

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

5th Sunday of Easter

April 30th & May 3rd, 2026

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



Image: "Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:5-6)

Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins & worship activity bags (age 2-8) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our church narthex and entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again! If your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the **Prayer Request Sheet** found on the podium in the narthex.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather—“Easter Light—Eternal Light”

Since 1986, voice actor Tom Bodett has had his career defined with a one-line promotion for the Motel 6 hotel chain. He always ends his commercials for the company with a simple line stating “*we'll leave the light on for you.*” Having an assured place to be going to can be encouraging and comforting. As Jesus speaks with His disciples, we hear Him reassure them and us that He will be in His Father's house, the heavenly place where lights are not even necessary. In the Revelation to John, we have this insight about our God's eternal city: “*And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb*” (Revelation 21:23). In “*Jerusalem the Golden,*” medieval monk Bernard of Cluny writes of the “*radiancy of glory*” and the “*bliss beyond compare*” that are in store for God's redeemed people there (LSB 672:1). As we share in the foretaste of the feast to come through our worship, we can only imagine what joys still await 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 475 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing (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 30:1-5; antiphon: Psalm 149:1, read responsively*)

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a | new song,*

his praise in the assembly of the | godly!

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have | drawn me up*

and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to | you for help,*

and you have | healed me.
O LORD, you have brought up my soul | from Sheol;*
you restored me to life from among those who go down | to the pit.
Sing praises to the LORD, O | you his saints,*
and give thanks to his | holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a | lifetime.*
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.

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.

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a | new song,*
his praise in the assembly of the | godly!

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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

First Reading *Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60*

(Stephen is stoned and becomes a martyr for Christ.)

¹Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ²And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. . . .

²And Stephen said:

"Brothers and fathers, hear me. . . .

⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you

have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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 2:2-10

(The living Savior exalts your status as God’s newborn, chosen, priestly people.)

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- 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 5th 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. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Alleluia.”* (Romans 6:9; John 14:23)

Holy Gospel John 14:1-14

(Jesus says that He is the way, and the truth, and the life.)

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

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”

- 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 "Chosen!" (1 Peter 2:2-10) (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 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "The Church—God's Beloved People" (1 Peter 2:2-10)

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 all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify Your holy name. 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 graciously invite us to call upon You with all boldness and confidence, knowing that You always have our best interest at heart. Gathered at Your Table, grant that we receive the body and blood of

our sacrificed Savior, fully trusting in Your promises that are fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Grant that we may be united in Christ, living in harmony with one another and finally grant us a place in the heavenly chorus forevermore. 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

-797 Praise the Almighty

-467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

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. Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same and help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may know comfort when our hearts are troubled and our days know challenges. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.
- 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 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (vs. 1 & 3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The Flowers on the altar are given by Bob & Lynn Buzzell

In Honor of their 34th 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; **Judy** (poor eyesight) friend of Joy Lussier; **Darlene & Jerry Urbaniak's Nephew** (Alzheimer's); **Jenny Rice** (cancer); **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; **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; **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; **Ron and Judy** (cancer) friends of Mike & Pat Toman, and **Lynn Buzzell** (hospitalized).

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 Jose Flores and 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, and Jose Flores**, 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.

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 4/30 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/3 8:00am</u>	<u>Easter Sunday 5/3 10:00am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Mark Olen	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Cris Evers	Martin Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Staci Scherer	Kathy & Morgan	Kathy & Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>		Ava Hobart	Henry Pepler
<u>Ushers</u>	Edward Taggatz	Craig Lau	Rick Weeks
	Amberleigh Moog	Jennifer Lau	Kathy Weeks
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

Martin Luther High School Spring Concert & Art Exhibit

The Music Department at Martin Luther High School invites you to its annual Spring Concert, “**From Screen to Stage,**” on **Friday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Worship/Fine Arts Center.

Enjoy a wide variety of music performed by the Jazz Ensemble, Drumline, Symphonic Band, Pop & Praise, and Soli Deo Gloria. In addition to the concert, the Art Department will host a **Student Art Exhibit**, along with raffle baskets.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for the art exhibit.

Tickets are available:

- At the door
- By calling **414-421-4000**
- Or online here: https://gofan.co/app/school/WI19460_2
-

Come and support these talented students as they use their gifts to the glory of God!

Staff Anniversary Celebration - May 31st

Join us as we give thanks for the faithful service of our staff!
You are invited to a brunch celebration on Saturday, May 31 at 10:30 a.m. in the Grace gym.

We will be recognizing the following anniversaries:

Rachel Miliacca - 25 years
Steve Gettelman - 20 years
Rita Heinen - 15 years
Kristi DeVries - 10 years
Jen Mendez - 10 years
Nikki Tindall - 10 years
Dena Guziewicz - 10 years
Anthony Hengst - 5 years

Come and celebrate these dedicated servants who have been such a blessing to our congregation, school, and ministry. We thank God for their years of service and look forward to sharing this joyful time together!

You can also sign up for this staff anniversary celebration in the narthex at Church.

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!**

Guild May Meeting

Prayer Service - Saturday, May 9th 10:00am-Noon - At church

Pastor will lead us in the 2026 LWML Prayer Service

P.R.A.Y.E.R. — Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice

All are welcome to attend!

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.**

Visit from Rev. Paul & Gena Nelson - Thursday May 28th. 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 3rd 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

Giving Tree in our Church Sanctuary begins on Memorial Day Weekend!!!

The *Giving Tree* from our Board of Stewardship will be up soon in our Church Sanctuary. Proceeds from the *Giving Tree* this year will go to support our *Church's Good Samaritan Fund*, which helps out those in need from our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center, and the Oak Creek Community. Thank you for your generosity and support for those who are in need!!!



Join our Grace Oak Creek VBS!!!

VBS 2026 Update – Rainforest Falls
(June 15th-19th, 9am-12pm 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. **Our VBS this year is for children ages 4K-4th Grade. Children 5th Grade through High School are asked to sign up and help volunteer for this year's VBS.** 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

To register your child, donate towards this year's VBS, and also sign up to volunteer

for Vacation Bible School at Grace please visit this website:

<https://vbspro.events/p/graceoakcreek>

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 "Planning Is Everything" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise. (Psalm 146:3-4) [Listen online at: lhm.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

“When Jesus returns, all who believe in Him will be raised up from death to live in His presence forever. That is the promise of His enduring, steadfast love: ‘I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ’ (Philippians 1:6). The purpose of God for us will be fulfilled!” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries - 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.

Are You Interested in Serving on a Church Board? Elections are coming up for various boards at our Church at our June Voter’s Meeting. Do you feel called to serve in leadership here at Grace Lutheran Church? Please consider contacting the Church Office and we will let you know what responsibilities each board position has. We will also connect you with the current board members who are serving so that you can ask them questions pertaining to their current board responsibilities. The term of service is three years, and your service would begin in July of 2025. Please call the Church Office for what board positions are currently available for the next term.

Grace PTLs is hosting their annual Panther Palooza on Friday May 15th

This event is fun for the whole family and members of Grace Lutheran Church & ECC are welcome to join our School families for this event!!! We will have multiple bounce houses, a bubble station for the littles, games, prizes, food, even a DJ and glitter stencils! We are also hosting a silent auction during the event with some amazing things to bid on. This event will take place in the evening of May 15th. **Also, you will get a chance to dunk Pastor Taggatz in the dunk tank, what fun!**

Important Date for Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Coming Up

This is a reminder that the last day of Sunday School & Adult Bible Class will be Sunday, May 17th. Thank you for having your children attend Sunday School this year, as they have had the opportunity to learn more about God's love for them in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!!! Graduation is coming up for our 8th Graders at Grace Lutheran School, but also for those in our congregation that are graduating from High School and College. On Sunday May 17th we will be acknowledging those in our congregation that are graduating from 8th Grade, High School, and College. **We are asking that any High School or College age students of our congregation that are graduating would join us for this event.** They may also wear their cap and gown to be recognized for their graduation. Please let us know what school they are graduating from, and if it is from college, what is their major? We will publish this information in the church's bulletins on Sunday May 17th. Please email this info to our Church Secretary Heidi at: church@graceoakcreek.org

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

We will be switching to our Summer Schedule here at Grace starting Memorial Day weekend. This means that our Sunday morning worship time will be at 9:00am starting on Sunday, May 24th and this will go through Labor Day Weekend. There will not be Sunday School and Adult Bible Class during the summer. Thursday evening worship at 6:30pm will remain the same throughout the summer.

We look forward to seeing you in worship!!!



IN THE WORD FOR THE 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism:

Ten Commandments—9-10 (Primary Texts)
Table of Duties—To Parents: Ephesians 6:4; To Children: Ephesians 6:1-3

Verse of the week:

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction;
12 for whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.

Psalm of the week:

Psalm 146 (antiphon vs. 2)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 526 “You Are the Way: through You Alone” (stanzas 1-4)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Easter 5: “I Am the Way...”—John 14:1-14

Monday— The Peace of Christ—John 14:27-31

Tuesday— I am the Vine—John 15:1-8

Wednesday— As the Father Loved Me, I Also Have Loved You—John 15:9-17

Thursday— The World’s Hatred—John 15:18-25

Friday— The Comforter in Persecution—John 15:26–16:4

Saturday— Easter 6: Acts 17:16-31

Stewardship Minute

As God's people, we have one primary purpose which is to advance His kingdom. God tells us through the Apostle Paul that He "*desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4). We are God's instruments or channels through which He works to share the life-saving Gospel with all people. God calls each of us to use our time, talents, and resources faithfully to be His light in a dark world. We are called to use all of God's gifts to us for the purpose of helping others to come to know His Son. In our relationships with God and others, we have the purpose of giving Him glory through our witnessing, loving, serving, and giving.

OUR LIVES SERVE AS A MEANS FOR GOD TO DISPENSE HIS LOVE AND CARE TO THOSE AROUND US.

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).



Growing in Grace – April 23rd & 26th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3359.20</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$680.63</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>		
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$13.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$4177.83</i>		
		<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
		<i>27/131</i>	<i>112</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	5/3	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am 11:30am 1:30-5:30pm	Divine Worship Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Divine Worship Hot Ham & Roll Luncheon (School) New Members Class at School
Monday	5/4	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/5	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	5/6	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study All Board's Meeting
Thursday	5/7	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/8	-----	-----
Saturday	5/9	8:00am 10:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study (At Chuch) Ladies Guild – Prayer Service
Sunday	5/10	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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