

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 16th & 19th, 2026

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

 THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



Image: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. . . . "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." (*Matthew 13:24-25, 30*)

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—"Hope in the Harvest"

If you have ever done a load of laundry, then you know what it feels like to come up one sock short. It is almost like some troublemaker climbed into the dryer and left only one lonesome sock behind. Our laundry is incomplete. We don't have everything we are supposed to have, everything we started with. Our frustration grows. If we truly took stock of our lives, we would evaluate ourselves as missing more than a sock or two. Sabotaged by the enemy and suffering from our own failures, we feel frustrated and incomplete. But perfection is coming. God's perfect Word is here to speak your forgiveness. His perfect heart pursues lost souls. And His perfect plan includes His return to make all things right.

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 794 The Lord, My God, Be Praised (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 203

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

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 86:11-15; antiphon: v. 6, read responsively)

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*

listen to my | plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*

unite my heart to | fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with | my whole heart;*

and I will glorify your name for- | ever.
For great is your steadfast | love toward me;*
you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.
O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men | seek my life,*
and they do not set you be- | fore them.
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*
listen to my | plea for grace.

Kyrie LSB 204

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 204

C 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,

Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; 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 44:6-8*

(The unrivaled Lord reinforces His power, peace, and purpose for His people.)

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

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 8:18-27*

(Creation groans in hope for the glory yet to be revealed.)

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing

of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- 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 8th Sunday after Pentecost—“*Alleluia. I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.*” (Matthew 13:35b)

Holy Gospel Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

(Jesus shares and interprets His story of harvest and final judgment.)

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

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the

good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed *LSB 207*

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message— “Broken and Worn Out or New?” (Rom. 8.18-27) *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 615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need (vs. 1-5)

Sermon “Cross Way- Confession” (1 John 1:5-10)

Sermon Text—1 John 1:5-10—⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

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 With humble hearts, we praise You, O Lord, for You are first and last, Your people’s only rock and Redeemer. There is no other help under heaven who can stand against You. And yet, by Your unsearchable will and wisdom, You see fit to extend a hand of peace to us at this Table. Here the unworthy are given a royal welcome and taste the singular gifts

of Christ and His cross, His true body and blood, given and shed for a sinful world. As we prepare to receive these gifts, increase in us the hope in Your promises and the patience to wait for their fulfillment, that fed through this Supper, we might be held in faith until with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we join together in heaven's eternal hymn:

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 Ever-speaking Spirit, flood our hearts with gratitude, that our thoughts, words, and actions would overflow with thankfulness for a God who sets His people free and seals them in hope. Bring us near to Your glory, that given a glimpse of our God's surpassing grace, we might live to declare His name and the redemption won for us by Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, 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

-728 How Firm a Foundation

-700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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. Spirit of salvation, we rejoice that by faith we have been made fit to receive the nourishment of Christ's true body and blood. Safeguard this holy people from temptation and danger, and prepare us to represent the name of our loving and living Savior, Jesus, that we might shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father, and that by our actions and interactions more may be brought into the fellowship of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Father, 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 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be (vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The flowers on the altar are given by

Mike and Barb Huber

In honor of their Wedding Anniversary on July 23rd!



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. 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** (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); **Alan Jacobson** (declining health) Father of Jill Kent; **Connie Roettgen** (healing from neck injury); **Rob Kahlman** (thanksgiving for successful 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** (cardiac rehab) friend of Janine & Jim Pieper; **Jan Rogers** (recovery from surgery) sister of Kathy Kolb; **Cheryl Jorgensen** (dementia) mother of Linda Maldonado; **Keith Hayes** (hospitalized with cancer) relative of Pastor Taggatz.

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

We Mourn with the family of Lynn Buzzell Our sister in Christ, who was called home to heavenly rest on Saturday morning, July 4th. Please keep her husband Bob, their family, and all who mourn her passing in your prayers in the days ahead. *Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live."* (John 14:19) We give thanks for Lynn's life and rejoice that she now rests from her labors in the presence of her Lord and Savior. At the same time, we hold up Bob and the family, that they would know the comfort only Christ can give.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we come to You in grief and in hope. We thank You for the gift of **Lynn Buzzell's** life and for Your promise that in Christ, death is not the end but the doorway to eternal life. Be near to Bob in his sorrow; wrap him in Your peace and steady him with Your strength. Comfort the family and all who loved Lynn, that even in their tears they would cling to the sure hope of the resurrection. Walk with them in the days ahead, and let Your Holy Spirit bring healing in Your time. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who conquered death and the grave. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

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 7/16 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 7/19 9:00am</u>
Elders	Keith Goodle	Eric Kamprath
Readers	Edward Taggatz	Martin Taggatz
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		Jennifer Olen

The Fellowship Committee

will be hosting the following socials after worship services:

Dessert Social - Thursday July 16th

Coffee Soccial - Sunday July 19th

New Members Class on Sunday July 19th from 1:30-5:30pm at Grace Lutheran School



Our next New Members class will take place in our Grace Lutheran School building located at 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave. **Please also let us know if you might need childcare for this event.** Whether you have questions

about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Let us know if you might need childcare. Watch an introductory video at: www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

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

- **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

Special Voters Meeting

Sunday, August 23rd

The Church Council is inviting all voting members to a **Special Voters Meeting on Sunday, August 23**, following worship, to discuss the possibility of moving to a **single Sunday worship service year-round at 9:00 a.m.**

No changes have been made, and **no changes will occur without the input and approval of the congregation through the Voters Assembly.**

One of the primary reasons for discussing this proposal is the increasing difficulty over the years in securing enough volunteers to faithfully serve at three weekly worship services, particularly elders, ushers, and other worship assistants. A single Sunday service would also gather more of our church family together around God's Word and Sacraments, allowing us to lift one voice in song, strengthen our fellowship, and provide more opportunities for members to see and encourage one another.

Under this proposal, **Thursday evening worship would remain unchanged at 6:30 p.m.** Sunday worship would be held at **9:00 a.m. year-round**, followed by a **Christian Education Hour at 10:15 a.m.** for all ages, including Sunday School, youth, and adult Bible study.

We believe this proposal could help us be better stewards of the time, talents, and resources God has entrusted to us while continuing to provide meaningful opportunities for worship and Christian education. Most importantly, **we want to hear from you.**

Please plan to attend this important meeting, ask questions, share your thoughts, and help us discern together what is best for the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

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 "From Groans to Glory" Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen

A day will come when the grief will end, the groans will be silenced. Jesus will return and the dead in Christ will arise with bodies glorified. Romans 8: 21-27 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

"Each of us amounts to more than assorted cells, isolated fluids, and random spasms. Human means—in every case—a character, with an emerging identity, disclosing a history, developing toward an intended destiny. Every

life is a story.” Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life - 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 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Second Petition

Verse of the week: Matthew 13:41-42, “*The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 119:57-64 (antiphon vs. 89)

Hymn of the week: LSB 585 “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday

Pentecost 8: Parable of Tares and Wheat—Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43

Monday

Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36

Tuesday

Out of Man’s Heart Proceed Evil Thoughts—Matthew 15:1-20

Wednesday

A Canaanite Woman Trusts Jesus’ Word—Matthew 15:21-31

Thursday

The Feeding of the 4,000—Matthew 15:32-39

Friday

The Pharisees and Sadducees Seek a Sign—Matthew 16:1-12

Saturday

St. James the Elder, Apostle: Acts 11:27—12:5

The Confession of Peter and His Rebuke—Matthew 16:13-23

Stewardship Minute

As God’s people though faith in Jesus Christ, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and enabled to demonstrate our love in ways that honor Him. There are many ways that we can respond to God’s love for us, all of which are aimed at thanking and praising Him for sending Jesus to be our Savior. First and foremost, we respond to God’s love for us by placing Him above everything else in our lives. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”* (Matthew 6:33). We can also respond to God’s love for us by serving Him and His Church with our special talents, interests, and spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10).

CONSUMERISM IS THE PREOCCUPATION WITH MATERIAL RATHER THAN SPIRITUAL THINGS.

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15).



Growing in Grace –July 9th & July 12th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$3101.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Last Week)</i>	<i>\$1617.09</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Current Week)</i>	<i>\$1424.42</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$110.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>36/55</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$6357.51</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	7/19	9:00am	Divine Worship Coffee Social After Worship
Monday	7/20	-----	-----
Tuesday	7/21	7:00am All Day	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) NO SCHOOL PARKING LOT ACCESS **Parking lot lines being repainted**
Wednesday	7/22	All Day	NO SCHOOL PARKING LOT ACCESS **Parking lot lines being repainted**
Thursday	7/23	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	7/24	All Day	No School Building Access past Day School Office – Floors being waxed
Saturday	7/25	All Day	No School Building Access past Day School Office – Floors being waxed
Sunday	7/26	9:00am	Divine Worship

Please make special note
of the above dates this week that the
school parking lot
and
full school access
will not be possible due to maintenance!
Thank you!

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

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