Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 12th & 15th, 2026

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

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD



Image: "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." (*Psalm 90:12*)

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 *"No Time for Complacency!*

As we reach the end of the Church Year, there is a heightened sense of urgency in all the Readings, hymns, and other propers. These remind us that Christ will certainly come again, that this return draws closer with each passing day, and that we do not know when that day will be. Therefore, we are to be ready and prepared for Jesus to come again—and to meet Him at our own death. Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians in the Epistle, warns that "*the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night*" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). Paul warns against complacency, exhibited by those who say, "*There is peace and security*" (v. 3). In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, warning again that we do not know when He, the master, will return; the precious gift of faith must be invested in His means of grace now (Matthew 25:14–30). In the Old Testament Reading, the prophet Zephaniah warns about complacency and misjudging God's character, so that he can point us to God's true nature: "*a mighty one who will save*" (Zephaniah 3:17).

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 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near (vs. 1-5)

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 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1, read responsively)*

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 be- | fore you.

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | you have done;*
I ponder the work | of your hands.
I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*
Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*
In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

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.

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

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 and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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

Grace Lutheran Choir (10:30am only)—"Wonderful God"

Old Testament Reading *Zephaniah 1:7-16*

(The day of the Lord is near and coming quickly.)

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a
sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the
officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will
punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud. 10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the
Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants
of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that
time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods
shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not
inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." 14 The great
day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *(Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5, read responsively)*

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.*
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,*
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

Epistle Lesson *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

(The Lord has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ.)

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 205*

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

Alleluia Verse for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost_—*"Alleluia. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. Alleluia." (Matthew 25:29a)*

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:14–30*

(The day of the Lord will be like a man who entrusts his servants with his property.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

14[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and
entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents
went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17So also he who had the
two talents made two talents more. 18But he who had received the one talent went and dug
in the ground and hid his master's money. 19Now after a long time the master of those servants
came and settled accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I
have made five talents more.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.
You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your
master.' 22And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered
to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter
into the joy of your master.' 24He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying,
'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where
you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here
you have what is yours.' 26But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant!
You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27Then
you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have
received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him and give it to him who
has the ten talents. 29For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an
abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30And cast
the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.'"

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— "Time to Wake Up!" (Zephaniah 1:7-16) 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 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive (vs. 1-4)

Sermon "Time to Wake Up!" (Zephaniah 1:7-16)

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, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who alone reigns as the Mighty One in our midst as the good and faithful Servant and who promises to rejoice over us with gladness, having defeated death and the grave. Just as He did not delay in rising from the dead, He will not delay in returning to us as the day of the Lord draws near. 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

-411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

-783 Take My Life and Let It Be

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. We give thanks to You, almighty God, for giving us a taste of the life that is to come. Help us to walk as children of the day, strengthening our faith toward You and enlivening our love for one another; 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.**

Sit

Closing Hymn 804 O Worship the King (vs. *1–3, 5*)

Announcements
Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God!

✠ ✠ ✠

The flowers on the altar are given this week by Lori Kachelmeier

In loving memory of her Mother and Father



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; **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** (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, **Michael Knoll** (cancer) friend of Doc Medek; **Brian** (rotator cuff surgery) friend of Mary Rowley; **Chuck Mirenda** (hospice) brother of Tony Mirenda; **Marlene Voss** (healing & strength); **Joy Lussier** (healing & strength; **Cheryl Jorgensen** (dementia) mother of Linda Moldonado; **Tim** (recovery from a stroke) brother in law Renee Bangart; **Rod Novak** (recovery from a stroke); **Pat Weber** (healing & strength); **Spencer Szuta** (healing & strength); **Debbie** (colorectal cancer) Donna Dotson's cousin; **Jeff Berely** (healing & strength) Son in Law of Pauline Parker; and **Mike** (healing & strength) Jeff Schaeffer's father; **Barb Huber** (recovery from hip surgery); **Lisa Hengst** (healing & strength, recovery from shoulder surgery); **Layla** (healing & strength) Granddaughter of Susan Krueger; **Don Adams** (healing & strength) relative of Pauline Parker; **Bernice Byklum** (hospice); **Alexis** (recovery from knee surgery) Granddaughter of Lori Kachelmeier; **Ricky Roberts** (bladder cancer); **Dave Stecker** (ankle surgery); and **Nyla (**hospitalized) Niece of Mark and Renee Lutzke; **Erik Kopperud** (recovery from a stroke); **Joe** (peace, healing & strength) father of Janine Pieper; **Darlene Urbaniak** (medical tests); **Melissa Hayes** (hospitalized) relative Pastor Taggatz; **Jill Ross** (surgery) friend of Sandy Herte.

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 ***Dave Stecker*** as they grieve over the recent death of his brother in law ***Dennis Rego***. We pray: *Heavenly Father, we lift up* ***Dave Stecker*** *and his family as they mourn the recent death of his brother-in-law,* ***Dennis Rego****. Surround them with Your comfort and peace during this time of sorrow. Remind them of Your promises in Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, and give them hope in the assurance of eternal life through Him. Strengthen them with Your love and the promise that nothing can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus. In His precious name 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.

	Thursday 11/12 6:30pm	Sunday 11/15 8:00am	Sunday 11/15 10:30am
Elders	James Robinson	Greg Nowaowski	Keith Goodle
Readers	Connie Roettgen	Cris Evers	Martin Taggatz
Communion Set-up	Janine & Marlene	Janine & Marlene	Janine & Marlene
Linens	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel	Char Klipfel
Acolyte	Matthew Scherer	Alyssa Norton	Henry Peppler
Ushers	Mark Roettgen	Steven Pawlak	Rick Weeks
	Connie Roettgen	Nick Norton	Cathy Weeks
		Alyssa Norton	Levi Van Vlaenderen
Livestream		Glenn Dotson	

Thank You!!!

My family and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who so generously blessed us with wonderful gift cards and a special gift in recognition of *Clergy Appreciation Month*. Your thoughtfulness, kindness, and generosity mean more to us than words can express. It is truly a blessing and a privilege to serve as your Pastor here at Grace Lutheran Church. I am thankful for the opportunity to share with you the wonderful gifts God gives us through His *means of grace* in Word and Sacrament, and to walk alongside you as we grow together in faith and in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers, and continued support. Most of all, thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Pastor. My family and I are deeply grateful and blessed to be part of the Grace family. May God richly bless each and every one of you!

Pastor John M. Taggatz & family

Your 3rd Quarter Giving Statements are available for pickup in the church narthex.
Thank you for your continued support of Grace Lutheran Church, School, and Early Childhood Center. We are truly grateful for your prayers and for the generous giving of your time, talents, and treasures. Your faithful support makes it possible for us to continue sharing Christ's love and carrying out the ministries God has entrusted to us. God bless you!



"Love's Pure Light"

Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent Devotional

In Love's Pure Light, Gospel passages and selections from the Nicene Creed reveal how God in Christ has made His love known. In Jesus, the Light of the world, "very God of very God," we see God the Father's love in the flesh, sent for our salvation.

As promised by God and foretold by the prophets, the Christ was born. Jesus is love's pure light: humble, gentle, and patient—a Friend of sinners, like you and me. In taking on human flesh, the Savior put aside His glory and sacrificed His life for our sakes, so that we too might become children of God.

Into this world, the Father sent His Son to show His grace and mercy toward sinners. This truth—given in the Gospels and expressed in the Nicene Creed—tells us that no light illuminates greater than God's love. And Jesus, the Light of the world, perfectly displays love's pure light sent into our darkness.



Choir at Grace—Choir practice is following 6:30pm worship on Thursday evenings at Grace! The psalmist reminds us to *"make a joyful noise to the Lord"* (Psalm 100:1), and Martin Luther once said, *"He who sings prays twice."* What a wonderful way to lift our voices in praise together! If you would like more information, please contact **Kathy Kolb at 414-744-7781**. Please join us—we would love to have you!

Join the Grace Oak Creek VBS Committee! Plans are underway for **Vacation Bible School in June 2027**, and we're forming a committee to help with planning and preparation. Volunteers are needed for areas such as **decorations, supplies, recruitment, fundraising, and more**. If you're interested in serving, please email **apankow@graceoakcreek.org**

Grace Lutheran School's Annual Cookie Walk! Sponsored by Grace PTLS

Calling all cookie lovers: the season of sweets is almost here! Join us for Grace Lutheran School's annual Cookie Walk.

When: Saturday, December 5, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Where: 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oak Creek, WI 53154
Cost: Cookies are $8.00 per pound

Stroll the tables, fill your container with sugar cookies, chocolate chip, frosted favorites, and more, and take home a treat for your family, your neighbors, or (let's be honest) yourself. Every cookie purchased supports the ministry of our school.

Bring a friend, bring the kids, and bring an appetite. We're told that calories don't count when they're eaten for a good cause, though we make no promises about your scale. **If you would like to donate cookies for the cookie walk, you can bring them to church or to the school office by no later than December 4th. Thank you for spreading the joy of Christmas and supporting our Lutheran Day School with your donation! God bless you!!!**

Don't miss it! We hope to see you there.

MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL THEATER PRESENTS: YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN (November 13th-15th)

Join the Martin Luther High School Theater Department for a delightful, nostalgic production featuring the beloved *Peanuts* characters created by cartoonist Charles Schulz! This heartwarming show features a series of loosely connected vignettes and musical numbers celebrating Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and their friends.

Reserved seating and general admission tickets are available. Tickets may also be purchased at the door during the show weekend. **The performances are on November 13 & 14th at 7pm and November 15th at 2pm.**

Purchase tickets online:
https://www.gobound.com/wi/bound/theatre/2026-27/martinluther/hs

You may also scan the QR code on the show poster to purchase tickets. Come out and support the talented students of Martin Luther High School!

Grace Lutheran School's Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair—Join us on **Saturday, November 14, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at Grace Lutheran School, 8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Oak Creek, for our *Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair*! Get a jump on your Christmas shopping, discover handmade gifts, and enjoy concessions available for purchase. Bring your family and friends, and come see what our school community has to offer. Interested in being a vendor? Please contact the school office or PTLS for a vendor application. They can be reached at: 414-762-3655 or school@graceoakcreek.org

Holiday Worship Schedule for 2026

"The Son of David"



On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace during the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. The Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond.

A beloved Christmas tradition is the beginning of the Christmas Eve service with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City." That royal city was not the kingly city of Jerusalem with its impressive temple but the "Little Town of Bethlehem." Yet the great forerunner of the Messiah is remembered not only at Christmas, for many of David's psalms provide the inspired prediction of the Messiah's ministry, including His betrayal, death, resurrection, and exaltation. In this Advent midweek series, we recall God's promise of the Savior to be born "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4). By that salvation, we receive the promise of the Father's house where we, the redeemed of the Lord, will dwell forever.

Please note, due to our special holiday worship there will be no Thursday night worship service on Thursday December 31st, as we will be having worship on Friday January 1st on New Years Day.

Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Wednesday, November 25 – 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service with Communion— *"Thankful by the Creed"* Luke 17:11–19

Thursday, December 3 – 6:30 p.m. Advent Midweek 1— *"The Son of David Promised"* 2 Samuel 7:1–18

Sunday, December 6 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Special "Trim the Tree" Service – Second Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 10 – 6:30 p.m. Advent Midweek 2— *"The Son of David Dies"* 2 Samuel 11:26–12:10, 13–23

Thursday, December 17 – 6:30 p.m. Advent Midweek 3— *"The Son of David Lives and Reigns"* 2 Samuel 23:1–7

Thursday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship—*"Christ for All People"* Luke 2:1–16

Friday, December 25 – 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship—*"The True Light"* John 1:1–14

Sunday, December 27 – 9:30 a.m. (only) Worship with Communion – First Sunday after Christmas *Note: One service only this Sunday.*

Friday, January 1 – 6:30 p.m. New Year's Day Worship with Communion—*Circumcision and Name of Jesus "A New Year's New Day"* Galatians 3:23–29 *Note: There will be no Thursday evening worship on December 31.*

Sunday, January 3 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed) with Communion—*"The Family for Everyone"* Ephesians 3:1–12

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class at Grace!

Calling all kids (and grown-ups too)! Sunday School at Grace has already begun and we'd love to have your family join us.

Who it's for: Preschool through 8th Grade — and new this year, we're excited to offer Sunday School for our high school students too! *Adult Bible Class is also offered in the School Library, every Sunday…*

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

When: 9:15–10:15 AM

- Sunday School & High School Bible Study meet the ***1st and 3rd Sundays of the month***
- Adult Bible Class meets every Sunday, in the School Library

Register here: https://tinyurl.com/4hsxu4by

Come dig into God's Word with us!

Curiosity, and a little chaos guaranteed.
Want to help teach or volunteer?
Contact our Sunday School Superintendent, Mary Rowley, a:

sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org

We can't wait to see you there!

Sunday Morning Bible Class from 9:15-10:15am in the School Library

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!!!



Surviving the Holidays Grief Share

Join us for a one-time Grief Share session, *Surviving the Holidays*, on Monday, November 23, 2026, from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the school library.

The holidays can be especially tender after the death of a loved one. This evening will offer practical, spiritual, and gentle ways to walk through the season with hope and care.

The book *Grief Share Survival Guide: Navigating the Holidays After Loss* is available for $10. Sign up online at griefshare.org, or call Lori Kachelmeier or Jeanne Meyer. Last-minute "*drop-ins*" are welcome, too. It's OK!

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 started 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 email church@graceoakcreek.org

Jeanne Meyer – meyorch@sbcglobal.net **Lori Kachelmeier** – jlkachel2@gmail.com

Teacher of the Year Nominations Open for South WI District!!!

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. Each year, the South Wisconsin District selects an outstanding educator for the Teacher of the Year award in the following categories:

- *Principal*
- *Early childhood director*
- *High school teacher*
- *Elementary teacher (4th-8th Grade)*
- *Early childhood teacher (4K-3rd Grade)*
- *Early childhood teacher (infant - 3 yr olds)*

To nominate an educator who has at least two years of teaching experience and is currently teaching full-time in one of our LCMS schools in the SWD, **complete the nomination form by November 15. NOMINATION FORM**: https://tinyurl.com/muz2e2sc

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

The Ladies Bible Study has started up again! Please join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 at church. 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****.*

The Lutheran Hour

November 15, 2026 "Fruitful Trees"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen

The tree of Christ's cross bore life-giving fruit. (Genesis 1:11-12; 1 Peter 2:24)

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

"Tragedies are a reminder that we do live in a fallen world, and we all need to repent. We thank God for the time He has given us in this life to repent. We recognize our sin. We confess our sin. We trust that Jesus did everything for our forgiveness. Out of thanks for God's gift of forgiveness, let's be living fig trees. Each day let's bear good fruit, showing our faith, and giving glory to God in everything we do." *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – 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 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Catechism:

Lord's Prayer—Introduction and First Petition

Verse of the week:

2 Timothy 3:15 "*From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*

Psalm of the Week

Psalm 90:1-12 (antiphon: v. 17)

Hymn of the week:

LSB 514 "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" (stanza 1-3)

Bible Readings for the Week:

Sunday
Parable of the Talents—Matthew 25:14-30

Monday
Othniel, Israel's First Judge—Judges 3:7-11

Tuesday
Ehud, Israel's Left-Handed Judge—Judges 3:12-30 (31)

Wednesday
Deborah the Prophetess Judges Israel—Judges 4:1-24

Thursday
The Angel of the Lord Appears to Gideon—Judges 6:1 (2-5) 6, 11-27

Friday
The Sign of the Fleece—Judges 6:28-40

Saturday
The Lord God Will Seek Out His Sheep—Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

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

STEWARDSHIP IS GOD'S WAY OF ENRICHING HIS PEOPLE.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" (2 Corinthians 9:6).



Total Attendance for Worship this Past Weekend of

November 5th & November 8th

Total: 115 Communed: 71

Opportunities at Grace this week!

Sunday	11/15	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	Divine Worship
Monday	11/16	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
		6:30pm	Grief Share
Tuesday	11/17	7:00am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (Oak Creek Diner)
Wednesday	11/18	9:30am	Ladies Bible Study
Thursday	11/19	6:30pm	Divine Worship
Friday	11/20	---	---
Saturday	11/21	---	---
Sunday	11/22	8:00am	Divine Worship
		9:15am	Adult Bible Class
		10:30am	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	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

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