

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27th & 30th, 2026

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

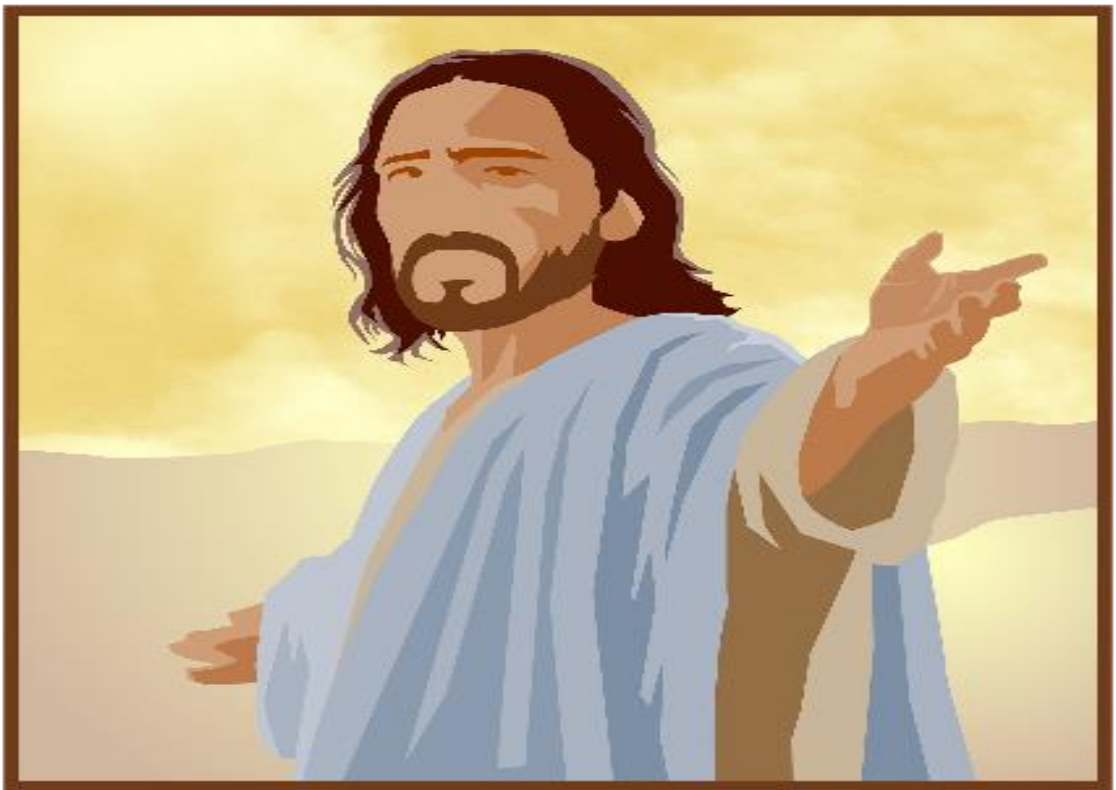


Image: *"Jesus told His disciples, 'If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.'" (Matthew 16:24)*

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—"Walking Faithfully"

The time of changing seasons is a good time to begin an outdoor regimen of walking for personal wellness. Experts in the field of fitness have documented that going for a walk outdoors can bring a sense of physical betterment and mental calmness to those who engage in it on a regular basis. In the Scriptures there are numerous passages that underscore the value of spiritual walking for the Christian as well. Paul writes to the Galatians, "But I say, walk by the Spirit" (5:16), and he reminds the believers in Christ at Corinth that "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Hymn writers give poetic expression to that special walking in texts like "Let us ever walk with Jesus" (*LSB* 685:1) and "I want to walk as a child of the light" (*LSB* 411:1). May we be blessed by our walking through the Divine Service together this day!

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 685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus (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 37:5-7; antiphon: v. 4, read responsively*)

Delight yourself | in the LORD,*

and he will give you the desires | of your heart.

Commit your way | to the LORD;*

trust in him, and | he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness | as the light,*

and your justice as the | noonday.
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for him;*
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out
evil de- | vices!
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.

Delight yourself | in the LORD,*
and he will give you the desires | of your heart.

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

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

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

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Jeremiah 15:15-21*

(The Lord promises deliverance to His people.)

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

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 12:9-21*

(The hallmarks of living in Christ)

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another

with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia Verse for the 14th Sunday after Pentecost—"*Alleluia. Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Alleluia.*" (Matthew 16:25)

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.

Holy Gospel Matthew 16:21-28

(Jesus calls His faithful followers to take up their crosses.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will

not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Message— “Words of Love” (Rom. 12:9-21, Sunday Only) *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 733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past (vs. 1-6)

Sermon “The Real Enemy” (Rom. 12:9-21)

Thursday night only: Guest Pastor Mark Wangerin

Offering/Attendance

As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us

today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord's Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

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



Stand

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

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 208*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer *LSB 209*

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

The Words of Our Lord *LSB 209*

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

Pax Domini *LSB 209*

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

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

- C 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

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

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

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

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

Distribution Hymns

-861 Christ Be My Leader

-643 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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. Holy Father, we ask You by this blessed food and drink to deliver Your church from every evil and to teach it to love You perfectly and make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

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 722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord. **Michael 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** (surgery) 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** (thanksgiving for returning home from the hospital) 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** (thanksgiving that he is back from fighting forest fires in CO) brother of Pastor Taggatz; **Rod Novak** (recovery from a stroke); **Adam** (recovery from surgery) nephew of Jeanne Meyer; **Lynn VanKanegan** (surgery); **Jim Pieper** (knee surgery)

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

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!!! We give thanks to God for the wedding of John Parker & Evana Stone on Friday August 28th! Evana is the daughter of Jason & Beth Stone. **We pray:** Gracious Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the gift of marriage and for bringing, *Evana Stone and John Parker*, together in love and commitment. As they are united in marriage on Friday, August 28th, bless their life together with joy, faithfulness, patience, and love. Keep them rooted in Christ and guide them through all the joys and challenges that lie ahead. May their marriage reflect Your love and faithfulness, and may they always find their strength and hope in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through the same Jesus Christ, Amen.

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 8/27 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 8/30 9:00am</u>
Elders	Greg Nowakowski	Richard Jackson
Readers	Kathy Szefflinski	Martin Taggatz
Communion Set-up	Staci Scherer	Jeanne Meyer
Linens	Donna Dotson	Donna Dotson
Acolyte		
Ushers	Doug Klipfel	Steven Pawlak
	Char Klipfel	Bob Buzzell
		Kathy Szefflinski
Livestream		Jennifer Olen

**A special thank you to Pastor Mark Wangerin for filling
in for Pastor Taggatz on Thursday, August 27,
while Pastor is in Wisconsin Dells conducting
the wedding of Evana Stone and John Parker.**

We give thanks to God for Pastor Wangerin and for his willingness
to serve God's people at Grace.

May the Lord continue to bless Pastor Wangerin and his ministry,
and grant him strength, joy,
and faithfulness as he proclaims
Christ and His saving Gospel.

We are grateful for your service and ministry among us,
Pastor Wangerin.
God bless you!

Welcome to our new members at Grace!

We are excited to welcome new families at Grace!!!

Guy, Nora & Katie Blazei

Cierra Brown & Alec Kent

Morgan Kent & Drew Yetka

Welcome to Grace, we are so glad that you have joined our church!!!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

During the month of September, we will be worshipping at:

- Sunday September 6th worship at 9am ending our normal Summer Schedule
- Sunday September 13th at 10:00am in the church, as we observe Christian Education
- Sunday, the Church Picnic will follow at 11:30am in our Lutheran School building
- Sunday, September 20th (and moving forward) at 8:00am and 10:30am, with Sunday School and Adult Bible Class being in the school from 9:15-10:15am. (Adult Bible Class is every week. Sunday School is 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month)
- Thursday evening worship will remain the same at 6:30pm.

**Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am
in the School Library starting Sunday September 20th
God's Word for Today: 1, 2, 3 John**

Toward the close of the first century AD, the apostle John wrote three letters. In 1 John, the apostle uses simple language to communicate some of the most profound theology in the Scriptures. Using dualistic contrasts such as light and dark, love and hate, and Christ and antichrists, John puts forth his underlying view of the world: *the cosmic battle between God and the devil*.

In 2 John, the apostle encourages his readers to walk in truth and love, and warns against false teachers. In 3 John, the apostle commends Gaius for assisting traveling missionaries and criticizes Diotrephes for failing to welcome them.

In this study, you will learn about:

- the realities of Jesus' incarnation and messiahship;
- believers' obligation to love their neighbor;
- God's abundant mercy and forgiveness in Christ.

Please join us as we fellowship together in the study of God's Word!!!



Socktober!

LWML Sunday (September 27th) will kick off our annual SOCKTOBER drive for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission.

New socks of all sizes are welcome!

Information about the Milwaukee Rescue Mission can be found here

<https://milmission.org/>

Monday, September 14th

Grief Share Seminar and Support Group at Grace

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a loved one recently?

On **Monday, September 14th**, Grace Lutheran will be starting a **Grief Share Seminar and Support Group** to help those walking through the difficult journey of grief. This group is designed to offer comfort, understanding, and encouragement through God's Word and the fellowship of His Church. Many who have attended Grief Share have found that it helps them begin putting their lives back together again with the Lord's help.



When: Mondays, September 14th – December 14th



Time: 6:30–8:00pm



Where: Grace Lutheran School Library, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Oak Creek, WI



Cost: \$25.00

There will also be a **special session on November 23rd** called, “**Surviving the Holidays**,”—a time when grief can often feel even heavier.

Our Grief Share group will be led by **Lori Kachelmeier** and **Jeanne Meyer**, who will walk alongside participants as they learn from nationally recognized experts on grief recovery.

Topics include: “*Is This Normal?*” “*The Challenges of Grief*,” “*Grief and Your Relationships*,” “*Why?*” and “*Guilt and Anger*.”



Register online here: <https://find.griefshare.org/find>

For more information, please call our Church Office at **414-762-8990** or church@graceoakcreek.org

Jeanne Meyer – meyorch@sbcglobal.net

Lori Kachelmeier – jlkachel2@gmail.com

Please share this opportunity with anyone you know who may be struggling with the loss of a loved one. May our gracious Lord use this ministry to bring His comfort, peace, and hope to many.

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.

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 on the first and third Sundays of the month from 9:15 -10:15am.

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

"Tell Me a Story!"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer

**Archives August—God lavishly sows the seed of His Word. Responses vary.
(Mark 4:1-20, 26-34)**

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

“Use the biological reality of the word ‘*abortion*’ to begin discussion to share that message with your unbelieving neighbor. Do so with boldness, but gentleness, please! Use the eternal reality of the word ‘*abortion*’ to share that message with your fellow believers. Speak the truth in love, please!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, 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 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism:

Ten Commandments—Third and Fourth Commandments

Verse of the week:

Romans 1:16a, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”*

Psalm of the Week

Psalm 26 (antiphon: v. 8)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday

Jesus Must Suffer, Die, and Rise the Third Day—Matthew 16:21-28

Monday

The Sabbath Law—Exodus 31:12-18

Tuesday

The Worship of the Golden Calf—Exodus 32:1-14

Wednesday

God's Wrath Is Poured Out upon Idol Worshipers—Exodus 32:15-35

Thursday

Lord Renews His Covenant with Israel—Ex. 33:1-3 (4-5); 34:1-10, 27-35

Friday

Moses Sets Up the Tabernacle—Exodus 40:1-3, 16-38

Saturday

A Watchman over the House of Israel—Ezekiel 33:7-9



Stewardship Minute “Love Motivates Our Giving”

Love is what motivated God to give. He didn't give leftovers; He gave His best. He gave us what we needed — His own Son. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

Through faith, we begin to understand God's tremendous love for us, and we are compelled to share with others the love of God that fills our hearts. The more fully we understand how richly God has blessed us, the deeper will be our love and gratitude to Him and the greater will be our desire to respond in generous giving of all that we have to offer — not just our monetary gifts but our time, efforts, and abilities as well.

Prayer: *Lord, I know that by nature I am a selfish and greedy person. Help me to overcome my selfishness and become the generous person You want me to be. I pray that You will grant me a generous and loving heart so I can be an instrument of generosity. Give me strength so I can overcome the power that money can have on me. I thank You for Your Word and Your constant love for me. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.*

Blessings on your stewardship journey!

Growing in Grace –August 20th & 23rd, 2026

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$1632.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Last Week)</i>	<i>\$1009.48</i>		
<i>Online Giving (Current Week)</i>	<i>\$1151.58</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$20.00</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>28/75</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$3833.06</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	8/30	9:00am	Divine Worship
Monday	8/31	-----	-----
Tuesday	9/1	7:00am 6:30pm	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	9/2	6:30pm	Grace All Boards Meeting
Thursday	9/3	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	9/4	-----	-----
Saturday	9/5	-----	-----
Sunday	9/6	9:00am	Divine Worship

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office

Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154



