

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 8th, 2026

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



Image: "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel." (*Exodus 17:6*)

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 “*Water in the Wilderness*”

Christ is our rock and He alone gives to us the water of life. The children of Israel journeyed from the Red Sea through the wilderness toward the land of promise. Along the way they complained to the Lord about their lack of bread and meat and water. At every juncture, the Lord revealed His mercy and provided for His people. They did not realize that all of this was but a promise of the eternal care provided in Christ. He is the rock of their salvation, the bread of heaven come down to feed them until they want for nothing more, the Lamb of God who gives Himself as food for His people, and the living water that tastes of everlasting life. Israel's doubts and fears are warnings to us lest we fail to see how Christ answers all our needs even to eternal life.

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 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (vs. 1-3)

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 84:1-4; antiphon: v. 5, read responsively*)

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

How lovely is your | dwelling place,*
O | LORD of hosts!

My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the LORD;*
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the | living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,*

at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,*
ever sing- | ing your praise!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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

Old Testament Reading Exodus 17:1-7

(Moses is commanded to strike the rock from which God will bring forth water.)

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

- 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 5:1-8*

(We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.)

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Stand

Verse for the Third Sunday in Lent—*“The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.”* (Verse John 4:23a)

Holy Gospel John 4:5-26

(Jesus shows Himself as the living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.)

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

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

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

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 "No Comparison (Rom. 5:1-8) (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 824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace (vs. 1-3)

Sermon "No Comparison" (Rom. 5:1-8)

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

-761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

-609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

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. Lord God, heavenly Father, You have called Your church to worship Your Son in spirit and truth and fed and nourished us upon the Word of life and the body and blood of our Savior. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, so that we may be partakers of His divine life and inherit the Kingdom promised for those who drink from the water of life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.**

Closing Hymn 420 Christ, the Life of All the Living (vs. 1-3, 7)

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; 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; 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); 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 Dave Stecker, as he grieves the recent death of his brother, Jerry Stecker and the family of Rev. Dr Dan Paavola, who was called home to heavenly rest this past Monday. We pray: Gracious and merciful Father, we lift before the families of Rev. Dr Dan Paavola and Dave Stecker, as Dave and his family mourns the death of his brother, Jerry, and the Paavola family mourns Dan's recent death. Surround their families with Your comforting presence, and grant them the peace that surpasses all understanding. Remind them of the sure and certain hope of the resurrection in Christ Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life. Strengthen them with Your Word and Spirit, and uphold them 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.

If you do not have access to a computer you may call, prayers for worship:

Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Church Office	414-762-8990
	3pm-9 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
		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 3/5 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/8 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/8 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Adam Voss	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Erica Vitek	Jen Lau
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Lance Kopperud Marlene Voss	Steve 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 5th 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 28th at 3pm
DONATIONS NEEDED.**



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

Mite Box Weekend

The large mite box will be in the narthex on
March 12th & 15th

We eagerly await to hear your noisy donations!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

March 14th and 28th

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

Ladies Guild March 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 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 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.*

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Deadline March 31st

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/pvq6NeTY3kPmbri9>

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/57tkjy8

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jeanne Meyer – meyorch@sbcglobal.net

Lori Kachelmeier – jlkachel12@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 Philipians” 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 "What Was the Price on That?"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. When we couldn't pay the price of our redemption, God did so completely by the life of Jesus. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

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

“The call to be disciples of Jesus who live out our faith each day and, in so doing, work to make disciples of others, has never been greater ... We need to boldly proclaim what God has done for us in Christ. Not in a spirit of superiority or power, but in a posture of love and grace.” *Bishop Dan Selbo, North American Lutheran Church - 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 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Ten Commandments—1-3 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers: 1 Timothy 3:2-4; 1 Timothy 3:6; Titus 1:9

Verse of the week: Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm of the week: Psalm 95:1-9 (antiphon vs. 6)

Hymn of the week: LSB 823 “May God Bestow on Us His Grace” (stanzas 1-2)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Lent 3: The Woman at the Well—John 4:5-26 [27-30, 39-42]

Monday— The Bread from Heaven—Exodus 16:1-35

Tuesday— The Water from the Rock—Exodus 17:1-7

Wednesday— The First Battle—Exodus 17:8-16

Thursday— Advice of Jethro, the Father-in-law of Moses—Exodus 18:1-27

Friday— Israel Encamps at Mount Sinai—Exodus 19:1-25

Saturday— Lent 4: Isaiah 42:14-21

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 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)

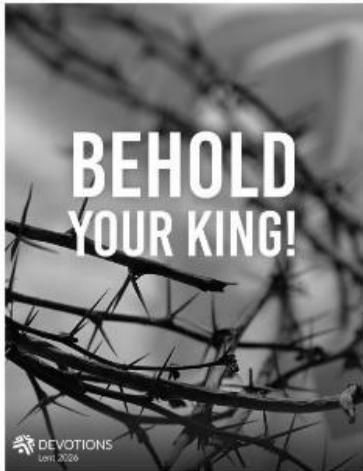
New Death, John 19:17–30

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

When the women at the tomb came to anoint the body of their Lord, they encountered an angel instead, who announced, “*He has risen; He is not here...But go, tell His disciples and Peter...*” (Mark 16:6, 7). Mark goes on to say, “*They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid*” (Mark 16:8). We can empathize with that fear, for often fear keeps us from witnessing to our Lord. We know that joy and excitement overcame the fear, however, for the women DID tell! May our joy and excitement, knowing that Jesus has risen and promises to be with us, bring about the same action in us.

GOD WARNS THE WEALTHY THAT MONEY CAN CAUSE A SENSE OF SELF-IMPORTANCE AND CAN LEAD TO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.

“Give me neither poverty nor riches...lest I be full and deny You and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’” (Proverbs 30:8-9).



Growing in Grace – February 26th & March 1st

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2610.50		
<i>Online Giving</i>	\$951.06		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$20.00		
<i>Missions</i>	\$5.00		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	\$0.00	<i>Thursday Lent: 32</i>	-
<i>Sunday School</i>	\$10.00	<i>Sunday: 81</i>	63
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$3596.56</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	3/8	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship
Monday	3/9	6:30pm 6:30pm	6-8 th Grade Confirmation Class Grief Share
Tuesday	3/10	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	3/11	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Class Grace Church Council Meeting
Thursday	3/12	6:30pm 7:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship Choir Practice
Friday	3/13	-----	-----
Saturday	3/14	8:00am 10:00am 6:30pm	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Ladies Guild Game Night at Grace!
Sunday	3/15	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Divine Worship Ladies Guild Fellowship – 70 th Anniversary!

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

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