



Equipper

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



March 2026

Pastor's Message

"When to Say No"

When Jesus refused to turn stones into bread, He clearly declared that bread is not the biggest issue of life. Man may have a big supply of food on hand, his barns and storage units filled, and still starve to death. Man does not live by bread alone. Friendship, love, contentment, and national and family peace are essential to a well-rounded life. More than that, to enjoy daily bread we must have a good conscience, forgiveness, hope, and faith. Jesus refuses to make bread the main issue of life.

When Jesus refused to leap from the roof of the temple, He emphasized that man is not to throw caution to the wind. God says, "He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11). But the promises of God do not guarantee safety if we do something foolish. God never promised protection if we have ourselves nailed up in a barrel and then rolled over Niagara Falls. Satan came to Jesus with just such a temptation: "You say You are the Son of God; You build upon His Word. Now show us that You take God at His Word—ignore all obstacles, leap and trust." But Jesus says this is tempting God.

When Jesus refused to share with Satan the glories of the world and refused to avoid suffering and dying for the sin of mankind, He resisted victoriously and He clearly affirmed that there can be no compromise with evil and sin. He must drink the cup to its last drop. He must shed His precious blood for our transgressions. He must trample Satan under His feet. Christ and Satan have nothing in common. Satan must go. He must depart in the end into everlasting fire. The world can be saved only through suffering and the cross. And Jesus went uncomplaining to the cross, that we might be redeemed from sin, Satan, and eternal death.

Matthew 4:1–11 says: *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But He answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and 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." Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these I will give You, if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you¹ serve." Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.*

Satan still is busily seeking to destroy our faith by his cunning temptations. But we can resist and say no when we are tempted. Christ crushed the serpent's head on Calvary. And Christ gives us weapons with which to overcome and win victories: the Gospel, the Lord's Supper, prayer. Then Jesus Himself intercedes for us: "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail" (Luke 22:32).

Satan wants us to believe that all troubles are settled if we have the food problem solved. He blinds us to the fact that sin creates hunger and greed breeds strife, envy, war, crime, and wickedness. He wants us to see in Jesus one who turns stones into bread and then have us demand for a gospel that makes for a perfect world. He wants us to believe that filled garages, houses, and storage units take care of every need of life. But man cannot live by bread alone.

Satan wants us to believe that we can get along just as well if we do not pay too close attention to the Word. Why worry about sin? God is love. The Bible says so. Why go to church? The thief on the cross did not go and yet was promised paradise that very day. The Bible says so. Why be a perfectionist? "Did God actually say ..." (Genesis 3:1)? When the devil whispers these thoughts to us, let us resist steadfastly in the faith.

Satan wants us to believe that we can have anything we desire and not be harmed. Why suffer, sacrifice, restrain, and discipline? We can have health without restraint, faith without binding ourselves too closely to the Word, character without discipline, salvation without the blood of Christ. So says the old evil foe.

It is not always easy to say when tempted: "Get behind me, Satan," and then serve and worship the Lord God. To do so, we must look to Jesus and hold fast to His Word and promises. Then, with the power of our Lord on our side, will we conquer and win one victory after another.

Prayer: *In Your compassion, look on me, gracious Savior, when I am tempted by the archenemy of my soul. Give me and all Your children strength to resist the cunning devices of the devil and sinful men. Bring to naught the plots and plans that seek to overthrow Your kingdom and Your work being done among the lost children of the world. Keep us steadfast in faith, precious Savior. Amen.*

See you in worship,

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Pastor John M Taggatz



Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990

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

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

Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

Heidi, Church Secretary

Church office: 414.762.8990

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

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

The Mites dates are March 12th & 15th
Look for the LARGE mite box to drop your
change and dollars into!



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

ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

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



February Meeting

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

Meeting at school

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

Grace Lutheran Ladies Guild 70th Anniversary Celebration

Celebrating 70 years of faith, fellowship, and service!

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

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

We continue celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Grace Guild!

Each month we share some Guild history!

From the archives...May 14th, 1996

From the Church's Needs fund, the Guild purchased five tables from Sam's Club at a cost of \$200. New communion ware containing five silver plated trays, one chalice and one ciborium were purchased at a cost of \$1,649.00.

Every year in May, the Guild disperses its funds. Half of the funds are sent to various missions and the other half is given to Grace Church.

At the May 1996 meeting the funds were given as follows:

Bethesda Lutheran- \$100

Lutheran counseling Family Service-\$100

S.O.S. Center- \$100

Lutheran Hour-\$50

Lutheran Attic Workshop-\$100

Lutherans for Life-\$50

Lutheran World Relief-\$50

Lutheran Bible Translators- \$50

Lutheran Missionary Pilots-\$100

Lutheran Special School- \$100

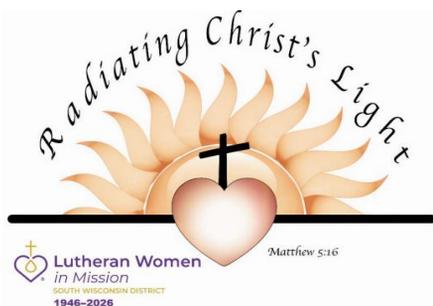
Martha Rupprecht- \$400

Wednesday Morning

Ladies Bible Study

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

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



The 2026 LWML Wisconsin District Convention

June 19 - 20, 2026

Sheraton Hotel

Brookfield, WI

This will be our 80th Year Celebration

which will include a mission walk, exhibits, Gifts from the Heart, servant event

opportunities, and keynote speaker- author Deb Burma.

Registration opens March 1st

www.lwml-swd.org

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

March 14th and 28th

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



Mite Box Weekend

The large mite box will be in the narthex on

March 12th & 15th

We eagerly await to hear your noisy donations!

Opportunities at Grace

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!



Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently?

On **Monday, February 9th**, Grace Lutheran will be starting a **Grief Share Seminar and Support Group** to help those walking through the difficult journey of grief. This group is designed to offer comfort, understanding, and encouragement through God’s Word and the fellowship of His Church. Many who have attended Grief Share have found that it helps them begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord’s help.

When: Mondays, February 9th – May 18th

Time: 6:30–8:00pm

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

Cost: \$20.00.

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

Register online here: tinyurl.com/57tkyjy8

For more information, please call our Church Office at **414-762-8990** or email church@graceoakcreek.org

Greeting Card Ministry

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

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.*

Matching Grant Opportunity for Grace!!!

Greetings from the Board of Stewardship, Many large companies have a matching grant foundation. They often match employee donations to various 501(c)(3) and other organizations including educational organizations. Though many may exclude religious organizations from their matching gift programs, they may make exceptions for those that provide secular services to the community. Since Grace Lutheran School does provide some secular services as a school, they may qualify for a matching grant. Grace Lutheran School has received grants through these programs in the past. If you are employed by a company with a matching grant foundation, and are interested in making a donation, please consider a donation to Grace Lutheran School. Thank you for your consideration and for your past generosity to Grace Lutheran School. (1 Peter 4:10) Blessings on your stewardship journey!

Volunteers Needed to Assist with Worship!

We are in need of additional people to assist as ushers and lay readers during worship services, **especially for Sunday mornings at 8am and Thursday evenings at 6:30pm**. Ushers arrive early, greet people and hand out bulletins before service, gather offerings and assist with communion during service, and straighten up the church after service. Lay readers proclaim God's word to the congregation by reading the Old Testament and Epistle lessons during the worship service. If you are able and willing to help in either of these capacities, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church -- your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to approach the elder on duty with any questions you may have about these opportunities. Call the church office at 414-762-8990 or email Pastor Taggatz at: pastor@graceoakcreek.org if you are interested in helping out with lay reading or ushering at Grace!!!



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 the 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.

2026 Altar Flowers

Sign-up for 2026 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex. Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.

Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service. You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.

Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services. Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.



Reminder: *If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Also, there are special offering envelopes in the narthex for Altar Flowers that you can use to make payment.*

OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL PANTHER NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX HERE AT CHURCH FOR ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PICK IT UP TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOL.

Save the Date!

Grace Fellowship Committee GAME NIGHT!

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.

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

<https://forms.gle/pvq6NeTTY3kPmbri9>

*****We will also have an Ice Cream Social in the summer!*****



Grace Lutheran Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday March 28th 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.

Easter Breakfast is BACK!!!

Our Youth Group will be hosting their Potluck Easter Breakfast in the Church Narthex on Easter Sunday, April 5th from 7-9:00am. 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!!!





VBS at Grace!

June 15-19, 2026
in the mornings at our
Lutheran School

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

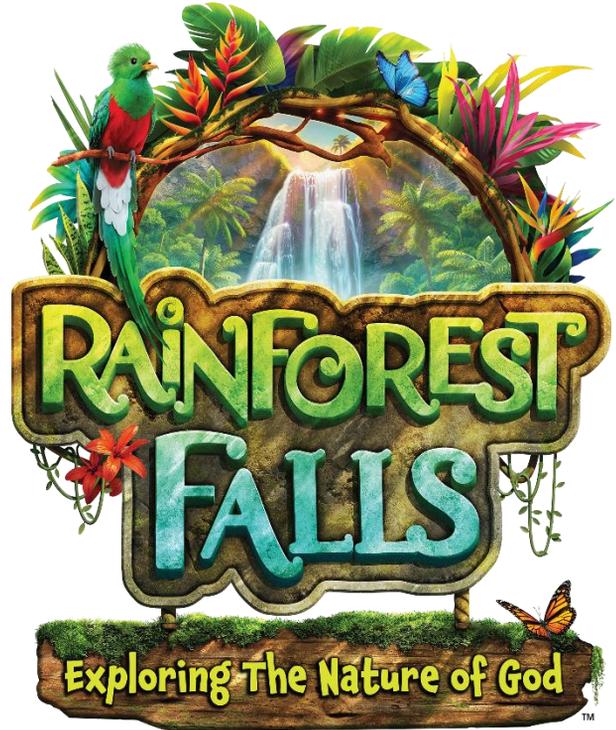
- ❖ Decorating
- ❖ Recruitment (station leaders, helpers, and crew leaders—often older students)
- ❖ Enrollment (tracking registrations, attendance days, and dismissal information)
- ❖ Props and supplies
- ❖ Follow-up and outreach
- ❖ Training crew leaders and station leaders

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

Early Childhood VBS:

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

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





Tithing:

A Spiritual Decision and More

Giving is our response of faith to God's countless gifts especially the gift we need the most, which is a Savior. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who become more Christ-like in our giving.

We were created in God's image to give, but, because of sin, we have lost that image and giving can be challenging and difficult. However, God exhorts us to give, and, by His grace, He enables our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded His people to tithe. A tithe is giving to God a tenth of all that is received. As New Covenant Christians living under grace, tithing is not commanded, but it is an expectation and guide to our faithful giving. Tithing is more of a spiritual decision than a financial one. It has little to do with money, but it has to do with our devotion to Christ. When we tithe, it could be said that the heart takes precedence over the wallet. Tithers understand who they are and Whose they are. Tithing is a reminder that God is the Creator and Source of all that we are and have. Tithers are willing to forgo some of the pleasures and comforts of the world to please, honor, and worship God through their giving.

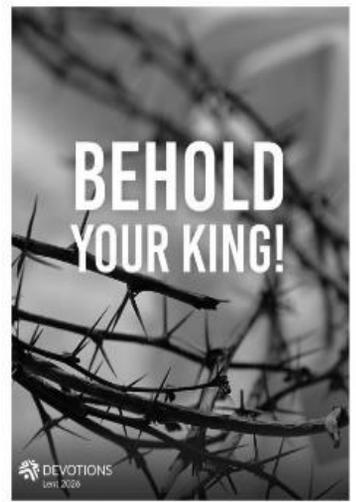
God's Word shares giving truths to guide our giving. We are encouraged to give to God *first* (Proverbs 3:9), *regularly* (1 Corinthians 16:2), *proportionately* (2 Corinthians 8:12), *intentionally* (2 Corinthians 9:7), and *generously* (Luke 6:38). It is important to note that these Biblical guides to our giving are all incorporated in the tithe. What is most beneficial is that tithing helps us answer the question, "What is a proportionate gift of our incomes that is God-pleasing?" For financial reasons, it may be difficult for some to become tithers immediately, whereas others will be in position to give much more than a tenth. The tithe is a guide or goal to strive for and then attempt to surpass.

The tithe is also a spiritual discipline. Tithing establishes an important priority in our lives, and our tithing helps us to stay connected to Jesus. In addition, tithing is spiritual protection. Jesus said, "*Where your treasure is there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21). Giving helps align our hearts with the Lord. Through the joy of tithing and the extra measure of God's peace from faithful and obedient giving, tithers receive spiritual blessings. To summarize, tithing is a spiritual decision that leads to spiritual discipline, spiritual protection, and spiritual blessings. For these reasons, it is said that once a tither always a tither. May God bless and keep us in His grace and joy as we give to Him!

Blessings on your Stewardship journey!

2026 Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Behold Your King!



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

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

What is Lent?

The season of Lent begins in February or March. The word *lent* has its origin in the same root as one of the German words for "spring," *Lenz*. As nature awakens from the death of winter, so the Christian finds newness of life in Christ, rising from sin's death. During the 40 days of Lent, God's baptized people cleanse their hearts through the discipline of Lent: *repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving*. Lent is a time in which God's people prepare with joy for the paschal feast (Easter). It is a time in which God renews His people's zeal in faith and life. It is a time in which we pray that we may be given the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

Customs:

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday when ashes are placed on the forehead to symbolize repentance. The color for this service is black or purple. The color for the rest of Lent is purple. The hymns and services of Lent do not include the joyful word, "Alleluia." Consider fasting during daylight hours. Spend your regular mealtime in prayer and devotional reading. If you cannot abstain from food for health reasons, abstain from something else (e.g., television or another leisure activity). Do not fast on Sundays, which are not part of the 40 days of Lent. Read Bible stories with children each day.



Lenten Midweek Series for Grace Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday February 18th through

Easter Sunday April 5th, 2026

"Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus"

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



Lent, Holy Week & 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

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

Matthew: "His Kingdom Forever." (10 sessions)

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

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

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



Portals of Prayer Devotional

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

GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM

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



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

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

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

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



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



gracelutheran_oakcreek



We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center. Most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense! LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Birthday Blessings to you!

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
Numbers 6:25



3/2 Tiffany Laabs	3/17 Lori Jablonski
3/2 Aaron Mould	3/17 Eric Kamprath
3/2 Trista Patten	3/17 Kevin Mallum
3/4 Melissa Swainston	3/17 Ryan Olen II
3/6 Lisa Norton	3/17 Jacob Patten
3/7 Leigh Schmeiser	3/18 Lacey Schaeffer
3/7 Anthony Hengst	3/19 Pastor John Taggatz
3/8 Lance Kopperud	3/20 Aaron Larson
3/9 Debbie Oelke	3/20 Taylor Lau
3/10 Erica McKinney	3/22 Tom Hengst
3/11 Cris Evers	3/25 Drew Gottwald
3/12 Karina Penn	3/25 Jennifer Mendez
3/13 Jenny Svick	3/25 Braden Simmons
3/13 Nathan Svick	3/26 Carol Loveall
3/15 Sharon Bzdawka	3/26 Dave Stecker
3/15 Rosie Milliaca	3/27 Jason Flower
3/16 Michael Toman	3/28 Leroy Handle
	3/30 Lana Lara

Tour the Holy Land in Eastertide of 2026!

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

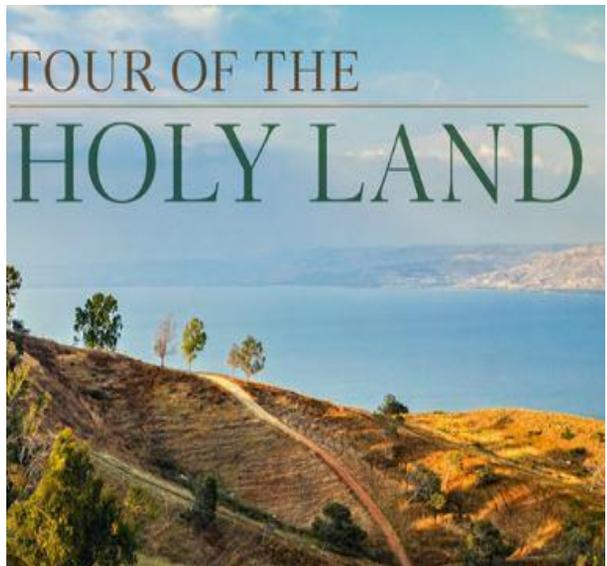
We will visit the site of Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, take a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, and take a swim in the buoyant Dead Sea. Plus, there is an optional trip extension to Egypt to ascend the Mountain of Moses in Sinai, and see the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Egypt. It only takes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

Spaces are limited, so you are encouraged to sign up soon. Questions? Please contact Pastor Aaron Koch at:

414-795-9005 or pastor.koch@gmail.com

Register online at: registernow.ittworld.com

Tour code: Koch26 to get a downloadable brochure with all the information you need.



We hope you will take part in this great experience!

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	2 6:30pm 6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm CUW Performance	4 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	5 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	6	7
8 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	9 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	11 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	12 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	13	14 8:00am - 9:30am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00am Ladies Guild 6:30pm Game Night
15 Ladies Guild Fellowship - 70th Anniversary (after 10:30 Worship) 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	16 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	18 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	19 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	20	21
22 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	23 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	25 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	26 6:30pm Divine Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	27	28 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 3:00pm Easter Egg Hunt

Radio Worship Service

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

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

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



Prayer Hot Line

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

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

Pastor John M. Taggatz

PH: 414.762.8990

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

