

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 9th & 12th, 2026

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



Image: "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."
(Isaiah 55:10-11)

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—"Free, Faithful, Flourishing"

Any gardener will admit they have seen certain plants flourish while others fail. The plants don't get a choice in the matter. A plant cannot affect the amount of sunlight, moisture, or attention it receives. It simply grows the way it was designed to. You have been planted by the Lord in His garden. You have seen the light of His Gospel, been watered in Baptism, and been nourished by heaven's food. You have been designed to flourish! A pear tree doesn't grow pumpkins, and neither do the redeemed fall back into fear or slavery. You are the harvest of the Lord. We grow to His glory.

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 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (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 103:15-19; antiphon: v. 8, read responsively*)

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

As for man, his days | are like grass;*

he flourishes like a flower | of the field;

for the wind passes over it, and | it is gone,*

and its place knows | it no more.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who | fear him,*

and his righteousness to children's | children,
to those who keep his | covenant*

and remember to do his com- | mandments.

The LORD has established his throne in the | heavens,*
and his kingdom rules | over all.

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.

The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

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. Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 55:10-13*

(The Lord's powerful Word sets His people free in joy and singing.)

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

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

Gradual (*Romans 11:33, 36, read responsively*)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!*
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!
For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*
To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 8:12-17*

(Set free by the Spirit, believers are challenged to recognize their adoption into the family of God.)

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- 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 7th Sunday after Pentecost—“*Alleluia. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Alleluia.*” (*Isaiah 40:8*)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

(Jesus shares and interprets His story of the lavish sower and the harvest He seeks.)

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom

and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

Sermon Hymn 577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast (vs. 1-4)

Sermon

Guest Pastor—Rev. Mark Wangerin

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 in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. 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

-820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

-923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

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. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives 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 921 On What Has Now Been Sown (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



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); Cindy 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 (hospice) 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; Karen (surgery); Pam (melanoma, healing & strength) relative of Carol Thurber; Marilyn Pugh (heart condition) friend of Carol Loveall; Shirley Stachowiak (cancer) niece of Dennis Iseli; Lori Jablonski (cancer); Christopher Barnard (healing & strength following surgery); Dan Taggatz (Cardiac Rehab) Pastor Taggatz's Uncle; John Falcon (cancer) Carol Loveall's Nephew; Chris (leukemia) friend of Joanne Jaeger; Jackie Lehman (healing & strength); 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, 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; Chuck Mirenda (lung cancer) brother of Tony Mirenda; Marlene Voss (healing & strength); Joy Lussier (healing & strength); Jodi Pokrzewinski (knee surgery) friend of Jill Kent; Pete (heart surgery) friend of Janine & Jim Pieper.

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

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 7/9 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 7/12 9:00am</u>
Elders	Lance Kopperud	Richard Jackson
Readers	Connie Roettgen	Jen Lau
Communion Set-up	Janine and Marlene	Janine and Marlene
Linens	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
Acolyte		
Ushers	Lance Kopperud	Andrea Szefflinski
	Marlene Voss	Tommy Szefflinski
Livestream		Glenn Dotson

Funeral Service for Lynn Buzzell

Please keep the family of Lynn Buzzell, beloved wife of Bob Buzzell, in your prayers.

Visitation will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on

Wednesday, July 15th, from 9:00–11:00 AM,

with the funeral service beginning at 11:00 AM.

A private burial will follow.

Arrangements are entrusted to Heritage Funeral Home of Oak Creek.



We extend our sincere thanks to Rev. Mark Wangerin for filling in while Pastor Taggatz is away on vacation.

We are grateful for his willingness to serve God's people and faithfully proclaim God's Word during this time. We pray that our gracious Lord would continue to bless Rev. Wangerin as he ministers to God's people through Word and Sacrament. May the Holy Spirit strengthen him in his calling, grant him wisdom and joy in his service, and richly bless the work of the Gospel through his ministry. "*Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do His will.*" (Hebrews 13:20-21) Thank you, Rev. Wangerin, for your faithful service to Christ and His Church.

Pastor's Vacation & Pastoral Care Coverage

Pastor Taggatz will be on vacation from June 29 through July 12.

If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Doug Schroeder of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greendale, who will be handling pastoral calls while Pastor Taggatz is away.

Email: dougs@ourshepherdlutheran.org **Church Office:** 414-421-2060 **Cell:** 414-840-6016

Please keep Pastor Schroeder and his ministry in your prayers as he assists Grace during Pastor Taggatz's absence. We pray that Pastor Taggatz and his family enjoy a restful and refreshing vacation. God's blessings to all during these summer weeks!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study - Ladies you are all invited to join us!!

- **July 11th** 8:00am Boerner Botanical Gardens Walk Around (carpool will be available)
- **August 8th** 9:00am Oak Creek Farmer's Market (followed by breakfast)

In case of bad weather, we will meet at church.

Texts and emails will go out to let everyone know change of plans.

Any questions please email or text Jennifer Olen: 414.305.3740 olenjennifer@aol.com

2026 Summer Catechetical Series
"Perspectives on the Cross"

The Six Chief Parts of the Christian Faith are well known among our Lutheran members, and it is a good practice to rehearse and even interrogate them often for the benefit of those under our care. This series is an attempt to provide a fresh look at the Chief Parts, to show how they fit into the Christian's daily walk and may be practiced in our daily interactions. These teachings attempt to display this truth by viewing the Chief Parts through multifaceted aspects of the cross, using comparisons to our bones, eyes, and words, to wind, to a unique way with which we Christians are blessed, and to fire. The final sermon encourages us to bear our crosses in daily life and in doing so participate in the redemptive work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, seeing all of life and its activities through the lens of the cross of Calvary as well as the vacant cross and empty tomb.

1. July 16 & 19—Cross Way: Confession, 1 John 1:5–10
2. July 23 & 26th—Cross Fire: Holy Communion, 1 Corinthians 11:17–34
3. July 30th & August 2nd—Cross Bearers: Faith and Works, Ephesians 2:1–10; James 2:14–26



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.

Please note: The deadline to give is Labor Day weekend.

Thank you for your generosity and support for those who are in need!!!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Support God's Ministry at Grace Lutheran

Thrivent recently announced an exciting change to make ministry support easier and more impactful through Thrivent Choice Dollars. Instead of distributing Choice Dollars gradually throughout the year, Thrivent has now placed the full annual amount of your 2026 Choice Dollars into your account right away.

This means you can direct all of your 2026 Choice Dollars now, putting them to work immediately for God's ministry at Grace Lutheran Church, School, & ECC in Oak Creek rather than waiting until the end of the year. Please consider logging into your Thrivent account and directing your 2026 Thrivent Choice Dollars to support the mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, School, & ECC Oak Creek. Thank you for your continued support and generosity as we share the love of Christ with our congregation, school families, and community.

The Lutheran Hour "Knight, Death, and the Devil"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Jesus has triumphed over all the powers of death and hell and He has pledged Himself to be your protector and the armor that you wear. (Ephesians 6:12)

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

“Realistically, most of us will never be more than ordinary, but that doesn’t mean we’re useless. God works through the ordinary, the mundane, and the commonplace. He worked through Esther, and He works through you to bless others in ways you may never know.” *Grace MacPherson - 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.

IN THE WORD FOR THE 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism:

Lord’s Prayer—First Petition

Verse of the week:

Isaiah 55:10-11, “*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*”

Psalm of the week:

Psalm 65:9-13 (antiphon vs. 5)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 577 “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday

Pentecost 7: The Sower and the Seed—Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Monday

The Purpose of Parables—Matthew 13:10-23

Tuesday

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares—Matthew 13:24-35

Wednesday

Parables of the Kingdom—Matthew 13:36-46

Thursday

The Parable of the Dragnet—Matthew 13:47-58

Friday

John the Baptist Is Beheaded—Matthew 14:1-13

Saturday

The Feeding of the 5,000—Matthew 14:14-21

Stewardship Minute

Gambling can devastate an individual and families. Often those who can least afford it are the ones who spend the greatest portion of their incomes on gambling. When the gambler is addicted, God and family lose importance. Is there an eleventh commandment that says, “Thou shalt not gamble”? Of course not, but there are Biblical principles that gambling violates. The Bible warns us of the dangers of greed (Luke 12:15), selfishness, and the desire to get rich quick (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Gambling encourages greed and materialism. Gambling says, “I don’t appreciate what God has provided. I deserve and want more.” With God’s help, we can turn away from things of this world and fix our eyes on Jesus.

THE GOAL OF STEWARDSHIP IS TO DO GOD’S WILL.

“...for it is God Who works in you,
both to will and to work for His
good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).



Growing in Grace –June 2nd & 5th

<i>General Offering</i>	\$2195.00		
<i>Online Giving</i>	(To be included next week)		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Missions</i>	\$285.00		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	\$2085.00		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	\$10.00	Total Attendance	Total Communed
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	\$0.00	31/32	47
<i>Sunday School</i>	\$0.00		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	\$570.00		
Total	\$5145.00		

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	7/12	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	7/13	-----	-----
Tuesday	7/14	7:00am	Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	7/15	9-11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm 7:00pm	Lynn Buzzell Visitation Lynn Buzzell Funeral All Board’s Meeting Council Meeting
Thursday	7/16	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	7/17	-----	-----
Saturday	7/18	-----	-----
Sunday	7/19	9:00am	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
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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
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Church & ECC

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