

# The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

April 2025



## Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: [www.gracethornville.org](http://www.gracethornville.org)

Email: [office@gracethornville.org](mailto:office@gracethornville.org)

Fax: 740/246-6284

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville](http://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:	Bob Reynolds
Council Secretary	Susan Cheney
Director of Inreach:	Linda Keaser
Director of Outreach:	Daria Carr
Director of Upreach:	Casey Sigler
Financial Secretary:	Jim Roshon
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell
Bd of Women President:	Linda Keaser
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

Happy Easter - April 20, 2025

## Heartburn

*Did not our hearts burn within us  
while he talked to us on the  
road...?  
Luke 24:32*



Growing up, I always thought of heartburn as a negative thing, something to be avoided.

Television commercials often advertised medications such as Prilosec, Pepcid, Zantac, or even chewable Tums. The frequency of these advertisements then and now testifies to the widespread nature of the problem of heartburn, caused by acid reflux.

The one time that the Bible speaks of "burning hearts," however, is in a positive sense. And it isn't caused by stomach acid either. It is caused by the words of Jesus.

On the evening of the first Easter, the day of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, Jesus walked incognito with two of his disciples, or followers, on the road to a village called Emmaus. Not knowing that their walking companion was in fact Jesus himself, these two disciples recounted with sorrow and disappointment what had happened to Jesus in the previous days, how he was betrayed, arrested, tried, convicted, sentenced to death, crucified, and buried. What's more, they had heard reports that some women among Jesus' followers had been to Jesus' tomb that morning. These women claimed that angels told them Jesus was in fact alive. His tomb was empty.

But the good news that Jesus was alive did not become real for them right away. An empty tomb, after all, could be the result of grave robbers, and the whole thing could be simply confusion or misunderstanding.

Then, in one way or another, Jesus took off his mask on the road. He revealed his identity. He was in fact alive. He died, but now he lives. And while still on the road, Jesus led a Bible study for these two disciples. He went through the "Scriptures" (meaning at the time what we call the Old Testament) and pointed out all the things in these writings that refer to him as the "Christ" or "Messiah," the Chosen One of God.

And after sharing the evening meal with Jesus where they finally recognized him, and after he vanished from their sight, the two disciples remarked: Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?

When we are excited or nervous, our heart rate rises. Sometimes our hearts begin to pound. Therefore, it is no surprise that people in the ancient world thought of the human heart as the seat of emotion and of faith. Though modern neuroscience tells us otherwise, it is still common for people to speak of the "heart" in such a manner. We know that our emotions and all thought processes originate in our brains and not in our cardiac muscles, but "burning brains" just doesn't have the same ring to it.

These two disciples were filled with sorrow and doubt. Physically, they were alive, but spiritually they were dead. Their hopes for Jesus as the one to redeem Israel had been dashed. But the words of the resurrected Jesus fell on their ears, and those words enlivened them. Jesus' life gave them life. Jesus' presence and words gave them a whole new perspective on the events of the previous few days. They came to see what happened as a part of God's plan for the world and for them. And it changed their direction, not only figuratively but literally. They returned to Jerusalem with "burning hearts," faith in Jesus as Savior, who was dead but now alive.

Rather than avoiding heartburn with changes in diet and the use of medication, when it comes to our faith, we hope to get heartburn. But how? We don't walk with Jesus in quite the same way as those disciples on the road to Emmaus. But the words about and of Jesus are still with us, recorded in the Scriptures, spoken to us by others, and nurtured in the fellowship of faith. This Easter season and beyond, take the opportunity for the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection to fall on your ears, penetrate your mind and heart, change your course of life where needed, and give you resurrection hope.

*Thomas E. Jacobson*

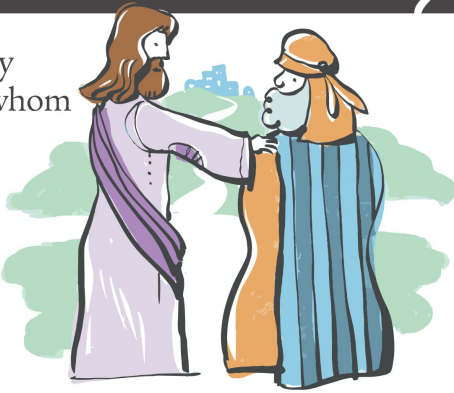
Pr. Tom Jacobson

?? ?
? ?

## Bible Quiz

We know the name of only one of the two disciples to whom the risen Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Who was he?

- A. John
- B. Paul of Tarsus
- C. Joseph of Arimathea
- D. Cleopas



Answer: D (See Luke 24:18.)

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

**7pm Wednesday, April 2 - Lent Evening Prayer**  
John 5:1-18 (The Healing at Bethesda)

**Sunday, April 6 - Lent 5**  
Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

**7pm Wednesday, April 9 - Lent Evening Prayer**  
Acts 5:1-11 (Ananias and Sapphira)



**Sunday, April 13 - Passion/Palm Sunday**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a , Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11,  
Luke 23:1-49

**7pm Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday**  
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14    Psalm 116:1-2, 12-17  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26    John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**7pm Friday, April 18 - Good Friday**  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

**7pm Saturday, April 19 - Easter Vigil**  
John 20:1-18

**Sunday, April 20 - Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day**  
Acts 10:34-43                      Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26    Luke 24:1-12

**Sunday, April 27 - 2 Easter**  
Acts 5:27-32    Psalm 150    Revelation 1:4-8    John 20:19-31



**From Martin Luther's Small Catechism**  
*The 10 Commandments*



**The Second Commandment**

*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless those who take his name in vain.*

**What does this mean?**

*We should fear and love God so that we do not use his name superstitiously or to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call upon him in every time of need, and worship him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*



***Transferred to the Church Triumphant:***

*Nancy Louise Kissell*

*December 31, 1953 — March 4, 2025*

**Easter Lilies and Tulips**

Order yours now through April 13. Cost is \$20.00 each for a lily and \$19.00 each for a tulip. The flowers will be used to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, then you may take them home following the 10:30 service. To order, use a Lily-order envelope found on the table in the gathering space. Write *Tulip* for tulip orders, or contact the church office 740-246-6576.

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**March 11, 2025**

Present: Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (President), Bob Reynolds (Vice President), Susan Cheney (Secretary), Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator), Daria Carr (Outreach Coordinator), Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)  
Absent: Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)

1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman
2. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Tom Jacobson

**3. Pastor's Report**

- Worship:
  - During Lent, now using LBW Setting 1 until Easter
    - Will switch to LBW Setting 2 with Easter
  - Current season of Lent
    - Ash Wednesday service on March 5 went well
    - For remaining Wednesday evening services, parts of the Bible that never appear on Sunday mornings; have chosen the passages
    - Evening prayer from LBW (green hymnal) like last year
  - Community Lenten services
    - Just started, with various other congregations in the area
    - Sunday evenings, 6:00 PM
    - Grace is scheduled to host on March 23
      - Possibility of offering some coffee and cookies, etc. afterward?
      - Will do the usual evening prayer service to give a sense to visitors of what we typically do
  - April 6 (Fifth Sunday in Lent), presentation from Debbie Wright during worship
    - Sue Ellen mentioned that Debbie has done presentations with music at many churches and thought it would be good to have her come on a Sunday when neither choir nor bells are singing/playing
    - That Sunday, we will eliminate the children's message, hymn of the day, and perhaps something else to give her time for a 15 to 20 minute presentation



- Pastoral acts:
  - Working with individual on membership and baptism
    - Will have baptism on Easter Vigil
    - Will do a recognition of all baptisms in previous year that night as well
  - Funeral service for Nancy Kissell on March 10
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
- Confirmation class
  - Continuing to go well
  - Have finished the Ten Commandments and are now on to Apostles' Creed
    - Will be done with Apostles' Creed unit this spring
- Adopt a Highway dates (Saturdays) scheduled, meeting at church at 9:00am:
  - April 12 (before the lock in)
  - June 28
  - October 4
- Summer youth trip
  - Have decided on Kenosha, Wisconsin July 20-25
  - Right now, seven youth are committed; might be possible for more to attend if desired
  - Have sent out the registration information to the youth and their families
  - Female chaperone?
- Will conclude my service as the Southeast Ohio NALC Mission District Dean at the beginning of May
  - Will then begin serving as the NALC Ecumenical Officer in place of that, replacing Pr. David Wendel in that role
    - Part time role, contact person for the NALC with other church organizations
- NALC Ohio Mission Region convocation May 2-3 at Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH
  - Let's try to get some good representation from Grace in Thornville
- 4H club has been meeting at Grace, as discussed last month; I haven't heard anything from them since their initial contact; I assume everything is going well
- Possible Upreach idea:
  - Watching "The Chosen" at the church with a meal beforehand

- and discussion
  - Formation of committees, as discussed:
    - Membership
      - Sent out a message to a few people suggested last month about a meeting time
    - Inactive outreach
      - After that meeting, will talk with Daria about ways of connecting with members
- 4. Inreach Ministry – Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)**
- Adventures In Faith (AIF) Sunday School
    - Sunday, April 13th, no AIF classes for 1st – 12th grades and no Confirmation Class due to the Spring Lock-In for the youth. The PreK and K classes will be meeting in Noah's Club classroom (lower level).
    - Easter Sunday, April 20th, all AIF classes including the Confirmation Class will be helping with the Easter Breakfast.
    - Sunday, May 11th, is the last class until August 17th, for AIF, PreK and K (this does NOT include the Confirmation Class).
    - Youth are encouraged to participate in the community Vacation Bible School (VBS), June 9th – 13th.
    - August 17th, the blessing of backpacks will be during worship services. A church wide picnic will be at the Thornville Park following the second service.
  - KFROGS/KFC
    - Highway Clean-Up will be held Saturday April 12th at 9:00am. Many volunteers are needed! Lunch will be provided to all those that participate.
    - Lock-in will be held Saturday April 12th following the Highway Clean up at 2:00pm (note time change). Please have youth attending bring pj's, pillow and blanket. Youth can be picked up after the 10:30 service on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. The Youth will be putting together the Easter Baskets for the kids of the Thornville Food Pantry and Easter Treat Bags for the kids of the Backpack Ministry and our Military Members.
    - The Youth will once again be providing Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday April 20th from 8:00am-10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Menu will include: pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, pastries, donuts and fruit. Cost is

donation and all proceeds will be donated to a charity. Charity to be announced soon.

**5. Outreach Ministry – Daria Carr** (Outreach Coordinator)

- New Updates
  - 1) Dartball has concluded for the season.
  - 2) Crochet Club will have its first meeting on March 30 at 1:30 in Fellowship Hall.
  - 3) Membership committee will meet before next Council meeting.
  - 4) Consideration of items to include in visitor/welcome kit.
  - 5) Council discussed considering a new Bed Brigade Ministry, a ministry that brings beds to families in need in central Ohio.

**6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler** (Upreach Coordinator)

- New Paschal candle has been ordered
- New paraments are being ordered for Easter
- New bread napkins are being ordered for communion
- Children's Worship bags have been updated for the Lenten Season
- Lenten Services will be held every Wednesday at 7:00pm through April 9th with Soup Suppers prior to service at 6:00pm
- Community Lenten Service to be held at Grace Sunday March 23rd at 6:00pm
- Upcoming Lenten Services:
  - Palm Sunday- April 13th
  - Maundy Thursday- April 17th at 7:00pm
  - Good Friday- April 18th at 7:00pm
  - Easter Vigil- Saturday April 19th at 7:00pm
  - Easter Breakfast- April 20th at 8:00am-10:00 am in Fellowship Hall
  - Easter Sunday- April 20th
- New Sacristy sink has been installed. Thanks to David Rodenbaugh for all his help
- Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors and Communion Assistants continue to be needed for worship services, especially during the Lenten Season
  - A list of Greeter Responsibilities has been updated and is located on the greeter's pew in the sanctuary

**7. Treasurer's Report – Rick Rockwell** (Treasurer)

- Reports submitted

**8. Facilities Report – Dave Rodenbaugh** (Facilities Coordinator)

- No Report

**9. Safety & Security Report – Jim Lewis**

- No Report

**10. Old Business**

- New Sign Committee
  - Sign Committee recommended to accept Stewart Signs Company's offer to create and install a new outdoor programmable LED sign, including any design changes that council approves. Motion was made by Bob Reynolds to accept recommendation and seconded by Casey Sigler. Motion passed.
- Memorial in memory of Firl and Vivian Crist
  - Last month council discussed the possibility of getting a religious art picture in St. John's Hall. Pastor found a canvas print of the Ascension of our Lord that will fit well between the windows at the front of the room.
- Constitution Review Committee
  - The committee met and discussed various changes to the overall format of the constitution, various wording changes throughout the constitution, and the content of the Preamble and first 4 Articles (previously referred to as Chapters). It is the intent of the committee that a suggested revised version will be presented to the Congregation Council for their input and approval, with a final version being presented to the congregation for consideration and approval. No time frame has been set for this process to occur as this is a tedious process that takes considerable time, study and concentration on the part of the committee members to integrate the proposed changes.

**11. New Business**

- Nomination for NALC Executive Council (4-year term, clergy position)

- The Executive Council functions as the board of directors for the NALC, providing leadership for the church between Mission Convocations. The Rev. Theresa Jacobson would like to serve a second term and is asking if Grace would submit her nomination form. Motion was made by Bob Reynolds to accept her request and seconded by Linda Keaser. Motion passed.
- Lenten Offering
  - Council discussed where this year's Lenten Offerings should go to. It was decided to put it into the General Fund as a "special offering". It could then grow over time, with other special offerings, and a decision could be made at a later time as to what these funds should go to. Motion was made by Casey Sigler to accept this proposal and seconded by Daria Carr. Motion passed.
- Church Organ
  - Sue Ellen reported experiencing some trouble with the organ volume, and the "MIDI" that allows for the recording of music pieces, wasn't functioning properly. An organ company will be inspecting the organ to find out the problem.
- Door Locks
  - Bob shared that the atrium door lock is not working properly. Other locks need replacing as well. Bob will check with Jim Lewis to get an update on what locksmith estimates he has received.

## 12. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – April 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Susan Cheney (Council Secretary)



### February's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance -107

8:00am - 25    10:30am - 82

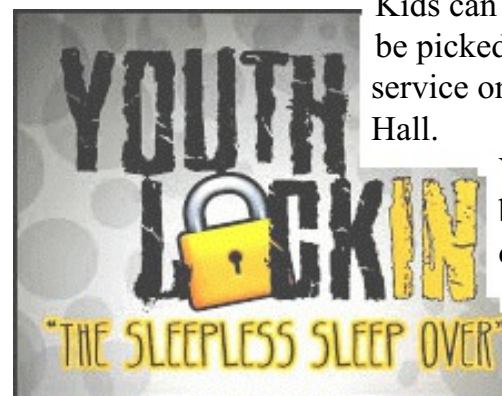
## Saturday April 12 Events:

### ☆ Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up

Volunteers will meet at church at 9:00am. Many volunteers needed and lunch will be provided after to all those who participate.



### ☆ Youth Lock In



Kids can arrive at 2:00pm and are to be picked up following the 10:30 service on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth must bring pj's, blanket and pillow. Any questions, please ask Theresa Jacobson, Jessica Rockey or Casey Sigler.



### AIF Schedule

- ✎ Grades 1st - 12th, including Confirmation Classes - On Sunday, April 13th, we will not be holding classes except for the PreK/Kindergarten group in Noah's Club because we are planning to have our Spring Lock-in.
- ✎ ALL GRADES (including Confirmation) - Will not be meeting on Easter Sunday due to the Easter Breakfast. Youth and families, we will be needing your help with the Easter Breakfast again this year! Thank you in advance!
- ✎ Last Day of AIF for Grades PreK through 12th (not including Confirmation Classes) will be Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.



# EASTER Breakfast at the Church



**Annual Easter Breakfast  
Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
8:00-10:00a.m.**

**Leave the cooking to us!**

**Our Youth will be cooking and serving!**

## Menu:

<b>Pancakes</b>	<b>Scrambled Eggs</b>
<b>Hashbrowns</b>	<b>Sausage</b>
<b>Cinnamon Rolls</b>	<b>Donuts</b>
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>Juice, Coffee, Milk</b>

**Cost: Donation only, which will go to a charity chosen by our youth.**

## SHUT-INS

*In celebration of Easter, we remember our homebound and nursing home members. We would like to have a card shower for each of them.*

Kathy Aberegg  
Altercare of Thornville  
14100 Zion Road  
Thornville, OH 43076

Irene Forsythe  
Altercare of Thornville  
14100 Zion Road  
Thornville, OH 43076

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

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

Charles Palmer  
Arlington Care Center  
98 S. 30<sup>th</sup> St.  
Newark, OH 43055

Carol Cormican  
5406 Davis Drive SE  
Newark OH 43056

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

Margaret Winegardner  
112 Foster Dr.  
Thornville OH 43076

John Lutz  
10425 Lake Rd. NE  
Millersport OH 43046

Keith Stought  
2297 Musser Rd NE  
Baltimore OH 43105

Pat K'Miller  
11397 Bruno Road  
Thornville, OH 43076

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

## ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be meeting from 9am to noon to spruce up the church.

There are jobs for people of all abilities: polish wood surfaces, cleaning window ledges, cleaning chair cushions, vacuuming, mopping stairwells. There are also jobs outside (weather permitting): weeding flower beds, mulching, trimming bushes. Please join us if you can and come early for coffee and donuts/bagels. If you have questions, contact Carl Lahman at [carllahman@gmail.com](mailto:carllahman@gmail.com) or 614-329-8639.



## COMING SOON – NEW OUTDOOR SIGN

It was November 20 2024 that council was informed that a member of Grace was interested in funding a new outdoor programmable LED sign, to replace the old manual sign in front of the church. Council greatly appreciated the offer and decided to start a feasibility study and start getting quotes from different companies.

One of the first things was to determine if we really needed a new sign. It was discovered that our current double sided display cases have problems with the hinge door swings that open and close the heavy plexiglass doors. They are unstable and bulky to open and close. Recently the doors will open on their own when it is windy. Also, the changeable letter board panels with letter tracks are wearing out. You can imagine the difficulty of changing the sign in the winter or during bad weather. Another issue is the brick structure around the sign. At close range, you can see cracks and damaged bricks. Repairing or rebuilding the brick structure would be very costly.

An outdoor programmable LED sign offers several advantages over a manual sign: high visibility from a distance, flexibility in messaging, the ability to easily update information from anywhere, and no more changing of fluorescent lights.

In January, a committee was formed to consider all options and evaluate quotes. Members of committee: Carl Lahman (chair), Bob Reynolds, Kris Lamphere, Pete Oberhauser, Dave Rodenbaugh and Tom Rodgers.

Three companies submitted quotes: Gene's Signs, Kessler Signs, and Stewart Signs. After evaluating these three



quotes and visiting nearby churches and other places, the committee decided that Stewart Signs, who specializes in church signs, is the best option.

Key features of the Stewart's sign quote:

- 6.67mm (0.26 in.) pixel pitch. This is the distance between the centers of individual pixels (points of light) in the LED display. The smaller the pitch, the more pixels can fit inside the display. This is the best resolution option available.
  - Note: No outside LED sign with pixels will look like your high-definition TV screen or computer screen. Up close, the pixels can be noticeable. However, the 6.67mm is the "Cadillac version" of LED signs.
- Cornerstone Faux Red Brick (brick base and brick pillars).
  - Note: Faux brick is not real brick. Advantages are: It is lighter, easier to install, and less expensive, making it a good choice for situations like a sign where a true structural load is not required.
- Brightness can be adjusted to reduce the potential for light pollution.
- Comes with cloud-based software.
- Built-in and constantly expanding library of graphics and video animations.

On March 12th, council met and approved the recommendation from the Sign Committee to accept Stewart Signs' quote to build and install the new sign. However, council needed to see what a few changes would look like before accepting the final sketch design. After reviewing two more sketch designs, council voted to approve the following sketch design.



Signed documents and deposit payment have been submitted. Once the final zoning permit is approved (which should happen quickly based on previous conversations) the order will go into production. Fabrication can take 5-6 weeks. Installation can begin once the old sign and foundation have been removed. Once installation begins, the new foundation will be installed first, and later (approximately 2 weeks) the new sign will be installed. If everything goes well with no delays in scheduling, we may have the new sign ready the first part of June.



# LIBRARY CORNER

By Karen Lewis

In my last article I mentioned that the next Christian author I would introduce to you is Walter Wangerin, Jr. He was an American author and educator best known for his religious novels and children's books. Our church library has two of his children's books, Water, Come Down! The Day You Were Baptized and Angels and All Children and two religious novels, The Book of God and Jesus a novel.

"Ragman" is one of my favorite short stories that Mr. Wangerin wrote in his book Ragman and Other Cries of Faith. It's a compelling story about a man who is known as the Ragman. He visits a city, offers new clothes in exchange for the old, worn rags of the people he encounters, symbolizing a spiritual transformation and the promise of healing and renewal.

I will have copies made for you in the church library between now and Easter Sunday.



## Congratulations to Our Dartball Team!

Our team placed second in the Southeastern Ohio Dartball League and was awarded this beautiful trophy.

The next season of dartball will begin in the fall. It is a great opportunity for friendly competition and for making friends with other congregations in surrounding areas. Games are played on Monday nights at 7:00p.m.

You can join our team by contacting Patty Jenny or Jim Lewis.



Thanks to all who helped and participated in the Irish Spud Lunch, hosted by the Women!





Thornville Community VBS  
June 9-13, 2025; 9am-noon

Grace Lutheran (Grades 1-6)  
Thornville United Methodist (Age 4-K)

Student Pre-Registration opens April 21,  
and closes Monday, May 26.  
Online: [vbspro.events/p/thornville2025](https://vbspro.events/p/thornville2025),  
**OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW,**

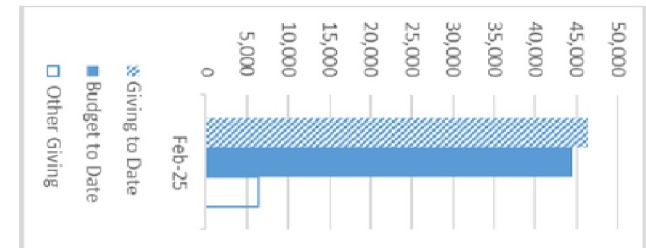


**OR** pick up and return paper forms at Grace.  
In-person registration opens Mon., June 9,  
8:30am, or any day of VBS week.

Questions: Contact Beth Raab (text 740-755-6410  
or [braab7478@gmail.com](mailto:braab7478@gmail.com))  
Theresa Jacobson (text: 605-760-9197)

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH  
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for February 2025  
Saturday, March 8, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IEs	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	105,745	19,436	31,862	0	93,318
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	9,318	0	0	0	9,318
3,300,000	Mission Fund	20,305	750	400	0	20,655
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,816	20	0	0	3,836
3,400,000	Endowment Osma 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	41,559	20	0	0	41,579
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	1,661	108	0	0	1,770
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,403	520	0	0	3,923
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	799	0	0	0	799
3,620,000	Flower Fund	1,405	50	0	0	1,455
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,793	0	0	0	2,793
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	13,100	430	1,422	0	12,108
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	93,810	0	0	0	93,810
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	860	0	0	0	860
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	5,423	829	186	0	6,065
3,925,000	KFRGs Fund	8,812	0	0	0	8,812
<b>Total</b>		<b>361,546</b>	<b>22,163</b>	<b>33,871</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>349,839</b>
General Fund Budget			22,222	22,222		
va Actuals			(2,786)	9,640		
					Net Delta	
					0	
					(12,426)	





**Pioneer Bible Translators**  
**The Vogts Serving the Bibleless in East Africa**  
Winter 2025



How can we be in prayer for you?

Several people and churches have reached out to us, asking how they can be in prayer for us this year. We took some time to think and pray over 2025. We thought we would share what the Lord has laid on our hearts so you can also join us in praying for the following.

①Jonathan- He is in his 11th year of school and getting ready to look into life after high school. He's needing wisdom and guidance into those next steps. Right now he's interested in IT and how he could use that for the Lord. (Proverbs 19:8) This May-September he will be traveling back to the states to visit family and go to a couple camps, one centered around computer science (Milligan University) and a church camp (Kentucky Christian University).

② Zawadi-We received some final letters from TZ (Tanzania) government officials and now we can go to court. We have

been told to expect a minimum of 3 court appearances before she's declared to be a Vogt. We'd love to have this accomplished by the summer of 2025. Please pray for this process. (Jeremiah 29:11)

③Rich-Pray as he has to deal a lot with the government and laws that have a tendency to change without notice. Pray for wisdom, a soft heart in times of frustration, and for a renewed spirit daily. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

④Sarah- That Sarah will keep her focus and eyes on the Lord. That she will find rest in Him as she serves from an overflowing cup, being filled through consistent time with the Father (Colossians 3:16-17). She's feeling called into opening a women's retreat center/guest house in 2025/2026, that would be a huge undertaking and needs lots of prayers for the many steps along the way. She is also praying about going back to college to get a master's in marriage and family counseling but that would require a huge sacrifice from our family and would require raising funds (because this is nowhere in our yearly budget). She's feeling called but doesn't have the complete picture on how this would work or the timing of that as of now. Sarah will be joining Jonathan in August until the end of September in order to visit potential colleges he may be attending next year. We are praying for a miracle that Zawadi will get everything finished and Rich and her will be able to travel back with Sarah as well. If not, they will remain in TZ. We need prayers for childcare during that month so Rich can continue to work (if they can't return to the states).

⑤Right now, we are short \$350 in monthly partnership for 2025. We are so thankful that He always provides and is always faithful! We started out 2024, needing \$1200 in monthly support...We thank God He continues to provide in ways that are not our own so that we can never boast about anything we've done. It's been ALL Him!



⑥The EAB is in NEED of a bookkeeper and someone in IT. Without support workers, it has an impact on the rate in which translators can translate scriptures because they need to stop to keep the internet going, fix computers, etc. (Matthew 9:35-38) In addition, pray for unity (John 17:23), protection from the enemy and his schemes (Psalms 61) and for the transformation of Tanzanian people through God's word (2 Corinthians 3:16-18). The EAB will have three interns this year. Pray that God will use this time to show them their next chapter of life.

We have so much to be thankful for! We had several household items and a truck that needed major repairs in 2024...all were covered. He has kept us relatively healthy. We have been protected from major injuries. We continue to give Him all glory and honor and praise! He's added two new families to our team this year. All that has been done this year at the EAB, in spite of small numbers of teammates in TZ. It's been truly amazing to hear the stories. These stories keep us encouraged and they remind us of why we're here, especially when times are tough.



## History's darkest day and brightest day

A professor once asked a young man studying for the ministry what the cross of Christ meant to him. The student said, "Well, the cruel death of God's Son, Jesus, was the most soul-shocking event imaginable. What could have been more heartless and evil than the crucifixion of Christ, the most holy person who ever lived? That had to be the darkest day in human history.

"On the other hand, one has to consider what happened on the Sunday after his death on Friday. It is quite clear from eye-witness accounts that he arose from the dead and was recognized by his friends as the one they had called Lord. The Resurrection was such a soul-stirring and momentous event that the first Easter Sunday had to be the brightest and most joyous day in the history of the world."

When he had finished, the professor said to him, "That is an excellent interpretation of the meaning of the cross. It was indeed a dark and hideous day when Christ was crucified. Yet that cross took on the symbol of salvation and hope when God raised Christ from the dead. Yes, Christians could say it was the brightest day in history."



From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.





## OUR EASTER GIFT

Thanks to Easter, what wonderful gift does God give us?

*Directions: Start at the given letter, move one space in the direction each arrow points. Write the last letter in each sequence in the spaces provided. Then write those answers in order on the blanks below to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.*

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y

1. C → ↓ ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
2. H → ↑ → \_\_\_\_\_
3. V ↑ → ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
4. I ← ← ↑ \_\_\_\_\_
5. T ↑ ← ↑ \_\_\_\_\_
6. P ↑ → → ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
7. D ↓ → ↓ ↓ \_\_\_\_\_
8. T ↑ ← ↑ ← \_\_\_\_\_



Praise be to the God and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us

\_\_\_\_\_ into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NIV

Answer: new birth



## Resurrection refresher

All four gospels confirm Jesus' resurrection,  
and each one offers important details.

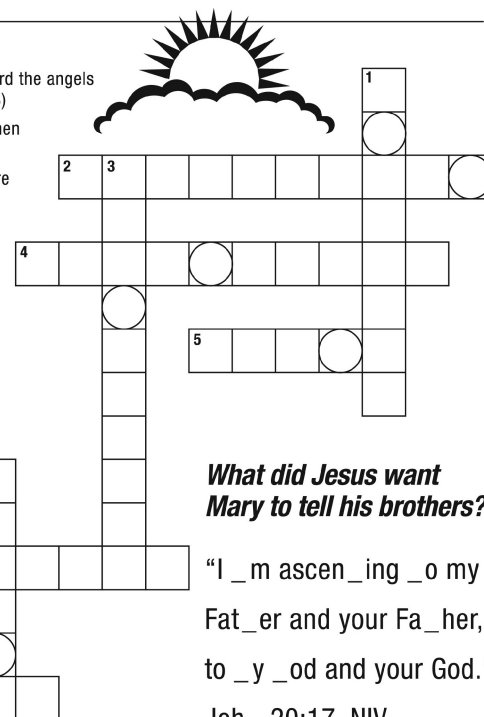
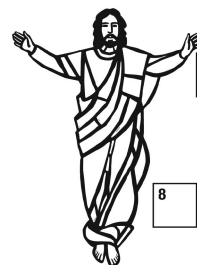
*Directions: Complete the crossword. Then insert the circled letters (in order of the clue numbers) to complete John 20:17 below.*

### ACROSS

2. The women did this when they heard the angels talk about Jesus' death. (Luke 24:8)
4. The women at the tomb did this when they saw Jesus. (Matthew 28:9)
5. The man in Jesus' empty tomb wore this color robe. (Mark 16:5)
7. Jesus instructed his brothers to go here. (Matthew 28:10)
8. Peter saw strips of this in the tomb. (Luke 24:12)

### DOWN

1. At first, Mary thought Jesus was this person. (John 20:15)
3. As an angel came from heaven, this happened. (Matthew 28:2)
6. She went with Mary to anoint Jesus' body. (Mark 16:1)



**What did Jesus want Mary to tell his brothers?**

"I \_m ascen\_ing\_o my  
Fat\_er and your Fa\_her,  
to \_y \_od and your God."  
Joh\_ 20:17, NIV

Answer: ACROSS 2. remembered, 4. worshipped, 5. white, 7. Galilee, 8. linen;  
DOWN 1. gardener, 3. earthquake, 6. Salome, "I am ascending to my Father and  
your Father, to my God and your God." John 20:17, NIV

*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.

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