

The Grapevine

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

June 2022



Grace Lutheran Church



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Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson 740-242-2192
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien 740-398-4502
Organist:	Sue Ellen Simmons 740-605-1530
Choir Director:	Diane Christensen 740-215-2396
Handbell Choir:	Becky Winegardner 740-467-3164
Men of Grace:	John Ulmer 740-246-6626
Church Council President:	Paul Moentmann 440-728-7067
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873
Council Secretary:	Jeni Lahman 614-371-4851
Director of Inreach:	Amber Feyh 740-415-5955
Director of Outreach:	Jeff Stought 740-407-0617
Director of Upreach:	Kelly O'Reilly 740-928-7626
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs 740-246-4751
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241
Bd of Women President:	Cherl 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 Father's Day - June 19, 2022

Set Me as a Seal upon Your Heart

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord.



Song of Solomon 8:6 ESV

(Monthly Watchword for June 2022)

Many years ago, I began the practice of beginning every worship service with what is called a “Watchword,” simply a short verse from the Bible that sets the tone for worship and that introduces a congregation to an important theme in our biblical faith. These weekly “Watchwords” come from the German Moravian tradition (a close cousin to Lutheranism), and to this day German Lutherans use them. I picked up this practice when I did my internship in a German church in 2004-05. A German man once told me how disappointed he was when he went to an American Lutheran church, and the first thing he heard was “good morning!” He told me that the first thing one should hear in church is something from the Bible, and I have never forgotten that conversation.

These “Watchwords” are assigned for each week, but each month and each year is also assigned a “Watchword,” a theme to ponder as the days go on. Our whole lives, moment by moment, are lived within God’s grace, and each year, each month, each week, and each day we are called to hear that message.

For the month of June, the Watchword is from a strange book of the Bible called the “Song of Solomon.” Along with Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, the Song of Solomon is attributed to King Solomon, the son of David, known for his wisdom. However, as we find out later in the Bible, Solomon wasn’t as wise as we might have thought. He ended up abandoning the worship of God for any number of idols. According to Solomon’s own definition of wisdom (found in other parts of the Bible as well), Solomon was actually a fool: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10).

Jewish legend says that Solomon composed/edited Ecclesiastes in his old age, Proverbs in his middle age, and the Song of Solomon in his youth. This view is understandable, as Ecclesiastes reflects on the unfairness of life after years of experience. The Song of Solomon, however, is a book of love poetry, which one might expect to come from a young man.

As a child, I remember sitting with my friends in the church basement before Sunday school. One of my friends nudged me with a smile on his face and showed me this odd book of the Bible called the Song of Solomon. As we read the exchange between the man and the woman, we snickered at a number of the verses of this love poetry, but I especially remember Song of Solomon 4:1 throwing me into a fit of laughter. The man speaks, “Your hair is like a flock of goats leaping down the slopes of Gilead.”

What is this book doing in the Bible? The fact that its name is associated with King Solomon no doubt led people to consider it as special, worthy of inclusion in the books of Scripture.

But the Song of Solomon has one thing missing. In addition to being love poetry, there is something else that has led

people to question its inclusion in the Bible. The Song of Solomon is one of two books in the Bible that contain no direct reference to God. The other is the book of Esther.

Actually, some have questioned that in recent years. The most famous verse in the Song of Solomon is the monthly Watchword for June. This verse has been set to music and is often sung at weddings today. Most translations of the Bible put verse 8:6 something like this:

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its
flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. NRSV*

But depending on how you translate one word, there is a possible reference to the proper name of God in the Bible (something like “Yahweh”). This is what led the translators of the English Standard Version to put it this way:

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its
flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. ESV*

Perhaps there is more to the Song of Solomon than meets the eye. Sunday school children continue to snicker about it, but Jewish interpreters have often looked at this book as an allegory of God’s love for the people of Israel. Christians have looked at this book as an allegory of God’s love for the world through the gift of Jesus Christ.

But then again, maybe it’s best to take it for what it is: an expression of love between a man and a woman. If that’s true, there’s nothing to be ashamed of here. As odd as it might sound to us to refer to a woman’s hair as a flock of goats, this book is a reminder that all aspects of our lives are lived in the presence of God. Among the many different

relationships we have in the world, in our families and friendships, that relationship and commitment is an important one. And undergirding that love between the man and the woman is the fierce love of God for the world, described as a “flashing fire.” Even when our own love fails and grows cold, “the very flame of the Lord” that comes out in Jesus’ love for us continues to warm us with healing and forgiveness. That flame empowers us in all our comings and goings.

May it be for us this summer and the rest of our lives!

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism The Ten Commandments

The Fifth Commandment
You shall not kill.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbors no bodily harm nor cause them any suffering, but help and befriend them in every need.



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

Sunday, June 5 - The Day of Pentecost

Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17



Sunday, June 12 - The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

Sunday, June 19 - 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 26 - 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

Transferred to the Church Triumphant:

Delbert Kenneth Latham
May 18, 1934 - May 10, 2022



April's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 175
8:00am - 40 10:30am - 135

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

A Congregational Meeting was held on May 22, 2022 at 9:15am for the purpose of discussing and voting on the Construction Documents phase (estimated cost of \$80k-\$85k) of the worship transformation project (sanctuary and adjoining support spaces).

Paul Moentmann, Congregational President, called the meeting to order and Pastor Theresa Jacobson led the congregation in prayer. A quorum was determined (24 voting members required).

Moentmann reviewed the previous Worship Renewal Task Force efforts related to the transformation project and funds expended to date. Moentmann shared the progress of the down payment pledges (\$270k). In addition, the capital pledge process was reviewed.

The construction document phase will generate complete construction blueprints for project bidding, permitting and construction.

A question was raised regarding any opportunity to have those who could not attend the meeting on this date to have input? Since there was a quorum and the meeting was scheduled, there was no prior provision planned for those who could not attend.

An additional question was asked about whether or not Grace Lutheran Church would own the design documents/ construction documents? This was related to an issue in 2015 addition where the congregation had to pay for the proprietary design documents and subsequently pay for the same design to be generated by another architect working for the design/ build contractor. Moentmann indicated that we did not want to change architects mid-project and incur the additional expense, Grace would not own the documents they remain intellectual property of the architect.

Thirty ballot votes were cast; "Should we approve moving forward with the Construction Documents Phase at an estimated cost of \$80k-\$85k?" The measure passed (27-yes, 3-no).

- Kelly E. O'Reilly, WRTF

FIRST COMMUNION May 8, 2022

Congratulations to these five youth on receiving the blessed Sacrament of First Holy Communion. May God guide them and protect them as they continue to grow in their faith!

Kolie Lynn Barrera

Abigail Nicole Duerson

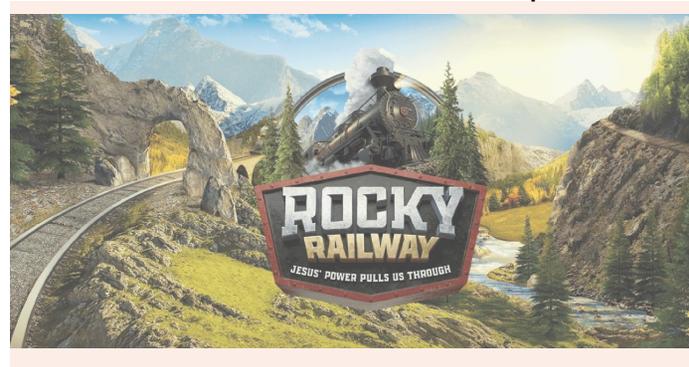
Henrik Randolph Jacobson

Karsen Allen Large

Sophia Ann Rockey



Thornville Community VBS
June 13-17 • 9am-12:30pm



Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School! June 13-17, 9am-12:30pm. Preregistration enables kids to choose one friend or crew leader to be with for the week. Preregistration ends May 30 at midnight so crews can be formed. To preregister online, go to: vbspro.events/p/rr2022. You may also pick up a paper form outside of the church office or the sanctuary. Not sure yet if the dates will work for you? We're happy to register you on the first day you join us (just come a little early so we can help you). We look forward to a fun VBS and hope to see you there!

Anyone who had offered to loan artificial pine trees for this year's theme, may drop them off inside the fellowship hall (downstairs) after June 1. Please make sure your name is on your item so we can get them back to you. Thank you!

Tuesday, June 7: A VBS volunteer meeting will be held at Grace in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, June 7, 5-7pm. All volunteers are asked to attend. Station and Crew Leaders will receive information, including T-shirt iron-on logo, schedules, and etc. for the following week. There will be also be a session for those helping with security. Volunteers may drop in anytime between 5-7pm, pick up their information, and check in with the

leadership team. Please reach out to Beth Raab (text or call: 740-755-6410) with questions or to make arrangements if you cannot attend.

Sunday, June 12, 1pm: Local Grace friends and members, we are inviting you to return to Grace after lunch and help us decorate the sanctuary and the fellowship hall at the Methodist church to make them ready for Rocky Railway. We'll begin at Grace, then go to TUMC, as they are having a congregation lunch after worship on that day. Hope to see you then!

Monday, June 13, 9:00am:



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

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

FACILITIES REPORT – 5.16.2022

- Grace now has a new 2-wheel hand truck that will convert into a 4-wheel platform cart. There is also a piece of plywood that can be put on the 4-wheel platform that can be used to move chairs and other large or heavy items.
- Carpet in Fellowship Hall was cleaned on May 3rd.
- Beth Gilgien has now returned to her normal custodian duties.
- Utilities lines were rubbing against the edges of roof shingles on the southeast side of the church. Thanks to the persistence of Bob Reynolds, AT&T fixed the problem.
- Several fluorescent lights were replaced in the Gathering Space. One of the Molex connectors had a loose wire. Thanks to Pete Oberhauser for fixing it.
- Free Church Items: Part of the spring-cleaning project has been to reorganize our storage areas and to get rid some things that we no longer need. As a result, there are now items available in the Noah's Club room that we are trying to find out if anyone would want, before we give them away or end of throwing away. If anyone would like to see these items, they are located in the southeast corner of Noah's Club. Items include: wooden and metal tables, a 6-window wood door, overhead projector, a wide heavy duty 2-wheel cart, a linoleum floor polisher machine, some paper hand towel dispensers, and an air hockey table. These items will soon be gone. If interested contact Carl Lahman at carllahman@gmail.com or 614.329.8639.



Manna Monday Community Suppers will be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Volunteers will be needed!! Contact Sue Cottrill 740-258-8060 or Jeff Stought 740-407-0617 to volunteer. Thanks in advance for your help!

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
 Consolidated Fund Activity Report for April 2022
 Sunday, May 15, 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3.100.000	General Fund	82,359	17,632	27,349	0	72,643
3.220.000	Improvement Fund	2,057	0	0	0	2,057
3.300.000	Mission Fund	8,490	1,153	5,428	0	4,215
3.320.000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,931	0	0	0	3,931
3.400.000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3.420.000	Capital Campaign Fund	(4,668)	50,668	2,957	0	43,043
3.500.000	Adventures In Faith Fund	607	0	0	0	607
3.510.000	Varner Scholarship Fund	2,383	185	0	0	2,568
3.520.000	Library Fund	33	0	0	0	33
3.600.000	Parament Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3.610.000	Handbell Fund	320	0	105	0	215
3.620.000	Flower Fund	701	240	0	0	941
3.630.000	Choir Fund	1,778	10	0	0	1,788
3.740.000	Backpack Ministry Fund	26,872	511	1,516	0	25,867
3.900.000	Memorial Fund	19,130	0	0	0	19,130
3.920.000	KFC Youth Fund	6,182	0	0	0	6,182
3.925.000	KFROGS Fund	10,156	0	0	0	10,156
3.950.000	Investment Fund	138,883	0	0	0	138,883
	Total	310,230	70,399	37,355	0	343,274

General Fund Budget	21,182	Net	0
vs April actuals	-3,550		-9,717



A POWERFUL CALLING

Before his ascension, Jesus tells the disciples they will receive a gift and carry out a job.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

	R	H	L
	S	P	W
	O	A	I
	T	N	E



“But you will receive _____ when the
 Holy _____ comes on you; and you
 will be my _____ in Jerusalem,
 and in all Judea and Samaria,
 and to the ends of the _____.”

ACTS 1:8, 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.

**Grace Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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