

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

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



**Image:** “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:1–2)

# 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 “Born Anew from Above”**

“*Born again*” has become a catch phrase in our age. It is not merely that Jesus says one must be born again but born from above. *This new birth happens not from human will or desire but solely from the love and act of God working by the Spirit.* Baptismal water is the womb through which we are born again and born from above to the life that death cannot overcome and is eternal. As we make our way through Lent, we are constantly reminded of the truth of Luther's explanation: *we cannot by our own reason or strength believe in Christ, our Lord, or come to Him. The Spirit calls us to the font, gathers the baptized around His Word and Table, delivers us from the darkness of unbelief, and makes holy those who belong to the Lord.* Thanks be to God!

### **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 819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good (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.**

Introit (*Psalm 105:4-7; antiphon: v. 8, sung responsively*)



He remembers his covenant for- | ever,\*  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

**Seek the LORD | and his strength;\***  
**seek his presence con- | tinually!**

Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,\*  
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,\***  
**children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!**

He is the | LORD our God;\*  
his judgments are in | all the earth.

**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.**

He remembers his covenant for- | ever,\*  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

*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 God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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 for Commissioning Stephen Ministers (10:30am only)**—*We rejoice with Sarah Branch, who will be commissioned as a new Stephen Minister, here at Grace Oak Creek! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!*

✘ **WORD** ✘

**Old Testament Reading** *Genesis 12:1-9*

*(God’s call to Abraham and His promise that Abraham would become the father of a great nation)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

- 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, despising the shame,\*  
**and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.**

**Grace Choir (10:30am only)**—“I Sing Peace”

**Epistle Lesson** *Romans 4:1-8, 13-17*

*(Abraham and his heirs are declared righteous by grace through faith.)*

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?  
<sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.  
<sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his

due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Verse for the Second Sunday in Lent—***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (Verse John 3:16)*

**Holy Gospel John 3:1-17**

**(Except a man be born anew, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.)**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the

teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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 “Not the Wages We Deserve “(Rom. 4:1-17)** (The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)

**Sermon Hymn 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon “Perfect Credit” (Romans 4.1-8, 13-17)**

**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](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 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 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, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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

-732 All Depends on Our Possessing

-718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

*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. O God, in Your mercy You promised faithful Abraham that he would be  
the father of a great multitude and counted him righteous by faith. You sent Your  
own Son to accomplish this promise and establish a church for all nations and a  
people declared righteous in Christ. Grant that we who have received of Your  
goodness in this Holy Sacrament may live in holiness and faith all the days of our  
lives, until at last we are reunited with all of the heirs of Abraham in the glory of  
life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, Abraham's Son and Lord, who with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit, is 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 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (vs. 1-3)**

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**



### **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* **Myles King** (blood disorder); **Michael Helzer** (cancer); **Michael Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (healing & strength); **Sindy Schmidt** (healing & 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); **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; **Jennie Schwister** (broken hip) Rick Week's Sister.

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

**We Mourn:** With the family of Rebecca, a co-worker of Mary Rowley, as she grieves the recent death of her father. **We pray:** Gracious and merciful Father, we lift before You Rebecca, as she mourns the death of her father. Surround her with Your comforting presence, and grant her the peace that surpasses all understanding. Remind her of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection in Christ Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life. Strengthen her with Your Word and Spirit, and uphold her with Your love. In Jesus' name, 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 2/26 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/1 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/1 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperrud	Mark Olen	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Edward Taggatz	Glenn Dotson	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Char Klipfel	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	McKenzie Isenhart
<u>Ushers</u>	Mark Roettgen Connie Roettgen	Steven Pawlak Benjamin Tindall	Eric Kamprath Lisa Kamprath Elizabeth Murphy
<u>Livestream</u>	Jennifer Olen	Glenn Dotson	

### **Grace Youth Group Easter Breakfast!!!**

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00am-9:00am. We are requesting members to RSVP and sign up for a dish to share. PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX! A freewill offering will be taken to benefit the Grace Youth Group. Thank you for your support!!!

## Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm DONATIONS NEEDED.



This Easter Egg Hunt will be for Preschool through 4th Grade and it will be held at Grace Lutheran School. Our Grace Lutheran Youth Group members and their parents will be helping out with this event. We are asking for donations of already filled plastic Easter Eggs for this Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to drop off your donations you can do so at Church or our Grace Lutheran School/Church Office. We are inviting the families from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center to attend this event. Please join us!!! We will need our Junior and Senior High Youth to help us with putting our

Easter Eggs for this event an hour before the event takes place.

## Grace Ladies Guild 70th Anniversary Celebration

*Invitation to Fellowship* On Sunday, March 15, we will give thanks to God for 70 years of faithful service by the Grace Ladies Guild during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. As part of the celebration, the Ladies Guild will be singing “*For All the Faithful Women,*”—a beautiful tribute to the faithful women who have served Christ and His Church. Following the service, the Ladies Guild warmly invites the congregation to a fellowship time with coffee and breakfast pastries in the narthex. Photo albums and memorabilia from the history of the Guild will be on display for everyone to enjoy and remember God’s blessings through the years. Please join us as we celebrate, give thanks, and enjoy Christian fellowship together!

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>, and running through Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. 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>

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars - Deadline March 31<sup>st</sup>**

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!

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

**<https://forms.gle/pvq6NeTYY3kPmbri9>**



### **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!

## **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/57tkjy8](http://tinyurl.com/57tkjy8)

**If you have any questions, please contact:**

**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 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 "The Fifth Act"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Through the Bible, God invites us to help Him complete the unfinished drama He's been writing for the world. (1 Corinthians 4:1)

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

"This is love—the God who became a human baby for us, who suffered for us, who rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. This is love, shining into our own darkness to give us joy and salvation." *Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT***

**Catechism:** What is the Sacrament of the altar? Where is this written? (sung) Who receives this sacrament worthily?

**Verse of the week:** 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, "*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*"

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 121 (antiphon vs. 8)

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 615 "When in the Hour of Deepest Need" (stanzas 1-3)

#### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

Sunday— Jesus Catechizes Nicodemus—John 3:1-17

Monday— The Exodus—Exodus 12:31-42

Tuesday— Israel Journeys to the Red Sea—Exodus 13:17–14:9

Wednesday— The Lord Fights for Israel—Exodus 14:10-31

Thursday— The Song of Moses—Exodus 15:1-19

Friday— Bitter Water Made Sweet—Exodus 15:22-27

Saturday— Lent 3: Exodus 17:1-7

## 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.

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

**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*

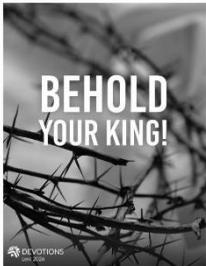
**Good Friday (Noon Service) April 3, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. (no Communion)**

*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.

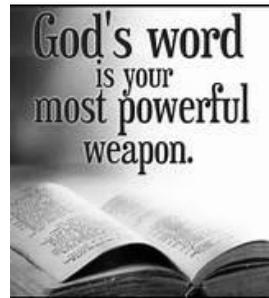
To view the devotions online go to: <https://www.lhm.org/lent/> Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co- worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord’s passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

## Stewardship Minute

God’s love is the energizing power so essential to every life. Christ’s love summons us to a secure and happy life of repentance, forgiveness, and sanctification. *“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). Because of God’s love, we put away all idols which the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature place before us. That love causes us to put duties before pleasures, to love God and our neighbors. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are motivated to help and serve others. As God’s stewards, we are tools in His hands.

**THROUGH FAITH, WE LISTEN AND HUMBLY ACCEPT GOD’S WORD AND THEN ACT ON THE TRUTH OF HIS WORD.**

“But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22).



### *Growing in Grace – February 18<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>*

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2275.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$1218.29</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$2000.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	<i>Ash Wed: 70</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Sunday: 68</i>	<i>49</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$5553.29</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	3/1	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Divine Worship
Monday	3/2	6:30pm 6:30pm	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	3/3	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	3/4	9:30am	Ladies Bible Class
Thursday	3/5	6:30pm 7:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship Choir Practice
Friday	3/6	-----	-----
Saturday	3/7	-----	-----
Sunday	3/8	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship

## SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

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



