

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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



Image: *"My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes; My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows."* (LSB 710:4)

# 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—“The Door of Jesus’ Cross”*

The place where we worship is often called the Lord's house. It is a sacred space, a holy house, and more. It is our blessed home. English clergyman Isaac Watts, who authored hundreds of hymn texts during his life, concluded his paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm in this memorable way: *“The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; oh, may His house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home”* (OAR 272). We are so much more than strangers or guests here today. We are children at home. Paul writes to the Ephesians and to us, *“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children”* (Ephesians 5:1).

### **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 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (vs. 1 & 4)

Grace School Choir (10:30am only) “Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord”

*(Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song)*

*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 95:1-3, 6-7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b, read responsively*)

I am the good | shepherd.\*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;\*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;\*

let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!

For the LORD is a | great God,\*

and a great King a- | bove all gods.

Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;\*

let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!

For he | is our God,\*

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.

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.

I am the good | shepherd.\*

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life | for the sheep.

#### 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. Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**First Reading** *Acts 2:42-47*

*(The life of the first Christians includes learning and fellowship.)*

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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 2:19-25

*(Christ, Our Good Shepherd, who suffered for us, sets an example for us.)*

<sup>19</sup>This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup>When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- 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 4<sup>th</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. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.” (Verse Romans 6:9; John 10:14)*

### Holy Gospel John 10:1-10

*(Jesus says He is the gate of the sheep.)*

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

<sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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 "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" (1 Peter 2:19-25)** (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 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4)**

**Sermon "Our Good Shepherd, More Than an Example" (1 Peter 2:19-25)**

## 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 give thanks to You, our gracious heavenly Father, for in Your goodness You have given Your only-begotten Son for our salvation. By the guiding of Your Spirit, direct our ways that we may follow the Good Shepherd through all of our lives so that we may be gathered at the Table which He has prepared before us. 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 green pastures 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, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son to be our loving Redeemer and our Good Shepherd. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for His sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection that assure salvation to all who believe. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood as a pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers and by the power of the Holy Spirit grant that we follow our Good Shepherd now and always. 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

-722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

-710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

*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. Almighty and ever-living God, our heavenly Father, as part of Your loving plan for us You have again welcomed us at Your Table. We thank You for the blessings of this Holy Meal. As the bread was once scattered as seed upon the fields and after being harvested was made one, so let Your church be gathered together into one flock from the ends of the earth until at last we taste the fullness of Your great goodness in 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 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



*The Flowers on the altar are given by Carol Loveall  
In loving memory of her husband Lee and their 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); Cindy 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; 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** (Recovery from 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 Jacobson** (declining health) Father of Jill Kent; **Connie Roettgen** (healing from neck injury); **Rob Kahlman** (healing from complications after lung transplant) Scott Brenton's brother-in-law.

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

We mourn with the families of **Joanne Morgan, Jose Flores, and Linda Stecker, mother of Dave Stecker, Sandy Jacobson, mother of Jill Kent, who were recently called home to heavenly rest. We pray:** Heavenly Father, we commend to Your gracious care **Sandy Jacobson, Joanne Morgan, Jose Flores, and Linda Stecker**, whom You have called home to their heavenly rest. In these families' sorrows, 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>	Greg Nowakowski	Craig Lau	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Glenn Dotson	Jen Lau
<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>		Glenn Dotson	

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

Grace Lutheran School is off to the races with our *Coin Race: 3...2...1...GO!*, and our church members are invited to join in the fun! You're encouraged to bring coins or bills to support our students as they help fill their classroom jugs. **All proceeds will go toward new playground equipment for our school.**

The Board of Stewardship is hosting a Hot Ham-n-Rolls Luncheon to *support our Vacation Bible School program*. Join us on May 3rd at 11:30am, right after the 10:30 service, at Grace Lutheran School. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with carryout options available. All proceeds will help support and grow our VBS ministry. Please place your orders by **April 26th**. Come enjoy a great meal and support a wonderful cause!

**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<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 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:

## **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/57tkvjy8](http://tinyurl.com/57tkvjy8)

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

**Jeanne Meyer** – [mevorch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mevorch@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 (Please note: Bible Class will be in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>)**

**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 “Second Chances and First Impressions”** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. God is the God of second chances, not for Himself but for others. (1 Corinthians 15:47-49) 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 and shame and guilt are taken away by one thing only—the *blood of Jesus Christ*—which cleanses us from all sin. Our sins have already been punished in Him, on that cross. Jesus bodily rose from the tomb so that we would know that now even death itself cannot harm those who belong to Jesus and trust in Him alone, for as He lives, so we live as well.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan - 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 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER***

### **Catechism:**

Ten Commandments—7-8 (Primary Texts) Table of Duties—To Wives: Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:5-6

### **Verse of the week:**

John 11:25-26a, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26a And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”*

### **Psalm of the week:**

Psalm 23 (antiphon vs. 1)

### **Hymn of the week:**

LSB 742 “For Me to Live Is Jesus” (stanza 1-3)

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

Sunday— Easter 4: “I Am the Door of the Sheepfold”—John 10:1-10

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

Tuesday— I Am in the Father and the Father in Me—John 14:7-11

Wednesday— If You Love Me, Keep My Commandments—John 14:12-18

Thursday— Fellowship with the Holy Trinity—John 14:19-26

Friday— St. Philip and St. James, Apostles: John 14:1-14

Saturday—Easter 5: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

### **Stewardship Minute**

Giving is our response of faith and gratitude to God for His countless gifts especially the gift we need the most, which is a Savior. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who become more Christ-like in our giving. God’s Word shares giving truths to guide our giving. We are encouraged to give to God first (Proverbs 3:9), regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2), proportionately (2 Corinthians 8:12), intentionally (2 Corinthians 9:7), and generously (Luke 6:38). May God help us all experience the joy that comes from giving God our first and best.

### **JESUS NOT ONLY WANTS US TO BE HIS DISCIPLES, HE TELLS US TO GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES.**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a).



## *Growing in Grace – April 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>*

<i>General Offering</i>	\$4325.00		
<i>Online Giving</i>	\$964.30		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$60.00		
<i>Missions</i>	\$100.00		
<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	28/75	77
<i>Sunday School</i>	\$0.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5449.30</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	4/26	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am	Divine Worship <b>Adult Bible Class (At Church)</b> Divine Worship <b>Voters Meeting &amp; Call Meeting for Middle School Teacher, Andy Kline</b>
Monday	4/27	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	4/28	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	4/29	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	4/30	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/1	-----	-----
Saturday	5/2	-----	-----
Sunday	5/3	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 1:30-5:30pm	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class & Sunday School Divine Worship New Members Class

## 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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### Church & ECC

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### School & Church Office

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