

The Gracevine

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

December 2024

GLORY TO GOD



Merry Christmas - December 25

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
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien
Accompanist:	Sue Ellen Simmons
Choir Director:	Diane Christensen
Handbell Choir:	Becky Winegardner
Men of Grace:	John Ulmer
Church Council President:	Carl Lahman
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan
Council Secretary:	Diane Christensen
Director of Inreach:	Linda Keaser
Director of Outreach:	Vicki Jones
Director of Upreach:	Casey Sigler
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell
Bd of Women President:	Cherl Haggengjos
Safety/Security Team:	Jim Lewis
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly
Facilities:	David Rodenbaugh

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

Hospitalizations; Baptisms; Confirmation; Weddings;

First Communion; Spiritual Counseling; Prayer Concerns

Advent

*Behold, your king is coming to you,
righteous and having salvation
is he.*

Zechariah 9:9b ESV



Throughout the last year, these monthly newsletter articles have focused on the Ten Commandments in the Bible and how we as Christians understand them. As we have explored the ways that Martin Luther explained these commandments, it is clear that the Ten Commandments do provide guidance for our Christian lives, how we live in relationship with God and our fellow human beings.

As important as it is to take seriously the guidance we receive from the Ten Commandments, we need to remember the limitations of God's law. God's commandments can show us right from wrong, but most importantly they reveal to us our sinfulness and need for a savior. Martin Luther once commented that if you ever need to know your need for Jesus as your savior, simply work your way down the Ten Commandments, and it will become plain to you. We are not saved by obeying God's commandments; we are saved by God's grace through faith, trust in God's promises in the gift of his Son Jesus Christ. Once we are saved, God calls us to live as His people in the world, and the Ten Commandments then take on new meaning for us.

Knowing our need for a savior from sin, spiritual death, and the power of the devil from pondering the Ten Commandments, the season of Advent has come at the perfect time. Just as a brief reminder, the season of Advent includes the four Sundays immediately preceding Christmas. The word "advent" simply means "arrival" in Latin. But unfortunately, there has been

confusion about the meaning of Advent in Lutheran churches over the last few decades, and this confusion keeps us from experiencing the joyful news that comes with Advent, which we desperately need.

In many places, Lutherans have become accustomed to thinking of Advent as a gloomy penitential season that precedes Christmas, similar to how Lent precedes the season of Easter. "You can't celebrate until Christmas!" they often say. They want to turn Advent into a time of "spiritual preparation" for Christmas. But this misses the historic focus of Advent in Lutheran churches.

Advent, for Lutherans, was viewed as a time of joy and hope in the coming of Jesus Christ to the world, past, future, and present. Following the historic one-year lectionary (cycle of Bible readings for each Sunday) of the Western Christian tradition, the first Sunday of Advent focused on Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21). Remembering that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for the last week of his life, Lutheran preachers used the opportunity to proclaim that Jesus arrived in our world in the flesh in order to save us. They proclaimed the good news of Jesus' first advent.

The second Sunday of Advent focused on Jesus' promised second coming (Luke 21). Lutheran preachers encouraged Christians to "lift up their heads and see that their salvation was drawing near." This was a special comfort for people who were suffering from the effects of war, disease, and famine.

The third and fourth Sundays focused on the life of the eccentric figure of John the Baptizer/Baptist. John is described as "preparing the way" for Jesus, living in the wilderness, wearing camel hair for clothing, and eating locusts and wild honey. For some, John was an example of holy living, but the Lutherans emphasized instead what John preached. John

pointed others to Jesus, and so he demonstrated how Jesus arrives in our lives in the present, as we hear the message of Jesus proclaimed.

The season of Advent is a time when we rejoice in the promised coming of Christ in our lives, which has already happened, will happen, and happens even right now whenever we hear the good news of Jesus proclaimed. And so that verse from Zechariah in the Old Testament summarizes our joyous hope this season: Behold, your king is coming to you, righteous and having salvation is he.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesdays
December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:00 PM.

We will use a form of evening prayer (vespers), with the texts set to the tunes of familiar Christmas hymns. We will also sing one Advent and one Christmas hymn, with a brief homily (sermon) on a Scripture reading and the hymns.

- ★December 4: Scripture reading: Romans 15:4-13
Advent hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Christmas hymn: Lo, How a Rose Is Growing
- ★December 11: Scripture reading: James 5:7-11
Advent hymn: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Christmas hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem
- ★December 18: Scripture reading: Romans 16:25-27
Advent hymn: Come, O Precious Ransom
Christmas hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory



Worship In December

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 1 - 1 Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 126
Romans 15:4-13 Luke 19:28-40

Sunday, Dec. 8 - 2 Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 50:1-15
James 5:7-11 Luke 21:25-36



Sunday, Dec. 15 - 3 Advent

Malachi 4:1-6 Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 7:18-28

Sunday, Dec. 22 - 4 Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-56

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Worship Services at 5:00pm and 9:00pm

Isa 9:2-7; Ps 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

Worship at 10:30am only

Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-12; John 1:1-14



Sunday, Dec. 29 - 1 Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52



October's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 132

8:00am - 37 10:30am - 95

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 19, 2024

Present: Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (President), Matt Sheridan (Vice President), Diane Christensen (Secretary), Rick Rockwell (Treasurer), Linda Keaser (Inreach), Vicki Jones (Outreach)
Absent: Casey Sigler (Upreach) Guests: Susan Cheney - incoming Council Secretary, Bob Reynolds - incoming council Vice President, Daria Carr - incoming Outreach Coordinator

1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman.

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Tom Jacobson

2. Pastor's Report - Pastor Tom Jacobson

- Worship:
 - Children's messages on most Sundays
 - Now using LBW Setting 2 until end of church year
 - With Advent, will switch to LBW Setting 1
 - Confirmation on Reformation Sunday went well
 - Upcoming Advent services:
 - December 4, 11, 18 (only 3 Wednesdays in Advent)
 - Hold in St. John's Hall, 7:00 PM
 - Evening prayer set to tunes of Christmas hymns, like last year
 - Discussed the possibility of implementing an old tradition of ringing the bell during the Lord's Prayer on Sundays, as a way to invite the community to prayer wherever they are
- Was at NALC Deans meeting in Dallas, TX from November 11-13
- Pastoral acts:
 - None since previous month
 - Working with a few of individuals on membership and baptism
- "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles have begun and are available on my blog, usually one per week: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/>
 - 47 have been completed
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
- Spiritual Book Discussion this fall
 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Letters & Papers from Prison" to go along with upcoming movie (Nov. 24 in Gahanna) about his life

- New confirmation class started on September 8
 - New class is going well
 - Will hopefully complete unit on Ten Commandments before Christmas
- Summer youth trip
 - Have decided on Kenosha, Wisconsin; July 20-25
 - Have made the deposit payment (we had a leftover credit of \$258.00)
 - Looks like there will be 7 youth and 2 adults
- Video devotion
 - Have begun doing a brief video devotion every other week or so and posting it to YouTube and Facebook
- LifeWise Academy is expanding to offer a class for the Middle School sixth graders
 - To be held at the South Shore Ministries church, with bus transportation
 - Asking local churches for financial help to offer the sixth-grade program
- For final Sunday off in 2024, will be gone December 29
 - Have sent out email asking for pastoral coverage that Sunday
 - None that have been contacted are available
 - Will plan for a lay-led service that Sunday; Kelly O'Reilly has offered to help
- NALC Disaster Response
 - "Stuff the Truck" event was on November 3 at St. John's Lutheran, Grove City
 - A good response from our church and others
- Thanksgiving worship service
 - Did not hear from other community pastors about a joint service, so we can plan for our own on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving (November 27) at 7:00 PM
 - Service of the Word (without Holy Communion)
 - Pie and coffee afterward (we have some frozen pies leftover from the Country Fair)
- Trinity UCC is asking for help with youth participation in their Live Nativity on December 1
- Some thoughts for formation of committees:
 - Membership committee, to go through membership list and "clean up" the list, determine who on the list is deceased, who

- is active, inactive
 - “Outreach” committee, to find ways to connect with those determined to be inactive
 - “Mentorship” group, to pair new members with current members to provide ongoing connection with newcomers
 - The local Boy Scout Troop has outgrown the Masonic Lodge and would like to meet at Grace on Sunday evenings instead.
 - Motion to allow the troop to meet here - Rick Rockwell. Second - Matt Sheridan. Motion passed.
 - Facilities: parsonage dryer is making a lot of noise, squeaking
- 3. Inreach Ministry Report - Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)**
- Adventures in Faith (AIF)/Sunday School (SS)
 - The Adventures in Faith Christmas program, “A Prophet Foretold the Messiah” will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 9:15 am. Rehearsals for the program are during AIF time 9:15-10:15 am on December 8th and December 15th. Dress rehearsal will follow the 10:30 service on December 15, lunch will be provided and costumes assigned.
 - Women of the North American Lutheran Church
 - Thank you to everyone who helped with the “Thankoffering Service” providing non-perishable food items and monetary gifts for three local food pantries.
 - On December 7th at 10am the woman’s board will host its second Christmas Circle Up. All women are invited to attend for lunch, program: “Jesus, the Heart of Christmas”, fellowship, and a special gift project. A signup sheet for the event is located in the Gathering Space.
 - Monday Bible Study
 - The Monday Bible Study which meets weekly at 4 pm is going through the Bible chapter by chapter (currently in Psalms). No gatherings in December. The next study date will be held 4 pm, Monday, January 13, 2025! Mark your calendars and bring your Bible to begin a new year of studying God’s word!

Youth Groups (KFC and KFrogs) as reported by Casey Sigler

- On Sunday, October 20th, the youth had a booth in our parking lot during the Country Fair selling baked pies to raise funds to help Alicia Finck with medical expenses. Brewsters set up with the youth and will also be donating funds to the Finck family.

- Thursday, October 31st from 6-8 pm, the youth held their annual “Party in the Parking Lot” with DJ Kurtus Nichols returning and passed out our usual candy bags, popcorn and hot chocolate. Thank you so much to all those who volunteered!
 - Saturday, November 30th at 4 pm, the youth will have a Lock-in. All youth are to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, pj’s and at least 1 item to donate to the Thornville Food Pantry. We will be making Christmas Cards for the shut-ins and military members. The youth will also be putting together Christmas stockings for the children of the Thornville Food Pantry.
 - On Saturday, November 30th at 7 pm, the youth would like to invite you all to the presentation/dedication of the new Nativity Scene that they have been raising money for. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Thank you to all who have donated to help make this happen!
 - Youth mission trip - July 2025
- 4. Outreach Ministry Report – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)**
- The Lions Club recently donated 35 turkeys to the Thornville Food Pantry. The pantry is serving approximately 30 families per month.
 - Backpack Ministry is serving approximately 50 students each week. Food and monetary donations are always welcome.
 - We are still in need of non-perishable food items to help keep our Blessing Box stocked.
- 5. Upreach Ministry Report - Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)**
- The children’s worship bags have been updated with new items. We plan on updating the bags every 3 months so the children will stay interested in them.
 - A Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held here at Grace on Wednesday, November 27th at 7 pm. Pie and coffee served after.
 - Advent decorating will be held on Saturday, November 30th at 8:30 am. Many volunteers needed.
 - Will have weekly Advent services
 - Christmas Eve Service - December 24th at 5 pm and 9 pm.
 - Christmas Morning Service - December 25th, 10:30 am
 - Have had some new volunteers for greeting and communion assistants. Thank you to all those who help!

6. Treasurer's Report - Rick Rockwell, Treasurer

- Reports submitted.
- We now have the required letters and forms to qualify as a non-profit.
- Considering a new web based program - CHMeetings - to use for reports and record keeping as the old program is obsolete. CHMeetings also has a self contained social media aspect that congregational members may use for communication and connection.

7. Facilities Report - Dave Rodenbaugh, Facilities Coordinator

- Replaced the church bell rope. Corrected the rope path ropes and installed better floor grommets for each flow of ropes. Bell rope is now super easy to pull and the toll bell clapper now works correctly.
- Installed safety latch on office door.
- Wooden cart with wheels in kitchen has been made more sturdy (welded where loose).
- For safety, two new floor mats are now outside the elevator access and exit doors.
- Annual fall cleanup of leaves at parsonage and church occurred on Nov. 16.

8. Old Business

- Library Blessing Box - in progress
- Elementary School building use for emergencies - in progress

9. New Business

- All Ohio Mission Region NALC Church Councils Retreat on Saturday, January 11th at Grace Lutheran, Springfield.
- Discussion to consider how to effectively support people who may be having emergency issues, and who request help, that the church is not currently equipped to handle directly. Will contact the fire department to see if there is a way to coordinate efforts.

10. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

11. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: December 10, 2024 - 7 pm

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)

**Women of the NALC
Grace Lutheran Church — Thornville, Ohio
November 4, 2024**

Members Present: Valinda Arnold, Marian DeRolph, Cheryl Haggenjos, Theresa Jacobson, Linda Keaser, Kaye Smith; Absent: Anna Oberhauser

Linda K. called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Women read together the Purpose Statement. Linda led devotions.

Treasurer's Report: Marian updated the board on our account.

Current balance is \$3,631.71. No change from the previous meeting on October 7th.

Secretary's Report: Theresa read the minutes from the October 7th meeting.

Old Business: Interim Training/RESET were held on Friday, October 18th at Grace Lutheran. The WNALC would like to thank all who helped with serving food at those events: Wanda Hupp, Patti Jenny, Julia Cooperrider, Kaye Smith, Marian DeRolph, and Linda Keaser.

Reminder that November 10th is the Thankoffering Sunday. Kaye has everything ready to go, and we have received lots of donations for our local food pantries. Thank you to all who have contributed!

Our mission outreach was discussed. The women decided to support NALC Disaster Response. Pastor Theresa made a motion to purchase \$500 in gift cards to be sent to NALC Disaster Response. Cheryl second. Motion passed.

New Business: The women will be hosting a Christmas Gathering on Saturday, December 7th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All women of the congregation are invited to participate. Our theme is *Jesus, the Heart of Christmas*. We are asking for RSVPs to be received by December 1st, to give us an idea of how much food to prepare. The menu will include Chicken Rice Casserole, Salad, Christmas Cookies, and Beverages.

The Grace WNALC board members will also be putting

together gifts for our homebound members on Saturday, December 7th, following the program.

Linda K. and Pr. Theresa scheduled a time to come in and begin cleaning the church kitchen. They will meet on Tuesday, November 5th at 9 a.m.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP...

November 10, 2024 Thank Offering Sunday

December 7th, 2024 Christmas Gathering from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall

March 16, 2025 Spud Dinner following worship

July 31st – Aug. 1, 2026 Yard Sale (Note the date. This will be in 2026!)

We prayed together The Lord's Prayer before adjourning.

Next meeting will be January 13th at 10:00 a.m. Valinda will have devotions. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Theresa Jacobson, Secretary



All women are invited!

CHRISTMAS CIRCLE-UP
Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 am.

Join us! During this gathering we will have a short business meeting, fun, fellowship, lunch, and service project (Christmas gifts for our homebound members).

Council President's Opening Remarks at Congregational Meeting on Nov. 3

Carl Lahman

It was June of 2009 (15 years ago) when I attended the 2009 Southern Ohio Synod Assembly at Capital University in Columbus. That year's theme was "Feed My Sheep". Some of you might remember Bishop Cal Holloway when Grace was a member of the ELCA back then.

At that Synod Assembly, Bishop Holloway listed many ways in which the Southern Ohio Synod was "Feeding God's Sheep", and he urged all congregations to list the ways they were Feeding God's Sheep. So, it made me think, how is our church, Grace Lutheran, Feeding God's Sheep in 2024?

At the risk of omitting some, let me list some ways that we at Grace Lutheran feed God's sheep:

- 1) God's sheep are fed with the Gospel (the Good News). Pastor Tom continues to do a great job teaching and preaching the Good News. You cannot help but learn a great deal from Pastor Tom's sermons. And let's not forget how we are fed through music, which adds so much to our worship experience.
- 2) God's sheep are fed through our Adult Sunday classes, Bible Study groups, support groups, care team, and church library.
- 3) God's sheep are fed through our outreach ministries, such as the Backpack ministry, the Food Pantry ministry, the Blessing Box ministry and the LifeWise Academy ministry.
- 4) God's "Lambs" are fed through Sunday school (i.e., Adventures in Faith), Youth Groups [KFC (Kids Following Christ, KFROGS (Kids Fully Relying on God)], VBS, confirmation instruction, and first communion classes.

So, you see, God's Sheep and Lambs are indeed fed here at Grace. If you read our annual report and ministry directory, you can find many more examples.

But let's not kid ourselves, we will continually be challenged to meet the needs of our current ministries and to grow our ministries. We continually need lay leadership and volunteers to do God's work. All you have to do is look out into the Gathering Space and see the signup sheets, in addition, weekly announcements always include the need for volunteers.

So let me finish by saying, as we look ahead to the very important presidential election day this Tuesday, there are a lot of unknowns as to what the future will look like. With all the problems in the world today, it is easy to get discouraged. Thank God we have reason to be joyful in our Lord and Savior! We at Grace are blessed and the future looks bright. There is an ever-increasing opportunity for all of us to use our God given spiritual gifts here at Grace.

So, I look forward to serving next year as your council president and I hope we all look forward to seeing what blessings and adventures that the Lord has in store for all of us.

Thanks Be to God!

Recently Baptized

Hailey Lynn Douglas

Born: February 6, 2010.

Baptized: November 24, 2024.

Parents: Terry & Bethany Douglas.

Sponsors: Deziree & Preston Emmert
and Cheryl & Jason Phillips.

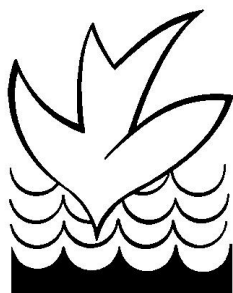
Matthew Tyler Douglas

Born: April 19, 2011.

Baptized: November 24, 2024.

Parents: Terry & Bethany Douglas.

Sponsors: Deziree & Preston Emmert
and Cheryl & Jason Phillips.



Confirmation

The Following Youth completed their confirmation studies and celebrated their Affirmation of Baptism at the 10:30 service on October 27, 2024. Congratulations Confirmands!

Brody Allen Barrera
Brayden Lewis Large
Grant Edward McCallum
Stella Marie Rockey
Caleb Thomas White



Poinsettias for Christmas altar decoration can be ordered now through Dec. 15. The flowers will be used to adorn the altar area, and may be taken home following either the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service. Cost is \$20.00 each and can be ordered by placing a Poinsettia Order Envelope (found on the table in the gathering space), in the offering plate, or contacting the office 740-246-6576 or office@gracethornville.org.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Adventures in Faith Children are practicing for their Children's Christmas Program *A Prophet Foretold the Messiah* (written by Kelly Hanson), which will be held on **Sunday, December 22, 9:15am**. The program is under the direction of Pastor Theresa Jacobson. Rehearsals will be held on the following days:

- Sunday, Dec. 8 - During Adventures in Faith from 9:15-10:15 am
- Sunday, Dec 15 - During Adventures in Faith from 9:15-10:15 am
- Sunday, Dec 15 - AFTER church, we will have a dress rehearsal with participants. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon. We will do a dress rehearsal from 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. (approx.)

Please note the TWO rehearsals on December 15th!!!!

We would love it if you would bring your children to Adventures in Faith so they will be ready to present the program on the 22nd. The more children the more fun for everyone!



☆ **PASTOR'S HOLIDAY GIFT** - For the next few Sundays we will be collecting money as our Christmas gift for Pastor Tom. If you wish to contribute, please write the word "gift" on your check or envelope and drop it in the offering plate. The gift will be presented to him during the Christmas Eve service.

❖ **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW** will be held at Sheridan High School Dec. 13 and 14, 7:30pm. The Show features over 50 local vocalists singing Christmas favorites; both sacred and secular. There will also be soloists and the funny antics of two endmen. Tickets cost \$5 adult; \$3 student and can be purchased in advance from any member of the cast or at the door on both evenings. Proceeds go to scholarships for seniors in the performing arts. Feel free to call John Ulmer @ 740-281-7672 for information.

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 Christmas.)

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

Margaret Winegardner
112 Foster Dr.
Thornville OH 43076

John Cooperrider
Altercare of Thornville
14100 Zion Road
Thornville, OH 43076

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

Kathy Aberegg
Crossroad Manor
500 C Eldridge Place
Hebron OH 43025

Pat K'Miller
11397 Bruno Road
Thornville, OH 43076

Sue Cottrill
13687 Rosewood Rd. NE
Thornville OH 43076

Carol Cormican
5406 Davis Drive SE
Newark OH 43056

Vicky Thomas
PO Box 667
4711 Walnut Rd Lot M10
Buckeye Lake OH 43008

Keith Stought
2297 Musser Rd NE
Baltimore OH 43105

Martha Sandagata
40 S. Main St.
PO Box 572
Thornville OH 43076

John Lutz
10425 Lake Rd. NE
Millersport OH 43046

Vivian Crist
Altercare of Thornville
14100 Zion Road
Thornville, OH 43076



NALC Disaster Response

NALC Disaster Response scheduled a *Stuff the Truck* event at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City on November 3. Through your generosity, we received donations including shovels, rakes, mops, gift cards for Walmart, Lowes, and Home Depot, flood buckets, healthcare kits, quilts, Bibles, prayer books, and monetary donations. A van full of supplies was delivered to St. John's.

Thanks to David Rodenbaugh, Carl Lahman, Bob Reynolds, and Pastor Tom.



ANNUAL FALL CLEANUP, SATURDAY NOV. 16 MANY THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED!



These photos are for those of us who have heard our church bell ring and wondered what it looks like. The rope needed replaced recently, so David Rodenbaugh and Kelly O'Reilly got a "bird's-eye" view of it! Special thanks to them for replacing the rope.

The following photo is of the original bell installed following the 1887 fire that destroyed the original building on site. The rebuilt church (now standing) was dedicated in 1889.

Bell with Fly wheel



Inscription: McShane Bell Foundry Henry McShane & Co. Baltimore, MD. Trademark. 1887.

♪ My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns ♪

Pr. Tom is providing a weekly devotional reflection on his list of fifty-two of his favorite hymns, one for each week of the year, which is posted on his blog. You can access them at the following link:
<https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com>

- | | |
|---|--|
| 12 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded | 30 Day by Day |
| 13 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | 31 Is It True? |
| 14 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness | 32 Jesus, Lover of My Soul |
| 15 Beautiful Savior | 33 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing |
| 16 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art | 34 The Lord Protects and Holds Me |
| 17 The Lord's My Shepherd | 35 As the Sunflower Turns in the Morning |
| 18 Jesus, Priceless Treasure | 36 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord |
| 19 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (Now We Implore God the Holy Ghost) | 37 Thy Holy Wings |
| 20 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord | 38 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought! |
| 21 Sunshine and Rain | 39 I'm a Pilgrim, and I'm a Stranger |
| 22 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go | 40 The Church's One Foundation |
| 23 This Is My Father's World | 41 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise |
| 24 The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies | 42 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice |
| 25 Evening and Morning | 43 Rise, O Children of Salvation |
| 26 Now All the Woods are Sleeping | 44 God Moves in a Mysterious Way |
| 27 Rise Up, All Things That God Has Made | 45 How Fair the Church of Christ Shall Stand |
| 28 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy | 46 Great Is Thy Faithfulness |
| 29 Go Forth, My Heart, This Summer Day | 47 What Wondrous Love Is This |
| | 48 Sorrow and Gladness |

LifeWise Northern Local The Big Red Bus

This bus has a new purpose. Big Red will be the means to share the love of Christ with our Middle School Students. Up next, decals!

LifeWise will start for 6th graders in January. Enrollment is now open.

Recently we had someone willing to donate \$5,000 to our program if the community can match!! These funds are needed to cover expansion into the middle school. We have \$4,000 more to go to reach the goal! Please consider donating.

Contact: kendralawrence@lifewise.org [program director] or Northernlocaloh@lifewise.org



Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	87,442.26	22,286	18,830	0	90,898.20
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	9,317.60	0	0	0	9,317.60
3,300,000	Mission Fund	18,587.61	850	200	0	19,237.61
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,561.62	200	0	0	3,761.62
3,400,000	Endowment Osma Lawyer	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000.00
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	37,739.92	0	0	0	37,739.92
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	41,383.60	55	0	0	41,438.60
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	325.16	1070	0	0	1,395.77
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,323.00	0	0	0	3,323.00
3,520,000	Library Fund	(18.68)	0	0	0	(18.68)
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0	0	0	1,017.41
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	498.69	0	0	0	498.69
3,620,000	Flower Fund	765.43	0	0	0	765.43
3,740,000	Choir Fund	2,592.58	0	0	0	2,592.58
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	17,981.65	555	0	0	18,536.65
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	92,601.69	0	0	0	92,601.69
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	445.00	0	0	0	445.00
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	8,191.84	3226	0	0	11,417.84
3,925,000	KFROGs Fund	8,812.33	0	0	0	8,812.33
	Total	\$344,568	\$28,242	\$19,030	\$0	\$353,781

General Fund Budget	21,866	21,866	0
va Actuals	420	(3,036)	3,456



LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Merry Christmas

For almost 200 years after the formation of the United States, villages, businesses, schools, and the majority of society would take time each December to wish each other, "Merry Christmas." Merry Christmas banners, creche's, and Christmas stars were erected in front of homes, stores, and government buildings across the nation. School children looked forward to Christmas vacations and parents couldn't wait for the break to end.

Not everyone knew the Babe called Jesus, but the majority of the nation understood that Christmas referred to a special celebration of the birth of Christ.

In the 1970's the United States Post Office issued the first Happy Holidays stamp for those who wished to commemorate the holiday and not Christmas. Since then, the culture has generally walked away from Merry Christmas as store sales associates end transactions with "Happy Holidays," students look forward to "winter break," and creches disappeared outside.

Lutheran churches and schools today display outdoor creches, take a "Christmas break", and greet one another with a very merry "Merry Christmas." However, Christmas is more than greetings, displays, and a time of rest. Lutherans boldly proclaim and teach about the greatest gift ever given to mankind – the gift of Jesus, the Savior!

The Lutheran Center for Religious pauses to say "Merry Christmas" to you!

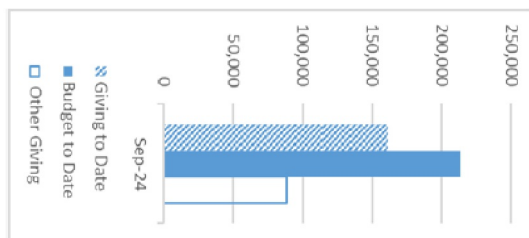
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

<https://www.lcrlfreedom.org>



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH Consolidated Fund Activity Report for September 2024

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	86,395	18,686	14,723	0	90,358
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	9,318	0	0	0	9,318
3,300,000	Mission Fund	18,133	655	0	0	18,788
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,641	0	79	0	3,562
3,400,000	Endowment Osmo Lawyer	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	37,740	0	0	0	37,740
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	41,359	25	0	0	41,384
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	241	100	15	0	325
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,323	0	0	0	3,323
3,520,000	Library Fund	(19)	0	0	0	(19)
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	499	0	0	0	499
3,620,000	Flower Fund	765	0	0	0	765
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,593	0	0	0	2,593
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	17,874	620	512	0	17,982
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	92,457	145	0	0	92,602
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	445	0	0	0	445
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	9,221	10	1,039	0	8,192
3,925,000	KFROGs Fund	8,812	0	0	0	8,812
	Total	\$343,813	\$20,241	\$16,370	\$0	\$347,684



General Fund Budget
va Actuals

27,333
(8,647)

27,333
(12,610)

0
3,963

*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.

"Phishing" Scams - In our sinful world, there is unfortunately no shortage of people who seek to deceive and take advantage of others. Often, such scammers will send emails or texts to church members pretending to be the pastor and then asking for money or gift cards. If you receive one of these emails or other communications, ignore them. Pastor Tom or other NALC church leaders will never contact you in such a manner. If you do receive such an email or text, please inform the church office.

**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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