Equipper

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

December 2026

Pastor's Message

"The Bells Are Still Ringing"

Luke 2:10-14— [10]And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. [11]For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. [12]And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." [13]And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, [14]"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the poem, "Christmas Bells" on Christmas Day, 1863, and he was not in a festive mood. This poem later became the popular Christmas carol, "I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day." His wife, Fanny, had died two years earlier in a household fire. His son Charles had just been gravely wounded in the Civil War. The nation was tearing itself apart. The poem has a verse where Longfellow admits that despair crept in, as if hatred were stronger than the angels' song and God were dead or asleep. That verse didn't make it into the carol we sing, but it is the very thing that makes the carol true. Lutherans should recognize this. Martin Luther taught us to look for God where He has promised to be, and that is not in our feelings or in the headlines. He is in the manger and on the cross. The bells didn't ring because the world was peaceful. They rang because Jesus Christ our Lord, the Word became flesh, and entered the grief, the war, and the empty chair at the table.

Peace on earth was never a report on the world's condition. It is a promise spoken to sinners for sinners, and it rests on Christ, not on us. Notice that Longfellow's turn comes when he hears the bells, not when he feels better. That's how faith comes: by hearing (Romans 10:17). The Holy Spirit doesn't ask us to manufacture joy. He sends the Word from outside us, (*Latin, extra nos*), and it is louder than our doubts. Every church bell on Christmas morning is a little preacher: Come, the Savior is here, and He is not asleep. *(Admittedly, Lutherans are usually better at ringing bells than at admitting we need them. We'll sing four verses of a hymn without blinking, but admitting that "I'm struggling" can take a month.)*

If your Christmas is quiet with sorrow this year, the bells are not mocking you. They are announcing that the Child came for exactly this.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem for sinners, ring Your promise into our weary hearts. When we cannot feel Your peace, hold us fast by Your Word. Comfort the grieving, and bring us to Your altar with joy. Amen.*
See you in worship!

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Pastor John M Taggatz

Announcements

Please Note

Call the church office at 414.762.8990

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

For appointments or emergencies, call church office or Pastor's cell phone.
Pastor John Taggatz, cell: 715.467.1231

Monday	8:00 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am-1:00 pm
Wednesday	8:00 am-1:00 pm
Thursday	8:00 am-1:00 pm
Friday	Pastor Off
Visitations:	Monday – Thursday Afternoons

Heidi, Church Secretary
Church office: 414.762.8990
Church office hours: T-W-Th 9:00am – 12:30pm

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

The Mites dates are **December 3rd & 6th**
Look for the LARGE mite box to drop your change and dollars into!



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

ONLINE GIVING AT GRACE

You can now give to our Church online. It's easy, fast, and secure. If you're able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our ministries here at Grace!!!
Text the word: **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use the QR Code or head to our web-site: graceoakcreek.orgYou may give a one time gift or set up your regular weekly/monthly offering. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries at Grace!!!

Grace Ladies Guild

Saturday, December 12th, 10:00am-12:00pm

All ladies are welcome to join us!

Rise & Sonshine Bible study

Saturday, December 12th 8-9:30am
At School
All ladies welcome!

Mite Box Weekend is December 3rd & 6th



Guild Christmas Fellowship and Circle of Light Program

Saturday, December 12th 10am-Noon at school - Ladies you are all invited to join us as we celebrate the joy of the Advent and Christmas season! You are welcome to bring along a treat to share. We will have a $10 gift exchange if you wish to participate. Any questions, please contact Jennifer Olen.

Socktober Report

Thank you to everyone who donated socks for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission! Over 310 pairs of socks were added to the pink tote! All sizes- Men's, Women's and children were appreciated!

Mitten Tree

The mitten tree will be in the narthex Nov 28-Dec 20. All the mittens, gloves, hats and scarves will be donated to the South Milwaukee Human Concerns program. We are grateful for you in filling the tree with warmth for those in need.

LWML SWD Winter Getaway

January 29th & 30th, 2027 - Cranberry Country Lodge, Tomah WI
Theme: Courage for the Calling *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador. Registration form and more information available at: www.lwml-swd.org*

Grace Altar Guild

"While not every congregation has an Altar Guild so constituted, most are blessed with at least one faithful and selfless Christian who gives of his or her time to ensure that candles are trimmed, lamps are filled, vestments and paraments are pressed, and the vessels for Holy Communion are ready and fit for the saints to receive Christ's true Body and Blood. Their aim is not a tyranny of fastidious rules; they simply devote themselves to the notion that Christ and His teaching ought to be confessed not only in what we say, but also what we do and see."

www.makingdisciples-resources.lcms.org

We at Grace are blessed with not just one faithful and selfless individual who tends to the altar, we have a whole team of such folks!

And we are looking for more to join the team!
Altar Guild duties are divided into Communion Set-up and Linen Care.
Our schedules are flexible so we can accommodate your schedule.
Questions about serving? Contact Jennifer Olen 414.305.3740 olenjennifer@aol.com
OR ask one of the altar ladies as you see her working in the altar room!

Opportunities at Grace

USHERS NEEDED/USHER DUTIES

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

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

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

Greeting Card Ministry

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

If you are interested in taking part in this ministry, please contact Pauline Parker at: 414-807-6338 or paulinemom@aol.com

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study – *New Study Beginning!*
Ladies, join us Wednesday mornings at Grace as we begin a new Bible study, *Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength* by Deb Burma, published by Concordia Publishing House.

Together, we will explore how we can rely on Jesus and His strength through life's challenges, trusting in His promises and grace. We meet at 9:30 a.m. at church for one hour each Wednesday. All ladies are welcome! Come and grow with us in God's Word!

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**

Matching Grant Opportunity for Grace!!!

Greetings from the Board of Stewardship! Many large companies have a matching grant foundation. They often match employee donations to various 501(c)(3) and other organizations including educational organizations. Though many may exclude religious organizations from their matching gift programs, they may make exceptions for those that provide secular services to the community.

Since Grace Lutheran School does provide some secular services as a school, they may qualify for a matching grant. Grace Lutheran School has received grants through these programs in the past. If you are employed by a company with a matching grant foundation, and are interested in making a donation, please consider a donation to Grace Lutheran School.

Thank you for your consideration and for your past generosity to Grace Lutheran School. (1 Peter 4:10) Blessings on your stewardship journey!



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!

2027 Altar Flowers

Sign-up for 2027 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet will be posted soon on the white board in the narthex.
Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.
Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.
You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.
Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services.
Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

Reminder: If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Also, there are special offering envelopes in the narthex for Altar Flowers that you can use to make payment.

Your 3rd Quarter *Grace Lutheran Giving Statements* are available to pick up in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries here at Grace. We couldn't do the work of ministry at our Church, School, and ECC without your prayers and support. God bless you!!!

Your 2027 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childhood Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you! **Please do not use until January 2027.**

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:
Church Office at **414-762-8990** or email **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.

Save the Date!

Grace Lutheran School's Annual Cookie Walk!

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!

LOCK IN FOR GRACE YOUTH!

Junior and Senior High Lock In Scheduled at Grace on Friday January 15th with Concordia Mequon Students from around 6:30pm that night through Saturday January 16th by 7:00am… This lock in is open to our 5th grade through High School youth. For this event to be a success, we need your participation and support. Parents or adult members willing to chaperone and assist during the lock-in, please reach out to Pastor Taggatz at: pastor@graceoakcreek.org. Your involvement will greatly contribute to creating a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. During the lock-in, we have an array of activities lined up, including devotions centered on God's Word, snacks, a Friday night dinner, and engaging games. To ensure we accommodate everyone, kindly inform us if your child will be attending by no later than Tuesday January 12th. Also, please have your child bring snacks, a pillow, a sleeping bag, a Bible, and a comfortable sleeping mat for the night.

Fellowship Bingo at Grace!

Our Fellowship Committee will once again have a Bingo Night Saturday, January 16th from rom 6:30pm-8:00pm in the day school gym. It will be a free night of fellowship, fun, food and prizes. We will ask that you bring finger food to pass and your own nonalcoholic beverages for your family. (We are not allowed to have alcoholic beverages on school property). This event is for all Church, School and ECC families!



To register for this Bingo event, please go to: https://forms.gle/StMj9q3VfX31ZcWy8

A paper registration form is also available in the narthex or call the church office at 414-762-8990.

Will Planning Workshop

Thank you to everyone who joined our "Ask the Expert" estate planning workshop on November 9, 2026. Together, we explored opportunities to care for our families and support Grace Lutheran Church and School. If you were unable to attend or have additional questions, contact Diana Raasch with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) she would be happy to help. Contact Diana to request an estate planning guide or continue the conversation. You can also explore LCEF's estate planning resources, including information about ways to provide for loved ones and support the Church through your plans.

To receive estate planning resources through LCEF's Personal Planning newsletter, **Email Diana Raasch at:** diana.raasch@lcef.org you can also call her at: 414-931-1254.

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, at sundayschool@graceoakcreek.org.

We can't wait to see you there!

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!!!

GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM!

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

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





"Participants in Jesus' Ongoing Work"

God calls us to be His stewards (Genesis 1:28; 2:15), and we become faithful stewards when we understand and act upon our role as participants in God's plan to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). He wants us to be active, involved, and willing participants in His plan of salvation. He *"desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:4). As participants with the Lord, we become His hands, feet, and mouth through whom He works. In the Great Commission, Jesus tells us that we are to "*go*" (Matthew 28:19). Our Lord's mission becomes our mission so we are to be more than spectators.

Our involvement in the Great Commission is motivated by the Holy Spirit Who takes from us our hearts of stone and gives us our hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). With these new hearts, we can begin to understand how much God loves us and all people. Through faith, we know that He sent His Son to suffer and die on the cross for our redemption, which prompts us to commit our time, talents, and money to His service. We live lives with a new perspective, meaning, and purpose. Because of God's saving activity, we willingly surrender our lives and become participants in Jesus' mission to share the life-saving Gospel with all people.

God's Word is clear that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, our mission efforts and works are part of God's plan so they are important to Him. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them"* (Ephesians 2:10). We are not saved by works but for works. As we participate in God's mission to seek and save the lost, we know that all of our works are merely responses to what God has already done for us.

By grace, Jesus has redeemed us, and we are a temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in us. We are not our own (1 Corinthians 6:20). He saved us for the purpose of being participants in His plan of salvation. He has gifted us so we can spend our lives serving and glorifying Him. We are not all called to be pastors nor are we all traveling to foreign mission fields as missionaries, but we are all called to serve God in some capacity. If we don't have a sense of mission, we are probably living for ourselves. In the words of the Apostle Paul, *"And He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised"* (2 Corinthian 5:15).

May God help us all be eager and willing participants in Jesus' ongoing work.

New Charitable Contribution Tax Deduction for Non-Itemizers in 2026

There is good news for those who support charitable organizations like Grace Lutheran Church! Beginning with 2026 tax returns filed in 2027, eligible taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions may be able to claim a tax deduction for qualifying cash contributions made to eligible charitable organizations. Under this new provision, eligible individuals may deduct up to $1,000 in qualifying cash contributions, while married couples filing jointly may deduct up to $2,000.

Who May Qualify? To claim this deduction, taxpayers generally must:
Take the standard deduction rather than itemize their deductions.
Make qualifying cash contributions during the 2026 calendar year.
Give to an eligible charitable organization.
Keep records of their contributions, such as receipts, canceled checks, or bank statements.

A Few Things to Remember
Donations to donor-advised funds generally do not qualify. Churches and certain other eligible organizations may not appear separately in the IRS charity search tool. This does not necessarily mean contributions to those organizations are ineligible. Good recordkeeping is important. Be sure to save your contribution statements and receipts for your 2026 tax return.

Where Can You Find More Information?
The IRS provides an online Tax-Exempt Organization Search tool at IRS.gov. You can also consult IRS Publication 526, *Charitable Contributions*, for additional information. As we approach the end of the year, this is a helpful reminder that your faithful financial support of Grace's ministries makes a difference in sharing the Gospel and serving our congregation, school, and community. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful support of the Lord's work at Grace! *Please consult your tax professional regarding your individual eligibility and circumstances. This announcement is for informational purposes and is not intended as tax advice.*

Statement of Activity

Grace Lutheran Church of Oak Creek WI

October 2026

Contributions	
With Donor Restrictions	4,180.00
Without Donor Restrictions	38,832.54
Total Contributions:	43,012.54
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	15,252.00
Expenditures	
Elders	17,749.80
Day School Support	10,000.00
Parish Education	-
Stewardship	-
Evangelism / Outreach Activities	-
Properties	5,384.04
Finance / Finance Expense	4,358.61
Dedicated Projects & Expenses	15,252.00
Total Expenditures	52,744.45
General Fund Surplus or (Deficit)	1,340.09

How this was calculated:	
Contributions Without Donor Restrictions	38,832.54
Plus: Dedicated funds used to pay expenses (Net Assets Released from Restrictions)	15,252.00
Less: Total Expenditures	(52,744.45)
General Fund Surplus or (Deficit)	1,340.09

Note: Gifts with donor restrictions ($4,180.00) are not included because they can only be used for their designated purpose. When those funds are spent, the amount used is shown as Net Assets Released from Restrictions and included in the calculation above.

Presented at the Church Council Meeting, November 11, 2026

Statement of Financial Position

Grace Lutheran Church of Oak Creek WI

As of October 31, 2026

Assets	
BMO Bank Checking	298,402.67
BMO Bank Money Market	558,502.87
Tri-City Bank Checking (RaiseRight)	4,439.58
Tri-City Bank Saving (RaiseRight)	2,624.94
Due from School / ECC (403b Pass-Through)	708.00
Total Assets	864,678.06
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	-
Pass-through Due to Grace Lutheran School	-
Pass-through Due to Ladies Guild	-
Total Current Liabilities	-
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions (Dedicated Funds)	
Audit Fees Fund	5,000.00
Care Committee Fund	136.48
Computer Upgrade Fund	1,500.00
Endowment Fund	2,223.40
Evangelism Outreach Fund	5,299.96
Fellowship Committee Fund	22.00
Good Samaritan Fund	260.00
Grace Lutheran School Fund	20.00
Griefshare Fund	40.00
Growing in Grace Fund	20.00
Guest/Substitute Clergy Fund	-
Kitchen Appliances Fund	864.33
Landscaping Fund	-
Lutheran High School Fund	20.00
Lutheran School Fund	75.00
Matt Meyer Memorial/Bibles Fund	4,033.85
Member Donation Fund	682,657.82
Memorials Fund	62,157.48
Missions Fund	8,303.31
Mortgage Retirement Fund	55,914.00
Music Room Fund	470.02
Portals of Prayer Fund	470.20
Properties Projects Fund	1,100.00
Reducing Our Debt Fund	1,672.00
School Furnace Fund	4,196.63
School Sign Electric Fund	400.00
Sponsor a Student Fund	19,823.40
Stephen Ministries Fund	323.42
Stewardship Fund	1,357.08
Vacation Bible School Fund	20.00
Total Dedicated Funds	858,380.38
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	
General Fund	6,297.68
Total Net Assets	864,678.06
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	864,678.06



"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.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app.



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

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

Decorate the Chancel for Christmas! Order Your Poinsettia Today!

Bring Christmas joy to our sanctuary with a beautiful red poinsettia.
Deadline and Payment Due by: ***Sunday, November 29th***



Sizes & Prices:
6" (Width 16") $17.00
7" (Width 18") $22.00
10" (Width 28") $42.00

How to Order:
Sign up on the table in the narthex and include your payment in the envelope provided – or call the church office at **762-8990** to order by phone. **Checks payable to:** Grace Lutheran Church
Red poinsettias in gold foil—perfect to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas!



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



12/1 *Wayne Meyer*
12/1 *Jan Warmkessel*
12/4 *Camryn Lau*
12/4 *Jonathan Riffer*
12/6 *Dennis Iseli*
12/8 *Gail Nowakowski*
12/11 *Christine Cotter*
12/11 *Sara Durant*
12/11 *Char Klipfel*
12/11 *Erika Zeimentz*
12/12 *Richard Jackson*
12/12 *Madeline King*
12/13 *Lauren Frank*
12/13 *Michael Simmons*
12/14 *Rita Heinen*
12/14 *Ron Savarino*
12/18 *Glenn Dotson*
12/18 *Penelope Ryan-Thiessen*
12/18 *Craig Salzer*
12/21 *Donna Smith*
12/23 *Carol Thurber*
12/24 *Laura Morrissette*
12/28 *Mackenzie Isenhart*
12/31 *Dan Schad*
12/31 *Jacob Zalar*



Portals of Prayer Devotional

Over the years the church has provided the Portals of Prayers devotional book to our members. Throughout these years the church has carried this expense. To help offset that burden we now have envelopes available in the narthex for our members to designate funds to this devotional book. It is our goal to continue to provide this amazing tool to our members in their faith journey.

Thank You!!!

My family and I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who so generously blessed us from the month of October 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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner) 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Meeting	2 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm All Board's Meeting	3 6:30pm Advent Midweek Worship	4	5 9:00am-12:00pm PTLS Cookie Walk
6 Trim the Tree Service 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	7 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share	8 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	9 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Council Meeting	10 6:30pm Advent Midweek Worship	11	12 8:00am Rise & Sonshine Bible Study 10:00am Ladies Guild
13 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 10:30am Divine Worship	14 6:30pm 6-8 Grade Confirmation Class 6:30pm Grief Share	15 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	16 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	17 6:30pm Advent Midweek Worship	18	19
20 8:00am Divine Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class 9:15am – Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship	21	22 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	23	24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:30am Christmas Day Worship Merry Christmas!	26
27 9:30am Divine Worship	28	29 7:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast (OC Diner)	30	31	1 *NEW YEARS DAY* 9:30am New Years Day Worship	2

Radio Worship Service

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

WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 103.3 FM Sunday at 6:30 am
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 5:30 am
WTMJ Milwaukee, WI 620 AM Sunday at 6:30 am

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

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

Prayer Hot Line

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

10AM – 3PM
Carol Thurber, 762-9615

3PM – 9PM
Pauline Parker, 764-5574

Internet Prayerline
Pauline Parker
paulinemom@aol.com

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL, ECC

CHURCH & ECC
3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

SCHOOL & CHURCH OFFICE
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154

WEBSITE
https://graceoakcreek.org

Pastor John M. Taggatz
PH: 414.762.8990

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

