

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15th, 2026

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

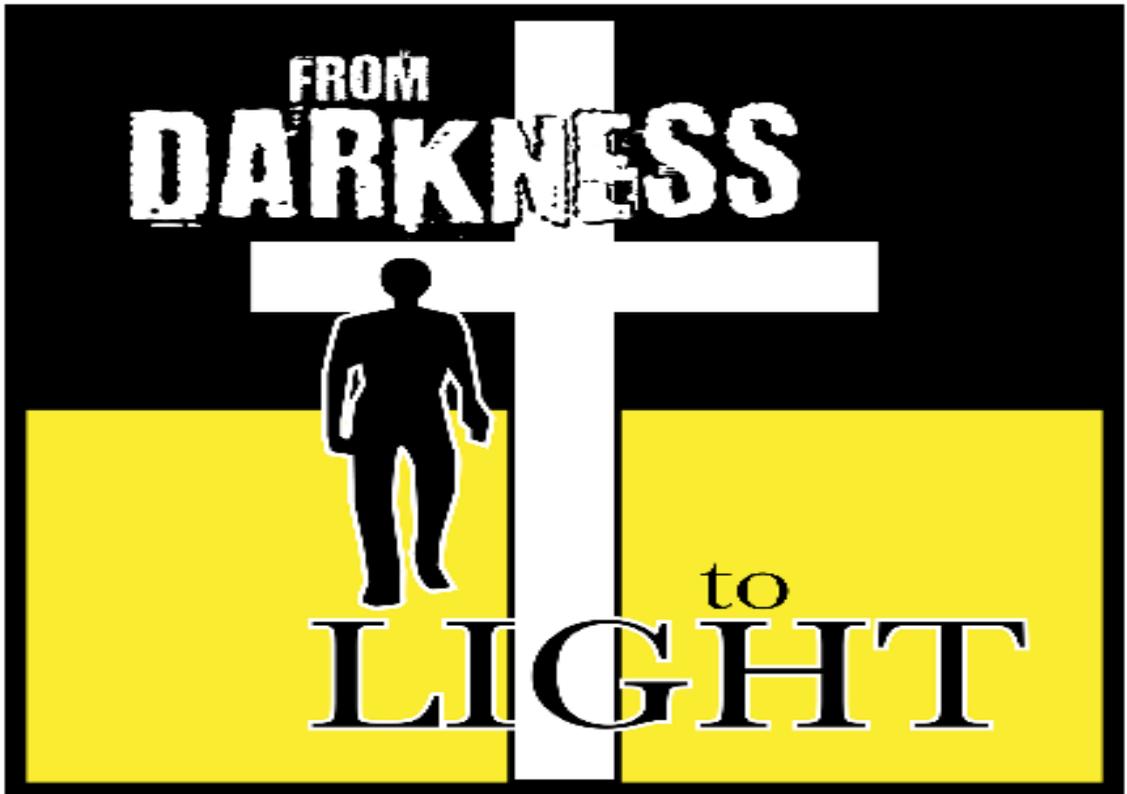


Image: "I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground." (Isaiah 42:16)

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 “*Jesus Turns Our Darkness into Light*”

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, but He does not forsake them. Instead, He promises to turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground (Isaiah 42:16). The Lord does not give up on His servant, Israel, but sends another Servant who is the light of the world (John 9:5). Jesus' light comes to us in His Word, His water, and His Supper. These are His means for opening our eyes to see and to live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8). Baptized into Christ, we look forward to the day when these words will come pass: *“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you”* (Ephesians 5:14).

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 4, pg. 203*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

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

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 27:4-6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15, read responsively*)

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the

beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

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.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Kyrie LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

During Lent the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted...

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 205

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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

Ladies Guild Choir (10:30am only) “For All the Faithful Women” (LSB 855)

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 42:14-21*

(The Lord will lead His people in a new way, turning darkness into light.)

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and

dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

- 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 *Ephesians 5:8-14*

(The Lord positions us to walk as children of light.)

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Stand

Verse for the Fourth Sunday in Lent—*“With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.”* (Verse Psalm 36:9)

Holy Gospel *John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

(Jesus heals a man born blind.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .

³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *LSB 206*

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 “Even a Little Light” (Eph. 5:8-14) (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 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (vs. 1-3)

Sermon “Children of Light” (Eph. 5.8-14)

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 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord’s Prayer *LSB 209*

- C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209*

- 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 209

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

Agnus Dei LSB 210

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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

-398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

-563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Stand

Nunc Dimittis LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,

All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 212*

- A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benedicamus *LSB 212*

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction *LSB 212*

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 439 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (vs. 1-4, 15)

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; Morgan Christianson (surgery) Fiance of Anthony Parker.

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

All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issues; Hear our prayer. We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing: Paulinemom@aol.com.

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

Church Office 414-762-8990

Requests on prayer line:

9am-3 pm

3pm-9 pm

Carol Thurber

Pauline Parker

414-762-9615

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 3/12 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 3/15 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 3/15 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Greg Nowakowski	Eric Kamprath
<u>Readers</u>	Pastor Taggatz	Cris Evers	Pastor Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	No Communion	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
<u>Acolyte</u>	Samara Svick		
<u>Ushers</u>	Lance Kopperud Marlene Voss	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 5th from 7:00am-8:30am & 9:30am-10am
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!



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 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.

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!

Choir at Grace!

Choir practice is on Thursday evenings following our 6:30pm worship service. The psalmist reminds us to “*make a joyful noise to the Lord*” (Psalm 100:1), and Martin Luther once said, “*He who sings prays twice.*” What a wonderful way to lift our voices in praise together! If you would like more information, please contact **Kathy Kolb** at **414-744-7781**. Please join us—we would love to have you!

Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee!

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

If you’re interested in serving, please email:

apankow@graceoakcreek.org

Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

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

When: Mondays, February 9th – May 18th

Time: 6:30–8:00pm

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

Cost: \$20.00.

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

Register online here: tinyurl.com/57tkyjv8

If you have any questions, please contact:
Jeanne Meyer – meyorch@sbcglobal.net
Lori Kachelmeier – jlkachel2@gmail.com

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

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m.
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 "No Command from the Lord"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus is the only way to God, but there are many adventures with Jesus. Which ones will you pick? 1 Corinthians 7:6-7

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

“Never will a time come when the most marvelous recent invention is as marvelous as a newborn baby.” *Carl Sandburg - 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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Catechism: Ten Commandments—1-3 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors: 1 Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Verse of the week: Psalm 26:8 “*LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 142 (antiphon vs. 5)

Hymn of the week: 571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave” (stanzas 1-6)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Lent 4: Jesus Heals the Man Born Blind—John 9:1-41

Monday— The Ten Commandments—Exodus 20:1-24 (25-26)

Tuesday— The Lord’s Covenant with Israel—Exodus 23:20–24:18

Wednesday— The Way, the Truth, and the Life—John 14:1-6

Thursday— St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Friday— As the Father Has Loved Me—John 15:9-17

Saturday—Lent 5: Ezekiel 37:1-14

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 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)

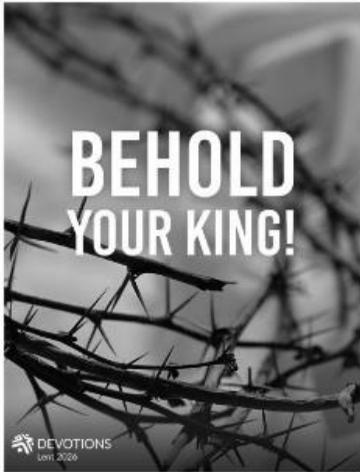
New Death, John 19:17–30

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/>

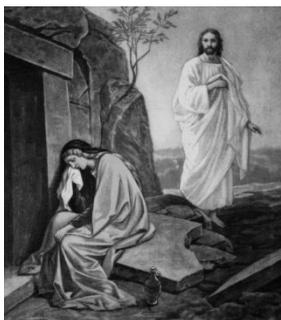
Consider using this devotion not only for your own personal and family devotions during the Lenten season, but also to share with your neighbor, family member, friend, or co-worker so that they too can share in the comforting Gospel of our Lord's passion and death for the forgiveness of our sins.

Stewardship Minute

Through faith, we accept God's goals for our lives. We become obedient to His will. God's love compels us by faith to lay aside sinful habits and to live lives of service to God, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). Our works are not under compulsion of the Law, but of the Gospel—an obedience of faith worked by the Holy Spirit. So God says: *"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"* (James 1:22). Being in church, attending Bible classes, and reading God's Word motivates us to active obedience by doing God's work. Our good works reveal transformed hearts.

**AS STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL,
WE ARE COMPELLED TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST'S
RESURRECTION.**

“Why do you seek the living among the
dead? He is not here, but has risen”
(Luke 24:5b-6a).



Growing in Grace – March 5th & March 8th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3483.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$1428.88</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$2105.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Thursday Lent: 32</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Sunday: 74</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$7141.88</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	3/15	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship Ladies Guild Fellowship – 70 th Anniversary (After 10:30 Service)
Monday	3/16	----- 6:30pm	No Confirmation Class (Spring Break) Grief Share
Tuesday	3/17	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	3/18	9:30am	Ladies Bible Class
Thursday	3/19	6:30pm 7:30pm	Lenten Midweek Worship Choir Practice
Friday	3/20	-----	-----
Saturday	3/21	-----	-----
Sunday	3/22	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) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

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Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5315



