

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

6th Sunday of Easter

May 7th & 10th, 2026

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



Image: “[Jesus said:] “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

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—“Is God’s Love for Us “Iffy”?

Throughout our lives, we look for a helper. Maybe that's a parent who can hold our hand to cross the street, a spouse who can open the pickle jar, or an expert who delivers wisdom we don't have. Our Lord Jesus Christ sends us a helper, the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit opens our heart to faith and then fills it with heavenly wisdom. Present in our Baptism and present today in worship, the Spirit keeps our hand firmly in our Savior's, so that linked by love, we can walk confidently in His promises.

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 1, pg. 151

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 862 Oh, Blest the House (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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 119:89-93; antiphon: v. 105, read responsively*)

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

Forever, O | LORD, your word*
is firmly fixed | in the heavens.

Your faithfulness endures to all gener- | ations;*
you have established the earth, and it | stands fast.

By your appointment they | stand this day,*

for all things are your | servants.
If your law had not been | my delight,*
I would have perished in my af- | fliction.
I will never forget your | precepts,*
for by them you have giv- | en me life.

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.

Your word is a lamp | to my feet*
and a light | to my path.

Kyrie *LSB 152*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the
Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 154*

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
C **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 17:16-31

(Paul preaches Jesus and the resurrection, pointing Athenians to the “unknown God” who has been raised from the dead.)

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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 3:13-22*

(Saved by Baptism, believers are prepared to give a reason for their hope in Christ the Lord.)

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for the 6th 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. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. Alleluia.*” (Romans 6:9; John 16:33b)

Holy Gospel John 14:15-21

(Until He returns, Jesus promises to surround His disciples with truth by sending the Holy Spirit.)

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

¹⁵[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles’ Creed LSB 159

- 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 “A Reason for Hope” (1 Peter 3:13-22) (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 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed (vs. 1-4)

Sermon “Prepared to Defend the Faith” (1 Peter 3:13-22)

Offertory *LSB 159*

- C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

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 160*

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 would give thanks to You, O Triune God, making our supplication in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, who in keeping the Father's will, won salvation by His death and resurrection, and in giving His Holy Spirit, grants life to all who believe. Held in our baptismal covenant, we rejoice with all the saints in every time and place, eagerly anticipating the consummation of Christ's redeeming work, as You gather us with angels and archangels, to laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus *LSB 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the daily mercies You show to Your heaven-bound people. Feed us at Your Table with faith and forgiveness, recognizing how You sustain us on this journey. By faith, let us taste the life You offer through the gifts of this altar, that sharing in the body and blood of our living Savior, Jesus, we might be assured of Christ's words as He promises, "because I live, you also will live." Unite our hearts to encourage one another and witness to the world of the hope we have in the name of our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 162*

- 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 163*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

- C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

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

-591 This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

-842 Son of God, Eternal Savior

Stand

Thank the Lord *LSB 164*

- C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect *LSB 166*

- A Let us pray. Most Holy Triune God, we praise You for remembering us in Your kingdom, setting a place for us at Your Table, and bringing us into a life that lasts forever. As those forgiven by Your grace and sealed in Baptism as Your treasured possession, bless us with firm faith and a holy purpose, that we would keep Your commandments, know the love of our Father, and live in His truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Benediction *LSB 166*

- 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 895 Now Thank We All Our God (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The Flowers on the altar are given by

Tony and Suzie Mirenda

In Honor of Suzie's Birthday!



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** (healing & strength); **Betty** (hospice) mother of Lori Kachelmeier; **Michael Knoll** (cancer) friend of Doc Medek

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

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

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

	Church Office	414-762-8990	
Requests on prayer line:	9am-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 5/7 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/10 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 5/10 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Adam Voss	Mark Olen	Richard Jackson
<u>Readers</u>	Mark Roettgen	Erica Vitek	Elizabeth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Miranda	Kathy & Morgan	Kathy & Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>			
<u>Ushers</u>	Douglas Klipfel Charlotte Klipfel	Craig Lau Jennifer Lau	Rick Weeks Cathy Weeks
<u>Livestream</u>		Jennifer Olen	

Free Wheelchair Available

We currently have a wheelchair available at church that is no longer being used, and we would be glad to offer it to anyone who may have need of it. If this would be a blessing to you or someone you know, please feel free to speak with Pastor after worship or contact the church office at 414-762-8990. *It is always a joy to share what we have with one another in love and care.*

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/W119460_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 Sunday, 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.

ACCREDITATION VISIT - Our accreditation team came into our Lutheran School on April 20th and 21st . We received the following statement from that team about their overall impression of Grace Lutheran School:

“Grace Lutheran School is rooted in a strong Christ-centered culture and is well led and mission driven. The church, school, and child care center collaborate to foster a unified school community. The principal is a pillar of stability and leads with joy. She demonstrates a clear vision and commitment to both academic excellence and spiritual growth. The faculty fosters a positive, supportive learning environment and intentionally cultivates relationships with families. Ongoing efforts in planning, instruction, and professional growth reflect a commitment to continuous improvement. Grace Lutheran School as a whole desires to strengthen and advance its mission into the Oak Creek community.”

Here are the top five outstanding school strengths they identified in our assessment:

1. Grace Lutheran School is a primary ministry of the church.
2. The school offers a strong, connected, and cohesive ministry with the church and Early Childhood Center.
3. The principal provides exceptional leadership and is recognized as being involved in every facet of ministry at Grace Lutheran School.
4. Caring and dedicated faculty and staff actively work together to fulfill the purpose of the school.
5. The facility and greenspace support current ministry as well as future expansion.

Thank you to everyone who supported us throughout the long process of achieving accreditation!!!

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

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.

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!!!

Military Bible Sticks— Campaign from Thursday, May 24th through Sunday, July 5th

Our congregation has faithfully supported this mission for many years. We prayerfully ask you for this support again this year. The change this year is that Military Bible Sticks will be paired with a new mission from Faith Comes by Hearing. This new effort is called Vision 2033. Vision 2033 involves partnering with other missions, such as Lutheran Bible Translators, to translate the Bible into mission languages. These Bible sticks would have native speakers reading the Word and would be given to the missions in countries all over the world. That way people would be able to hear the Good News in their own languages. We are looking forward to being able to be a part of this new mission by Faith Comes by Hearing. Envelopes will be available for donating to Military Bible Sticks in the narthex on the white board.

A video will be shared with the congregation soon to share this mission's vision.

For more in-depth information please go to: <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/>

Here is an interview on the history of Military Bible Sticks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-6mwlc1Bvo>



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 you 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 "The King Who Reigns" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge. If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good. (Luke 24:36-53)
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

“If you’re a single parent, don’t count yourself out ... If you’re widowed or divorced, don’t count yourself out. If you’ve never married, don’t count yourself out. We sinners are all in this together. We want to see the relevance of faith for our daily lives. We hear the religious talk and we humbly ask, ‘How does this apply to me?’ The answer is that the glory of Christ’s resurrection is for us all. It continues in the message of forgiveness and hope we experience each time we gather together.” *Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, Speaker Emeritus of “The Lutheran Hour” - 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! 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!**

PANTHER PALOOZA SILENT AUCTION!

The Panther Palooza Silent Auction is officially LIVE as of today!

Our amazing auction items are ready and waiting for your bids! Be sure to check out all the great packages, place your bids, and help support Grace Lutheran School along the way. Don't keep the fun to yourself—share the auction link with friends, family, neighbors, and anyone who loves a good deal for a great cause!

The more bidders, the more excitement, and the more support for our school. Start bidding and start sharing! Auction closes on May 15th!

<https://givebutter.com/c/panther-palooza-2026-silent-auction-uguyop>

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!!!



Fellowship Committee ICE CREAM SOCIAL

We will be having our annual Ice Cream Social after each service at church on:
Thursday, June 4th and on Sunday, June 7th

You will be able to make your own sundays or just enjoy a dish of ice cream.
Please mark your calendars and bring your family for a sweet treat on us!

IN THE WORD FOR THE 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Catechism:

Ten Commandments—9-10 (Primary Texts)
Table of Duties—To Workers of All Kinds: Ephesians 6:5-8

Verse of the week:

Mark 10:45, *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Psalm of the week:

Psalm 66:8-20 (antiphon vs. 8)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 532 “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” (stanzas 1-6)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Easter 6: “I Will Not Leave You Orphans”—John 14:15-21

Monday— The Work of the Holy Spirit—John 16:5-15

Tuesday— Your Sorrow Will Turn to Joy—John 16:16-23

Wednesday— Ask and You Will Receive—John 16:23b-33

Thursday— Ascension of Our Lord: Acts 1:1-14

Friday— Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-10

Saturday— Jesus Prays for the Apostles—John 17:11-19

GIVING IS NOT SO MUCH AN ACT OF GENEROSITY AS IT IS AN ACT OF TRUST.

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11).



Stewardship Minute

God wants and deserves to be glorified. However, it is in our nature to resist giving God glory. Each and every day Satan is working to encourage us to put ourselves first. Satan works on our selfish ambition, pride, arrogance, or other character flaws to get in the way of serving and glorifying God with our hearts, minds, and strength. Rather than give God glory, our thoughts are more like “What’s in it for me?” Me, mine, and myself are words used again and again as we focus on ourselves. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit can we change from being self-centered people to being God-centered.

Growing in Grace – April 30th & May 3rd

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$4070.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$1112.41</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$253.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$300.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>34/57</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>\$60.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$5822.41</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	5/10	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Class Divine Worship
Monday	5/11	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/12	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	5/13	9:30am 6:30pm	Ladies Bible Study Church Council Meeting
Thursday	5/14	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/15	5:30pm	Grace Lutheran Panther Palooza
Saturday	5/16	-----	-----
Sunday	5/17	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship – Confirmation Sunday Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 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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