

The Gracevine

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

JULY 2022



Happy Independence Day - July 4, 2022

Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: www.gracethornville.org
Email: office@gracethornville.org
Fax: 740/246-6284
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville
Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson 740-242-2192
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 Haggengos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Bob Reynolds 630-698-0457
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Facilities:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639

Please call the church office with regard to any of the following:

Hospitalizations; Baptisms; Confirmation; Weddings;
First Communion; Spiritual Counseling; Prayer Concerns

Thirsty!

*My soul thirsts for God, for the living
God. – Psalm 42:2 ESV*

Monthly Watchword for July



Summer has never been my favorite season. I don't do well in the heat, and my skin burns easily from the power of the sun. I much prefer the cool of autumn and the cold of winter. Growing up in Minnesota, known for its cold weather, I felt at home there. But we had our share of hot days as well.

This July, I remember this time of year in 2007. I was a new pastor, not even a full year into my first year of ministry. Starting in September of 2006, that first year of my first call in northern Minnesota was intense. Doing everything for the first time, "learning the ropes," and encountering lots of challenges was exhausting. That first year alone, I conducted seventeen funeral services, a heavy burden for a brand-new pastor to bear. I was also under stress because I knew my life would be changing soon; I planned on asking Theresa to marry me later that summer. With all this stress in varying forms, there were moments in that year when I was filled with doubt and wondered if I was cut out for the role of pastor. I needed to be renewed before entering my second year.

With my time off that summer, I connected with an old college friend. He and I wanted to spend some time in the wilderness. In the Bible, the wilderness represents both challenge and renewal. For a brief time of wilderness wandering, there is no better place in Minnesota than the North Shore of Lake Superior, what is jokingly called "the Scandinavian Riviera." With its rocky shores, waterfalls, lighthouses, and many beautiful state parks, it is a popular vacation destination.

One of the hidden treasures of the North Shore of Lake Superior is a hiking trail that goes from the harbor city of Duluth, Minnesota all the way to the Canadian border. Similar to the ruggedness of the Appalachian Trail, the Superior Hiking Trail takes a few weeks for an experienced hiker to complete. My friend and I knew we couldn't hike the whole trail, but we planned for a multi-day adventure on this trail, taking in the beauty of nature. But we soon faced a difficult reality.

That summer in Minnesota was hot and dry. Along this trail, one must obtain drinking water from various beaver ponds and creeks, treating it with iodine tablets or filters. It was so dry that summer that many of the water sources had disappeared. One day, with our water bottles empty, we searched in vain for a water source. We began to be concerned. On a wilderness trail with no water in the heat, it would not take long for dehydration to set in.

For our own safety, we had no choice but to cut our hike short. Our map indicated that the trail intersected with a county highway that led into the town of Silver Bay, Minnesota. Trudging along the trail and in need of water, I remembered the words of Psalm 42:2: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." We reached the highway, a sign of civilization in the wilderness, and we followed it into town. At the first gas station we passed, we quickly bought and consumed some Gatorade with thankful hearts!

This experience was meaningful for me. I came to see that the previous year was one small part of the trail of life, which happened to be especially challenging. But it was not the end. Though there were moments of dryness, God was not finished with me, and he provided me with what I needed. Having some time away gave me a new perspective, and I saw God at work in my life. I found the strength to carry on.

“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” The Psalmist long ago had a similar experience, though he does not go into detail about it. If you read the entire Psalm 42, he recounts many challenges he faced from adversaries. In it all, he remembered God’s faithfulness and longed to experience joy in the presence of God once again. He walked a difficult trail in the dry season, and he longed for his thirst to be quenched.

There are moments when our thirst is obvious. But dehydration can easily set in unknowingly. This is why it is so dangerous. We must always remember our need for God to keep us hydrated with the spiritual water that leads to eternal life, even in this summer season. In John chapter four, Jesus reminds a woman at a well of her need to drink from a different kind of well, and those words call out to us in our time: “The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

Quench your thirst with the Word of God and the gifts of God in church this summer and always, and have a blessed rest of this summer season!

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism The Ten Commandments

The Sixth Commandment
You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that in matters of sex we are chaste and disciplined in our words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.



FACILITIES REPORT as of 6.21.2022

- Trimmed bushes and removed some dead bushes prior to VBS.
- Purchased new hedge trimmer for church.
- Cleaned lower gutter on east side of church.
- Joe’s Drain Cleaning from Lancaster unclogged three exterior drains on the east and west side of church.

Current Projects

- Install a dehumidifier on the furnace that services the basement.
- Put a cover on the window well located on the southeast side of the church.
- Fix florescent lights in the Fellowship Hall.
- Clean and repaint VBS storage room.
- Paint exterior doors on the north and east side of church.

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

Sunday, July 3 - 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Independence Sunday - 8am worship here, 10:00am community worship at Thornville Park. Please take your own chairs to the park.

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 10 - 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10;
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 17 - 6th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28;
Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 24 - 7th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-19;
Luke 11:1-13

Sunday, July 31 - 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1-2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12;
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21



May's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 110
8:00am - 34 10:30am - 76

Church Council Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2022 7:00 PM

Present: Paul Moentmann (Council President), Jeni Lahman, Kelly O'Reilly, Rick Rockwell, Jeff Stought, Pastor Tom Jacobson

1. Opening Prayer: Prayer was offered by Pastor Tom Jacobson
2. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Council President Paul Moentmann

Pastor's Report

- The New Member Class for three people has been completed.
- The NALC will have a new youth leader, Teresa Peters, who lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- The church information for Grace in the Perry County Tribune newspaper has been updated and Manna Monday is listed.
- A new adult Sunday School class will be starting this summer by Pastor Jacobson about American Lutheran history.
- There will be a community service on July 3rd at the park at 10am. The 8:00 service will still be at Grace that morning.
- Hoskinson Funeral Services asked Pastor Tom if he could do occasional funeral services for non-church members. Money received will go to community services/Good Samaritan fund at Grace.
- There will be two baptisms on June 25th at the 8am service.

Upreach/Worship Renewal – Kelly

- Worship operations (6/26, 7/3, 7/10)
 - Tom Rodgers, Casey Sigler and Beth Raab will set-up for services.
 - Tom Rodgers will manage sound system for 8am service.
 - Rick Rockwell will run sound system and live stream the service at the 10:30am service.
 - 8am service only on 7/3 at church.
- ❖ Community Worship in Park at 10am.
- Worship Renewal Task Force (WRTF)

- WRTF met to review final design with RKA and Setterlin in May.
- Congregational vote (5/2) approved moving forward with the construction documents phase regarding the worship space and adjacent areas transformation.
- WRTF met with Safety/Security team members (6/13) to review the final design and proposed security physical enhancements included in the design and the strategy behind it.
- Note: Safety/Security team to present potential additional enhancements that are outside the scope of the worship transformation for consideration by council in 2023 budget.
- Safety/Security Team to develop a “violent offender” program/strategy to be submitted to council for review and approval and then presented to congregation.
- Sue Ellen Simmons has scheduled organ/accompanist for the month July while she is on vacation.
- Pastor Tom Phillips is scheduled as Supply Pastor for (7/31 & 8/7) while Pastor Tom and Theresa are on vacation.

Inreach

- No updates at this time.

Outreach – Jeff

- There were 97 children attending VBS this year.

Treasurer’s Report

- Report has not been completed yet.

Old Business

- LifeWise Academy (an inter-denominational Bible education ministry for elementary students)
 - People in the community are exploring the possibility of offering this release time program, with many churches supporting it, and Grace has been asked if we would be willing to be the host site for the program if it gets started. Jeff and Paul will be discussing with other schools

and host sites in the area to learn how it has worked in their situations.

- Property Update
 - Trimmed bushes and removed some dead bushes prior to VBS.
 - Purchased new hedge trimmer for church.
 - Cleaned lower gutter on east side of church.
 - Joe’s Drain Cleaning from Lancaster unclogged 3 exterior drains on the east and west side of the building.

New Business

- New Members
 - Rick Rockwell made a motion to accept three new members, seconded by Kelly O’Reilly
 - Susan Cheney
 - Gregg Thomas
 - Vicky Thomas
- Community Assistance for people in need
 - There have been many requests for Pr. Tom to provide emergency assistance for people in need. There is already the community fund for people in Thorn Township, but Grace also has its own fund for other situations. He asks for a committee to produce some guidelines about how to handle these kinds of requests.
 - Paul will be talking with nearby hotels regarding payment for situations where people are in need of lodging.
- Parsonage Security
 - Council discussed using motion sensors (battery or electric) for the garage and front door.
 - Discussed installing a camera for the front door to see others without opening the door.
- Backwoods Fest – Sept 16 - 18

Adjourn - Lord’s Prayer

Next Meeting: 7/18/2022, 7:00 PM (3rd Monday)

Respectfully submitted, Jeni Lahman, secretary



JULY 4TH

The Thornville Activity Committee is proud to announce events for the Thornville 4th of July! Parade at 11:00am. It is a Betty White theme! We want to honor Betty White! Betty loved pets so everybody is invited to bring their pet and be in the parade. Events and activities will be at the park immediately after the parade. Pet show! Food, Thornville Pickers! Bingo! Music! Fun for the families! Come out and support your town! Questions contact Judge Cooperrider 740 281 9900. Parade contact Amy Helsel 740 808 4731.

Note: Sunday, July 3, we will worship here, at Grace, at 8:00am; Community Worship Service at the Thornville Park 10:00am.



Susan Cheney
Gregg & Vicky Thomas
Larry & Valinda Arnold

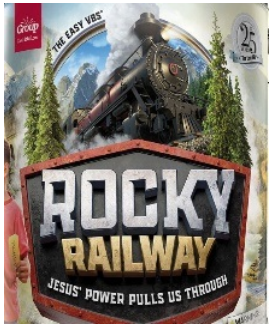


Pastor Tom will be leading a series on American Lutheran History in St. John's Hall.

Please join him!

Sundays 9:15am
July 10, 17, 24
August 14, 21





We offer our **heartfelt thanks** to Grace church and all who volunteered their time for the 2022 Rocky Railway Thornville Community VBS, June 13-17. The love of Jesus is the foundation of VBS, and that love is poured into the lives of the children, youth assistants and adults who attend.

VBS is one of the largest outreach events we host. It is funded by the generous donations of Grace Lutheran, Thornville United Methodist Church, Trinity United Church of Christ and South Shore Ministries. Grace and TUMC also donate their church buildings.

This year we averaged 94 children each day and had over 60 daily volunteers. The most challenging part of every year's Vacation Bible School is the gathering of volunteers. We appreciate all who were able to help every day, for a few days, or for even just one day! Each day makes a positive difference in the lives of children.

From security and running background checks, to registration, running music and sound, teaching the daily lessons, crew leadership, assisting crew leaders or teachers, kitchen and snack help, decorating and prepping the spaces, donating Christmas trees, gathering needed items, helping pack and put away, photography display for our church, and preparing the spaces again for Sunday worship and Manna Monday, we are thankful to everyone who gave their time, energy and resources. As you can see, it takes many folks so this can be offered each year. We need and appreciate everyone!

This year's VBS mission outreach went to the Backpack Ministry and the Thornville Food Pantry. What a wonderful sight to see young children bringing in canned goods or paper towels and etc, and to see so many give their dollars and coins into the offering baskets. There is great need in our community, and we thank you for supporting the outreach with your dollars and items.

**Please mark your calendars now for next year,
June 12-16, 2023**

**Grace will be in VBS leadership, and we will be asking again
for your help.
It's so worth it!**

Jesus' power helps us do hard things, gives us hope, helps us be bold, helps us live forever, and helps us be good friends to each other. Trust Jesus!

- Beth Raab





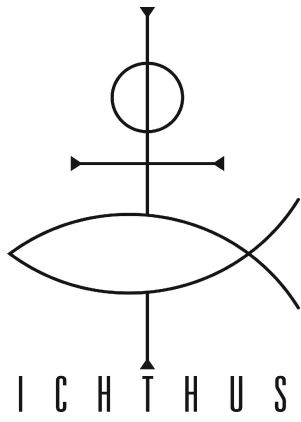


Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for May 2022
Wednesday, June 22, 2022

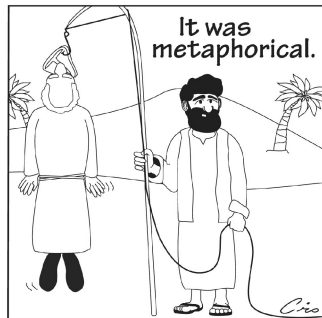
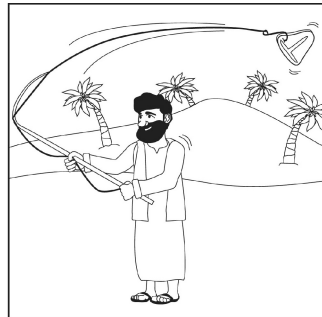
Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	73,019	18,340	21,825	0	69,534
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	2,057	0	0	0	2,057
3,300,000	Mission Fund	4,215	1,972	0	0	6,187
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,931	50	100	0	3,881
3,400,000	Endowment Osmia CD	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	43,043	100	1,170	0	41,973
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	607	0	0	0	607
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	2,568	415	0	0	2,983
3,520,000	Library Fund	33	0	0	0	33
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	215	0	0	0	215
3,620,000	Flower Fund	941	50	0	0	991
3,630,000	Choir Fund	1,788	10	0	0	1,798
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	25,867	806	2,950	0	23,723
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	19,130	0	0	0	19,130
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	6,182	0	0	0	6,182
3,925,000	KFROGS Fund	10,156	0	0	0	10,156
3,950,000	Investment Fund	138,883	0	0	0	138,883
	Total	343,650	21,743	26,045	0	339,349
General Fund Budget vs May actuals		26,478	-8,137	26,478	-4,653	Net 0
						-3,485



Christian symbol



FISH—The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell **ICHTHUS**, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



Beyond number
God is all-knowing, and his thoughts toward us are beyond number.

Directions: Solve the addition problems and use the code to complete Psalm 139:17-18, NIV.



How 13+10 to me are your 12+6, God!



How 8+11 is the 10+3 of them!



Were I to 15+6 them,

they would 3+12 the grains of 4+18 —

when I 13+4, I am still with you.



PSALM 139:17-18, NIV



Answer: precious, thoughts, vast, sum, count, outnumber, sand, awake

*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.

**Grace Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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