teach me your | statutes!**  
How can a young man keep his | way pure?\*  
    **By guarding it according | to your word.**  
With my whole heart | seek you;\*  
    **let me not wander from your com- | mandments!**

I have stored up your word | in my heart,\*  
that I might not sin a- | against you.  
Blessèd are you, | O LORD;\*  
    teach me your | statutes!  
With my lips | I declare\*  
    all the just decrees | of your mouth.  
In the way of your testimonies | I delight\*  
    as much as in all | riches.  
I will meditate on your | precepts\*  
    and fix my eyes | on your ways.  
I will delight in your | statutes;\*  
    I will not for- | get your word.

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.

Blessèd are you, | O LORD;\*  
    teach me your | statutes!

#### **Kyrie LSB 152**

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
  
- A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
  
- A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
  
- A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
  
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C **Amen.**

#### **Gloria in Excelsis LSB 154**

- A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:  
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 156**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**Rite of Holy Baptism LSB 268 (8am only)** We thank the Lord that on Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>, *Liam Miles, son of Baily Miles, and Grandson of Susan Krueger*, is baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God's Word in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at Grace! We praise the Lord that his name is written in God's Book of Life!!!

**Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 58:3-9a***

*(The brightness of the Lord's light breaking forth.)*

<sup>3</sup>““Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?” Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup>Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

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 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

*(Paul speaks and writes in and with the Spirit's power.)*

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

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

*Stand*

### **Alleluia and Verse LSB 156**

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia Verse for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**—“Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.” (Matthew 5:16b)

### **Holy Gospel Matthew 5:13-20**

*(Jesus calls His followers to be salt and light in the world.)*

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

<sup>13</sup>[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

<sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of 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 T everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children's Message "Where Is Jesus?" (1 Cor. 2:1-12)** (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 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-5)**

**Sermon "Knowing Nothing, But Christ Crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:1-12)**

**Offertory LSB 159**

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

**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.**

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.**

#### **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.

#### **The Words of Our Lord *LSB 162***

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 body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

#### **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**

**-526 You Are the Way; through You Alone**

**-806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**

*Stand*

## **Thank the Lord LSB 164**

C    **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Post-Communion Collect LSB 166**

A Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we bless You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same; help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

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 give you peace.

C Amen.

**Closing Hymn 643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing (vs. 1-2)**

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



*The flowers on the altar are given by*

*Tony and Suzie Mirenda*

*In honor of Tony'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 Urbanik'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; Lori Jablonski (cancer); Joy Lussier (cancer, recovery from surgery); Christopher Barnard (healing & strength following surgery); Dan Taggatz (heart surgery) Pastor Taggatz's Uncle; Student of Mary Rowley (diagnosed with blood cancer); Doc Medek (hospitalized)

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

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!** We thank the Lord that on Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup>, *Liam Miles, son of Baily Miles, and Grandson of Susan Krueger*, is baptized into the Christian faith through both water and the power of God's Word in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at Grace! We praise the Lord that his name is written in God's Book of Life!!!

**We mourn with the family of Antoinette, the cousin of Pauline Parker, who was called home to heavenly rest. We pray for God's comfort and strength for the Parker family during this time. We pray: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the life and faith of Antoinette, 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 2/5 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 2/8 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 2/8 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Adam Voss	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Connie Roettgen	Glenn Dotson	Jen Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Kathy Szeflinski	Kathy Szeflinski	Kathy Szeflinski
	Morgan Parker	Morgan Parker	Morgan Parker
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Steven Pawlak	Lowell Johnson
	Connie Roettgen		Ron Savarino
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

**OPEN HOUSE** - If you know someone looking for 4K - 8 grade, please send them our way! Your referral is the best compliment! We are currently scheduling our tours for our next open house on Monday, February 9 . They can call or email the school office for more information.

**Grace Lutheran Student Council Sale!!!** Our *Student Council from our Lutheran School* will be selling \$2 donuts & \$2 coffee after our 8am service & hot dogs for \$2 on this Sunday after 10:30 worship to raise funds to update the Sprinkler system in the building. They will also provide a Meal Deal for \$5 for a Hot Dog, chips, and water. Cash only. Thank you for your generosity and support of our Christian Day School & Ministries at Grace!!!

We are delighted to announce that the Concordia University Wisconsin Symphonic Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Louis Menchaca, will be visiting Grace Lutheran Church & School on Tuesday, March 3rd. They will present a concert in our school at 7:00 PM. Seating is limited, so reservations are required. Please call the church office at 414-762-3655 to reserve your ticket. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Concordia University Wisconsin Music Department. It promises to be a wonderful evening of excellent music and Christian fellowship—no snow shovels required, just good ears and grateful hearts. We hope to see you there!  This concert is open to all Grace Lutheran families of the church, school and ECC. To help manage capacity, we will be offering tickets to this event. **CLICK HERE TO ORDER YOUR TICKETS:** <https://tinyurl.com/2t6xcu3c>

**The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Grace Lutheran School: 2/18 - 2/25!** Get ready for the newest gotta-read books, bestselling series, and favorite characters that students love. Plus, every purchase supports our school. We can't wait to have you join us for the Best. Week. Ever! Anyone can support students in our school who need help buying books! You can do so by going to this website: <https://tinyurl.com/32u8rrfv>  
**The LWML Mites dates are February 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.** Look for the LARGE mite box to drop your change and dollars into!

**Grace Ladies Guild February Meeting** Saturday, February 14th-10:00am-Noon Meeting at school Bible study "Strong and Courageous Women of the Bible" and planning for 70<sup>th</sup> celebration!

**Rise & Sonshine Bible Study** February 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00am-9:30am at Grace School

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars - Deadline March 31**

Thrivent members have an opportunity to support Grace Lutheran Church and School through the Thrivent Choice® program. Eligible members can direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars® to Grace at no cost to them. The deadline to direct Choice Dollars for this year is March 31, so please don't wait. To see if you have Choice Dollars available or to continue directing them to Grace, call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say, "Thrivent Choice."

For more information about the Thrivent Choice program, please visit:

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

If you have questions or would like assistance locally, you may contact Gena in Ryan VanDeLoo's Thrivent office at (414) 856-9900.

Thank you for helping support the ministry of Grace through Thrivent Choice Dollars!

### **Grace Fellowship Committee Upcoming Events —GAME NIGHT IN MARCH**

On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **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.

**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 be 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.*

### **Easter Lilies/Flowers**



To help make our Easter celebration more memorable, Milaeger's is offering a beautiful assortment of plants to celebrate the glorious Easter holiday.

- 1.) Sign-up for your preferred flower/plant on sheets posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.
- 2.) Enclose cash or check in the envelopes provided and place in offering basket or hand to an elder.

**All money and orders need to be placed by Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**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/57tkyjy8](http://tinyurl.com/57tkyjy8)

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**  
**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 prophesies, Matthew proclaims the universality of Jesus’ love. Let’s take a look at the Gospel of Matthew and learn and grow!

**The Lutheran Hour "Type C"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit meets us, gives us the mind of Christ, and leads us back into the world as children of God. (1 Corinthians 2:12) 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

“God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today ... remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother’s arms. God’s peace be with you this day, this night.” *Andrea Delwiche - 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](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

## ***IN THE WORD FOR THE 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY***

**Catechism:** Confession and the Office of the Keys: What is Confession? What is the Office of the Keys? Where is this written? What do you believe according to these words?

**Verse of the week:** Psalm 51:17, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.”

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 112:1-9 (antiphon vs. 4)

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 895 “Now Thank We All Our God” (stanzas 1-3)

**Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— You Are the Light of the World—Matt. 5:13-20

Monday— Jacob’s Blessings Before He Dies—Gen. 49:1 (2-27) 28-50:14

Tuesday— Joseph Continues to Show Mercy to His Brothers—Gen. 50:15-26

Wednesday— The Birth of Moses—Exodus 1:1-2:10

Thursday— Moses Flees to Midian—Exodus 2:11-25

Friday— I AM Appears to Moses in the Burning Bush—Exodus 3:1-17

Saturday—Transfiguration: Exodus 24:8-18

### **Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church**

**Ash Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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)**

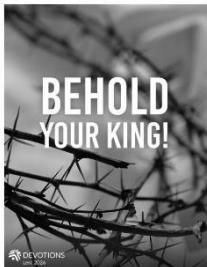
*New Death, John 19:17–30*

## **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*



### **2026 Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries**

#### ***Behold Your King!***

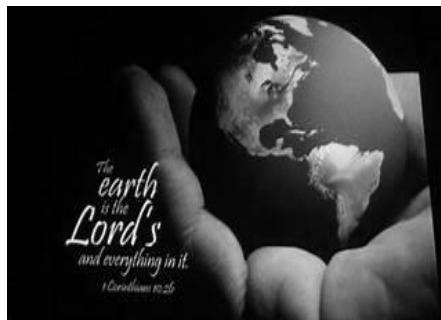
In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In *Behold Your King!*, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by 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.

**Stewardship Minute** Jesus spoke to the issue of greed in Matthew 16:26 when He asked, “*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*” The things we possess will contribute only to fleeting happiness, not an enduring peace and contentment. Our focus on things can blind us to the emptiness of our faith. The one who is blessed materially is not necessarily discontent, but those who depend on their wealth to bring them contentment will be disappointed. Thus, the deciding factor is the relationship between a person and his wealth. Consider Abraham, one of the richest people in the Bible. Abraham had amassed wealth, but he knew that all he had belonged to God. In God, he had everything. His possessions were expendable. God had the priority in his life, not his wealth.

**GOD IS THE SOURCE AND THE OWNER OF ALL THINGS. WE LEAVE THIS EARTH WITH EMPTY HANDS.**

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world” (1 Timothy 6:7).



### ***Growing in Grace – January 29<sup>th</sup> & February 1<sup>st</sup>***

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$4651.00</i>	
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$844.19</i>	
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$95.00</i>	
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$2100.00</i>	
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>31/117</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>	
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$7801.19</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	2/8	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship
Monday	2/9	6:30pm 6:30pm	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	2/10	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	2/11	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study Council Meeting
Thursday	2/12	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	2/13	-----	-----
Saturday	2/14	8:00am 10:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Grace Ladies Guild Meeting
Sunday	2/15	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6-8:30pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship 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 ECC Director	Mrs. Lisa Hengst Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-3655 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 Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director		<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
		<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office

#### Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315

