

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC
Our Mission: "Sharing God's Love Through Grace"

JANUARY 2022



ISAIAH 60:1, NRSV

Happy New Year!

Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: www.gracethornville.org

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Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson 740-246-6576
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien 740-398-4502
Organist:	Sue Ellen Simmons 740-605-1530
Choir Director:	Diane Christensen 740-215-2396
Handbell Choir:	Becky Winegardner 740-467-3164
Men of Grace:	John Ulmer 740-246-6626
Church Council President:	Paul Moentmann 440-728-7067
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873
Council Secretary:	Jeni Lahman 614-371-4851
Director of Inreach:	Amber Feyh 740-415-5955
Director of Outreach:	Jeff Stought 740-407-0617
Director of Upreach:	Kelly O'Reilly 740-928-7626
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs 740-246-4751
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241
Bd of Women President:	Cherl Haggengjos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Bob Reynolds 630-698-0457
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Custodian:	Beth Gilgien 740-398-4502

*Please call the church office with regard to any of the following:
Hospitalizations; Baptisms; Confirmation; Weddings;
First Communion; Spiritual Counseling; Prayer Concerns*

* Worship In January *

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am
Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 2 - 2nd Sunday After Christmas

Welcome Pastor Tom Jacobson!

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20;
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

Sunday, Jan. 9 - Baptism of Our Lord

Installation of Church Council

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, Jan. 16 - 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan. 23 - 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Installation of Pastor Tom Jacobson - 10:30am

Only one worship service at 10:30am on this day.

Potluck lunch following the service.

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, Jan. 30 - 4th Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

This year has certainly been challenging for many reasons, one of which was finding a new pastor. It was March 16, 2021 that the Call Committee was formed and the call process began. Fortunately for Grace, it only took 6 months for the Holy Spirit to find us a new pastor.

For the past 3 months, Grace has been preparing for Pastor Tom Jacobson to be our new pastor, starting on Jan 2nd. To complete the call process there will be an installation service on January 23rd. We will have one service that day at 10:30am.

Many thanks to all those that helped get the parsonage ready for Pastor Tom and family to move in. Even though there were contractors that installed new carpet and laminate flooring, at last count, 15 people worked on various other projects. Special thanks to Bob Reynolds for correcting many safety issues, including a radon reduction system; to Pete Oberhauser for all the electrical work he did; to Scott Schultz for helping with some construction projects; and to Brenda Shearer for painting trim and working on the outside flower beds. The parsonage also has a fresh coat of paint (28 gallons).

Please plan to attend Pastor Tom's first sermon on Jan. 2nd.

Thank you, Grace Lutheran, for your faithfulness and support throughout this whole process. God is good!

Carl Lahman, Call Committee Chair

Used Refrigerator – Pastor Tom and his wife Theresa are looking for a used refrigerator to put in the parsonage garage. With 3 kids, they can use extra storage for food. Please contact Carl Lahman at carllahman@gmail.com or 614.329.8639 if you have one for sale or know where they can get one.



November's Vital Signs
Average Worship Attendance - 124
8:00am - 31 10:30am - 93

January - a month for celebrations!



Pastor Thomas (Tom) Jacobson begins his ministry at Grace on January 2, 2022. He will be leading worship at both services on that date.

Pastor Tom is a native of Canby, Minnesota. He was ordained in August of 2006 after receiving a call to a two-point parish in northwestern Minnesota, where he served for four years.

In 2008 he married Theresa, who also serves as a pastor. He and Theresa are now the parents of three children: Henrik (9), Helena (7), and Antonia (3).

Sunday, January 23, 2022, Pastor Tom will be officially installed as our Pastor. One worship service will be held that day at 10:30. Pastor Jeff Morlock, Dean of the Southeast Ohio Mission District, The North American Lutheran Church will be the installing officer. A potluck lunch will follow the service.



Special Thanks to the Supply Pastors who served us during our Call Process.

- Pastor William Saunders
- Pastor Andy Wilson
- Pastor Will Hartfelder
- Pastor Tom Phillips

And a huge heartfelt thanks to Kelly O'Reilly who also led us in worship on occasion and scheduled the supply pastors. He also continues to work behind the scenes to make sure that every aspect of our worship services are impeccable.

The Church Council wants to recognize and thank everyone who has helped with the parsonage over the last several months with a special thanks to **Carl & Jeni Lahman** for all of their labor, leadership, and donations (time, talents & treasure). The improvements look terrific and will serve the Jacobson family well for years to come.

We also want to thank **Peggy White** for her service as Treasurer for the past two years. This is a time-consuming job and Peggy has done it very well.

HOW CAN WE
Thank
= God =
ENOUGH FOR YOU?

Biblical resolutions

- H**old firmly to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- A**ssemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)
- P**ray and thank God earnestly (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- P**etition God for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)
- Y**ield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

- N**otice opportunities to serve others (Galatians 6:10)
- E**xamine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)
- W**ork diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- Y**earn for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)
- E**xercise godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)
- A**im for sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- R**edeem the time, living wisely (Ephesians 5:15-16)



Adventures in Faith for Kids has been meeting for the past few months. It's great to be back together again! We are currently meeting as one group, although we are hoping for enough kids and teachers to eventually return to classes grouped by age. We plan to start confirmation and first communion classes in early 2022.

More information to come soon!

The kids have been doing a mix of fun activities and service projects, along with a weekly lesson. They have packed backpack food, participated in a Christmas escape room, and made gift bags and cards for the Thornville Fire Department. We are looking for additional ways to show love in our community. If you have suggestions for community outreach that can be done by the kids, please tell Amber Feyh 740-475-9155 or Kate Simmons 740-605-3230. We want to share our faith beyond the walls of the church.

Kids - Please come join us! We have many ideas for fun activities, but we can't do them without you.

Adults - We need teachers! This is NOT a weekly time commitment. You can teach as little as 6 Sundays a year. The lesson plans are already created for you, too. All you need to do is show up and spend some time with the amazing kids at Grace. Contact Amber or Kate.

Gift bags and cards given to the Thornville Fire Department:



General Fund November 2021

Budget vs. Actual

	2021 Budget	November Actual	November Budget	Month Diff vs. Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Diff vs. Budget
General Fund Incomes	\$ 266,147	\$ 14,953	\$ 20,473	\$ (5,519)	\$ 209,095	\$ 245,674	\$ (36,579)
General Fund Expenses	\$ 266,147	\$ 12,182	\$ 22,179	\$ 9,997	\$ 170,902	\$ 243,968	\$ 73,066
				General Fund Difference	\$ 4,477	\$ 36,487	\$ 36,487

*The Budget for Income Factors in the Number of Weeks in a Month While Expenses are Evenly Spread

Pass Through (Unbudgeted) - Designated Giving- November 2021

Account	Account Name	Beginning Balance	Nov 2021 Income	Nov 2021 Expenses	Ending Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses
220.000	Improvement Fund	\$ 2,057	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,057	\$ 0	\$ 0
300.000	Mission	\$ 1,985	\$ 475	\$ 0	\$ 2,460	\$ 3,646	\$ 5,377
300.102	LSS	\$ 50	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 50	\$ 250	\$ 200
300.103	LSS Food	\$ (50)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (50)	\$ 75	\$ 123
300.104	Leaveslet Food	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 0	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 300
300.105	World Hunger	\$ 33	\$ 50	\$ 0	\$ 83	\$ 190	\$ 105
305.000	Dinner Relief	\$ 290	\$ 88	\$ 0	\$ 378	\$ 1,013	\$ 635
310.000	Mama Monday	\$ 360	\$ 54	\$ 0	\$ 414	\$ 414	\$ 0
320.000	Local Good Samaritan	\$ 4,203	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4,203	\$ 0	\$ 150
320.100	NALC Mission	\$ 245	\$ 250	\$ 0	\$ 475	\$ 3,553	\$ 3,115
320.102	NALC Oromo Church	\$ 10	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10	\$ 40	\$ 40
330.000	TRAF Mission	\$ (104)	\$ 95	\$ 0	\$ (9)	\$ 976	\$ 1,059

NEWS FROM THE NALC

330.000	Local Food	\$	125	\$	415	\$	540	\$	3,880	\$	3,315
370.370	WMPL Pastor Didji	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	50	\$	50
370.375	Water Project/Orphanage	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	40	\$	40
400.000	Endowment Fund	\$	10,000	\$		\$	10,000	\$	0	\$	0
420.000	Capital Campaign	\$	40,002	\$	178	\$	2,497	\$	46,015	\$	61,609
500.000	Adventures in Faith	\$	607	\$	0	\$	607	\$	0	\$	0
510.000	Varner Scholarship	\$	1,843	\$	20	\$	1,863	\$	2,529	\$	2,100
520.000	Library Fund	\$	33	\$	0	\$	33	\$	0	\$	0
600.000	Parsonage Fund	\$	1,017	\$	0	\$	1,017	\$	0	\$	0
610.000	Hamibell Fund	\$	320	\$	0	\$	320	\$	0	\$	0
620.000	Flower Fund	\$	437	\$	100	\$	537	\$	475	\$	471
630.000	Choir Fund	\$	1,638	\$	0	\$	1,638	\$	10	\$	0
740.000	Backpack Ministry	\$	9,375	\$	1,239	\$	1,395	\$	8,988	\$	8,966
900.000	Memorial Fund	\$	18,730	\$	400	\$	19,130	\$	1,835	\$	207
910.000	GLCW Fund	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	1,779
920.000	KFC Youth Fund	\$	6,181	\$	0	\$	6,181	\$	3,018	\$	64
925.000	KFROGS Fund	\$	10,156	\$	0	\$	10,156	\$	0	\$	0
950.000	Investment Fund (Balance)	\$	143,245	\$	0	\$	4,363	\$	0	\$	0
	Total Designated Giving	\$	252,834	\$	3,369	\$	8,255	\$	77,349	\$	89,707
	General Fund	\$	79,524	\$	14,953	\$	12,182	\$	209,095	\$	170,902
	Total of All Funds	\$	332,358	\$	18,322	\$	20,437	\$	286,444	\$	260,609

The NALC's full-communion partner church, the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), has been growing by over 60,000 people per month. They are the world's largest Lutheran body. Now, the future of their main seminary is at risk due to a flash flood on the campus that destroyed 96 dormitory rooms as well as the homes of 21 families including 5 missionary families. Damage is in the millions of dollars. Eight lives were lost from the seminary community. We grieve the loss of our brothers and sisters.

Much of the campus needs to be rebuilt. Students and faculty no longer have places to stay. Serious steps are being taken to guarantee such flooding does not take place in the future.

You can help. Tax-deductible Disaster Relief contributions are being received by the NALC. And/or if you feel called to support the seminary in their efforts to recover and achieve long-term self-sustainability, a building project on higher ground has been underway in partnership with Lutheran Bible Translators. This project provides much needed assistance as well as creating an ongoing revenue stream of \$225,000 per year to the seminary. If half of the 500 NALC congregations, or one from their membership, respond with a \$4,000 donation, that project will be completed, generating revenue starting early in 2022. NALC pastors advocating on its behalf: Paul Borg, Mark Braaten, John Bradosky, John Conrad, Phil Gagnon, Doug Gast, Marshall Hahn, Steve Hartten, David Priem and John Saethre.

Both of these giving opportunities - Disaster Relief and Lutheran Bible Translators - provide much needed assistance to Mekane Yesus Seminary at this critical point in time.

With a heavy heart for our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia,
 John Conrad,
 Chair, Mekane Yesus Seminary Advancement Team
 Pastor, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Floresville, TX

A Prayer for Epiphany

O Lord Jesus Christ, heavenly King, thank you for bringing both Jews and Gentiles to hear your voice. Enable us to follow your holy Word, as those from the East followed the leading of a star. Give us grace to confess your holy name. Rule us by your Spirit, so that the joys of your birth may increase in us. Hear our prayers and cries. Accept our offerings, which you yourself have given us: the gold of our faith, the incense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our contrite hearts. Deliver us from the destructive ways of sin, and lead us in the ways of peace and in the paths of righteousness. Grant us all, when this life is done, a participation in the joys of the Year of Jubilee in heaven, where we shall praise and serve you and the Father who live and reign in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. —Wilhelm Loeh (adapted)



Thornville Community Aid would like to thank all for your generous donation of hats, mittens, and gloves from your Mitten Tree.

They are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Thornville Community Aid Helpers
Virginia, Beth, Terri, and Becky
Founder: Judy Barrera



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek **re**____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your ____ople, but **love** your **neig**____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do **right**; seek jus____. Defend the ____**pressed**. Take up the cause of the ____less; plead the ____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go____. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me____ and to walk ____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

—	father	____
—	pe	____
—	____venge	
—	____od	
—	____rcy	
—	op	____
—	____hbor	
—	humb	____
—	cas	____
—	____tice	

So in ____ything, do to ot ____ what you would ____ve them d ____ to you, for this s ____ms up the ____w and the Proph ____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets

*Grace Lutheran Church
Thornville, Ohio*

Purpose

To invite All to discover, live and share God's gift of new life through Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Sharing God's Love through Grace.

Vision

We Are A Community Developing Faithful Followers Of Jesus By Experiencing God's Grace Through Friendship, Spiritual Growth and Service.

Core Values

1. That the Gospel calls us to unconditional regard for all people.
2. That Prayer is necessary for our relationship with God, one another, and the world.
3. That Scripture provides the foundation for our lives of faith.
4. That the authority for our ministry is founded in Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, which is the Body of Christ on earth. An elected Parish Council provides administrative authority; our called pastor(s) provides the spiritual authority of the Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry.
5. That each member is uniquely gifted by God for ministry and is expected to mature in discipleship of Jesus Christ.
6. That any ministry based on our Purpose, Mission, Vision and Core Values is valid for our congregation, and may, at any time, evolve or end.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED