

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 13th & August 16th, 2026

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

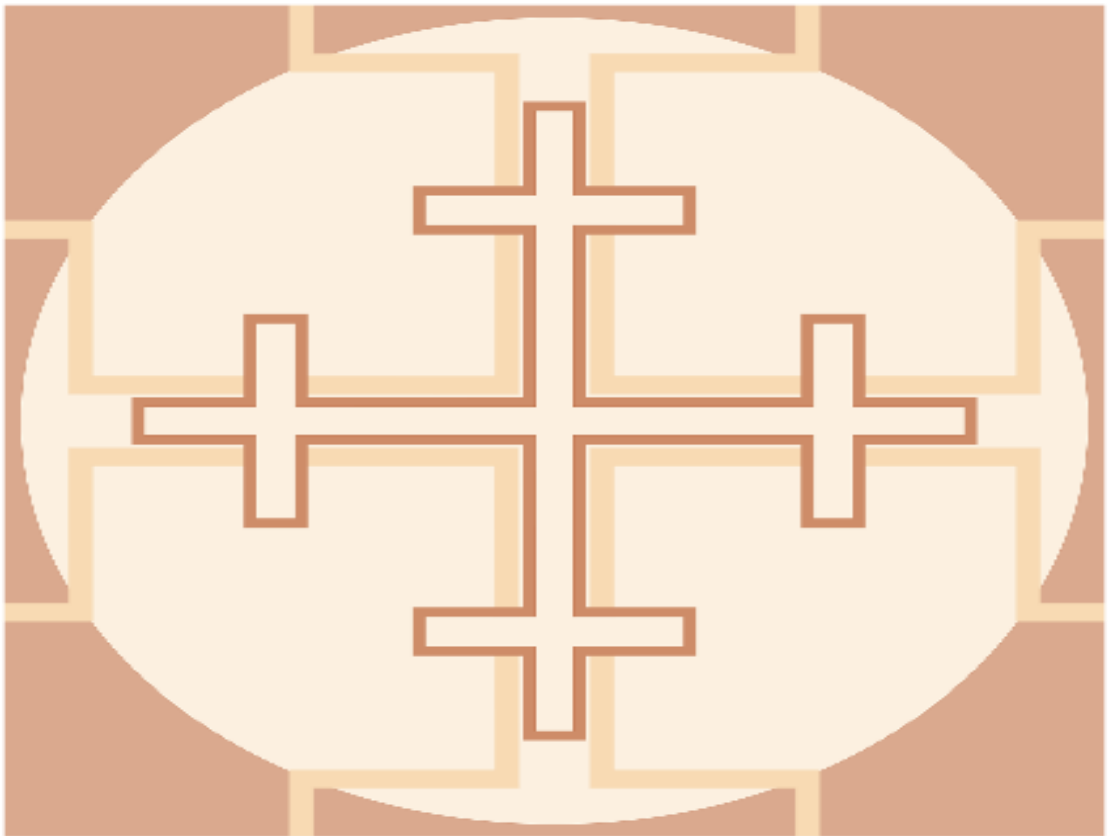


Image: *"The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to Him besides those already gathered." (Isaiah 56:8)*

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—"Joy at the Crossroads"

In today's Gospel, our Lord Jesus moved beyond His ministry initially among the Jews now to the Gentile woman of Canaan. The miracle greater than the healing of her daughter was her great faith in Jesus addressing Him, saying, "*Lord, help me*" (Matthew 15:25). Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord said He would bring "*foreigners*" to His "*house of prayer for all peoples*" (Isaiah 56:6-7). Here He gives "*many blessings even though we are undeserving*" (Prayer of the Day). The early church learned how the Gentiles are grafted into Israel, making the Christian Church the fulfillment of the true Israel, God's people! The outreach of the Gospel of Christ continues through His church, calling all people "*that He may have mercy on all*" (Romans 11:32). Because of God's effective call, you can have steadfast confidence in His loving kindness and mercy.

We invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer.** Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

Order of Service—Divine Service Setting 1, pg. 151

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Opening Hymn 901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (vs. 1-4)

Stand

Confession and Absolution LSB 151

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

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

C **Amen.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit (Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7; antiphon: v. 8, read responsively)

The LORD is the strength of his | people;*

he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not | deaf to me,*

lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down | to the pit.

Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to | you for help,*

when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.

Blessèd | be the LORD!*

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and | I am helped;*
my heart exults, and with my song I give | thanks to him.

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 the strength of his | people;*
he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

Kyrie *LSB 152*

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

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

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

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

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

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

C **This is the feast of victory for our God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of
God.**

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 156*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; 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 56:1, 6-8*

(Salvation for foreigners)

¹Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. . . .” ⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” ⁸The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt., read responsively*)

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32*

(Mercy for all)

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*

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

Alleluia Verse for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost—“*Alleluia. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Alleluia.*” (*Psalm 147:2-3*)

Holy Gospel *Matthew 15:21-28*

(A foreigner’s daughter healed)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And

behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *LSB 158*

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

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

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message— “From All Places” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-8) *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 824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace (vs. 1-3)

Sermon “The Savior of All Peoples” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-8)

Offertory LSB 159

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

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving by texting **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site at graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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 161*

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

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 162*

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

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**

hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord LSB 162

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini LSB 163

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

Agnus Dei LSB 163

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

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord’s Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to “*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*” the Good News of God’s Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord’s Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*
2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—*We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.*

Distribution Hymns

-571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

-615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need

Stand

Thank the Lord LSB 164

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

Post-Communion Collect LSB 166

- A Let us pray. Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn 832 Jesus Shall Reign (vs. 1-4)

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 Parker** (healing & strength) Pauline Parker's son; **Jim & Kari** (healing and strength) friends of Joy Lussier; **Greg Voss** (Dementia and Alzheimer's); **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; **Chris** (leukemia) friend of Joanne Jaeger; **Jackie Lehman** (healing & strength); **Alan Jacobson** (declining health) Father of Jill Kent; **Connie Roettgen** (healing from neck injury); **Ron and Judy** (cancer) friends of Mike & Pat Toman, **Betty** (hospice) mother of Lori Kachelmeier; **Michael Knoll** (cancer) friend of Doc Medek; **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 Moldonado; **Tim** (recovery from a stroke) brother in law Renee Bangart; **Joanie** (torn meniscus) sister in law of Carol Loveall; **Nathan Taggatz** (fighting wildfires in Colorado) brother of Pastor Taggatz; **Rod Novak** (recovery from a stroke); **Toni Howard** (hospitalized) relative of Pauline Parker; **Adam** (recovery from surgery) nephew of Jeanne Meyer.

For our Homebound Members at Grace: Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, Doc Medek, Rose Adams, Jan Barrett, Barb Praxel and Jan Warmkessel.

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 8/13 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8/16 9:00am</u>
Elders	Adam Voss	Rick Weeks
Readers	Pastor Taggatz	Lisa Kamprath
Communion Set-up	Staci Scherer	Jeanne Meyer
Linens	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
Acolyte		
Ushers	Doug Klipfel Char Klipfel	Steven Pawlak Bob Buzzell Glenn Dotson
Livestream		



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.

Mark your calendars! A Christian Men’s Retreat, “Iron Sharpens Iron,” will be held at Luther Memorial Chapel & University Student Center (Milwaukee), October 16-17, 2026. This retreat is open to all

men and will provide an opportunity to enjoy fraternal conversation, fellowship and enrichment in God's Word. Cost is \$50. University students attend free of charge. Meals provided.
You are invited to register at the following link: <https://forms.gle/WvepofLyXqAJjuY17>

God is at work across the South Wisconsin District in church plants, congregations, organizations, and communities, and we want you to see it.

"Mission & Mercy Moments"

is a free monthly e-newsletter celebrating how we receive and share the Gospel together. Read stories of outreach, mercy, and partnership, and discover how you can pray and get involved.

Subscribe today at: myswd.net/MMM.

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*

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.

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 Tagatz. 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.

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, or by contacting the church office via email church@graceoakcreek.org, or calling 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!!!

Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 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.

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

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

(See the handout in the narthex for further details)



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 "Look at Me"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Archives August—God hears our cry for justice, not as an indifferent judge, but as our merciful heavenly Father. (Luke 18:1-8)

Listen online at: lhm.org - or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings:

WTMJ 620 AM Milwaukee, WI Sunday 6:30 am

WGN 720 AM Chicago, IL Sunday 6:30am

"The message concerning the work and person of Christ is meant to bring joy to the sorrowing and light to those in the darkness. The light of God's mercy shines into the darkest of situations; the Holy Spirit guides people to confess their sins and brings forgiveness to those who have participated in abortions, pointed people to end their own lives, or suggested that someone be harmed in some other way." *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota - 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 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism:

Catechism: Lord's Prayer—Third Petition

Verse of the week:

Matthew 15:27b, *"Even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."*

Psalm of the Week

Psalm 67 (antiphon vs. 5)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 615 "When in the Hour of Deepest Need"

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday

Pentecost 12: The Canaanite Woman—Matthew 15:21-28

Monday

The Parable of the Wedding Feast—Matthew 22:1-14

Tuesday

Render to Caesar the Things That Are Caesar's—Matt. 22:15-22

Wednesday

Questions About the Resurrection—Matthew 22:23-33

Thursday

The Greatest Commandment—Matthew 22:34-46

Friday

Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees—Matthew 23:1-36

Saturday

Jesus Predicts the Signs of the End—Matthew 23:37–24:14

Stewardship Minute Scripture tells us that we cannot be free to be God's servants or stewards until death to ourselves takes place in each of us. This death is not a physical death, but a spiritual death. It is the death of the old nature in us so the new nature or new life in Christ can be raised. Paul wrote, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). All things in Christ are created anew. It is this new life in Christ that people see as we give generously and serve freely. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10).

**FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS,
WE SERVE OTHERS, PUTTING THEIR
NEEDS BEFORE OUR OWN.**

"...even as the Son of Man came
not to be served but to serve, and to
give His life as a ransom for many"
(Matthew 20:28).

**SERVE GOD BY
SERVING OTHERS**

Growing in Grace –August 6th & 9th

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$4580.00</i>
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$1778.94</i>
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$180.00</i>
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$2085.00</i>

<i>Portals of Prayer</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>Total Attendance</i>	<i>Total Communed</i>
<i>Lutheran Schools</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>29/52</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$8623.94</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	8/16	9:00am 10:00am 1:00-5:00pm	Divine Worship Coffee Social after Worship <i>Celebration of Life for Lynn Buzzell</i> Oak Creek Community Center
Monday	8/17	-----	-----
Tuesday	8/18	7:00am	Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	8/19	-----	-----
Thursday	8/20	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	8/21	-----	-----
Saturday	8/22	-----	-----
Sunday	8/23	9:00am	Divine Worship Special Voter’s Meeting after 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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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	414-762-8869
	ECC	414-856-9262

Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

