

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

Our Mission: "Sharing God's Love Through Grace"

September 2022



Hope
in the
LORD

Psalms 130:7

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me bear much fruit..."

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: | Kate Simmons 740-281-7673 |
| 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 Haggensjos 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*

Marketplace

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious..." - Acts 17:22 ESV



In our time and part of the world, we don't have much experience with traditional marketplaces, where people show up in the town square to sell their goods or hawk their wares. About the closest thing we have to marketplaces are shopping malls, where people can find stores devoted to particular items, but even these are becoming a thing of the past in light of the convenience of online shopping. But the market lives on. Instead of disappearing, the marketplace has shifted platforms.

Whatever form it takes, the concept of a marketplace is helpful for thinking about religion in America. From the beginning, the "non-establishment clause" in the First Amendment of the US Constitution turned religion into a marketplace. In our country, there would be no established state church, as in the Church of England. Yet the Founding Fathers recognized the important role that religion plays in society, and so while the First Amendment prohibited Congress from establishing a particular religion, they also made sure to prohibit Congress from making laws "prohibiting the free exercise [of religion]."

This free market economy of religion in America is what has made our country religiously vital, which stands in contrast to many European countries with a history of state sponsored churches. Though we often hear of the increasing secularization of our country, the United States actually remains a very religious country, having contributed to the proliferation of religions, church denominations, and sects, many of which

have been shipped abroad. Think, for example, of Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, both of which have origins in our land.

The idea of a religious marketplace is not new. In the earliest days of the Christian faith, the Apostle Paul commented during his visit to the Greek city of Athens how religious the people of that city were, devoted to various gods. Noticing there was a monument to "An Unknown God," he used that opportunity to introduce people to faith in Jesus Christ.

What would Paul say if he were among us today? He might comment on the secularization of our society, but he might also make comments like at his speech at the Athenian Areopagus, described in the New Testament book of Acts. All around us are signs of the religiosity of our country, with churches and sects of various types on street corners and along highways. All these groups are looking for their market share.

Where do we stand in the American religious marketplace? By "we" I mean churches of our type. Unfortunately, the numerical trend is not in our favor. What has often been called "mainline" Protestantism, which includes groups like Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and others, has been in decline for some time. As of 1960, there were roughly 8 million Lutherans of all kinds in the United States. Today, there are roughly 7 million, and the population of the country has doubled in that time. "Mainline" Protestants not keeping pace with population growth is due to many factors, one of which is simply lower birthrates.

In a competitive religious market, it's easy for churches to get nervous and to wonder how to remain vital and relevant. I have felt that pressure in the past. This is an issue that has been on my mind over the years, and that is the reason I am addressing it in this article. A fairly recent phenomenon around our country

is what I and others often call the "box church," so named because these churches often inhabit spaces of vacated "box stores," such as Walmart, Target, and the like. Such "box churches" are most often labeled as "non-denominational" and often employ contemporary Christian praise music in their worship. For churches of a more traditional type, "box churches" provide market competition. In years gone by, denominational loyalty was much stronger than today. People who had been members of "mainline" churches automatically gravitated to other "mainline" churches if they relocated. Now, they join a church, if they bother joining one at all, for local and relational reasons. No doubt there are many decent and committed people who attend these "box churches," but their perspectives on theology and worship are usually quite different than ours.

What does our congregation of Grace Lutheran have to offer people in this religious marketplace? A lot, I think. We have many gifted and active members, and we engage in important service in our community. We have many friendly and welcoming people. But when it comes to worship, compared to the glitz that can be found in some "box churches," it is easy for those of us of more traditional churches to feel inadequate, irrelevant, and behind the times.

It is important to remember that no church can be everything to everyone. Most likely, we will never be a church focused on "contemporary worship" trends. Such things do appeal to certain people in the religious marketplace. But there is a place in the market for more traditional styles of "doing church," which are quieter, more meditative, more focused on ritual, more focused on teaching, and less focused on emotionalism. We would do well to continue to focus on doing well what it is that we do. There are indeed people to whom our "style" speaks. When I was a teenager, many adults assumed that because I was younger, I must have disliked my church's traditional style. They were surprised when I told them that I actually liked it! I

know that I was not alone in my preference. Inundated with modern pop music throughout the week, many people look for church to provide them with a different kind of experience, a change of pace.

I am convinced that our congregation indeed has much to offer, and not just in terms of the good and committed people involved in the life of this church. Through our creeds, confessional writings, liturgy, and hymns, we stand on an ancient tradition that has endured for centuries. We continue to encounter God's gospel (good news of Jesus). We do not reject everything that is new, but we also do not forget from where it is we have come. Our view of worship, which speaks of God serving us in Jesus Christ through His Word and sacraments, roots our lives in God's grace. That is an important voice in today's marketplace, however small it might be. Let us not be embarrassed or feel inadequate about our tradition, but embrace it proudly as our words and lives bear witness to the grace of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us sinners to his table and calls us as disciples to live repentant lives in response to his gifts!

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



July's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 104
8:00am - 29 10:30am - 75

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

Sunday, Sept. 4 - 13th Sunday After Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, Sept. 11 - 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, Sept. 18 - 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, Sept. 25 - 16th Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

**From Martin Luther's Small Catechism
The Ten Commandments**

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, lie, or gossip about our neighbors, but defend them, speak well of them, and put the most charitable construction on all that they do.



Church Council Meeting Minutes – August 15, 2022 7:00 PM

Present: Paul Moentmann (Council President), Jeni Lahman, Kelly O'Reilly, Rick Rockwell, Matt Sheridan, Kate Simmons, Pastor Tom Jacobson

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

Pastor's Report

- Pastor brought up the possibility for Grace members to subscribe to Connections Magazine, a magazine with devotional articles. For 31 or more subscribers, cost is \$16.00 per subscription.
- The American Lutheran History Sunday School class continues to do well and will finish on August 21st.
- Confirmation class will resume on August 28th. New class will start later in the fall.
- KFC will begin in the fall. There will be a trip next summer.
- The community pastors are now meeting regularly, usually monthly, to connect and talk about issues of mutual interest.
- Discussed possibility of a "frequently asked questions" page on the website.
- The Southeast Ohio Mission District has a vacancy for the co-dean position, which needs to be filled by one of the district pastors. Some have suggested Pr. Tom to fill the role, which would be shared with Pr. Scott Smith from Logan. Discussion was that if he feels it can fit with his schedule, Pr. Tom should feel free to serve in that capacity.

Upreach/Worship Renewal – Kelly

- A greeter sign-up sheet has been placed outside the sanctuary.
- Also, a sign-up sheet for acolytes, for the 10:30 service, has been placed outside the sanctuary.

Inreach/AIF - Kate

- Rally Day is scheduled for either September 11 or 25. There is a new curriculum. Kate is looking for teachers.
- The backpacks were delivered to the schools on August 15th.

Outreach – Jeff

- No updates at this time.

Treasurer's Report - Rick

- Financial reports were presented and discussed.

Old Business

- Kate Simmons was appointed to take over the Inreach Ministry. Many thanks to Amber Feyh for her work as Inreach Ministry Coordinator.
- The Property committee is looking for more volunteers, as well as a new coordinator.
- LifeWise Academy was discussed. Grace has been selected as a potential host site if LifeWise were to develop a program to serve Thornville Elementary. No formal requests for this support have been made.
- A letter has been sent addressing the Worship Renewal/Capital Campaign.

New Business

- There will be a Fellowship Hall Dedication Plaque for the Franks family, with a reception to follow on Sunday, August 21st.
- Kelly O'Reilly will be in charge of the Nominating Committee for available positions on Council. At the next annual there will be a vote for: Vice President, Secretary, Inreach, Upreach and Outreach.

Adjourn - Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: 9/19/2022, 7:00 PM (3rd Monday)

Respectfully submitted, Jeni Lahman, secretary

Worship Renewal and Capital Campaign Update

In the middle of March, we kicked off our capital campaign with Step 1 (Down Payment) for the proposed transformation of our sanctuary and adjacent support areas as a part of our Worship Renewal. At that time, we made the following three points:

- 1) We needed more information – about what's happening in the world around us, what it's going to cost, and will we choose to support it (the pledge campaign would tell us that).
- 2) The best time of year for the construction is January through summer so we would only miss one major festival (Easter), and not both Easter and Christmas.
- 3) We wanted to wait as long as possible (September 11th) to decide to move forward with construction, which would give us better visibility on #1 above and still potentially start in January.

In short, we wanted to see if things might improve with world events and the economy by waiting (6) months before we made the decision. We are now (4) months in and things are arguably worse now than they were in March. We simply don't see it improving significantly between now and September. We believe that the best course of action is to postpone the beginning of any construction for at least a year. We'll still need congregational approval to move forward with the actual construction..

Thanks to all of you, we have a very strong beginning in response to Step 1 of our capital campaign with over \$271K pledged toward the \$300K initial goal. We're continuing to move forward with the Construction Documents Phase that was approved in May by the congregation. By completing this phase, we'll be able to start more quickly once we're ready to go. We'll wait until we're closer to moving forward before we get additional quotes.

Step 2 (Mortgage pledges) would be delayed until sometime next year after evaluation of world events and the economy. We'll need a strong response when it's time to secure a loan.

One added benefit of postponing construction is it will give us some time to collect funds in the capital campaign. The Construction

Documents Phase will cost approximately \$40K more than what's already been given this year. You can give towards this by indicating Capital Campaign on your envelopes.

The Worship Renewal Task Force and Council has always indicated that to piecemeal the project would be substantially more expensive and disruptive to the life of the congregation. It is our fervent belief that it is not if we move forward with the project, but rather when. We continue to pray that the Spirit lead us in this endeavor.

Any questions contact

Paul Moentmann – Council President
(440) 728-7067 (cell) or paul@fairfieldid.com
or

Kelly O'Reilly – Worship Renewal Task Force Chair (740) 973-3158
(cell) or keoreilly1@gmail.com



BACKWOODS FEST

SEPTEMBER 16, 17, 18

YOUTH & ADULTS NEEDED!!!!



This is a major fundraiser for the KFC & KFROGS Youth Groups at Grace. It runs three days: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, so lots of opportunity to help. Knowing our volunteers have busy schedules, flexibility can be worked into the schedule, just let us know so we can plan. We sell Sausage Gravy & Biscuits and Pumpkin Spice Bread.

Parking is free, however, there is an entrance fee at the gate for those over age 10. Booth workers are required to pay the fee in order to enter. Gate fees will be reimbursed from the Youth Fund for volunteers upon request.

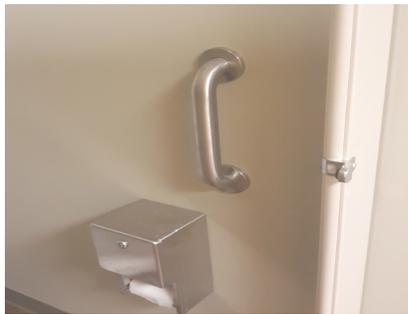
Lots of help is needed, sign-up sheets are located in the "Gathering Space" at Grace or you can sign up through our Facebook online. Thank you in advance for your service!

Questions, please contact
Jason Barrera 740-334-0675 barrera.jwb@gmail.com

FACILITIES REPORT as of 8.14.2022

Projects Completed

- New dehumidifier has been installed on the furnace that services the basement.
- Repaired and repainted stoop over stairwell entrance on the west side of church.
- Addressed water leak in basement closet that has the sump pump. Cleaned and repainted walls and floor.
- Applied mortar joint repair to some of the exterior bricks on the northeast and north side of church.
- Installed grab bars inside all the non-handicap bathroom stalls.
- Glued down some loose tile in Fellowship Hall.



Scholarships Awarded

Paul Varner Scholarships were awarded to the following students on August 14. Each received a check for \$350., except Abigail who received \$50 putting her at the max amount. Congratulations!

Addyson Boyer
Brooklyn Heller
Ethan Heller
Abigail Tolliver

Pictured: Abigail and Brooklyn

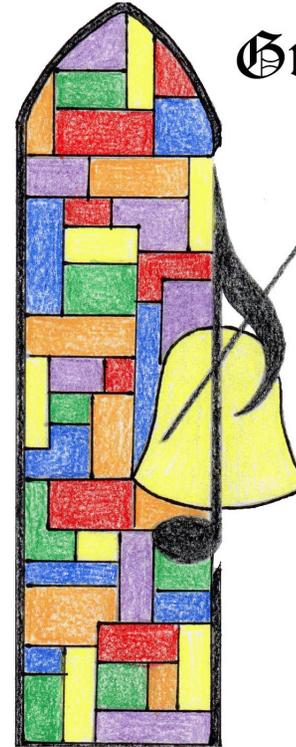


Backpack Blessing

On August 14 we prayed for and blessed students of all ages during the service. The students and their backpacks were called to the altar area during the service and given a gift.



Grace Notes News



We are very pleased and excited to welcome two new faces to our church and to the bell choir:
Nylene Monahan and Cindy Wilson!
Nylene is from this area and Cindy comes to us from California.

The handbell choir kicked off the 2022-23 ringing season with a luncheon/work session on Sunday, August 21. The ringers enjoyed pizza, subs, salad, and cinnamon bread from Donatos. While munching and visiting they listened to demo recordings of the music they will be playing this season. Afterwards they all pitched in to set up the bell tables and equipment for Monday night practice. There was much excitement over the new replacement lights which are a great improvement over the old ones.

There are still two positions open! It's not too late to come join us. Practices are Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. If interested or have questions ask any bell choir member or call Becky at 740-243-0394.

Dedication of Fellowship Hall - On August 21, the fellowship hall was dedicated to the memory of Cleo & Louise Franks. The Franks were instrumental in keeping us from having to take out a loan for the last construction project with a generous gift from their estate. A reception was held and a plaque was hung in their honor.



To the glory of God
and in appreciation of
their generous gift,
this fellowship hall
is dedicated to
the memory of

**Cleo and Louise
Franks**

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5



Homelessness is a problem nationwide and rural Perry County is no different. We have residents who experience homelessness through no fault of their own, such as fires, floods, building collapse, loss of income, medical/mental health, etc. The obstacle we face is that we do not have a shelter in the county to serve our residents.

Perry County Housing Coalition
will be hosting a

TICKET AUCTION*

at St. Rose Community Center
New Lexington

Doors open
at 4pm,
Drawing
begins at
7pm

**50/50
BASKETS
GIFT CARDS
SPECIAL RAFFLES
FOOD**

**Save
the Date
SATURDAY
OCT. 15**

*All Proceeds benefit the Coalitions efforts
to fight Homelessness in Perry County*

If you would like to donate items for the auction please contact:
Judge Luann Cooperrider - 740.281.9900
David Weber - 740.974.0680 | Brenda Carney - 740.974.5536
Michelle Davis - 740.684.0183 | Clarissa Reynolds - 740.621.0018

*formerly known as a Chinese Auction

**MARY BATES, NALC DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATOR
WILL BE CONDUCTING WORSHIP SERVICE AT
ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2745 W BROAD ST., COLUMBUS OHIO 43204
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022, 10:00 A.M. SERVICE**

**ST JOHN WILL HOST A STUFF THE TRUCK EVENT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 FROM NOON TO 2:00 P.M.
WE WILL ALSO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR THE STUFF THE
TRUCK EVENT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH FROM 9:00 A.M. TO
NOON. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (614) 279-5286 FOR
AVAILABILITY TO DROP OFF AT OTHER TIMES.**

Updated message from Mary Bates, Disaster Response Coordinator
August 1 — Kentucky Flooding
NALC Disaster Response was deployed to Hazard KY on Aug. 1. The 26' box truck has been sent with flood buckets, health kits, Bibles, clean up tools and supplies. The volunteers in Hazard were so very thankful for the church's support and prayers. The death toll continues to rise, now at 28 fatalities. More than 10 inches of rain fell in eastern Kentucky last week. The area is expected to see additional rainfall this week. Keep those prayers coming!

Gift cards are needed for the NALC Disaster Response - we are completely out of gift cards after serving in western Kentucky and tornado recovery. If you would like to help, please send your support as soon as possible to NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave., Caldwell, Ohio 43724.

**UPDATE: NALC Disaster Response volunteers delivered the 26' box truck of flood buckets into Hazard KY this week. Folks, it is really bad there - your prayers are needed for this very poverty-stricken area that has lost so much. Please send your donations as soon as possible, your help is needed!

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for July 2022
Sunday, August 14, 2022

| Account # | Account Name | Bag Balance | Receipts | Disbursements | Transfers/IE's | End Balance |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 3.100.000 | General Fund | 63,996 | 16,462 | 17,592 | 0 | 62,867 |
| 3.220.000 | Improvement Fund | 2,057 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,057 |
| 3.300.000 | Mission Fund | 8,086 | 1,631 | 0 | 0 | 9,716 |
| 3.320.000 | Local Good Samaritan Fund | 3,513 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 3,533 |
| 3.400.000 | Endowment Drama CD | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,000 |
| 3.420.000 | Capital Campaign Fund | 31,149 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 31,249 |
| 3.500.000 | Adventures In Faith Fund | 607 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 607 |
| 3.510.000 | Varner Scholarship Fund | 3,268 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,603 |
| 3.520.000 | Library Fund | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| 3.600.000 | Parment Fund | 1,017 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,017 |
| 3.610.000 | Handbell Fund | 215 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 215 |
| 3.620.000 | Flower Fund | 991 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 991 |
| 3.630.000 | Choir Fund | 1,798 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,798 |
| 3.740.000 | Backpack Ministry Fund | 24,417 | 1,005 | 0 | 0 | 25,422 |
| 3.900.000 | Memorial Fund | 19,280 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19,280 |
| 3.920.000 | KFC Youth Fund | 6,182 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,182 |
| 3.925.000 | KFRDGs Fund | 10,156 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10,156 |
| 3.950.000 | Investment Fund | 138,883 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 138,883 |
| | Total | \$325,646.69 | \$19,552.82 | \$17,591.85 | \$0.00 | \$327,607.66 |
| | General Fund Budget | | 26,478 | 26,478 | 0 | 0 |
| | vs May actuals | | -10,015 | -8,886 | -1,130 | |

NALC Disaster Response volunteers will be delivering flood buckets and emergency relief supplies to Hindman, KY, where four children were swept away in the flood waters. We will be providing spiritual Christian care for as many of the community there as possible. Again, your prayers are needed!

Disaster Response Kit Packing Lists are available on the table in the elevator hallway.



NALC Disaster Response Training Session - Save the Date!

Mary Bates, national Disaster Response Coordinator of North American Lutheran Church Disaster Response will be at Grace Lutheran in Thornville March 10 & 11, 2023, to provide area-wide disaster response training. Members of all local churches are welcome and encouraged to attend this program. Coordinated responses tactics and guidelines among area churches to local disasters such as fires, floods, tornadoes, active shooters will be presented. More information will be provided as we get closer to that time. Mark your church calendars now to keep those days open for your members to attend.

For more information at this time, see

<https://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/> or call Bob Reynolds, head of Safety & Security at Grace Lutheran Thornville at 630-698-0457.

Attention Women of Grace: We want to restart the women's group! It's been too long without you! An informal organizational meeting will be held here on Tuesday, October 11, 10:30am. Please plan to attend! If unable to attend, but interested, please contact Pastor Tom. pastor@gracethornville.org

Our purpose, as a group: We are a congregation of women created in the image of God to practice discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. We are committed to grow in faith, always affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote harmony in church, community, our society, and the world.

What we do as a group: The Women's Council and other volunteers are called to assist members in God's mission, study of His Word, service to others in Christ's name, and fellowship among Christian women.

See you on October 11, 10:30am!!!



Dartball Season is soon approaching! A team is composed of at least 6 to 15 players, male and female. Games are played on Monday nights. Contact Patty Jenny 740-743-2638 for details.

Backpack Ministry

School bells are ringing, which means that the Backpack Ministry is in full swing! This program provides weekend food packages during the school year for needy students. We are starting this school year serving **68** students (almost triple the number from last year) at Thornville Elementary and Sheridan Middle School!!!

We are going to need lots of donations to make it through the year! Donations may be dropped off in the atrium entrance at church.

- ✍ Plastic grocery bags, especially the larger clicklist bags
- ✍ Juice box or pouch
- ✍ Cereal (individual box or cup)
- ✍ Oatmeal packets
- ✍ Fruit cups or cans
- ✍ Vegetable cups or cans
- ✍ Ramen noodles
- ✍ Macaroni & Cheese cups
- ✍ Anything like SpaghettiOs ravioli, etc. (cup or cans)
- ✍ Individual Snacks (chips, pretzels, fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers, crackers & cheese, chex mix, etc.)
- ✍ Individual desserts (cookies, pudding cups, cereal bars, etc.)

Nothing homemade, please!

Weekly bagging help needed!
If you would like to volunteer to help bag the food contact Barb Ulmer 740-281-7673 or Kate Simmons 740-605-3230.



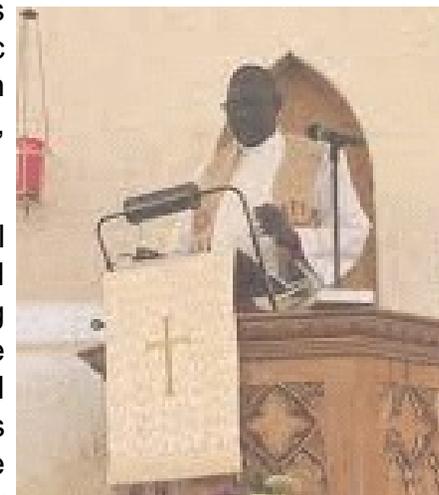
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Special Guest Coming to Grace

On October 9, Pr. Tom will be presenting at the Lutheran Historical Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. In his absence, Pr. Jordan Long, President of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan (LCSS) will be here that weekend to preach and lead the adult Sunday school at 9:15.

He will be sharing the story of the war-torn church consisting of over 300 congregations, located in several countries. Among other things, this story includes how genocide and ethnic cleansing have taken its toll on the people, especially the men, and even more so pastors.

More importantly, Pr. Long will also share how our good God is at work in the LCSS healing the refugees, many in refugee camps. Only Christ can heal their pain, and the LCSS brings Christ to them. In addition, the LCSS has a Lutheran seminary to replenish the number of pastors and has a college to enable the refugees to learn skills allowing them to leave the refugee camps.



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The Vogt Family - What's God Doing in Tanzania?

+ Rich - Unfortunately, we had to make some personnel changes in the office. This means that Rich is picking up more responsibilities again. He is working on our family's work permits. He is continuing to try to get a charitable exemption status for our organization that will help with work and residence permits for the teammates.

+ Sarah - She is loving her new roles. Even though she misses teaching the children, she is thankful for how God is using other gifts that He has given her. On top of overseeing the maintenance of the East Africa Branch, she accepted the role of on-site care facilitator as a part of member care for our team. She has begun going to trainings (Cerny Smith Assessment). Please pray that she will be sensitive to the Spirit to know how best to care for our team.

+ Jonathan - He is well into 9th grade and has found a good routine for each day. This year he is reading through the whole Old Testament as part of his curriculum. Each day he is given life applicable questions, his responses have amazed his parents and we can see the work of the Holy Spirit in his life. Please pray for him as he really misses the companionship of his friend, Titus. Please pray for healing for Titus and that their family may return to TZ soon.



PUZZLE

A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | E | C | R | O | H | N | S | L | I | A | W | D | R |
| ▼ | ↓ | ↘ | ↙ | ↖ | ▲ | ↘ | ↓ | ▼ | ↘ | ↓ | ⋮ | ↓ | ↘ |
| 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | | | | | | |

Like _____

56 21 71 28 60 42

in the hands of a warrior are

14 33 52 47 65 2 9 39

born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answer: arrows, children

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
65 E. Columbus St.; PO Box 284
Thornville OH 43076**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 740-246-6576
www.gracethornville.org
office@gracethornville.org

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