

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Ascension of our Lord/Confirmation

May 14th & 17th, 2026

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



Image: "Since Christ returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me obtaining, My heart will rest in Him alone, No other rest remaining; For where my treasure went before, There all my thoughts will ever soar To still their deepest yearning." (LSB 492:2)

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—“Never Alone”

It is not over. Easter is not over. Christ's mission is not over. Peace and pardon are not over. Even as we gather to commemorate the ascension of our Lord, nothing ends today. It is not as if Christ ascends to heaven and takes all His blessings with Him! This world remains forever marked by His grace and love. And now, reigning and ruling over all things, our ascended Lord intercedes for us at His Father's right hand. Christ remains present for us in His Word and Sacraments, and Christ's Body, the church, continues the joyful proclamation that Christ is risen, and indeed, He is coming again!

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 492 On Christ's Ascension I Now Build (vs. 1-3)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (*Psalm 110:1, 4-5; antiphon: Psalm 47:5, read responsively*)

God has gone up | with a shout,*

the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand,*

until I make your enemies your | footstool."

The LORD has sworn and will not | change his mind,*

“You are a priest forever after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”
The Lord is at your | right hand;*
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

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.

God has gone up | with a shout,*
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

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, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading *Acts 1:1-11*

(As He ascends to heaven, Jesus instructs the disciples to anticipate the coming Holy Spirit.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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 *Ephesians 1:15-23*

(Paul rejoices in those who have been embraced within the story of the risen, ascended, and reigning Christ.)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 Ascension of our Lord (Observed)—*“Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. Alleluia. Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Alleluia.” (Romans 6:9; Matthew 28:20b)*

Holy Gospel *Luke 24:44-53*

(Christ illumines His disciples’ minds that all Scripture points to His work of redemption.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am

sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *LSB 206*

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life T of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

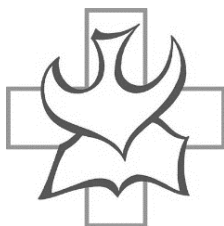
Sermon Hymn 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "Never Alone" (Eph. 1:15-23)

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.



Questioning of the Confirmand (8:00am service only)

Congratulations to our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Students! God's blessings to ***Abigail Marie Norton*** upon her journey with Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior, that was started on the day of her baptism, and has continued to this day of her Confirmation Questioning!

Rite of Confirmation, LSB pg. 272 (Sunday 8:00am Service Only)

Abigail Marie Norton

Stand

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

✠ **SACRAMENT** ✠

Preface *LSB 208*

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty and eternal Father, for Your glory revealed in the sending of Your Son, Jesus Christ. By His obedience, even to death on a cross, He both glorified You and reconciled the world to Himself. Now He is ascended into the glory that has been His since before the world existed, and we who trust in Him for eternal life raise our praises to You, O Father, to Your ascended Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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 In gratefulness, we bless You, all-glorious Father, for the sake of Your ascended Son, for You have given Him authority over all flesh, and yet in this Meal, He condescends to offer His flesh as true food and His blood as true drink for those who confess His name. As those claimed by His sacrifice, redeemed from evil and everlasting death, give us hearts that gather at Your Table to recognize our redemption, grow in our faith, and declare the glories of Your mercy until Christ comes again, for He rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

-525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

-493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

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. O Father of glory, we praise You for enlightening the eyes of our hearts through the Supper of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us cling to the immeasurable

greatness of Your power toward us who believe, that we might attain the riches of His glorious inheritance among the saints, with faith for this age, and hope for the age to come; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction LSB 212

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

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!!!**



The Flowers on the altar are given by

Greg and Gail Nowakowski

In Honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary!



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. **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; **Char Klipfel** (healing & strength); **Brian** (rotator cuff surgery) friend of Mary Rowley.

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 5/14 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 5/17 8:00am</u>	<u>Sunday 5/17 10:30am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Lance Kopperud	Greg Voss	Mike Huber
<u>Readers</u>	Kathy Szefflinski	Erica Vitek	Martin Taggatz
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Suzie Mirenda	Kathy & Morgan	Kathy & Morgan
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
<u>Acolyte</u>		Alyssa Norton	
<u>Ushers</u>	Douglas Klipfel Charlotte Klipfel	Steven Pawlak	Rick Weeks Cathy Weeks
<u>Livestream</u>	Glenn Dotson	No Livestream	

Congratulations to our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Student!



God's blessings to *Abigail Marie Norton* upon her journey with Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior that was started on the day of her baptism and has continued to her Confirmation TODAY! Congratulations to her as she has confirmed her Christian faith that God gave to her in her baptism!

Abigail Norton

Baptism Date

July 22, 2012

Confirmation Verse

Joshua 1:9, *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

We pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for **Abby** as she confirms her Christian faith in You today. Bless her with Your Holy Spirit, keep her strong in Your Word, and guide her in Your love. Help her to trust in Your promises all her days, until she is with You forever. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Congratulations to those who are graduating!

8th Grade:

Ethan C. Oak Creek Public School

High School:

Maddie K. from Martin Luther High School

Payton W. from Martin Lutheran High School

Andrea S. from South Milwaukee High School

Tommy S. from South Milwaukee High School

College:

Elizabeth Murphy – from MATC, Photography

A Prayer for our Graduates—Lord God, Heavenly Father, You provide schools and teachers for faithful instruction and dedicated learning. Receive our thanks for the knowledge gained by those who are now graduating. As they continue to learn and grow, grant them Your Holy Spirit that their talents and abilities may be used for Your glory and as a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Special Voters Meeting

Sunday, May 31st

Grace Lutheran Church will hold a Special Voters Meeting on Sunday, May 31st, immediately following the 9:00am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to issue a Divine Call for a Middle School teacher for our school ministry.

Because this is a Call meeting, a quorum of voting members will be needed. We encourage all voting members of the congregation to please plan to attend this important meeting as we prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance for this important role in our ministry.

This special meeting will take place on the same Sunday that we celebrate our staff anniversaries.

We thank God for the faithful service of our teachers and staff and ask for His continued blessings upon Grace Lutheran Church and School.

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 RSVP via the link below:

<https://forms.gle/phQM7kuufuqVHjhu7>

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

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! 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 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>

Sunday Morning Bible Class

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

Please note: this is the last weekend of Sunday Morning Bible Class, before our Summer break)

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 "Don’t Despise Small Beginnings" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Our small efforts to become the people Jesus saved us to be might seem insignificant, but small efforts compound. (Acts 1:14) 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

“We are no longer terrified sinners but God’s own children because of what Jesus has done for us. And so, the Day of Judgment becomes good news for us—because it is the day when the One we love most returns to bring us home in peace.” *Dr. Kari Vo, 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 PTLIS 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>

Fellowship Committee

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

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

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!

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 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Catechism:

Ten Commandments—First Commandment through the Conclusion (Primary Texts)
Table of Duties—To Employers and Supervisors: Ephesians 6:9; To Youth: 1 Peter 5:5-6

Verse of the week:

John 14:2-3, “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

Psalm of the week:

Psalm 68:1-10 (antiphon vs. 32)

Hymn of the week:

494 “See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday— Easter 7: Jesus' High Priestly Prayer—John 17:1-11

Monday— Jesus Prays for All Who Believe in Him—John 17:20-26

Tuesday— The Commission to Baptize and Teach All Nations—Mt. 28:16-20

Wednesday— Mark Records the Command to Preach the Gospel—Mark 16:9-20

Thursday— Jesus Opens the Scriptures to the Disciples—Luke 24:44-53

Friday— Matthias Is Chosen to Fill Judas's Office—Acts 1:12-26

Saturday—Pentecost: Numbers 11:24-30

JESUS' SACRIFICIAL LOVE DEFINES US, AND IT MAKES US PEOPLE OF PURPOSE.

“By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).



Stewardship Minute Jesus said, “Go! I am sending you...” (Luke 10:3). You say, “Well, wait a minute, Don’t we first have to have some training in witnessing?” Certainly, it’s helpful to know about the teachings of certain cults and world religions and how various people think and the philosophies of our time in order to find entry points for the Gospel, but eventually, it all comes down to the fact that you have a story to tell, you have a King to proclaim. So don’t shirk the duty because you don’t feel you have specific training. The mission is urgent because people without knowing Jesus as their Lord and Savior will be separated from Jesus for an eternity.

Growing in Grace – May 7th & May 10th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$3074.00		
<i>Online Giving</i>	\$1605.32		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$5.00		
<i>Missions</i>	\$280.0		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$20.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$0.00	Total Attendance	Total Communed
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	\$0.00	34/69	81
<i>Sunday School</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	\$0.00		
Total	\$4984.32		

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	5/17	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Adult Bible Study & Sunday School Divine Workship
Monday	5/18	6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	5/19	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	5/20	-----	-----
Thursday	5/21	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	5/22	-----	-----
Saturday	5/23	-----	-----
Sunday	5/24	9:00am	Divine Worship – Pentecost Sunday

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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