

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Christian Education Sunday

September 10th & 13th, 2026

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

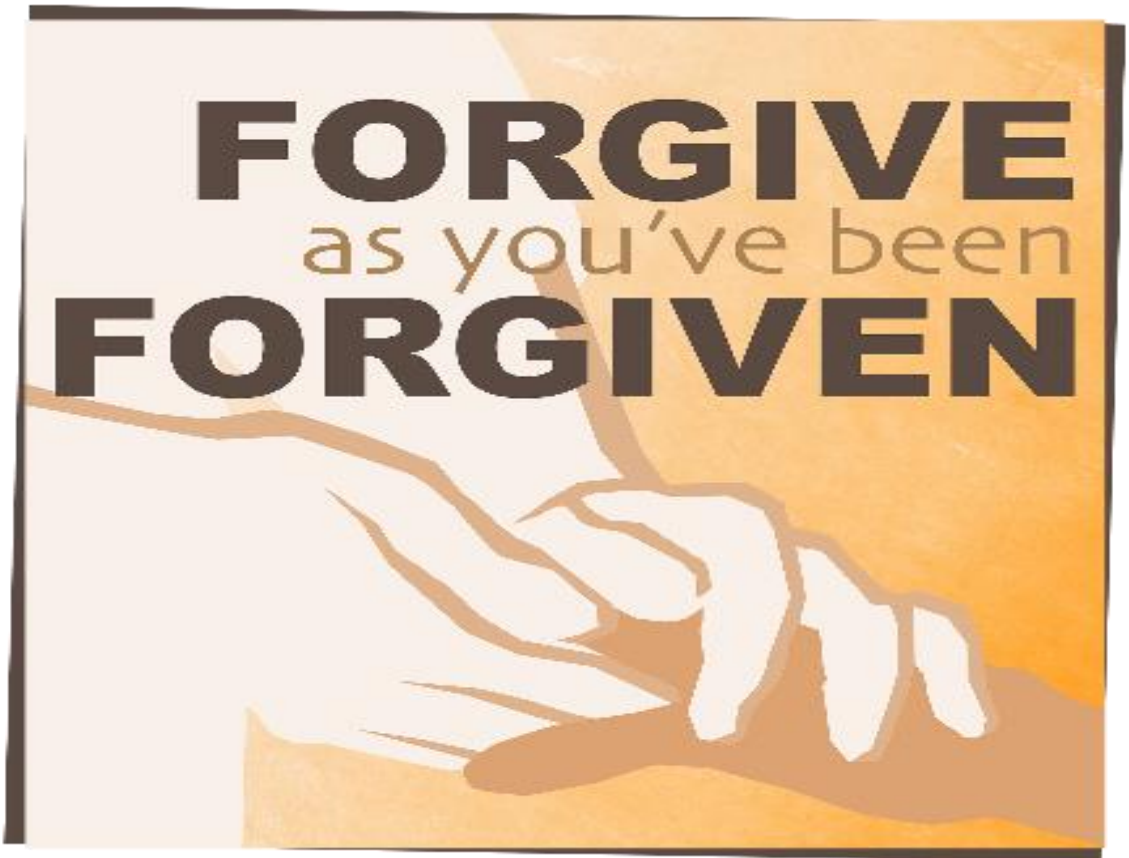


Image: "If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
(Matthew 6:14)

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 “Forgiven Forgivers”

It often irritates us when a kindness extended to others is not returned. When we fail to forgive others as we have been forgiven, something greater is at stake. In the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus ties together the forgiveness we receive from God and the forgiveness we offer to others in His name. That connection becomes prayer in the words of the Lord's Prayer: *“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”* Part of this is the reminder of the great debt of sin of which we have been forgiven and of the petty things we cling to and refuse to forgive of our brothers. While this might seem to lay a burden upon the Christian, it is instead the call to live out what is the ground and center of our relationship with God in our daily lives with others. This treasure of forgiveness only grows in us as we apply it and give it away to others.

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 740 I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (vs. 1-3, Thursday Night Only)

Grace Lutheran School Choir (Sunday Only)—“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” (4K & 5K) & “You Are Good” (1-8 Grade) (*Please note: After the students sing, they are dismissed to sit back with their parents after the song*)

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 143:1-2; antiphon: v. 9, read responsively*)

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!
I have fled to you for refuge!

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord!
I have fled to you for refuge!

Kyrie *LSB 204*

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

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

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

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

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

“Amen!” our glad reply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

BLESSING OF BIBLES (*the Bibles are generously provided from the Grace Lutheran Matt Meyer memorial fund, SUNDAY ONLY*)

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

C ***Amen.***

P The Lord God, by His Holy Spirit, has caused all Holy Scripture to be "written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Such learning takes place when we hear "the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." It is fitting that these Bibles be sanctified by the Word of God and prayer.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P Let us pray. O God, You have given us Your holy Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We humbly ask You to bless these Bibles that will be used by our Grace Lutheran ECC, School students, and Sunday School children. Enlighten their hearts and minds as they read from it, and open the ears of all who hear the Gospel proclaimed from it, that by Your Spirit they may earnestly hold fast to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ***Amen.***

P May the Lord Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these Bibles.

C **Amen.**

THE REDEDICATION OF OUR GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL & STAFF & GRACE LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (SUNDAY ONLY)

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be re-dedicated as *[name of position(s)]* at *[name of congregation]*, a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy. Hear the Word of the Lord:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

Beloved in the Lord, you are to assist me, the minister of Word and Sacrament, in the instruction of God’s people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism. While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

Teachers: I do.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness Spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in Their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

People: We do.

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I re-dedicate you as *[name of position(s)]* at *[name of congregation]* in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PROMISES OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Pastor: Now, then, all you who are parents: Will you promise to raise your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of your teaching? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

Parents: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: And how about you children? Will you promise to listen to your parents, learning from them, and obey them, helping wherever you can? Will you focus on Christ as the heart of

your learning? Will you set yourselves as examples of Christian living for your family and all you meet in daily living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

Children: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Finally, I ask all of you: Will you study the Word of God when you have opportunity, here in church and with your families or friends? Will you endeavor to share the faith in your hearts, teaching others by word and example? Will you seek to exhibit Christ as the heart of your living? If so, then answer: We will, by the grace of God.

People: We will, by the grace of God.

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful leaders and teachers in this congregation, and as teachers and learners in your daily living, to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

INSTALLATION OF NON-CALLED TEACHERS AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL (Sarah Atkinson, Sarah Tobolski & Courtney Kolhouse)

Old Testament Reading *Genesis 50:15-21*

("Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin.")

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm (*Psalm 103:1-12; antiphon: v. 13, read responsively*)

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me,
 bless his holy name!
²Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 and forget not all his benefits,
³who forgives all your iniquity,
 who heals all your diseases,
⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
⁵who satisfies you with good
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶The Lord works righteousness
 and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
 his acts to the people of Israel.
⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹He will not always chide,
 nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
 nor repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
¹²as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Epistle Lesson *Romans 14:1-12*

(Each of us must give an account before the Lord our God.)

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 205

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Alleluia Verse for Christian Education Sunday—“*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.*” (Matthew 22:37-40)

Holy Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

(“Forgive your brother from your heart.”)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should

not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed LSB 207

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

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

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

Sit

Sermon Hymn 688 "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake" (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "Rooted in Christ- Forgiven People Forgiving People" (Matt. 18:21-35)

School Year Theme & Verse: "Rooted in Christ" Colossians 2:6-7—"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

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 Holy and mighty Lord, in Your mercy You created all things and still preserve them, and by Your will and purpose You sent forth Your Son, born of the virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit, to rescue and redeem us from the sin and death we chose. As He has fulfilled Your holy purpose and won for You a holy people, grant that we may here receive with faith the fruits of His redeeming work and in this Holy Communion be fed and nourished to everlasting life in Christ. Here 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

-725 Children of the Heavenly Father

-865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

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. Blessed Lord, You were born in flesh and blood to walk with us the path of our sin and death in order that we might walk with You by Baptism and faith. Lead us in the way of the cross that we may not depart from it but follow its path to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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 578 Thy Strong Word (vs. 1-3)

Announcements

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



The Altar flowers are given this week by Steven Pawlak

In Memory of Oleta Partl's Birthday



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); **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); **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: **Rod Novak** (recovery from a stroke); **Adam** (recovery from surgery) nephew of Jeanne Meyer; **Jim Pieper** (knee surgery); **Rose Adams** (hospitalized); **Pat Weber** (healing & strength); **Spencer Szuta** (healing & strength).

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

We mourn with the family of Pat Groth, a former member, who was recently called home to heavenly rest.
We pray: *Gracious and loving Lord, we commend Pat Groth into Your gracious and loving hands. We thank You for the life You gave her and for the blessings and memories You shared with her family and friends. Comfort the Groth family as they mourn her death. Remind them of Your promises in Christ, especially the assurance that because Jesus died and rose again, those who trust in Him have the hope of everlasting life. Give them peace in the midst of their sorrow and strength for the days ahead. Keep them close to Your Word and surround them with the love and care of family, friends, and fellow Christians. Through Jesus Christ, our risen and living Savior, give them the sure hope of the resurrection and the joy of being reunited in Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus we pray. 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 9/10 6:30pm</u>	<u>Sunday 9/13 9:00am</u>
Elders	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau
Readers	Edward Taggatz	Jen Lau
Communion Set-up	Janine & Marlene	Janine & Marlene
Linens	Gail Nowakowski	Gail Nowakowski
Acolyte		
Ushers	Keith Goodle	Craig Lau
	Jim Robinson	Jen Lau
Livestream		Glenn Dotson

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!!!

There will be a Voters Meeting Sunday, September 27th After the 10:30am Worship Service

Please plan on attending as your participation as a member of our congregation is very important for the ministries here at Grace Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center.

Topics of the meeting will include:

Pastor's update, Goals for the next year from our Church Boards, Treasurer's Report, and update on Church Membership here at Grace.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

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

- 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!!!



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 – mevorch@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.

Grace Ladies Guild

Saturday, September 19th - 10:00am - Noon at school

Agenda: Welcome Back & planning for LWML Sunday

ALL LADIES of GRACE ARE INVITED!

Any questions, please free to contact Jennifer Olen

Rise & Sonshine Bible study

One meeting this month!

Saturday-Sept 19th 8:00am-9:30am at school

We begin a wonderful new study...*Everlasting: Peaks, Valleys, and Grace in the Psalms* - By Christina Hergenrader

Ladies, you are absolutely invited to join us in being together around God's Word.

FYI: October meetings will be the 3rd & 10th!

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 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.

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.

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

The Lutheran Hour

"Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

In God's family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It's not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are. (Matthew 6:12)

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

“Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!” *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, 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 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism:

Ten Commandments—Seventh and Eighth Commandments

Verse of the week:

Romans 13:10, *“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”*

Psalm of the Week

Psalm 103:1-12 (antiphon: v. 13)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 919 “Abide, O Dearest Jesus” (stanzas 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday

Parable of the Unmerciful Servant—Matthew 18:21-35

Monday

Holy Cross Day—John 12:20-33

Tuesday

The Profane Fire of Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-7

Wednesday

The Day of Atonement—Leviticus 16:1-17 (18-19) 20-22, 34

Thursday

The Lord Commands a Census of Israel—Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19, 45-54

Friday

The Levites Are Called to Serve as Priests—Numbers 3:1-16, 39-51

Saturday

Our God Will Abundantly Pardon—Isaiah 55:6-9

Stewardship Minute Do you understand stewardship as the free and joyous activity of God's people and God's Church? Our faithful stewardship becomes free and joyous when we by faith know who God is and understand what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus. One of the ways we respond to God's lavish love for us is by managing faithfully and responsibly all that He entrusts to us for His purposes. Seeing ourselves as God's stewards compels us to live out our faith under grace.

**GIVING IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP
WHICH PLEASES OUR HEAVENLY
FATHER.**

"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).



Growing in Grace – Sept. 3rd & 6th, 2026

<i>General Offering</i>	<i>\$2690.00</i>		
<i>Online Giving</i>	<i>\$1407.70</i>		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	<i>100.00</i>		
<i>Missions</i>	<i>\$105.00</i>		
<i>Mortgage Fund</i>	<i>\$2000.00</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>27/49</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Vacation Bible School</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>		
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$6302.70</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	9/13	10:00am 11:30am	Divine Worship- Christian Education Sunday Church Picnic at Grace Lutheran School
Monday	9/14	6:30pm 6:30pm	Confirmation Parent Meeting Grief Share
Tuesday	9/15	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)
Wednesday	9/16	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study at Church
Thursday	9/17	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	9/18	-----	-----
Saturday	9/19	8:00am 10:00am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study Ladies Guild
Sunday	9/20	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Divine Worship Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 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

