

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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



Image: "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."  
(Opening Sequence)

# 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—“Oh, That’s Who It Is!”***

The wearing of camouflage-patterned clothing is not limited to military personnel and hunters these days. It can be seen in many forms on the clothing of people of all ages in a variety of settings. The English word *camouflage* is a direct borrowing from the French word meaning, “*to veil, disguise,*” which, in turn, is derived from the two Italian words meaning “*head*” and “*to muffle.*” Seeing things that are camouflaged or hidden may take special effort, especially when it is creatures in nature that are using camouflage to blend in with their settings. In our worship, we are most blessed in seeing our Lord present in the Sacrament, hidden under the forms of bread and wine. One communion hymn begins, “*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, Thee, who in Thy Sacrament art pleased to be*” (LSB 640:1). The hiddenness of Jesus was experienced by two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Ultimately, their eyes were opened and they beheld the risen Savior. Today in our worship, we seek to see Him as He chooses to be known to us.

### **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 482 This Joyful Eastertide (LSB 482 vs. 1 & 3)

*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 133; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively*)

Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is\*  
**when brothers dwell in | unity!**

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of | Aaron,\*  
**running down on the collar | of his robes!**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of | Zion!\*  
**For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life for- | evermore.**

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.

Behold, how good and pleas- | ant it is\*  
when brothers dwell in | unity!

**Kyrie** *LSB 204*

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

**Gloria in Excelsis** *LSB 204*

C 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day** *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**First Reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41**

***(Peter preaches to the people gathered in Jerusalem.)***

<sup>14</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . .

<sup>36</sup>Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup>And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” <sup>40</sup>And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** (*adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6, read responsively*)

Christ has risen | from the dead.\*

**[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.**

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;\*

**he has put all things un- | der his feet.**

**Epistle Lesson 1 Peter 1:17-25**

***(Peter writes that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ.)***

<sup>17</sup>If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup>knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup>He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake, <sup>21</sup>who through him are believers in God, who raised

him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, <sup>23</sup>since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup>for

“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
<sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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

*Stand*

### **Alleluia and Verse LSB 205**

- C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Alleluia Verse for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**—“*Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.*” (Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32)

### **Holy Gospel Luke 24:13-35**

**(Two witnesses learn from the Risen Lord at Emmaus.)**

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the

third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup>but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” <sup>33</sup>And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup>saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

#### Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

**Children’s Message “Bought by the Lamb’s Blood (1 Peter 1:17-25)** (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 483 With High Delight Let Us Unite (vs. 1 & 3)**

**Sermon “From Futility to Freedom in the Risen Jesus” (1 Peter 1:17-25)**

**Offering/Attendance**

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

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



*Stand*

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

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**Preface** *LSB 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, Lord our God, for in Christ You have given us the victory over sin, death,

and the power of the devil. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings with true thanksgiving. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in the gladsome light of Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has manifested Your grace and glory. We thank You for the blessed Meal now set before us. Give us lips to speak of Your glory and to tell of the power of our Lord's resurrection. Joined in the name of our Lord and bound together in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and strengthen us in fervent love toward You and at peace with one another. This we ask for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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 Instrumental

*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. Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for once again we have been served at Your Table through our receiving of the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord in this joyful Eastertide. Strengthen us through this Sacrament so that we continue to be Your rejoicing people who tell of Your love to all as we await Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son 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.**

*Sit*

**Closing Hymn 480 He's Risen, He's Risen (vs. 1 & 4)**

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

**People: Thanks be to God!**



***The Flowers on the altar are given by  
Diane Pielsnik in Celebration  
of Diane's Birthday and 59<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!***



**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); **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; **Doc Medek** (healing & strength); **John Falcon** (cancer) Carol Loveall's Nephew; **Chris** (leukemia) friend of Joanne Jaeger; **Jackie Lehman** (healing & strength); **Jennie Schwister** (broken hip) Rick Week's Sister; **Morgan Christianson** (surgery) Fiancé of Anthony Parker; **Alan & Sandy Jacobson** (declining health) Parents of Jill Kent; **Connie Roettgen** (healing from neck injury); **Rob Kahlman** (healing from complications after lung transplant) Scott Brenton's brother-in-law; **Joanne Stecker** (hospice) mother of Dave Stecker.

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

**We mourn with the family of Joanne Morgan, who was recently called home to heavenly rest. We pray:** Heavenly Father, We commend to Your gracious care the family of **Joanne Morgan**, whom You have called to his heavenly rest. In their sorrow, surround them with Your comfort and peace. Remind them of Your sure promise in Christ Jesus, that death is not the end, but the doorway to eternal life. Grant them strength in the days ahead, and lift their hearts with the hope of the resurrection, where every tear will be wiped away. Keep them steadfast in Your Word and faith, trusting in the victory won through Jesus' death and resurrection. In His holy name we pray, Amen.

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

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

	Church Office	414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	9am-3pm	Carol Thurber 414-762-9615
	3pm-9pm	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 4/16 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 4/19 8:00am</u>	<u>Easter Sunday 4/19 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Edward Taggatz	Erica Vitek	Lisa Kampath
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Staci Scherer	Lynn Buzzell	Lynn Buzzell
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	Henry Pepler
<u>Ushers</u>	Edward Taggatz	Bob Buzzell	Mike Huber
	Amberleigh Moog	Lynn Buzzell	Martin Taggatz
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

**Welcome to our new member *Dan Schad!!!***  
**We are so happy that you have joined our congregation at Grace!!!**

**It is with sorrow and the sure hope of the resurrection that we share the passing of our sister in Christ, Joanne Morgan.** We give thanks to God for her life and commend her to the gracious care of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. **Visitation** will be held Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 9:00–11:00 am, **followed by the funeral service** at 11:00 am at Grace Lutheran Church, Oak Creek. The *obituary* may be viewed at <https://www.molthenbell.com/obituaries/joanne-morgan>. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Grace Lutheran Church. We take comfort in Revelation 7, where God promises that He will “*wipe away every tear from their eyes,*” and trust that Joanne now rests in the presence of her Savior Jesus Christ.

**Your 1st Quarter Giving Statements are now available in the narthex.** We thank you for your ongoing support of Grace Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center as we continue to serve as stewards of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through your faithful partnership, the ministries entrusted to us are able to share His saving message and care for those in our community with Christ’s love.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers and for the faithful use of your time, talents, and treasures in helping to grow the Kingdom of God among us. God bless you abundantly, Pastor Taggatz

**The Easter flowers are now welcome to be taken following worship today.** Thank you for helping to decorate our church sanctuary as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! **Your donated Easter flowers are labeled for easy pickup.**

**Voters Meeting at Grace on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> following our 10:30am worship service.** At this Voters Meeting we will be presenting our proposed budget for the next year. We will also have Board updates, a report from Pastor Taggatz, the treasurer’s report, and we will have an update on new members at Grace. Please plan on attending the Voters meeting, as your support and involvement in our ministries here at Grace is deeply needed and appreciated. **Please note: We will also need a Quorum at this meeting, as we will also be calling Andy Kline, as our new Middle School Teacher at Grace Lutheran School. The election of officers will take place at the Voter’s meeting in June of this year.**

On Sunday, April 26, Linda Phillips, from *Helping Hands Eastern European Ministries*, will be with us to speak at both our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, as well as during our Adult Bible Class. Linda represents Helping Hands Eastern European Ministries, a Christian mission dedicated to serving those in need in countries such as Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova, and Greece, as well as immigrants from those regions. This ministry provides support for physical needs like food and medications, offers emotional care to those in difficult circumstances, and shares the hope of Christ through devotions and prayer resources in partnership with Lutheran churches. **Please note:** Adult Bible Class will take place that morning at church from 9:15-10:15 a.m., where Linda will give a more in-depth presentation about this important work. We encourage you to join us as we learn more about how the Lord is at work through this ministry and how we might support and keep them in our prayers.

**Visit from Rev. Paul & Gena Nelson - Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup>. *LCMS Missionaries to Asia*—We are blessed to share that Rev. Paul and Gena Nelson will be visiting Grace on Thursday, May 28, following our 6:30 p.m. worship service.** Pastor Nelson previously visited us a few years ago before beginning his LCMS mission work in Indonesia. He now serves as a *Regional Director in Asia for LCMS missionaries, based in Medan, Indonesia*. In this role, he works closely with partner churches and organizations throughout Southeast Asia, providing theological training, pastoral mentoring, and pastoral care, while building relationships across many cultures and languages. We invite you to join us after worship that evening to hear more about the Lord's work through the Nelsons and the spread of the Gospel in Southeast Asia. It will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and to support them in their mission. You can learn more about their work here: <https://www.lcms.org/Nelson> We hope you can join us for this encouraging evening.

### **New Members Class on Sunday May 3rd from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School**

Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Pastor is planning to have the New Members Class on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30-5:30pm. Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need child-care. Watch an introductory video at: [www.lhm.org/GodConnects](http://www.lhm.org/GodConnects).

# Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee!

**VBS 2026 Update – Rainforest Falls (June 15-19, in the mornings at our Lutheran School, VBS at Grace for 2026)** 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

If you're interested in serving, please email: [apankow@graceoakcreek.org](mailto:apankow@graceoakcreek.org)

## Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

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

**When:** Mondays, February 9th – May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6:30–8:00pm

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

**Cost:** \$20.00.

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

**Register online here:** [tinyurl.com/57tkjy8](https://tinyurl.com/57tkjy8)

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

**Jeanne Meyer** – [meyorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meyorch@sbcglobal.net)

**Lori Kachelmeier** – [jlkachel2@gmail.com](mailto:jlkachel2@gmail.com)

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

## Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church at 9:30 a.m.

We are studying, "Joy: A Study of Philippians" By Deb Burma.

## Sunday Morning Bible Class

9:15-10:15am in the School Library

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

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

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

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

**The Lutheran Hour "Not in Vain"** Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti. Because Jesus lives, your future is certain. You can also be confident that your present life has meaning and worth. In the Lord, your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58) Listen online at: [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org)/or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ	620 AM	Milwaukee, WI	Sun 6:30 am
WGN	720 AM	Chicago, IL	Sun 6:30am

"Sin has made an impact on human conception: Babies are conceived that the parents do not want, and parents who desperately want children do not conceive. Yet, I do not believe for one moment that there is ever an unplanned pregnancy. God personally knows every child even before conception. He has a plan to create, redeem, and call that child into a relationship with Him." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM - A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [Lutheransforlife.org](http://Lutheransforlife.org)  
Are you struggling with a crisis pregnancy or guilt after an abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679. Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

## ***IN THE WORD FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER***

**Catechism:** Ten Commandments—7-8 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—To Husbands: 1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19

**Verse of the week:** Matthew 10:32-33, *“Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”*

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 116:1-14 (antiphon vs. 5)

**Hymn of the week:** LSB 486 “If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death” (stanzas 1-3)

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

Sunday— Easter 3: The Emmaus Disciples—Luke 24:13-35

Monday— The Nobleman’s Son Is Healed—John 4:43-54

Tuesday— The Woman Caught in Adultery—John 7:52–8:12

Wednesday— Jesus Is the Light of the World—John 8:12-30

Thursday— The Truth Shall Make You Free—John 8:31-41

Friday— Jesus Is Confronted by the Unbelieving Jews—John 8:42-59

Saturday—St. Mark, Evangelist: Mark 16:14-20 & Easter 4: Acts 2:42-47

### **Stewardship Minute**

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus compares the mission field to a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16). We read, *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard”* (verse 1). This is the first verse of a parable known as the “Laborers in the Vineyard.” The words and deeds of the employer in this parable point to God. It is God Who freely gives the good gifts and invites us to work. In the parable, the employer hires workers at different times of the day, and, at the end of the day, all workers are paid the same regardless of the hour they were hired. The parable goes against the principle in the world in that the person who works the longest receives the most pay. In the kingdom of God, the principles of merit and ability are set aside so that grace can prevail.

**THOSE WHO HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD LIVE LIVES THAT BEAR FRUIT.**

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide...” (John 15:16).



## *Growing in Grace – April 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>*

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1715.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$947.20</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$80.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$45.00</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>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>23/56</i>	<i>69</i>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$2792.20</i></b>		

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

## *Opportunities at Grace this week!*

Sunday	4/19	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship
Monday	4/20	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	4/21	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	4/22	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	4/23	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	4/24	-----	-----
Saturday	4/25	8:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Bible Study
Sunday	4/26	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship Voters Meeting & Call Meeting for Middle School Teacher, Andy Kline

## SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

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

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

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