



November 2017

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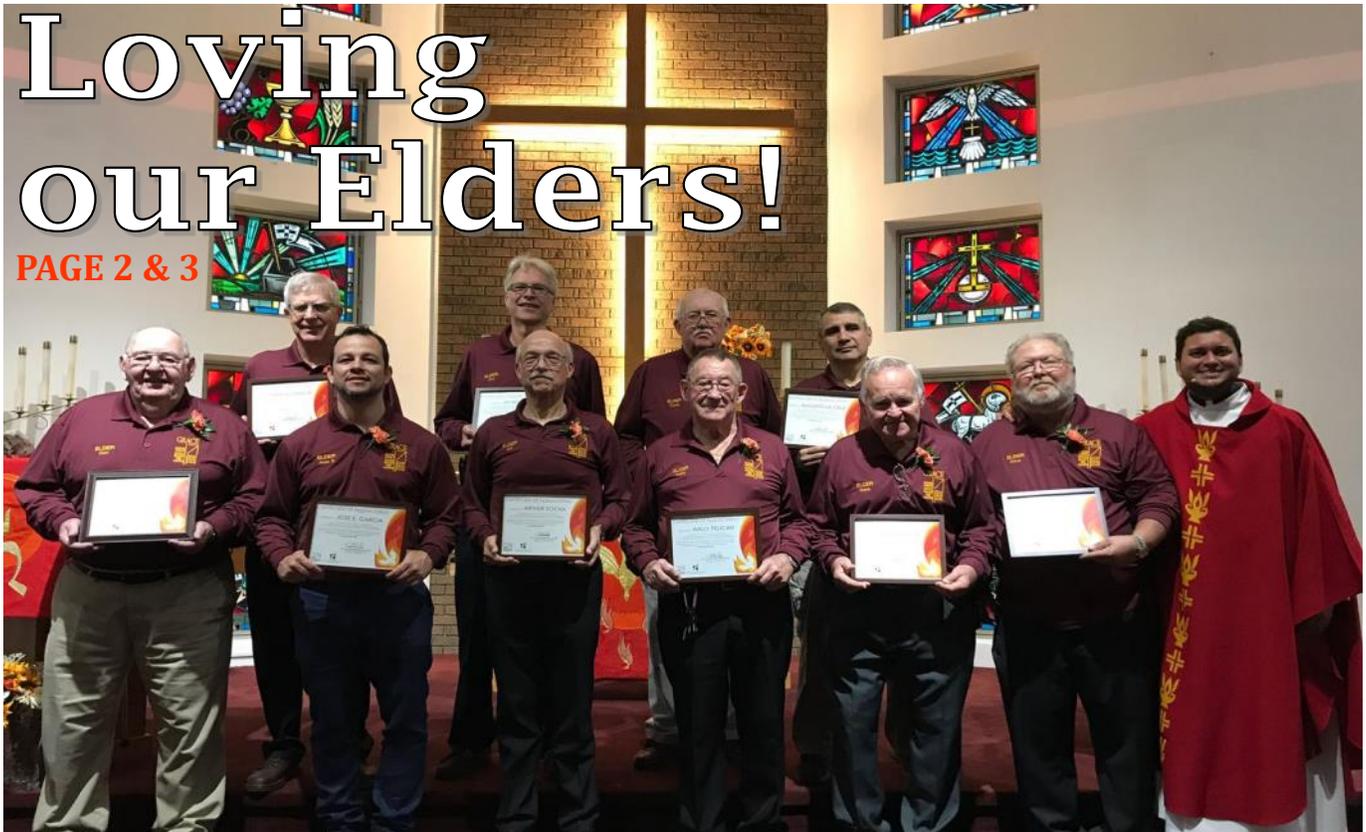
Milwaukee, WI, USA

# Grace Notes

A publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church—LCMS

## Loving our Elders!

PAGE 2 & 3



## Luther Alone?

Everywhere I look these days, I see Luther's face and hear Luther's story — a story that is nearly always cast in the same way: as one brave little monk taking on the big bad world. But Luther didn't act alone. He couldn't have. // Page 8



## THIS MONTH AT GRACE



Every Tuesday  
Confirmation Classes, 6pm

Every Wednesday  
Grace Choirs, 6pm & 7pm

November 1st  
CPTLN Meeting, 6:30pm

November 22nd  
Thanksgiving Service, 6pm

[WWW.GRACE-OK.ORG](http://WWW.GRACE-OK.ORG)

3030 W. Oklahoma Av. Milwaukee, WI. 53215

# Loving our Elders! (Part Two)

**O**n October 22nd, our GRACE COMMUNITY celebrated its 122nd Anniversary. During this special occasion, we honored the faithful men who serve at GRACE in the Board of Elders. We recognized their good and servant work in taking care of our congregation, our spiritual needs, and our pastors. They serve us by visiting the sick and homebound, assisting in the communion distribution, and managing an important part of our church's budget.

Last month, in our **Grace Notes October 2017**, I had the opportunity of sharing with you -my dear readers- some information about six of our elders. We were able to know more about Don, Art, Wally, Gene, Dan and Dave.

Now, let me share with you more about our elders, and especially about the other four: Jim, Clyde, José Elías, and Augusto. It is not late for each one of you to approach our elders, and tell them: **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!**



**Jim Beyer**  
(Elder since 2009)

*Jim wrote:*

"I have been a member of this congregation for 12 years. I became a member of Grace in April of 2005 along with my

fiancé Debbie Finn and my late mother, Mary Beyer. At the time we were in need of spiritual renewal, as well as a new home congregation, and we were guided by the Holy

Spirit to come to Grace, which would be our Church. We had visited Grace and several other LCMS congregations, but somehow we kept finding our way back to Grace to hear Pastor George Richter's message of "Love and Forgiveness" through Jesus Christ. We immediately felt very comfortable and at home in hearing Pastor speak about the Word of God. As we came to know more and more members of Grace and all of the things the church had to offer, we knew this would be our home congregation.

God has blessed me with many gifts and I have been serving the Lord since I was 10 years old, when I first rang the church bells for Sunday Service at St. Stephen's, the mother church to Grace. From there I served as an usher and trustee. Eventually I would serve as President of the congregation, as well as Director of Trustees, along with being on the Finance Committee. When we came to Grace I was burned out both spiritually and physically from having served in these positions for many years, and so I thought I would wait and take my time before getting involved in service again, and only help where I could when help was needed. Eventually I became friends with Ken Lovas in 2006 and saw a lot of Ken in me, and I said 'here is where I need to serve as a trustee and to help a fellow Christian Brother in this endeavor.' Before Pastor Richter's passing he had approached me about becoming an Elder, and having prayed on

this and giving it thought and consideration, I have been an Elder since 2009. I have enjoyed serving the congregation along with assisting both Pastor Ferd Bahr and now Pastor German Novelli Jr. I have served and helped at many church functions since becoming a member of Grace, and will continue to serve and help wherever the good Lord calls me to do just that."

**Clyde Dartey**  
(Elder since 2016)

Clyde is one of our newest elders. He thinks being an Elder is a great experience.

He has had no problems and feels that he can converse well with everyone. Clyde, and his wife Toni, love the people here. They are very friendly and outgoing, and feels that Grace is very family oriented. He likes that. He also feels that everyone needs to serve the church in one way or another, and not just come and attend church and leave right away. He believes in what the church is doing and it is also moving forward.



**José E. García & Augusto La Cruz**  
(Hispanic Elders)

In 2015, José Elías García became the first Hispanic Elder of our congregation. Because of his job and postgraduate studies, Elias has been dealing with lack of time to serve

GRACE as he wishes. However, Elias is very involved in all our activities related to Grace's Hispanic Ministry.



José E. García



Augusto LaCruz

During our last Voters Meeting, we elected our second Latino elder. His name is Augusto LaCruz, and has been very active within our church, and our Hispanic Ministry. Augusto is one of our translator in our 11am Worship Service, and teaches Bible Studies in Spanish to our Hispanic fellows. August says that the love among us, inspires him to continue serving the Lord in other roles.

If you are interested in becoming an elder of our GRACE COMMUNITY, please talk to me or request more information to any of our elders. We are looking for help and volunteers, and I believe that we all have a lot to give to our congregation, for the sake of God's kingdom! Don't be afraid of serving God and His people!

***"Whatever your task,  
put yourselves into it, as done for  
the Lord and not for men,  
since you know that from the  
Lord you will receive the  
inheritance as your reward;  
you serve the Lord Christ."  
(Colossians 3:23-24)***

*Pastor Germán*  
novelligrace@gmail.com



## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI. 53215

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E-mail: info@grace-ok.org

Office Hours: TUESDAY-THURSDAY 9am-4pm

**Rev. Germán Novelli-Oliveros, Pastor**

Mobil Phone: (414) 366-5299

Email: novelligrace@gmail.com

### Congregational Officers

**Terrence Donaldson, President**

**Mark Jubeck, Vice-President**

**Marian Laub, Treasurer**

### Staff

Rev. German Novelli (Sr.), Pastor-Comunidad de Gracia

Jane Donaldson & Jenny LaCruz, Office Secretaries

Telva Szymborski, Organist

Dennis Szymborski, Choir Director

Michelle Lenski, Bell Choir, VBS, and Youth Group Leader

Lucia Novelli, Lay Readers

Jane Donaldson and Marge Wodvarka, Altar Guild

Augusto LaCruz & Pablo Novelli, Worship Translators

Sue Pritzlaff, Ruth Guild President/ LWML

Sue Brahm, Sunday School Superintendent

Marilyn Jubeck, Senior Fellowship/ LWML

Kenneth Lovas, Interior Custodian

Shirley Lovas, Altar Flowers and Thrivent

Judy Zarzynski, Caring Connectors and Piece Makers

### Board of Directors

Don Ewert, Board of Elders

Jim Barndt, Board of Evangelism

Brenda Nitz, Director of Stewardship

James Van Acker, Board of Trustees

David Biermann, Board of Fellowship

Kenny Lovas, Board of Human Concerns

[www.grace-ok.org](http://www.grace-ok.org)

# You satisfy the hungry heart

*The mystery of your presence Lord  
no mortal tongue can tell  
Whom all the world cannot  
contain comes in our hearts  
to dwell*

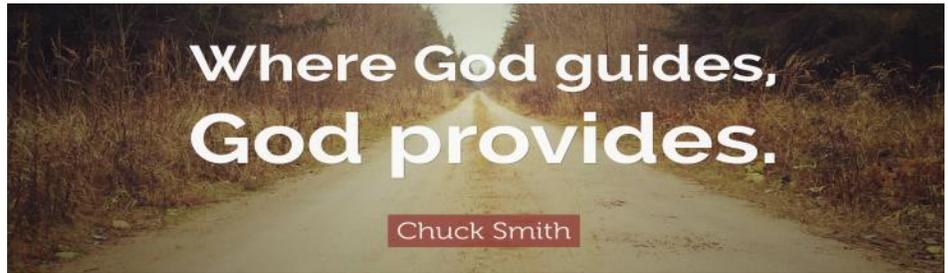
*You give yourself to us O Lord,  
then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity.*

In this beautiful hymn, satisfaction for our hungry heart is the Lord's Supper. These two verses are also fitting in reference to the new logo of the Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML). It depicts a cross, a heart and a tear drop.

**The heart** - Jesus blood, the salvation of our heart.

**The drop** - washing away of our sins in Holy baptism. The artist adds, "I see the drop as the hole in our hearts that only God can fill".

**The cross** - God reigns



Our baptismal banner was designed with a hole in the center. The hold depicts our spiritual genetic defect passed on to us by Adam and Eve. The only remedy for restoration is God's presence to fill it. This is accomplished by grace through Holy Baptism. The symbolic gifts presented to the parents enhance the meaning of Baptism:

**The candle** - Jesus, the light of the world.

**The dove** - the Holy Spirit, the seed planter.

**The white robe** - our sins are covered in the eyes of God by the righteousness of Jesus.

To keep and maintain our gift of a healthy spiritual heart, God provides all that we need:

- + **The Holy Spirit, our guide and comforter**
- + **Word and Sacraments**
- + **Forgiveness of sins**
- + **Communication through prayer**
- + **Love that transcends all understanding**

*You give yourself to us O Lord,  
then selfless let us be,  
to serve each other in your name  
in truth and charity.*

*Lillian Hughes*

# Ruth Guild's Notes

Thanks to all who ordered nuts and candy. Orders will be ready for pick up about the second week of November.

The date and time of the next Ruth Guild/LWML meeting will be announced at a later date.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Reporting for  
Grace Ruth Guild / LWML

*Sue Pritzlaff*



**LWML**  
South Wisconsin District  
2016-2018 Mission Grants

1. Church Without Walls - Deaf Ministry - \$16,500
2. Church Worker Student Grant - \$30,000
3. Veterans Helping Veterans in the Concordia University System (LCMS Office of International Missions (OIM) - \$5,000
4. Refuge House Renovation (Please of Refuge Ministries) - \$20,000
5. Financial Asst. to Concordia Theological Seminary Clothing & Food Co-op, Ft. Wayne - \$15,000
6. Widow's Milk Mission Society - India (LCMS-OIM) - \$5,000
7. Free at Last Ministry to Woman (OCMS-SWD Mission Office) - \$25,000
8. "Telling the Story" DVD Devotional Series for Shut Ins - \$16,000
9. Concordia Seminary St. Louis Food Bank - \$15,000
10. Teaching Children as Christ Taught Us - \$12,000
11. CLET Togo, Africa Seminary Dorms (Partial) (LCMS-OIM) - \$1,600

## LWML South Wisconsin District Upcoming Event



### 2018 LWML SWD Winter Getaway "Finding Faith in Films"

January 19-20, 2018  
at Holiday Inn- Fond du Lac, WI

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rev. Randy Raasch**

Registration can be found  
at [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org)

For any questions or further  
information, please contact  
Emily Woelfel:

Email  
[em\\_woelfel@hotmail.com](mailto:em_woelfel@hotmail.com)

Phone  
920-268-7773

**GraceNotes** is a publication of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The newsletter is published ten times each year, monthly from September to the following June, and delivered the first Sunday of every month.

*Submissions for the December 2017 issue are due November 23*

Editor is Pastor German Novelli-Oliveros.

We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary.

We also encourage submissions via e-mail to [info@grace-ok.org](mailto:info@grace-ok.org).

**O**ur Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by the His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise, and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as (good stewards of His varied grace,) (1 Peter 4:10) we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him.

# Treasures from God

We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as an offering. Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also offerings to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies, share with our family, neighbors, and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises

upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. **"For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance" (Matthew 13:12).**

Sunday, November 5, 2017, 2AM clocks are turned backward 1 hour

*Fall*  
**BACK!**

**SET CLOCKS BACK  
ONE HOUR BEFORE BED  
SATURDAY NIGHT**



## Happy Crafters



The Happy Crafters will have a table at the Village of Manor Park Bazaar on **Saturday, November 4th from 9am—2pm**. Come and join them to see what everyone has to sell. They meet every Thursday from 9-11am, weather permitting. Also, check out the crafts on the free will offering table in Hoge Hall.

## Thank You!



I would like to personally thank the Grace Lutheran Church community for showing their support while I prepare for my trip to France in the Spring of 2018. Grace has always been a special part of my life. Aunt Judy reminds me of the baby shower they had for my dad James, at choir practice before I was born. I would like to thank my fabulous Godfather Kenny who always goes above and beyond for me, especially making this fundraiser a success. Thank you Godpappa!!

To all the people who donated items for the raffle, your contributions were greatly appreciated. Your generous support means the world to my parents and myself. I will make sure to take lots of pictures from my trip for everyone to see when I get back to the states.

*Que les bénédictions de Dieu soient avec vous tous.* Translation: May God's blessings be with all of you.

*Kathryn Grace Barndt*

## USHERS

### NOVEMBER 5th

Chuck and Alana Zielesch,  
Don and Karen Ewert

### NOVEMBER 12th

Jim Barndt, Mark Jubeck,  
Dave Biermann, and Chester Zbrozek

### NOVEMBER 19th

Dave and Danny Gaus,  
Sheryl Pelican, and Lori Eshelman

### NOVEMBER 22nd

Art and Amy Socha,  
Terry and Jane Doanldson

### NOVEMBER 26th

Sue Pritzlaff, Lynda Trapp,  
Brenda Nitz, and Shirley Lovas

### DECEMBER 3rd

Chuck and Alana Zielesch,  
Don and Karen Ewert

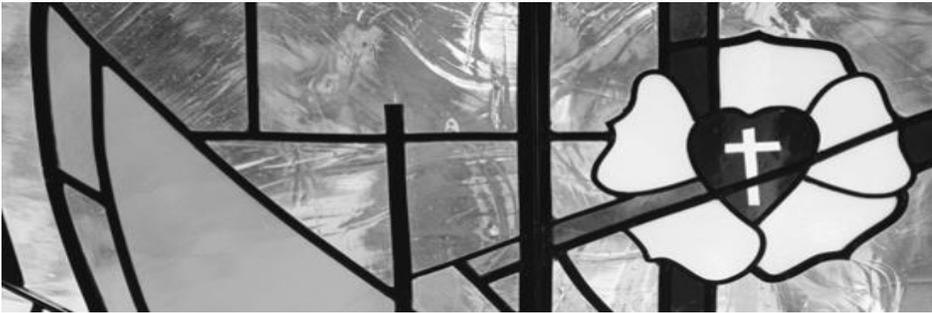
## Piece Makers Every Thursday 9:00AM-1:00PM

**Come join us for a time of  
fellowship and in piecing  
together quilts to keep  
our veterans warm.**

**All are welcome!**

**Any questions please call Judy  
Zarzyński at 414-327-5759**

# Luther alone?



In October, 1517, so the story goes, a monkish theology professor posted a routine academic notice outlining 95 talking points on the practice of selling indulgences, which he hoped to debate in an upcoming panel discussion with his fellow theologians.

Things spiraled a little out of control — and now, 500 years later, Lutherans everywhere are celebrating. We're celebrating Martin Luther. We're celebrating his 95 Theses. We're celebrating the Lutheran Reformation that he helped to lead.

Most of all, we're celebrating the great theological truths that came to light during the turbulent years following Brother Martin's fateful bulletin board announcement:

**Sola gratia. Grace alone.**

**Sola fide. Faith alone.**

**Sola Scriptura. Scripture alone.**

**Solus Lutherus. Luther alone.**

Wait ... you mean that last one isn't a proper Reformation sola? You can understand why I might be confused. Everywhere I look these days, I see Luther's face and hear Luther's story — a story that is

nearly always cast in the same way: as one brave little monk taking on the big bad world. But Luther didn't act alone. He couldn't have. At every step along the way, he had help ...

... help from Johann von Staupitz, who mentored, guided and counseled Luther on the early stages of his spiritual journey; ... help from the nameless readers who decided that Luther's 95 Theses really ought to be translated and published in German;

... help from the savvy printers who made the 95 Theses — and all of Luther's writings that followed — available to the reading public;

... help from a riotous rabble of passionate students who cheered and backed Luther's every move; ... help from Prince Frederick of Saxony, who despite remaining Catholic till the day he died, put his throne on the line to ensure that Luther got a fair hearing — and who, when a fair hearing was denied, saved Luther's life anyway by having him kidnapped;

... help from Luther's fellow faculty members at the University of Wittenberg (including Philipp Melancthon and Johannes

Bugenhagen), whose contributions honed and sharpened Luther's thinking at every turn;

... help from the German political leaders who took to heart the theological message of the Reformers and later made it their own in the Augsburg Confession; ... help from Luther's wife Katie, who kept him well cared for when encroaching age and ill-health would otherwise have slowed him down;

... and help from untold numbers of ordinary people throughout Europe (including the parishioners at the Castle Church in Wittenberg where Luther preached) who heard the Good News of God's grace for them and received it with joy. It was their grassroots support, as much as anything else, that allowed the Reformers to share their message unhindered. Like Peter and John before him, Luther was able to speak his message "because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened" (Acts 4:21).

Historically speaking, then, the true hero of the Reformation story isn't a him — Luther. It's a them — those listed above and many, many others. And, too: It's an us. All those peasants and princes and rowdy university students were the Reformation, and so, in a larger sense, are we.

Theologically speaking, of course, the true hero of the Reformation isn't any of these. It's Jesus Christ. In all of those myriad people and events, we see the Holy Spirit — the prime mover in all of human history — ever at work, turning hearts to Jesus and sinners to the saving Word of God. We must never cease to remember this.



When we make the life and legacy of Martin Luther the primary focal point of our Lutheran identity, we risk losing sight of a larger, richer and much more enduring story. Luther may have figured heavily in the early chapters of the complex narrative that that began on October 31, 1517, but the Reformation his words and actions helped to spark hasn't yet ended. It's ongoing.

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Led by the Spirit, Lutherans still read and believe and wrestle with the Scriptures together. We still find our hope in the Cross and place our trust in Christ alone. We still carry the good news of salvation by grace, through faith, into a lost and hurting world. Luther's part in the story has ended, but ours goes on. In 2017 — and into the future — we, like Luther before us, cling firmly to the great theological truths of the Reformation:

**Sola gratia. Grace alone.**

**Sola fide. Faith alone.**

**Sola Scriptura. Scripture alone.**

**Solus Christus. Christ alone.**

Luther would surely approve. To God be the glory.

*Rachel Bomberger*  
Managing Editor of The Lutheran Witness

# November

## BIRTHDAYS

- 2.— Zander Pluta
- 3.— Zachary Bishop
- 5.— Brenda Miller
- 7.— Joshua Barndt
- 8.— Chuck Heim
- 9.— Janis Mattson
- 12.— Lillian Hughes
- 13.— June Richter
- 18.— Alana Zielesch
- 21.— Jasmina Rabideaux
- 22.— Bekka Sobczak
- 22.— Joan VanAcker
- 24.— Debbie Finn
- 27.— Carol Wessler
- 27.— Amy Pelican
- 29.— Colleen Smith
- 30.— Telva Szymborski
- 30.— Leonard Lovas

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 6.— Phil & Jamie Steinke
- 20.— Dave & Margaret Wodvarka
- 29.— Jeff & Liz Tuuri



*¡Aprendiendo juntos estrategias para revitalizar el amor!*

**CUPOS LIMITADOS**



**Conferencia para Parejas**

# REPOTENCIA<sup>2</sup>

Actualiza y renueva tu relación de pareja

Además de la Conferencia,  
ofreceremos una cena  
ligera para los asistentes,  
cuidado para niños,  
premios y muchas  
sorpresas.

**Sábado**  
**18 de Noviembre**  
**6 de la Tarde**



**COMUNIDAD DE GRACIA**  
Centro de Familia

**3030 W. Oklahoma Ave.**  
Milwaukee. (Al lado del Hospital St. Luke's)  
**414 366 7134**



**REGRETS, REALITY,  
RESTORATION**

LÜTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
www.lhm.org

**EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM**  
SESSIONS on November 5, 12 & 19

**GRACE COMMUNITY**  
3030 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

# Christmas

SERVICE SCHEDULE

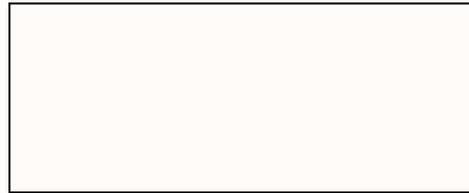
SPECIAL WORSHIP TIMES

<b>DEC.17</b> 10AM	<b>Christmas Program</b>	<b>DEC.24</b> 10AM & 6PM	<b>Christmas Eve Services</b>	<b>DEC.25</b> 10AM	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>DEC.31</b> 10AM	<b>New Year's Eve Service</b>	<i>Invite family and friends!</i>			

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

3030 West Oklahoma Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53215-4352  
Phone (414) 384-3520  
Fax (414) 384-3528  
[www.grace-ok.org](http://www.grace-ok.org)

First Class



## worship times

Let's grow together in God's Amazing Grace!

**Every Sunday**  
**9am & 11am**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULTS PROGRAM**

**10am**



[www.grace-ok.org](http://www.grace-ok.org)

## Comunidad de Gracia

*Celebraciones en Español*  
*Domingos, 11 de la Mañana*  
*Estudios Bíblicos, 10am*