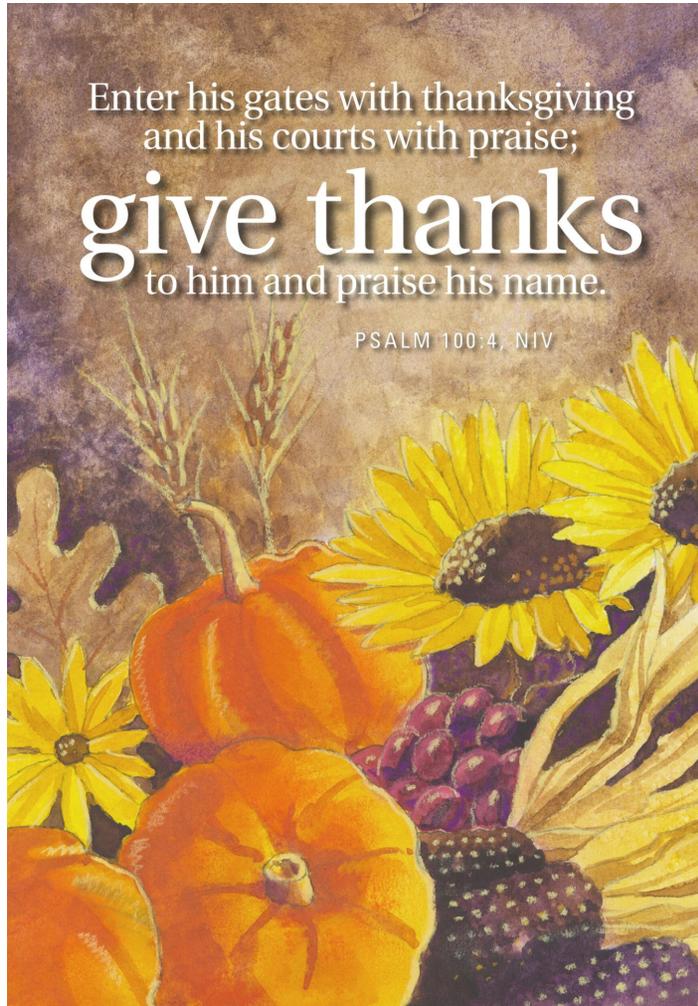


The Grapevine

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

November 2022



"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 740-281-7672
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 Haggengjos 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*

Happy Thanksgiving - November 24, 2022

From Our Pastor...

Thanksgiving

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17 ESV



Thanksgiving was never my favorite holiday as a child. I remember sitting in my living room one November in my early elementary years. I knew we were going to have a family gathering that weekend, but I didn't quite understand why. Unlike Christmas, I knew I wasn't getting any presents that weekend, and other than getting a couple days off from school, some turkey, and some pie, I felt there wasn't much about which to get excited.

Thanksgiving as a national holiday has had a long and interesting history in our country. Though there have been days of Thanksgiving declared at different times in our history, the annual observance of Thanksgiving in November goes back to the Civil War. We have President Abraham Lincoln to thank for our current practice of the Thanksgiving holiday, which has become a part of the fabric of our national life.

As the secular part of our society becomes all the more vocal, I often wonder how Thanksgiving as a holiday will fare in years to come. After all, how can one be thankful if there is nothing, no God, to which to direct our thanks? Of course, get-togethers among family and friends are a good thing for anyone at any time of the year, but that was not the original point of Thanksgiving.

Though not a specifically Christian holiday, the Thanksgiving holiday called for by Abraham Lincoln was meant to unify people in the dark days of the Civil War by directing them to give thanks "and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." His proclamation was general enough to include people of various religious traditions: different types of Christians, Jews, and others. His hope was that all people, however they expressed their faith, would take time to acknowledge their daily bread as coming from a transcendent source. This "civil religion" has been a part of our country for a long time, and even that is now beginning to dissipate. The spiritual element of Thanksgiving is easy to overlook. The fact that it is a national holiday leads many to view a Thanksgiving meal as an obligation to perform rather than a gift to receive with thanksgiving. I am guilty of this as much as anyone.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised at this. We often hear of the call to "be more thankful!" But from a Lutheran point of view, we have the theological truth that thanksgiving does not come naturally to us. It is contrary to our sinful human nature. Being thankful means that we acknowledge God as the source of all things. If we did that all the time, then there would be no problem. We would not be sinners, and we would not need Jesus to be our Savior!

As Christians, we are a work in progress. As humans with a sinful nature, we are not capable of pure thanksgiving. But in the Bible, God continues to prod people to thanksgiving, directing them to Himself, the wellspring of life. Still, the burdens of life cloud our view. How much easier it is to dwell on the negative! We need constant reminders of what God has done for us. This is why it is important to engage in frequent and regular worship. This is why Scripture reading, devotional life, and prayer are so important. One thing that can help is keeping a prayer and thanksgiving journal. Each

day, make note of the blessings you have received. And then think of how you can be a blessing to others.

We will also be resurrecting a tradition this November. The pastors in our community have agreed to hold a community Thanksgiving service the evening before Thanksgiving. That Wednesday, we will gather for this worship service at Grace Lutheran at 7:00 PM. This year, the new pastor at Thornville United Methodist Church, Victoria Burgoon, will preach, with the rest of us filling different roles. As you prepare for the following day, join us here at Grace that evening in giving thanks!

As far as Thanksgiving memories go, ten years ago, my wife Theresa was still in her first year serving Grace Lutheran Church in Menno, South Dakota. I was still working on my doctorate and at the time did not have a congregational call of my own. I remember being thankful for having landed in that place earlier that year. I wanted to contribute to the congregation somehow, so I sang a solo for their evening Thanksgiving service. I've talked before about my love of the hymns of the Swedish Lutheran hymn writer Lina Sandell ("Children of the Heavenly Father," "Day by Day," and "Thy Holy Wings"). One of her lesser-known hymns is titled, "O Jesus, Let My Eyes Be Opened" (Swedish: *O Jesu öppna du mitt öga*). I shared this song that night in 2012 and felt it was appropriate for a Lutheran understanding of Thanksgiving, asking that God would continue to open our eyes to His blessings: our life, our daily bread, and especially our salvation. Though you can't hear the tune on the printed page, I invite you to meditate on these words:

O Jesus, let my eyes be opened, so I can see what I've been given, that I've a Father in the highest whose Father's heart would give my heaven, whose Father's heart would give me heaven.

*I have a brother high in heaven at God's right hand,
who cares for me, he sends his grace, so overflowing as
wide as God's eternity, as wide as God's eternity.*

*I have a solace for my sorrow, a comforter and help for good,
I have eternal life forever, eternal peace in Jesus' blood,
eternal peace in Jesus' blood.*

*I have a life, yes life abundant, the richest grace, yes, it is
true, I have a crown of life more glorious, a heritage that's
always new, a heritage that's always new.*

*O Jesus, come make clear my vision so I can see your glory
shine, and never lose your great salvation all you have given
to make it mine, all you have given to make it mine.*

Carolina Sandell-Berg (1832-1903); trans.
Gracia Grindal (1943-)

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Thank You!

From Pastor Tom: *"I would like to thank everyone for your cards and words of appreciation for Pastor Appreciation Month! Know that I am also appreciative of all of you and the many ways you contribute to the life of this congregation! Not quite a year into my time here at Grace Lutheran, my family and I are glad to call Thornville home."*

Worship In November

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 6 - All Saints' Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31



Sunday, Nov. 13 - 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

Sunday, Nov. 20 - Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43



+ Wednesday, Nov. 23, 7:00pm

Community Thanksgiving Worship

Sunday, Nov. 27 - 1st Sunday In Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 24:36-44



+ Wednesday, Nov. 30, 7:00pm

Advent Worship



September's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 115

8:00am - 30 10:30am - 85

10.17.22 Council Meeting Minutes

7:45 PM

1. Opening Prayer/Call to Order-
 - a. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with prayer
 - b. Paul called the meeting to order
2. Pastor's Report- Pastor Tom
 - a. Pastor Tom thanked everyone for all the appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month and said he is appreciative of the congregation as well
 - b. Motion made by Kelly and seconded by Matt to receive list of five confirmands (Josie Sigler, Emily O'Hara, Dylan Fox, Lillian Talbot, and Ava Heller) Motion Passed Unanimously
 - c. Confirmation will take place during the 10:30 service on October 30th
 - d. The next class (and their parents) will meet with Pastor Tom between services on October 30th to begin the new class
 - e. Motion made by Kelly and seconded by Jeff to permit the Culver family to use the basement for a Thanksgiving gathering. Motion Passed Unanimously
 - f. Women of Grace will start meeting again. The first meeting will be a luncheon after church on November 6th
 - g. KFC will meet next Sunday afternoon at the parsonage
 - h. We will move forward with the purchase of the Connections Magazine for those who signed up. If there are extra copies, they will be made available for pick up by the congregation
 - i. A Men's Breakfast will start up in the coming months
 - j. Pastor Tom attended the Lutheran Historical Conference in St. Louis last week and now serves on their board and as their treasurer
 - k. Southeast Ohio Mission District met here last week. Pastor Tom is the co-dean
 - l. The NALC Dean's meeting is November 2 and 3 in Dallas. Pastor Tom will attend but will not miss any Sunday's
 - m. Pastor Tom is being considered to sit on the NALC Commission for Theology and Doctrine to help guide the Bishop on theological issues. This group will meet in Dallas on his upcoming visit

3. Upreach- Kelly
 - a. Starting on Reformation Sunday, the Pastor and Assist will no longer be required to wear a mask during communion. This will be advertised and masks will be available for those in the congregation still wanting them
4. Inreach- Kate was not present
5. Outreach- Jeff had nothing to report
6. Treasurer's Report- Rick
 - a. Motion was made by Paul and seconded by Rick to accept the budget as presented for approval at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday. Motion Passed Unanimously
 - b. Motion was made by Rick and seconded by Matt to add the continued support for the Vogt family of \$200 a month as a separate item for approval at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday. Motion Passed Unanimously.
 - c. Consolidated Fund Report and Treasurer's Report were presented
7. Old Business
 - a. Bob Reynolds will attend a webinar about a potential security grant
 - b. Nominating Committee nominated the following- Matt Sheridan (Vice President), Carl Lahman (Secretary), Casey Sigler (Upreach), Jackie Combs (Financial Secretary) and are still working on the Inreach and Outreach positions
8. New Business
 - a. Annual Meeting next Sunday will include
 - i. Accepting all reports, including the Annual Report
 - ii. Approval of Budget
 - iii. Vogt Family Support of \$200 per month
 - iv. Election of Officers
 - b. One time special offering for the Lutheran Church of South Sudan will be collected on October 30th with the goal of \$5,000 to provide two seminary scholarships.

Matt Sheridan, secretary pro tem

As we all are aware, there is increasing violence in our society, and this includes occurring in churches. We at Grace are not immune to the threat of such violence, both while in church and in our daily lives. With the approval of Congregation Council, Safety & Security has provided the following basic instructions for your safety. Cards with this information have been placed in each pew rack, and we are also providing it here in the Gracevine for those who do not or can not attend worship services in person. For those who do worship in person, you are welcome to take one of the cards with you to read, study, and share the information with others.

VIOLENT ATTACKER RESPONSE

+RUN – Get away from the area as fast as you can. If you can run, run in a zig-zag manner. Take your children and any mobility-impaired person with you. Leave all your belongings behind. Get as far away as you can. Get out of the building if possible. THEN, call 911.

+HIDE – Do NOT try to hide under a pew as that makes you an easy target. Try to get into a different room with a door. Once inside, lock or block the door with whatever you can – furniture, books, anything. Stay away from windows. Turn off lights. Remain silent. Do not talk to others. Use hand signals. Silence your cell phone. Send texts only, if at all possible.

+FIGHT – As a last resort, if you cannot get away or hide and have to fight, throw as hard as you can ANYTHING at the attacker. This includes purses, cell phones, hymnals, Bibles, fire extinguishers, coffee cups – ANYTHING. Aim them directly at the attacker's head or groin. If you must, run TOWARDS the attacker as fast as you can. Grab and HANG ON to the attacker if possible. Keep your body held tightly against that person. This will distract the attacker and potentially allow others to disarm and disable the attacker.

+WHEN POLICE ARRIVE -- Try to stay calm. Raise your arms and show your open hands to the police. Do NOT run towards the police. Wait for and follow their instructions. Do not leave the area until instructed to do so by the police.



Covid and the pandemic put a halt to the activities of our Women's groups. The Bible study circles ceased to meet, no collections for mission were scheduled, and no banquets or luncheons planned. The Friendship Circle resumed meeting monthly soon after church was reopened, but the Women's Board and other circles have not convened at this time.

Do not lose heart! After 2 years of inactivity, the Women of Grace are ready to "Reboot" and begin anew. A meeting for all interested women was held on October 11. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with prayer and gave us a list of things to consider. Women's groups provide an important service in the congregation. Our prayer is that all the women of Grace will be active in Bible study circles, mission outreach, and the life of Grace Church.

You are cordially invited!

*Post-Covid Reboot
Luncheon and re-organization meeting
of the Women of Grace*

*Sunday, November 6, 2022
Following worship (11:45am)
In the Fellowship Hall.*

*Please RSVP to the church office 740-246-6576 or
sign up on the sheet in the gathering space, so
enough food is prepared.*

Thankoffering Sunday will be celebrated on Nov. 13. The Women of Grace have encouraged members to bring in nonperishable food and soaps for Thankoffering Sunday for many years. Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. The items will be divided among Thornville, Glenford, and Millersport food pantries.

Let's fill the church with non-perishable food items and soaps!! A collection table has been set up in the gathering space. You can also make a monetary donation by printing "Thankoffering" on your offering envelope.

Thank you for your generosity.



A Day for the Saints

All Saints' Day is November 1 each year. The word saint comes from the Latin word sanctus and refers to the holy - that is, "set apart for the service of God." The New Testament considers all Christians as saints (see 1 Corinthians 1:2, NRSV). Therefore, the first Sunday of November is celebrated as All Saints Sunday, a day to pay tribute to those members and loved ones who have received God's gift of eternal life during the past twelve months.

*Delbert K. Latham
May 18, 1934 - May 10, 2022*

*James "Jim" Poorman
September 16, 1948 - August 19, 2022*

*Sarah L. Stought
February 26, 1939 - September 12, 2022*

*Mary E. Winegardner
August 13, 1930 - October 2, 2022*



Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Grace Lutheran Church

Please join with other members of the greater Thornville community to give thanks for the many blessings we all share. The pastors of the community will share in the leadership of this service. Come as we reflect on the importance of thanksgiving in our lives as Christians. Pie and beverages will be served following the service. We are asking for donations of pies. A sign up sheet has been placed in the gathering space.

Prayer of thanksgiving

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

—Psalm 103:2-5, NRSV

SHUT-INS

During the holiday season, we remember our homebound and nursing home members. We would like to have a card shower for each of them. (Please consider adding these folks to your greeting cards list for Thanksgiving and Christmas.)

Zelma Brown
Chapel Grove Inn
1400 Chapel Way
Heath, OH 43056

Deb Winegardner
Chapel Grove Inn
1400 Chapel Way
Heath, OH 43056

Dean Boyer Room 209A
Altercare of Thornville
14100 Zion Road
Thornville OH 43076

Martha Lutz
Altercare of Thornville
14100 Zion Road
Thornville OH 43076

Betty Shell
Altercare of Thornville
14100 Zion Road
Thornville OH 43076

John Cooperrider
Fairview Assisted Living
5550 St. Rt. 37 E.
New Lexington, OH 43764

Sue Cottrill
13687 Rosewood Rd. NE
Thornville OH 43076

Margaret Winegardner
112 Foster Dr.
Thornville OH 43076

Irene Forsythe
9975 Twp. Rd. 37 NW
Thornville, OH 43076

Pat K'Miller
11397 Bruno Road
Thornville, OH 43076

Keith Stought
2297 Musser Rd NE
Baltimore OH 43105

Shirley Smith
70 Crestline Rd. SE
Newark OH 43056

Carol Cormican
5406 Davis Drive SE
Newark OH 43056

Kathy Aberegg
Crossroad Manor
500 C Eldridge Place
Hebron OH 43025



Pictured: Tom Rodgers, Pastor Theresa Jacobson, and Pastor Jordan Long, President of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan (LCSS).

We were honored to have Pastor Long as our guest and to preach the message on October 9. A special offering was collected on October 30th with a goal of \$5000, to cover the cost of two seminary scholarships at LCSS. It's not too late to give! Monetary donations are still being accepted!

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

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his workers, or his livestock, or anything that is your neighbor's.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not ruin our neighbors' relationships with their husband or wife, workers, or livestock, or try to lure them away, but encourage them to remain and serve each other faithfully.



Voting Results from the Annual Meeting held October 23, 2022:

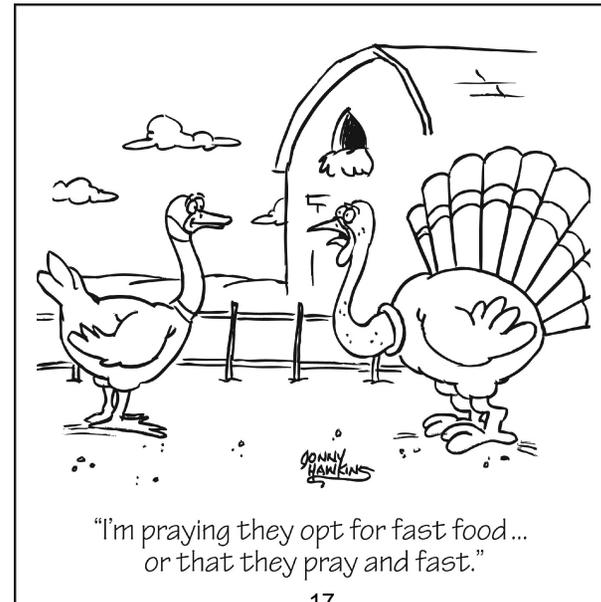
- 39 members present.
- Those elected:
 - Matt Sheridan, Vice President;
 - Carl Lahman, Secretary;
 - Casey Sigler, Upreach Coordinator;
 - Jackie Combs, Financial Secretary.
- 2023 Budget was approved.
- Open Council positions needed to be filled:
 - Inreach Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator.

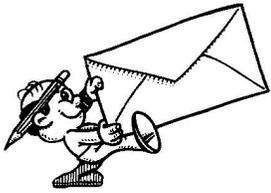
**Save The Date
Vacation Bible School 2023**

June 12-16
9am-12:30pm
(right before Fathers' Day Sunday)

Grace is in leadership again this year, and there will be many ways to help. Please mark your 2023 calendar now for this amazing outreach, and begin to pray.

More VBS details will come in Winter of 2022! (contact Beth Raab for info)





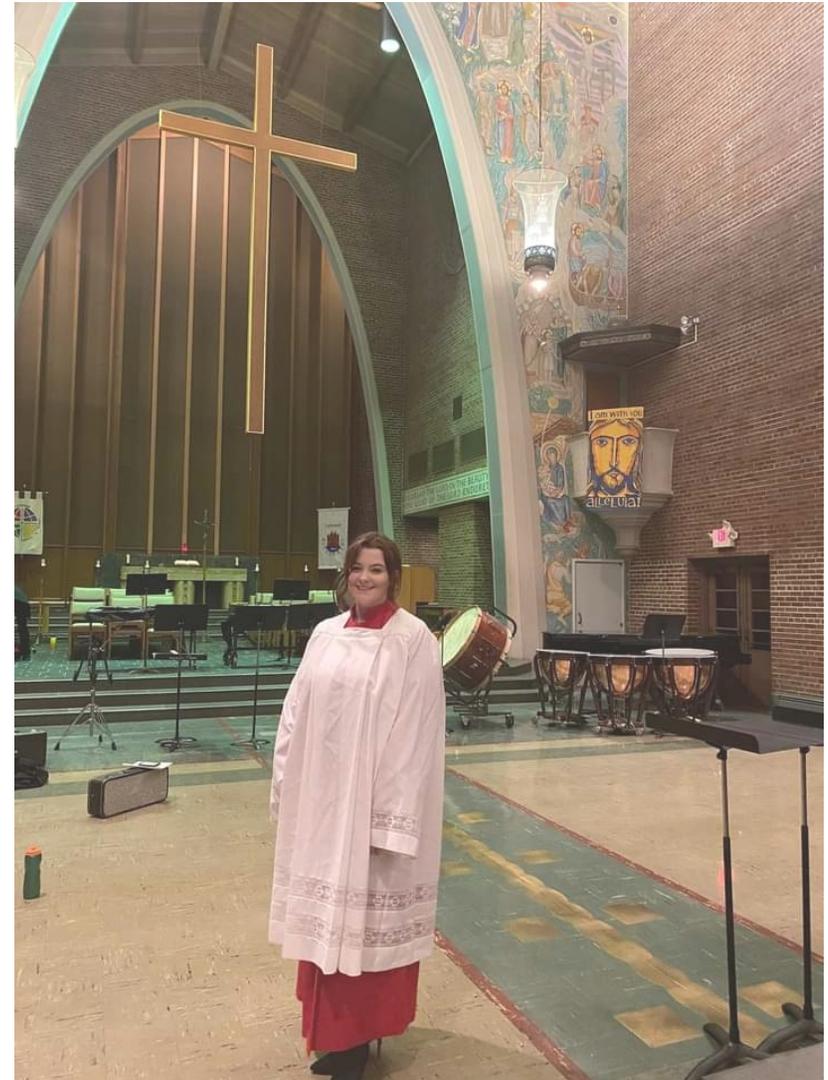
from The Rev. Tim Krick
Manager for Congregational Engagement LWR



Pastor Tom and the people of Grace,
Thank you for your generous gift to
support our neighbors in Ukraine. You are
bringing hope in the form of food, shelter,
medical supplies, cash assistance, and quilts +
kits. I hope to continue this partnership into
God's promised future. Please let me know if you
have any questions. Grace + Peace,
Tim

Congratulations to Abby Tolliver!

Abby is a member of the Wittenberg Singers. This picture was at their first performance this year. Their next performance will be a Service of Lessons and Carols on December 9th, 7:00pm, at Weaver Chapel on the Wittenberg Campus. All are welcome to attend!



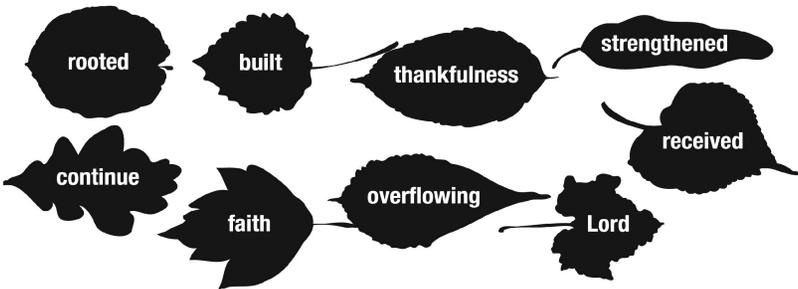


Puzzles

Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____,
 _____ to live your lives in him, _____ and
 _____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you
 were taught, and _____ with _____.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH Consolidated Fund Activity Report for August 2022

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.100.000	General Fund	59,127.20	12,403.14	19,716.39	0.00	51,813.95
3.220.000	Improvement Fund	2,056.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,056.96
3.300.000	Mission Fund	8,431.52	2,195.00	285.43	0.00	10,341.09
3.320.000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,229.46	10.00	0.00	0.00	3,239.46
3.400.000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
3.420.000	Capital Campaign Fund	31,248.68	2,225.00	0.00	0.00	33,473.68
3.500.000	Adventures In Faith Fund	606.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	606.82
3.510.000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,603.00	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	2,503.00
3.520.000	Library Fund	32.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.57
3.600.000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,017.41
3.610.000	Handbell Fund	215.00	0.00	151.92	0.00	63.08
3.620.000	Flower Fund	991.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	991.16
3.630.000	Choir Fund	1,797.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,797.58
3.740.000	Backpack Ministry Fund	24,744.44	1,667.00	1,367.75	0.00	25,043.69
3.900.000	Memorial Fund	19,280.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,280.16
3.920.000	KFC Youth Fund	6,181.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,181.91
3.925.000	KFROG's Fund	10,155.79	0.00	259.94	0.00	9,895.85
3.950.000	Investment Fund	138,882.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	138,882.54
Total		\$321,602.20	\$18,500.14	\$22,881.43	\$0.00	\$317,220.91

General Fund Budget
va Actuals

21,182
-8,779

21,182
-1,466

Net
0
-7,313

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**

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

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