

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22nd, 2026

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



Image: "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths." (*Genesis 3:6-7*)

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 "Adam and Christ: Compare and Contrast"

Adam and Jesus are a study in contrasts. Where man in the Garden of Eden was weak before the devil's wiles, Jesus returns the words of Satan with the Word of God. In so doing, He does not simply repeat words but expresses His trust and confidence in the Father. The Spirit led Jesus to the place of temptation knowing that Jesus knew what Adam forgot. Thanks be to God the error of Adam is not like the gift of God in Christ. What Adam lost, Christ won and not for Himself but for all who believe in Him. The family of sinners born with Adam's sin is contrasted with the sons and daughters of righteousness born of Christ and His atoning work. Everyone suffers from Adam's sin but only those who believe know the saving fruits of Christ's holy obedience.

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 3, pg. 184*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution *LSB 184*

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my 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 ✠

Introit (*Psalm 91:9-13; antiphon: vv. 15-16, sung responsively*)

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.
Because you have made the LORD your | dwelling place—*
the Most High, who is my | refuge—
no evil shall be allowed to be- | fall you,*
no plague come | near your tent.
For he will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
On their hands they will | bear you up,*
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the | adder;*
the young lion and the serpent you will trample | underfoot.

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.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in | trouble;*
I will rescue him and | honor him.
With long life I will sat- | isfy him*
and show him my sal- | vation.

Kyrie LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

During the season of Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted...

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 189

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray. O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Rite of Holy Baptism LSB 268 (10:30am only) We thank the Lord that on Sunday February 22nd, *Anthony Marquez, son of Lisa Smith, and Grandson of Donna Smith*, 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 Genesis 3:1-21

(Sin entered into the world through the fall of Adam.)

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

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

Gradual (*Hebrews 12:2, read responsively*)

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,*
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the shame,*
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 5:12-19*

(By one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience shall the many be declared righteous.)

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

Stand

Verse for the First Sunday in Lent—*"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."* (*Verse Ephesians 6:11*)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 4:1-11*

(Our Lord is tempted by Satan in the wilderness.)

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

“‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed *LSB 191*

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

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,**

by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

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

Sit

Children’s Message “Greater Than” (Romans 5:12-19) (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 561 The Tree of Life (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “Death through Adam, Life through Jesus” (Romans 5:12-19)

Offertory LSB 192

- C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us

today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, 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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 195*

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

Lord's Prayer *LSB 196*

- P 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.
- C **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 197*

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *LSB 197*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

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

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the

Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—*We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.*

Distribution Hymns

-655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

-418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

- C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the
face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving LSB 200

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

- A Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, through Your Son You have promised us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that in our daily need and especially in all time of temptation, we may seek Your help and,

by a true and lively faith in Your Word, obtain all that You have promised, remembering all that our Savior accomplished for us that we may not be alone or without the refuge of Your grace in time of test or trial; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

A Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 202*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

Sit

Closing Hymn 550 Lamb of God (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The flowers on the altar are given by

Lori Kachelmeier

In loving memory of husband, Jim, and son, Steve's birthdays



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 & patience); 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; 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 (healing & strength); Jerry Stecker (hospice) brother of Dave Stecker; John Falcon (cancer) Carol Loveall's Nephew; Chris (leukemia) friend of Joanne Jaeger; Jackie Lehman (healing & strength); Carl & David Smith (healing & strength) sons of Donna Smith.

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

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! We thank the Lord that on Sunday February 22nd, *Anthony Marquez, the son of Lisa Smith, and Grandson of Donna Smith*, 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!!!

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com. **If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:** Church Office: 414-762-8990

Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

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

	<u>Wednesday 2/18 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 2/22 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 2/22 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Richard Jackson	Craig Lau	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Cris Evers	Lisa Kamprath
<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	Bob Buzzell	Ron Savarino
		Lynn Buzzell	
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

Hunger Task Force Annual Fund Drive—The Evangelism Board, along with the Hunger Task Force, is holding their Annual Fund Drive starting on: Ash Wednesday, February 18th, and running through Palm Sunday, March 29th. The best way to support the Hunger Task Force is by making a monetary donation. The Hunger Task Force will then purchase food to be distributed to those in need. There are *envelopes* on the table at the back of the church for your donations. These can be placed in the offering plate. If you are a school family, you can send in your donation through the school office. ***Please make checks out to: Grace Lutheran Church and write 'Hunger Task Force' in the memo section.*** As part of the kickoff for this fundraiser, please bring a: ***jar of peanut butter*** to church. Thank you for helping those in need! Thank you in advance for your generosity! *Grace Evangelism Board.*

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>

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study February 28th 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 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!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex – or you may sign up online via the link below!

<https://forms.gle/pvq6NeTYy3kPmbri9>

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.****

Totally relive the '80s at Panther Arena!

Neon lights, classic hits, and retro fun are totally setting the stage for a high-energy Wave match. Dress in neon and leg warmers – you cannot miss it! Kids can join a pre-game soccer clinic, and mascot Brad Beach is gonna do something totally rad from the '80s! Join us on Feb 22 to cheer on the Milwaukee Wave!

Grace Lutheran will receive a portion of each ticket sold using the link below that will go to support our PTLs fundraiser for additional school field trips.

You Can Buy Tickets Online by Going to This Site:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Gracelutheran24>

Invite your friends and family and Let's Go WAVE!



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 1st, 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!

Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee!

Plans are underway for **Vacation Bible School in June 2026**, and we're forming a committee to help with planning and preparation. Volunteers are needed for areas such as **decorations, supplies, recruitment, fundraising, and more.**

If you're interested in serving, please email: apankow@graceoakcreek.org

Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently? On **Monday, February 9th**, Grace Lutheran will be starting a **Grief Share Seminar and Support Group** to help those walking through the difficult journey of grief. This group is designed to offer comfort, understanding, and encouragement through God's Word and the fellowship of His Church. Many who have attended Grief Share have found that it helps them begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help.

When: Mondays, February 9th – May 18th

Time: 6:30–8:00pm

Where: Grace Lutheran School Library, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Oak Creek, WI

Cost: \$20.00.

Our Grief Share group will be led by **Lori Kachelmeier** and **Jeanne Meyer**, who will walk alongside participants as they learn from nationally recognized experts on grief recovery. Topics include: *"Is This Normal?"* *"The Challenges of Grief,"* *"Grief and Your Relationships,"* *"Why?"* and *"Guilt and Anger."*

Register online here: tinyurl.com/57tkyjv8

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jeanne Meyer – meyorch@sbcglobal.net
Lori Kachelmeier – jlkachel2@gmail.com

Please share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be struggling with the loss of a loved one. May our gracious Lord use this ministry to bring His comfort, peace, and hope to many.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m. (*Please note: On Ash Wednesday February 18th, we will take a break from Bible Study, but will resume on February 25th*)
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 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 "As Through Fire" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. To be baptized into Christ, to trust in Him, is to die with Him, to be raised by Him, to pass through the fire under His shelter. (1 Corinthians 3:13)
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

“God created us anew in Baptism. We are the work of His hands, and He will not forsake us. Guided by the Spirit through the wisdom of His Word, we learn to walk in His ways, even when we must ‘walk in the midst of trouble.’” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries - 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 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Sacrament of the Altar: Where is this written? (sung) What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Verse of the week: John 6:35b, *“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”*

Psalm of the week: Psalm 31:1-7 (antiphon vs. 7a)

Hymn of the week: LSB 440 “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (stanzas 1-2 and 5)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Lent 1: The Temptation of Our Lord—Matthew 4:1-11

Monday— Plagues—Ex. 8:1-4 (7-10) 13-25, 32; 9:1-4, 7-35; 10:3-6 (7-11) 20-29

Tuesday— St. Matthias, Apostle: Acts 1:15-26

Wednesday— The Death of the Firstborn Is Announced—Exodus 11:1-10

Thursday— The Passover Is Instituted—Exodus 12:1-14

Friday— The Death of the Firstborn—Exodus 12:21-30

Saturday—Lent 2: Genesis 12:1-9

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.

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

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)

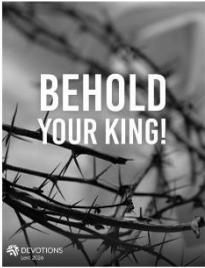
New Death, John 19:17–30

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

As children of God, we are recipients of His care and protection. He provides for us and tells us not to worry about our physical needs (Luke 12:22-31). God's grace in our lives makes it possible for us to receive and then to give. In fact, Paul said God's grace virtually compels a response to His love (2 Corinthians 5:14). Even a superficial comprehension of the depth of God's love for us should erupt in joyful, generous sacrificial giving. Giving is intimately connected with the conditions of our spiritual lives. The more we give in faith, the less our interest in things of the world and the greater our desire to respond in love through joyful, generous giving to the Lord Who is our gracious Provider.

**ANSWER THIS QUESTION:
IS MY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS TAKING A BACK
SEAT TO MY WORLDLY
PURSUITS?**

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).



Growing in Grace – February 12th & 15th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$28,997.47		
<i>Online Giving</i>	\$668.55		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Missions</i>	\$81.00		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$5.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	\$0.00	33/75	78
<i>Sunday School</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$27,732.02</i>		

Please note: In order to meet budget each week we need to receive \$6,586 in offerings. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We could not do what we do without your prayers, volunteering of your time and talents, and financial support!!

Opportunities at Grace this week!

Sunday	2/22	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6pm-8:30pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship Stephen Minister Training
Monday	2/23	6:30pm 6:30pm	6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	2/24	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	2/25	9:30am	Ladies Bible Class
Thursday	2/26	6:30pm 7:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship Choir Practice
Friday	2/27	-----	-----
Saturday	2/28	-----	-----
Sunday	3/1	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 6-8:30pm	Divine Worship Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 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) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

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School & Church Office

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