



Equipper

Equipping God's people as we celebrate,
teach, and share God's Grace.

August 2026



Pastor's Message



"The Holy Spirit Prays for You!!!"

Romans 8:26-27, 26 "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

Romans 8 remains one of my favorite chapters in all of the Bible. It tells it like it is about the incredible blessings that believers have through faith in Jesus Christ alone. In chapter 7, the Apostle Paul expressed the wretchedness of our situation without Jesus. In this chapter he describes the rescue that is provided for all through the person and work of Jesus for us and for all. He speaks of *"no condemnation," "set free," "hope," and being "more than conquerors."* These are all realities in and through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to read, mark, and inwardly digest these truths every day of our lives. They are daily bread for eternal life. They communicate the power of God for your salvation and mine.

Another way of describing our new status with God because of Jesus is to call us *"co-heirs"* with Christ, sharers in His cross-earned, resurrection-delivered glory (Romans 8:17-18). To be co-heirs with Jesus means that all which He earned for us by His life, death, and resurrection (e.g., forgiveness, life, and salvation) are God's will for us by grace through faith in Jesus alone. Paul encourages us by affirming that *"all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God"* (Romans 8:14). Because of Christ, you are God's child! The Holy Spirit invites us to take all our imperfections and failures and bring them to Jesus. He invites us to pack up our pain and hurts in life and lay them before our Savior. The Spirit even challenges us to give over our doubts and fears to God, for, in Christ, we are God's children and nothing that can separate us from His love (Romans 8:16, 39). In Romans 8:17, Paul says it this way, *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ."*

You are an heir of God the Father! Can you imagine? Sometimes it's almost too wonderful to be believed. Whatever seems precious and valuable in this life, it's nothing compared to what a believer has in Christ.

That's why I love the other point of our devotion. The God who created you, redeemed you, and even brings life and salvation to you, also prays for you. Our weaknesses, our sin, and our moral and spiritual incapacities, don't stop the Holy Spirit from being God's helper for us in time of need. God the Father sends His Son as our Savior (John 3:16-17). Jesus then sends the Holy Spirit to be our life-giver, our faith-giver, our counselor, and our comforter (John 16:7-15). We sure do need that clear voice in our lives, as well as the loving attention the Spirit provides. When we struggle with issues in our lives, the Holy Spirit is at work testifying to us through the Word of God that no matter the circumstances of the moment, we are God's people in Christ, now and forever. When we are overwhelmed by the mortality of life or the transient nature of all things this side of heaven, the Holy Spirit takes upon himself our groans and presents our prayers before God's throne of grace. Isn't it amazing to hear that our God is that concerned with our lives each and every moment of every day?

Sometimes we need straight talk that cuts through all the hype of this world and reminds us that there's something way more precious than any of the goodies of this present age. That's what Paul is trying to tell us all today. In Christ, by the power of His Spirit, we are adopted into God's family by faith. We are His children. We are heirs with Christ. That's the love that God the Father has for us in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Believe it! And even when you struggle with faith in Him because of the circumstances of the day, remember that the Holy Spirit is right there with you lifting you up before the Father and comforting you with the blessings of Christ and His Word. I pray, and the Spirit prays, that you see how precious that really is for you today and always.

Prayer – *Dear Heavenly Father, I believe in you; help my unbelief. Especially during those times when I can't imagine why or how you love me in Christ, then and there may Your Holy Spirit especially give me courage to trust You then, and always. Amen.*

See you in worship,

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Pastor John M. Taggatz

The Buzzell Family invites you
to please join us as we gather to remember,
laugh and celebrate the beautiful life of
Lynn Buzzell
On Sunday, August 16th, 2026
At the Oak Creek Community Center
from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.
Wisconsin Badger attire is encouraged.



Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990

- When a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so a visit can be made by Pastor Taggatz.
- When your address, email, or your home or business phone number have changed, so church records can be corrected.
- When you are planning to move either out of town or locally.
- When you know you are pregnant so that we will be able to assist you in any way we can with prayers, encouragement and support.
- When a new baby arrives in your family and/or in the family of another church member.
- When you are planning a wedding, baptism or funeral.

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.

Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Monday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Tuesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Wednesday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Thursday 8:00 am-1:00 pm

Friday Pastor Off

Visitations: Monday – Thursday Afternoons

Heidi, Church Secretary

Church office: 414.762.8990

Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm

REMINDER: If you have any announcements and/or additions you would like printed in the monthly *Equipper* please forward to the church office at church@graceoakcreek.org by the 17th of each month.

The Mites dates are **August 6th & 9th**
Look for the LARGE mite box to drop your
change and dollars into!



*When you or your group plans to hold a meeting at the Grace Lutheran School campus, it must be cleared by Principal Lisa Hengst.
Her email address is: principal@graceoakcreek.org*

ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!!

Text the word: **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use the [QR Code](#) or head to our web-site: graceoakcreek.org You may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!





Mite Box Weekend!

The large mite box will be in the narthex on

August 6th

August 9th

We eagerly await to hear your noisy donations!

Rise & Sonshine Bible Study

Ladies you are all invited to join us!

August 8th 8:00am Breakfast

Golden Honey Pancake & Café - 7135 S 13th Street, Oak Creek

Oak Creek Farmer's Market afterwards for those interested

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



LWML South Wisconsin District- Fall Retreat

September 25th & 26th, 2026

Holiday Inn, Manitowoc

Speaker: Author Sharla Fritz

Enough for Now

*Be content with what you have, for he has said,
I will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5b*

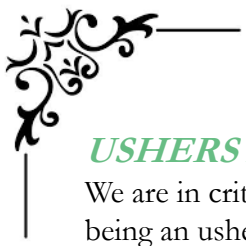


This comforting message reminds us of God's faithful presence in every season of life. As part of our servant event, we will carry this promise beyond our retreat walls in a very tangible way.

Residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities who use walkers greatly appreciate receiving tote bags as practical and meaningful gifts. At our servant event, tote bags printed with the message from Hebrews 13:5 will be available for you to decorate.

Registration is open!

www.lwml-swd.org



Opportunities at Grace

USHERS NEEDED/USHER DUTIES

We are in critical need of ushers for both Thursday and Sunday services. If you have thought about being an usher but are concerned about the duties, please don't be. Here are some of the main duties:

- Arrive 20 minutes before service
- Pass out bulletins
- Collect offerings
- Usher people for communion
- Clean up after service

If you are interested, please contact Pastor or our Church Secretary, Heidi, at the church office by phone (414)-762-8990 or email: church@graceoakcreek.org.

Greeting Card Ministry

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can't be at church regularly. *'Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.'* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven't been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry, please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex of the Church. Remember...you are giving joy to these people. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-807-6338 or paulinemom@aol.com

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study will be starting up again. Please join us on Wednesday mornings at Church beginning, September 2nd, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Join us!!! We are studying, *"Joy: A Study in Philippians"* by Deb Burma. Here is some information about the book: *Sure, we find joy in our triumphs, but not so much in the trials. Yet real joy, genuine joy, is always ours in the saving grace of Christ Jesus. This close look at Paul's Letter to the Philippians, the "letter of joy," unpacks messages of contentment, confidence, humility, and hope—all found in Christ infused with joy—in the mountaintop moments and in the mundane. Enclosed are eight weeks of study, divided into forty short sessions, to help you realize the gifts from God's hand more fully. Ample materials are provided to make the sessions flexible for personal or group use and to accommodate changing schedules and individual needs. Targeted study, discussion and reflection questions, and life-application challenges guide you in your exploration of joy.*

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

Sunday School at Grace begins on Sunday, September 20th. It is for children preschool through 8th Grade. This year we also will be providing Sunday School for our High School Students. We are also providing Adult Bible Class at Grace. Adult Bible Class will take place in the School Library and Sunday School will be taking place at Grace Lutheran School. **Because of the Congregation vote on August 23rd, 2026, regarding Sunday morning worship, the time for Sunday School is to be determined.** Adult Bible Class will be every Sunday of the month and Sunday School and High School Bible Study will be on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. If you are interested in helping out with Sunday School, please contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Mary Rowley at: sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org.

Worship Services at Willow Crest Nursing Home Volunteers Needed!

Grace Lutheran Church members have helped out with leading worship services at Willow Crest Nursing Home on Sunday mornings. We have started leading these worship services again and could use some volunteers to help out with this ministry. The worship services are roughly 30 minutes long and are held at 10:00am on Sundays at Willow Crest Nursing Home located at: 3821 Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172. You may end up leading a worship service at Willow Crest once a month, or every 5 to 6 weeks, depending on how many people are willing to volunteer in leading worship services at Willow Crest. We would also provide you with resources to help you lead worship services at Willow Crest.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jeanne Meyer at: meyorch@sbcglobal.net or 414-719-2257 or Lori Kachelmeier at jlkachel2@gmail.com or 414-828-0290. You would also be able to shadow a current Willow Crest Worship Leader if you are wanting to learn more information about this ministry.

Tele-health (Virtual) Counseling Now Available

Did you know that the counselors of Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin are available for virtual counseling sessions? For those struggling with any mental health issue such as depression, anxiety, trauma, an addiction or relationship issues, professional help is just a phone call away. Through faith-based Christian counseling, there is an opportunity to model Christian faith and share the promises of the Gospel while utilizing clinical expertise and skill. Speaking with a counselor can help reduce anxiety, monitor depression, control addictive behavior, identify triggers and create solutions to instill hope and faith. Most insurance plans accept telehealth/virtual counseling as a viable option to conduct therapy.

Check with your plan in advance to see if this is covered or the staff at LCFS can assist you. Call 800-291-4513 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Please Support Your Local Thrift Store!

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services operates thrift stores which help to support services for adoption, mental health, family counseling and substance abuse. Each store is run by amazing volunteers and support their communities by providing an outlet for clothing and household items to be reused and repurposed, offering affordable prices and by donating surplus items to local homeless or veteran shelters.

Please consider supporting these essential stores and the mission they support. Volunteers are in need at each store for a variety of tasks and services.

Hours and additional information can be found at www.lcfswi.org.

[The Economy Center](#) - 7814 W. Burleigh, Milwaukee, WI (414) 442-2272

Attention 6th – 8th Grade Parents

There will be a special Confirmation meeting on Monday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the school with Pastor Taggatz. At this meeting you will find out the schedule for your child's confirmation instruction, the curriculum your child will be learning from Martin Luther's Small Catechism, and the expectations for the class regarding acolyting for our 6th & 7th graders and ushering for our 8th graders, along with worship reports and memory work that they will be doing from God's Word and the Catechism.

Confirmation classes will begin Monday, September 21st at 6:30 p.m. for Public School students. The Confirmation Classes will be taking place in the school.

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

Your 2nd Quarter Giving Statements are now available for pickup in the church narthex.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries at Grace through the giving of your time, talents, and treasures. Your generosity enables us to proclaim the Gospel and serve others in Christ's name in our Church, School, and ECC!!! *"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving Tree in our Church Sanctuary Ends Labor 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!!!



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!!!

Matching Grant Opportunity for Grace!!!

Greetings from the Board of Stewardship, Many large companies have a matching grant foundation. They often match employee donations to various 501(c)(3) and other organizations including educational organizations. Though many may exclude religious organizations from their matching gift programs, they may make exceptions for those that provide secular services to the community. Since Grace Lutheran School does provide some secular services as a school, they may qualify for a matching grant. Grace Lutheran School has received grants through these programs in the past. If you are employed by a company with a matching grant foundation, and are interested in making a donation, please consider a donation to Grace Lutheran School. Thank you for your consideration and for your past generosity to Grace Lutheran School. (1 Peter 4:10) Blessings on your stewardship journey!

Save the Date!

Fellowship Committee Presents:

COFFEE SOCIALS!

*The Fellowship Committee will be hosting Coffee Socials
after the following worship services:*

Thursday, August 13th and Sunday, July 16th



Sunday, September 13th

Christian Education Sunday and Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School!!!

Please join us for our Annual Church Picnic on Sunday, September 13th. We will have our Christian Education Sunday Worship Service at 10am in our Church Sanctuary. Then, the picnic will start at 11:30am at Grace Lutheran School. We hope you can join us for some good fun, food, and Christian fellowship!!!

Please register by Sunday, September 6th.

You can register on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, online: <https://forms.gle/vqv8Zk5DpHoJLFA18> or by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, phone: 414-762-8990.

Please note that food and beverages will be provided for this event. Feel free to bring lawn games such as: *ladder toss and bean bag toss* for you and your fellow parishioners to enjoy. As you sign up, please indicate the number of people attending and if you can help with set up, serving, and/or clean up. We are looking forward to seeing you there!!

****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.

Grace Vacation Bible School 2026: Mission Challenge Met!



What an incredible week it was at Grace Lutheran Church & School June 15-19! We were blessed to welcome more than 70 children to our 2026 Vacation Bible School, **Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God**, where they discovered the greatness of our Lord through His Word.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our VBS Director, **Mrs. Amy Pankow**, along with our many volunteers, youth helpers, families, and congregation members whose dedication and support made this year's VBS such a tremendous success.

Throughout the week, our children joyfully learned to respond to God's wonderful works with the theme phrase: **"Wow, God!"** They explored these biblical truths:

Day 1: God Is Our Creator (Genesis 1)

Day 2: God Knows Everything (Psalm 139)

Day 3: God Is Our Safe Place (1 Samuel 23–24)

Day 4: God Is Love (Luke 22:39–24:12)

Day 5: God Is Forever (Revelation 7:17; 21–22)

Along the way they met their rainforest Bible Buddies: *Tango the Quetzal*, *Seymour the Glass Frog*, *Dottie the Ocelot*, *Tia the Giant Anteater*, and *Howie the Howler Monkey*.

Mission Challenge Accomplished!

Thanks to the generous offerings given by our VBS children **and the wonderful support of our Grace congregation**, this year's **Operation Kid-to-Kid "Planting Hope" Mission Challenge** was successfully met! Together we raised **\$570.00** to help families in Central America through World Vision by providing fruit trees that will offer nourishment, sustainability, and a source of income for years to come. We thank God for the generous hearts of everyone who contributed to this Christ-centered mission.

And the Offering Challenge Winner Is...

The annual boys versus girls offering challenge once again brought plenty of excitement and laughter! For the second year in a row, **the girls came out on top**, defeating the boys in the offering challenge. As a result, **Pastor Taggatz once again received a pie in the face!** It was a fun way to celebrate the children's generosity while reminding everyone that giving to share Christ's love is always a reason to rejoice. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this year's VBS such a joyful success.

View Photos from VBS 2026!

We invite you to relive the fun and see highlights from this year's Vacation Bible School by visiting our Facebook photo album: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CNK32ZdyN/>

Most importantly, please continue to pray for all of the children who attended VBS—that the Holy Spirit would keep them rooted in God's Word, strengthen their faith, and continually remind them that through Jesus Christ they have forgiveness, life, and salvation. As they learned all week long: **"Wow, God!"**

**2026 WINNERS
AND FINALISTS**

KIDS & EDUCATION

CHILD CARE

GRACE LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
graceoakcreek.org

FINALISTS
KINDERCARE
kindercare.com

THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL – OAK CREEK
themontessorioc.com

DANCE STUDIO/SCHOOL

THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS
tapacademy.com

FINALISTS
ANNIE'S DANCE CENTER
anniesdancecenter.com
CREATIVE PRODUCTIONS DANCE STUDIO
creativeproductionsdancestudio.com

KARATE/MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL

JK LEE BLACKBELT ACADEMY
jkleebellblackbelt.com

FINALISTS
ASCENSION MARTIAL ARTS
ascensionma.com

GMO'S MARTIAL ARTS
gmosma.com

PRE-SCHOOL

GRACE LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
graceoakcreek.org

FINALISTS
ST LEONARD CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
stleonard.org

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
SCHOOL – MUKWONAGO**
stjohnsmukwonago.org



Congratulations are in order!

Our Grace Early Childhood Center is so excited to share with our incredible families and Grace community voted us the TOP choice in Milwaukee for childcare AND preschool! This recognition means so much to us because it's built on the trust, relationships, and partnerships we've been blessed to share with each of our families. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your continued support and encouragement! We are incredibly blessed to serve our families each day. We can't wait to share more soon!

***"Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
Proverbs 22:6***

GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM!

When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and non profits.

Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership.



Diana Raasch
Director, Donor Relations



I'm honored to serve the churches, schools and RSOs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, working alongside partners in ministry for His glory.

Diana Raasch

diana.raasch@lcef.org 314-885-6476 lcef.org

Free Will Planning Workshop – Plan Your Legacy Mark your calendars!

Grace Lutheran Church is pleased to host a FREE Will Planning Workshop sponsored by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

Monday, November 9, 2026
 6:00–7:30 p.m.
 Grace Lutheran School

Whether you have already prepared a will or are just beginning to think about planning for the future, this workshop is designed to provide valuable information and answer your questions in a relaxed, conversational setting. The evening will be led by Diana Raasch, Director of Donor Relations for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Diana serves churches, schools, and ministries throughout the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by helping families thoughtfully plan their legacy while caring for those they love and supporting the ministries that have blessed them.

Joining Diana for this special "Ask the Experts" workshop will be:

An estate attorney, who assisted Grace Lutheran with the Zanardi Estate and will be available to answer legal questions regarding wills and estate planning.

A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who serves our Early Childhood Center and can provide guidance on financial and tax-related planning considerations.

Pastor John Taggatz, who will offer a biblical perspective on Christian stewardship and leaving a legacy of faith.

Workshop Topics Include:

Biblical stewardship and faithful Christian giving.

Planning your legacy while providing for your family.

Wills, trusts, beneficiary designations, and estate planning basics.

Endowment funds and other charitable giving opportunities.

Questions and answers with experienced professionals—this is not a "talking heads" seminar but an interactive discussion.

Helpful resources for creating or updating your will and estate plan.

This workshop is completely free and open to all members of Grace Lutheran Church. Everyone is invited to stay for a free meal and fellowship.

Please plan to join us for this informative event as we learn how to faithfully care for our loved ones while supporting the ministry of Christ for generations to come. **Watch for additional details and sign-up information in the coming weeks. We encourage all members to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.**



“Christ’s Love Compels Us”

“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NIV).

Some sons disobey their fathers. Others obey unwillingly with arguing and complaining, resentful of their fathers’ authority. Still others are compliant, but are there any who would be as submissive as Jesus was to His Father’s will? *“...yet not My will, but Yours, be done,”* Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42). Carrying out His Father’s will was no easy task, but, because His love for us is as great as the Father’s, He was willing to win our salvation for us by carrying out the plan the Triune God had established before the foundations of the world were laid. It was His love for us that caused Christ to give His very life so that we, who were dead in sin, might be alive forevermore in Him.

There is nothing we can do to earn this love; there is nothing we can do to “pay Him back.” The Christian life of stewardship is a response to His love. His love compels us to respond by loving Him first and best and loving others as ourselves. His love compels us to provide for our pastors, teachers, and missionaries who work to bring the Gospel to the world for which He died (1 Corinthians 9:9-12). His love compels us to look after the widow and the orphan (James 1:27). His love compels us to feed the hungry, extend hospitality to the homeless, clothe the destitute, and visit the prisoner (Matthew 25:37-40).

Stewardship is the use of life and all of life’s resources in response to the grace of God in our lives, poured out in service to others, even as Christ poured out His lifeblood for us. The prophet Micah clarifies to us what God requires of us: *“To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”* (Micah 6:8b). These are not attitudes we can work up of our own accord. Only as we are renewed daily through Word and Sacrament can we respond to this great love of Christ and respond in joyful service and generous giving that please God.

May Christ’s love in us flow through us to others.

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.

July 30th & August 2nd—Cross Bearers: Faith and Works, Ephesians 2:1–10; James 2:14–26



**Grace Lutheran Church,
School & Early
Childhood Center
Oak Creek, WI**



gracelutheran_oakcreek



We use these social media platforms to share the special things going on at church, school and the Early Childhood Center.

Most importantly, we share on social media the Gospel of God's redeeming love!

We enjoy using technology to continue the work of spreading the Good News of God's Riches at Christ's Expense!

LIKE our page, and make sure you SHARE these messages with others too!

Introducing RaiseRight -- The new name for Scrip The same program and process, just a different name.

You can now order gift cards from Raise Right in the comfort of your home through your phone or computer. You receive the same tuition credit and it is more convenient! Many cards are available that are not on our order form because we cannot list them all.

There are three options. You can order physical cards, E-cards or reloadable cards. Physical cards are mailed directly to you. There is a postage fee of \$1.00 for the first card and \$.50 per additional card. The convenience fee is 1% if using a debit card and 3% if using a credit card. E-cards appear immediately in your wallet in the Raise Right app. The convenience fee is the same as physical cards, but there is no mailing fee.

Reloadable cards have a \$.29 reload fee per card. Some cards cannot be mailed directly to you and need to be sent to the coordinator, Gail Nowakowski. There may be a delay receiving those cards because we do not place orders every week.

Simply download the Raise Right app and set up an account. The code for Grace is **6EA22B9E8287**. The current process has not changed and you can order Raise Right using the form and give it to one of the Raise Right coordinators in the Narthex after each service.

If you are interested in using the online process, or have questions,
please contact Gail Nowakowski at 414-791-4075

Birthday Blessings to you!

The Lord make
His face to shine
upon you and be
gracious to you.

Numbers 6:25



August

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 8/3 Marlene Voss | 8/24 Ariel Hagar |
| 8/6 Janine Pieper | 8/25 Phyllis Kraning |
| 8/6 Joanne Schaefer | 8/25 Mark Olen |
| 8/7 Barbara Praxel | 8/28 Alexandra McIntosh |
| 8/11 Ricky Robers | 8/29 Rodney Novak |
| 8/11 Andrea Szefflinski | 8/29 Craig Roush |
| 8/11 Thomas Szefflinski | 8/31 Sarah Anderson |
| 8/14 Greg Nowakowski | 8/31 Denise Hansen |
| 8/14 Laura Simmons | |
| 8/16 Kathy Kolb | |
| 8/16 John Manoil | |
| 8/16 Adam Voss | |
| 8/18 Craig Frank | |
| 8/18 Michael Rekowski | |
| 8/19 Chris Edgerton | |
| 8/19 Alyssa Morrisette | |
| 8/20 Jeffrey Schaefer | |
| 8/21 James Robinson | |
| 8/21 Joseph Zalar | |
| 8/22 Stena Miszewski | |
| 8/23 Ashlee Koehn | |



August

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| 8/6 Earl & Laura Curran |
| 8/7 Tom & Lisa Hengst |
| 8/9 Michael & Denise Hansen |
| 8/11 Greg & Marlene Voss |
| 8/12 Craig & Donna Roush |
| 8/14 James & Jean Robinson |
| 8/19 Jared & Erika Zeimentz |
| 8/22 Robert & Gail Olen |
| 8/31 Larry & Sandra Herte |



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00am Divine Worship	3	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	5 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	6 6:30pm Divine Worship	7	8 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Breakfast at Golden Honey Pancake & Cafe and Oak Creek Farmer's Market
9 9:00am Divine Worship	10	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 Coffee Social after Worship 6:30pm Divine Worship	14	15
16 Coffee Social after Worship 9:00am Divine Worship	17	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	19	20 6:30pm Divine Worship	21	22
23 Special Voter's Meeting after Worship 9:00am Divine Worship	24	25 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	26	27 6:30pm Divine Worship	28	29
30 9:00am Divine Worship	31					

Radio Worship Service

"*The Lutheran Hour*" can be heard anytime on the internet at lhm.org – scroll down the page and click on, "*listen now.*" You can also listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

"*The Lutheran Hour*," which began in 1930, is the world's oldest continually broadcast Gospel radio program. This weekly half-hour program, now heard on more than 1,200 radio stations, pro-claims the message of Jesus Christ to a world-wide audience.



Prayer Hot Line

In order to request prayers by members of Grace, please contact one of the following people. Your request will be made known to all members of our Prayer Line. Prayer requests for worship service should be directed to the church office or Pastor Taggatz.

10AM – 3PM

Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM

Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline

Pauline Parker

paulinemom@aol.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC



CHURCH & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

WEBSITE

<https://graceoakcreek.org>

Pastor John M. Taggatz

PH: 414.762.8990

Thursday Worship 6:30 pm
Sunday Worship 8:00 am and
10:30 am

