

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

March 2025

Come Home

JOIN US ON THIS
Lenten
Journey

Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: www.gracethornville.org

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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*

Come Home!

But while [his younger son] was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. Luke 15:30 ESV



When it comes to our faith, I have long said that the most important question is what we choose to emphasize about it. When someone says, "I believe in God," that leads to my common response: "Lots of people believe in God. The more important question is what you believe about God."

There is a time and a place to hear about God's majesty, holiness, and judgment of humanity. There is a time and a place to hear about God's expectations of His people as they live on this earth. And while these things should not be ignored, by themselves they leave us hanging in despair. What ties everything together is understanding God's compassion for His people and the world He has made.

On March 5, we begin the annual season of Lent in the church, with Ash Wednesday. This season of forty days (excluding the Sundays) is meant as a reminder of Jesus' spiritual battle with Satan in the wilderness for that duration of time. For centuries, Christians have observed Lent as a time of extra prayer and fasting (defined here as depriving ourselves of some type of pleasure or convenience). Sometimes, people will choose to "give up" something during Lent, such as dessert, chocolate, using social media, or watching television.

But how do we think of Lent in the best way? These spiritual disciplines can be a way for people to take their life of prayer

more seriously. The idea behind such fasting is that when we are tempted to engage in the activities we have chosen to "give up," it is a reminder to pray. Lenten discipline can be a good thing for us as long as it is seen as means to an end and not an end in itself.

At times, however, these disciplines become detached from their original purpose, which is to pull us more deeply into a relationship with the God who shows us love and compassion. For some, "giving up" something for Lent becomes a form of legalism, another box to check, as if by fulfilling a religious duty God is more pleased with us (or at least we are more pleased with ourselves). But there is nothing we can do to make God love us more. Instead, God simply desires that our eyes be opened to the emptiness of life without God and the fulness of what he has to give us.

That is the story of the younger son in the parable that Jesus tells in Luke chapter 15. Often known as the parable of the "prodigal son," it is really more about the generosity of the father. At a certain point, the younger son decided that he had no need of his father, only his father's inheritance money. He left and squandered that inheritance in a foreign land. He realized that his only option was to go home in humiliation. Maybe his father would be gracious enough to grant him a place among the servants. To his great surprise, the father not only welcomed him home to his former place of honor, but he did so with open arms while running toward him.

This is the heart of God and the beauty of our faith. God's judgment is real, but even more is God's mercy and compassion. Looking at Lent as an obligation to fulfill and a religious duty to perform causes us to miss out on the joy that our God has over us and for us. Lent is not a dreary time focused on ourselves and our failures. It is a gift, an annual

reminder of the love of God that transcends our weakness and mortality, an invitation to experience the graciousness of God.

So, just like the younger son of the father in Luke 15, this Lent, come home to church!

If you haven't been in church for a while or even for years, come home! Become reacquainted with the words of eternal life coming from our Savior.

If you are troubled by something in your past and wonder about where you stand with God, come home! Learn how the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

If you are filled with apathy or confusion about life, come home! Gain perspective and direction from the God who so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

The church is filled with all kinds of people who have experienced the welcoming embrace of God, people who know their imperfections and failures and yet rely on His generosity. Like the father prepared a feast for his son who returned home, in the church God has a feast for us as well, the gift of His Son Jesus Christ, who is the Bread of Life. We feed on him through faith as we hear God's Word preached to and for us and as we are called to Jesus' holy table. Through these things, God provides us with forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. And we trust God to lead us in reflecting that generosity and love in our sojourn on this earth on our way to our Father's house in eternity.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Worship In March

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

Sunday, Mar. 2 - Transfiguration of our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

7pm Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, March 9 - Lent 1

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

7pm Wednesday, March 12 - Lent Evening Prayer

Genesis 4:1-16 (Cain and Abel)

Sunday, March 16 - Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12 Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35

7pm Wednesday, March 19 - Lent Evening Prayer

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13 (Building/Dedication of Temple)

Sunday, March 23 - Lent 3

Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

7pm Wednesday, March 26 - Lent Evening Prayer

Daniel 6:1-24 (Daniel in the Lions' Den)

Sunday, March 30 - Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism

The 10 Commandments



The Introduction

I am the Lord your God.

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods before me.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust God above all things.

Dartball Update

Our dartball season is over. We had lots of fun and a good year. We tied for second in the league. We were the league host this year and will host the dartball banquet on March 3 with about 70-75 people attending.

Thank you to all of my teammates. Hope to get a few new ones next year. Please talk to Jim Lewis or myself if interested. You will have a lot of fun and make many new friends.

Patty Jenny 740-684-2090



January's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance -124

8:00am - 23 10:30am - 101

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 11, 2025

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

1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman
2. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Tom Jacobson
3. **Pastor's Report**
 - Worship:
 - During time after Epiphany, continuing to use WOV Setting 5 (Bread of Life)
 - Will switch back to LBW Setting 1 on Transfiguration and throughout Lent; switch to LBW Setting 2 with Easter
 - Ringing the bell during the Lord's Prayer on Sundays, as a way to invite the community to prayer wherever they are
 - Has been happening for a few weeks now
 - Looking ahead to Lent
 - Will have usual Ash Wednesday service on March 5
 - 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
 - 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, etc. afterward?
 - Will be meeting with representatives of the other congregations to determine a theme, plan
 - 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 can eliminate the children's message, hymn of the day, and perhaps something else to give her time for a 15 to 20 minute presentation
 - Will be in touch with her about more details
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Request from 4H club to use space at the church for meetings on February 20 or 27, March 3, 17, 31, and April 14
- Formation of committees, as discussed:
 - Who should be involved?
 - Membership
 - Will get information from Beth and then go through the list with some others

- Inactive outreach
 - Will talk about ways of connecting with members
 - New member "pairing"
- 4. **Inreach Ministry – Linda Keaser** (Inreach Coordinator)
- ADVENTURES IN FAITH (AIF)/SUNDAY SCHOOL
 - Classes held 9:15-10:15 weekly between services.
- WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (WNALC)
 - The board met Monday, February 10, 2025. The following events are being planned for 2025:
 - Sunday, March 16, "IRISH SPUD LUNCHEON", to be held after the 10:30 service in the Frank's Fellowship Hall.
 - Sunday, August 17th, the WNALC is sponsoring the second Church Picnic to be held at the Thornville Park after the 10:30 service.
 - THANKOFFERING SERVICE, Sunday, November 9th.
 - Saturday, December 7th will be CIRCLE-UP program for both the Fellowship & Monticello circles.
- KFROGS/KFC
 - On Sunday February 9th, the youth held their annual Superbowl Sunday Bake Sale with many sweet treats. This fundraiser was able to collect \$743.71 to go towards donating Easter Baskets to the kids of the Thornville Food Pantry and Easter Treat Bags to the kids of the Back Pack Ministry! Thank you so much for everyone's contribution and help towards this annual fundraiser!!
 - Youth Lock-in will be Saturday April 12th at 3pm! The youth will be preparing the Easter Bags and Baskets, there will also be games, food and a bible study. All youth are to bring a pillow, sleeping bag and pj's. Kids will be released to parents following the 10:30 service.
 - The Annual Easter Breakfast will once again be on Easter Sunday April 20th from 8:00am-10:00am. We will be serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, pastries, donuts and fruit. Cost is donation and all proceeds

will go towards a charity/fundraiser that will be disclosed soon.

5. Outreach Ministry – Daria Carr (Outreach Coordinator)

- Updates from prior meeting
 1. Military Ministry – Address of one recipient, now back in the USA, updated with Jim Roshon.
- New Updates
 1. Dartball will be having the end of season dinner in the basement on March 3.
 2. Adopt a Highway: According to Pastor Tom, we renewed our section of the highway for another few years. The guidelines suggest 4 times per year cleanup, but we should be ok with 2 or 3 as seasonally appropriate (maybe spring, summer and fall). We will look to scheduling soon.
- For discussion:
 1. LifeWise Updates: Spoke with Kendra Lawrence about Pr Theresa mission of collecting pop tabs. She said she would inform the children who attend, and would collect (Pr Theresa will maintain the collection) likely after Easter.

: Watched State of the Ministry live feed Feb 11, 2025. Provided details as to # schools signed up nationwide, as well as future goals, and status of OH legislation. Rick Rockwell said it might be nice to provide edited version for congregation to view on video reel. He will attend to that.

: Consider a "Welcome Lifewise" service after Easter, perhaps early May. While all attendees know they are welcome, perhaps a specific service would draw more to attend Grace.

2. America 250: Village of Thornville recently held a meeting to discuss how the village will participate next year in this national year long celebration. Likely quarterly events. Some ideas discussed include – community picnic, celebration of innovation like aviation, community garden, community calendar, etc. Council to consider how Grace may want to participate in these events once Village releases schedule.

3. NALC vision of connecting congregations with local, national and global partners. Reviewed list from financial secretary of current giving funds, to discuss re: alignment with NALC goals.

6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

- Children's Worship Bags will be updated in March with new Lenten material and activities.
- Working on installation of new Sacristy sink, faucet and piping.
- Lent begins on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. Will hold Soup Supper Services every Wednesday through Lent beginning at 6pm with the Soup Supper and followed by service at 7pm.
- A Community Lenten Service will be held each Sunday through Lent at multiple area churches with the service at Grace being held on Sunday March 23rd at 7pm.
- There is always a continued need for more volunteers for Acolytes, Greeters, Lectors and Communion Assistants

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

- Reports were distributed.

8. Facilities Report – Dave Rodenbaugh (Facilities Coordinator)

- Purchased and installed the drop-in ceiling LED lighting panels for the library and classroom.
- Have purchased and working on installing a new sacristy sink, faucet, supply piping and drainage. Over the summer, we will open the sacristy drainage area and insulate the outside area as to not freeze.
- Performance Heating & Cooling installed a new Lennox Induced draft assembly. We now have heat again in the office and St. John's Hall.
- Found water leak in the basement furnace room. Replaced old copper drainage pipe that had perforated. Will address a couple other small leaks there too.

9. Safety & Security Report – Jim Lewis

- The alarm system went off recently and it was a trouble alarm from the sanctuary smoke detector. The problem was due to low batteries. Discussed with Dave Rodenbaugh about getting

a schedule to replace all batteries annually.

- Had a recent medical emergency. Discovered that we need a few more basic first aid necessities, which have been purchased and are now in our first aid bag.
- Frank Locksmith gave us an estimate for repinning the outer doors and changing locks in the office. Am waiting on an estimate from Carl Zipf locksmith. I would like to get a 3rd estimate before we proceed.

10. Old Business

- Bread of Life Box
 - Has been completed!



- Electronic Sign Update
 - Committee: Carl Lahman, Bob Reynolds, Dave Rodenbaugh, Pete Oberhauser, Kris Lamphere, Tom Rodgers.
 - Three companies have given us a proposal. We feel Stewart Signs is our best option. They specialize in church signs with over 60,000 signs nationwide. Below is what the new sign might look like with our current proposal.



Key features of Stewart Sign include:

- Lifetime warranty on workmanship and breakage caused by vandalism and a 5-year warranty on the LEDs and components.
- Been in business for over 50 years, have manufactured over 50,000 signs, and have an A+ BBB rating.
- Customer support.
- Remote connectivity.
- Software support.

Key features of proposal:

- Double Sided-Full Color Outdoor LED Sign.
- 6.67mm full color (48,384 total pixels per side). Best resolution option.
- Brightness can be adjusted.
- Software is included for the lifetime of the product.

Committee has gone over the proposal and has submitted additional questions before making a recommendation to council. If approved, this project would probably not start until after Easter. Prior to installation, the removal of the exiting sign will need to be done. During the removal and installation of sign, there will be a few weeks that Grace will not have a sign.

One important decision that needs to be made is finding someone willing to take ownership of creating playlists for the sign, once it has been installed.

11. New Business

- Grace Lutheran Insurance Premium for 2025
Our annual premium for church and parsonage has increased from \$18,200 to \$20,613. The major increases were property, general liability, commercial umbrella and abuse & molestation coverage.
- Constitution Review Committee
Members: Bob Reynolds (chair & "scribe"), Steve Carr, Luann Cooperrider (final review only), Dennis DeRolph, Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman, Kelly O'Reilly, Jim Winegardner
Goals:

1. Clean up format – spacing, indentation, etc.
 2. Change "Chapter" to "Article" throughout.
 3. Move Continuing Resolutions up into body of Articles of constitution to which they refer.
 4. Create bylaws from Articles where possible or necessary.
 5. Update Articles and Sections, as necessary, to better reflect how we operate today.
 6. Better define roles of officers, committees, etc.
 7. Etc.
- Memorial in memory of Firl and Vivian Crist
 - Council discussed possibilities of a memory for Firl and Vivian Crist. Since St. John's Hall is often used for funerals, Pastor is looking into the possibility of getting a religious art picture in St. John's Hall.
12. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer
Next Meeting – March 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted, Susan Cheney (Council Secretary)

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 Adventures in Faith for Grades PreK through 12th (not including Confirmation Classes) will be Sunday, May 11th.

LENT

The season of **Lent** begins with **Ash Wednesday**, this year on **March 5**, and we will have Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes that evening at 7:00pm, preceded by a soup supper at 6:00pm. The remaining Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will have evening prayer worship with Pr. Tom preaching each week on a Bible passage that does not appear on Sunday mornings.

Lent Midweek Service Plan 2025

- † March 12:
Genesis 4:1-16 (Cain and Abel)
- † March 19:
1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13 (Building and Dedication of the Temple)
- † March 26:
Daniel 6:1-24 (Daniel in the Lions' Den)
- † April 2:
John 5:1-18 (The Healing at Bethesda)
- † April 9:
Acts 5:1-11 (Ananias and Sapphira)

*Please note, these community Lenten worship services will be in addition to our regular Wednesday evening Lenten services here at Grace Lutheran.

Community Lent Services

This year we will be joining together with other **community** churches to observe Lent. **Sunday evening at 6pm** – with a different host church each week.

The 2025 Community Lenten Schedule is as follows:

- March 9 – Good Hope Lutheran
- March 16 – Mt. Perry Presbyterian
- March 23 -- Grace Lutheran
- March 30 – South Shore Ministries
- April 6 – Somerset Community Methodist Church
- April 13th (Palm Sunday)– Cantata at Hopewell United Methodist



Wednesdays March 5, 12, 19, 26,
April 2, 9, and Maundy Thursday, April 17
6:00pm

Each Lenten Wednesday and on Maundy Thursday, we will be serving:

- 5 - 6 Big pots of **Soups**
- 5 - 6 Different **Desserts**
- Assorted **Breads/Crackers**

Plan on attending! Enjoy sharing a meal with fellowship and fun. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come. Worship service will be held at 7pm in the sanctuary.

Volunteers are needed to provide the soups and desserts.

Sign-up sheet has been placed in the gathering space for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for your help!



Women of the NALC
Grace Lutheran Church – Thornville, Ohio
February 10, 2025

Members Present: Valinda Arnold, Marian DeRolph, Cheryl Haggenjos, Theresa Jacobson, Linda Keaser, Anna Oberhauser, Kaye Smith; Absent: None
Linda K. called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Women read together the Purpose Statement. Theresa J. led devotions based on 1 Corinthians 13, recalling the greatest love we know is God's love for us through Jesus Christ.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$2,754.20.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were reviewed from the January 13th meeting.

Circle Reports:

- **Monticello Circle** - Anna O. said that Monticello had to cancel last month due to weather.
- **Friendship Circle** - Kaye S. updated the WNALC members on the Friendship Circle. They did a study on Psalm 1 out of the new Connections Online newsletter. They will begin their new study Leading a Life of Balance by Marilyn Meberg on February 11th.

Old Business:

- **Dartball Banquet** – March 3, 2025: Kaye and Linda will touch base with Jim Lewis and Patty Jenny regarding the food. Jim and Patty will provide the food. They have asked the WNALC ladies to help with serving the meal that evening.
- **Spud Dinner** – March 16th following 10:30 worship service: The women discussed groceries that would be needed for the dinner. Linda K. will order a cake from TC Market for the dessert again. Each of the board members will bring a salad to serve. Toppings for the potatoes includes the following: taco meat (made by Valinda), green onions, sour cream, jalapeños, bacon, cheese, butter, salt & pepper. Theresa J. will order more cups to be used for serving drinks. The women plan to meet on Saturday, March

15th at 10 a.m. to bake potatoes and decorate the fellowship hall.
 • *Lenten Soup Suppers* – March 5th: A reminder that the women will be needing donations of soup and desserts. Your help is very much appreciated by all!

New Business: Linda K. contacted Sandy Zikursh about doing a program for a Spring Banquet in May. Unfortunately, Sandy Z. is not available as she is recovering from a bad fall. The women decided to go ahead and cancel the Spring Banquet for 2025. We are planning to have Sandy Z. come and do a program for our Christmas Circle Up on December 6, 2025. Her program is called Christmas Memories. We will also book her for our 2026 Spring Banquet in May. She will do a program called Life in the Western Reserve, where she portrays a pioneer woman's life. Sandy Z. has come to our banquets in the past. Most recently she joined us in 2023 as Betsy Ross. She has also portrayed Noah's wife from the story in Genesis about Noah and the great flood.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP...2025

- March 5th – Ash Wednesday
- March 16th – Spud Dinner following worship
- August 17th – Rally Day and Church Picnic at Thornville City Park (following 10:30 service)
- December 6th – Christmas Circle Up

DATES IN 2026...

- May – Spring Banquet
- 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 July 14th at 10:00 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
 Theresa Jacobson, Secretary



You are invited to a
St. Patrick's Day
"Irish Spud Lunch"



SUNDAY	March 16, 2024 After Worship (11:45am)	In the Fellowship Hall 	Menu: Baked Potatoes w/ variety of toppings, Salad, Drinks, Dessert

Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Women

**Please RSVP (so we order enough food) with your name
 and the number of people attending to**

Kaye Smith 740-403-1482

or Pastor Theresa 740-242-2192

or RSVP forms are on the table in the gathering space.



EASTER Breakfast at the Church



Annual Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 20th
8:00-10:00a.m.

Leave the cooking to us!
Our Youth will be cooking and serving!

Menu:

Pancakes	Scrambled Eggs
Hashbrowns	Sausage
Cinnamon Rolls	Donuts
Fruit	Juice, Coffee, Milk

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

+Thank You from the youth for everyone's generous support of their Superbowl Bake Sale. They raised over \$700.00 to go towards purchasing Easter Baskets for the kids of the Thornville Food Pantry and Easter Treat Bags for Backpack Ministry.

NALC Disaster Response Annual Report 2024 — what a challenging year!



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DISASTER RESPONSE

ACTIVE RESPONSE: NALC Disaster Response has responded and supported our NALC congregations to respond to so many disasters in the past year: Maui wildfires, Texas. wildfires, California wildfires, Hurricane Idalia Perry FL, Tornadoes in Clarksville TN, Indian Lake Ohio, Omaha Nebraska, Minden Iowa, and the tornado outbreak which began April 26: Oklahoma, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, and Wisconsin. Flooding has occurred in Iowa, severely impacting our congregations. We responded to Hurricanes Debby, Milton and the worst one — Helene which devastated North Carolina. A total of 17 major disasters, including many smaller disasters have struck this past year and our congregations are responding! We are currently working 16 states, providing emergency relief supplies and volunteers to repair and rebuild homes during long term recovery. *This many disasters have not occurred in a single year since 2011!*

TRAININGS: NALC Disaster Response has hosted 6 disaster preparedness trainings and 1 "train the trainer" event. We have also hosted 12 disaster response Sundays in addition to the disaster response Sundays that our mission district disaster coordinators have hosted — a big thank you to our volunteers in each mission district. Pastor George Zornow has completed the on-line training program for spiritual Christian care which is found at www.thenalc.org.

Stuff the Trucks: There have been "Stuff the Truck" events held in nearly every mission district — a big thank you to the Women of the NALC for hosting our donations management, especially to collect gift cards and keep our regional warehouses filled. All 16 of our regional warehouses needed restocked in addition to the

national disaster warehouse in Caldwell Ohio. Flood buckets, health kits, Bibles, quilts, school kits, kitchen kits, and baby diapers/blankets are needed!

MISSION TRIPS: A total of 20 mission trips have been completed this past year in which over 400 youth and adults have assisted hundreds of families who have lost their homes due to disasters throughout the United States. NALC Disaster Response also participated in the continental youth gathering in 2024, offering 2 service projects which included the building of 500 flood buckets and 500 health kits. It is exciting to announce that NALC Disaster Response is assisting our congregations in Canada to initiate disaster response throughout our congregations in Canada. Thank you Jesus for our growing churches!

Schedule the Volunteer Center now: NALC Disaster Response has completed the NALC Volunteer Training & Retreat Center in Caldwell Ohio and we have already hosted our first teams of volunteers who were trained in disaster response. We are anticipating retreats to be scheduled this coming year. Mary Bates sends out a big thank you goes out to all our congregations as they glorify God's name and share the love of Jesus when disasters strike!

Please send gift cards to NALC Disaster Response, 16500 Noble Ave. Caldwell, Ohio 43724 and please send monetary donations to: NALC Disaster Response, 2113 Harwood Rd. Suite 309, PMB 409, Bedford, Texas 76021-4703.

Please contact Mary Bates for more information at any time at 740-509-1132.

Thank you & God Bless!

History of our Church Bell

In November, David Rodenbaugh and Kelly O'Reilly worked on replacing the ring rope for the bell that broke during use. During the replacement process new pulleys were installed. The original wooden pulley system was removed which allowed for the rope path to be routed back to its original pathway. If you ever tried to ring the bell in the past, you will be pleasantly surprised at the ease of ringing the bell now. In addition the toll rope pulleys were replaced and the rope rerouted. During this process we took note of the manufacturer of the bell (McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore, MD) and it was discovered that the manufacturer was still in business.

The bell which is dated 1887 is the second bell on this site (following the church fire in the spring of 1887). Contact was made with the company which is now located in St Louis, MO, and they were able to locate the original order for the bell in their ledgers and sent photos of the entry. Photos of the bell today and an image of the church building when it was originally installed were shared with the company.

Order Details:

- ❖ Ordered- 10/19/1887 by Henry Long Et al; Evangelical Lutheran Grace Church
- ❖ Price of bell- \$190.00 (company believes that the church received a credit for trade in bell)
- ❖ Weight - Bell 908 lbs, Clapper and springs 118 lbs (exclusive of yoke & frames)
- ❖ Shipped: 11/14/1887 to Thornport Railroad Station via B&O Railroad, along with 50ft ropes.

Allowing for inflation the cost of the bell (\$190) in 2025 dollars is approximately \$6,313, again assuming a credit for a trade in bell. The toll rope is now being used during the Lord's Prayer and baptisms. Tolling is a single strike of the bell with pauses in between indicating solemnity, respect or sorrow. The ringing of the bell is a call to worship or on joyous occasions such as Christmas Eve and Easter Services.

The original wooden pulley system and the cast iron wrench for the yoke & frame system will soon be on display in the case in the Gathering Space at the entry to the Sanctuary.



	20.00	Yes	"						
	10.00	"	"	Rev E. Edu. Nipetus	St Joseph's R.C.	Amsterdam			
	6.00	"	"						
	5.00	Yes	"	Emce Miskew	N.B. Meth.	Kippie Bush			
	2.50	No	"	Mr J.H. McCune	M.E.	Leavittville			
15	5.00	"	only 1000 left	Mrs J. Kitchaw		Royersford			
	4.50	"	Complete	Rev F.H. Fyerson	1 st Bapt	Valparaiso			
	7.00	"	"	Dr. H.D. Miller	Cath.	Wootter			
	9.00	"	"	A.C. Wells	sch	M.E.	Beatrice		
	11.00	"	"	E. Plummer	For Will Bapt.	Lisbon Falls			
17	6.00	"	"	J.H. Lupton		Sunset			
	5.00	"	"	C.S. Rockey	M.E. Church	Woods Centre			
	3.00	"	none	J.B. Clow	son	Ship to Ch. in Dept	Joplin		
18	9.00	No	Complete	Mr Jas. Yorton	Pres. St. Paul Church	Pictou			
19	10.00	No	"	Thomas Long	at al	Ev. Luth. Grace Ch.	Thorndale		
	9.00	No	"	M.J. Ford	M.E. Church	Kingston			
	15.00	No	4000 only	J.H. Krause	- 309	New St	Philadelphia		
20	8.00	No	Complete	J.D. Wiley	son	M.E. Church	Jerry City		
	6.00	No	Complete	James & Delany	Eng Co.		Richmond		
21	3.00	No	"	D. H. B.					

16 50	RR Station	Cash	11/1/07	Line	239	28	267	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 50	RR Station	Cash	11/2/07	Line	1170	52	522	✓	with full document	
16 3/4 50	RR Station	Cash	11/29/07	Line	1110	58	1168	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 45	RR Station	Cash	10/28/07	Line	634	70	704	✓	with full document	
17 40	RR Station	Cash	11/15/07	Line	866	82	948	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/14/07	Line	970	118	1088	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/07/07	Line	568	60	628	✓	with full document	
16 50	RR Station	Cash	11/9/07	Line	498	58	556	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 Chicago	RR Station	Cash	11/1/07	Line	286	26	312	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/16/07	Line	875	85	960	✓	with full document	
\$190	RR Station	Cash	11/14/07	Line	908	118	1026	✓	with full document	
169	RR Station	Cash	11/5/07	Line	846	82	928	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/8/07	Line	1376	150	1526	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/5/07	Line	731	70	801	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/1/07	Line	56	6	62	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/2/07	Line	272	30	302	✓	with full document	
16 1/2 40	RR Station	Cash	11/11/07	Line	913	118	1031	✓	with full document	
							2313	2367		

THORNVILLE COMMUNITY VBS

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 9-13, 2025; 9am-Noon



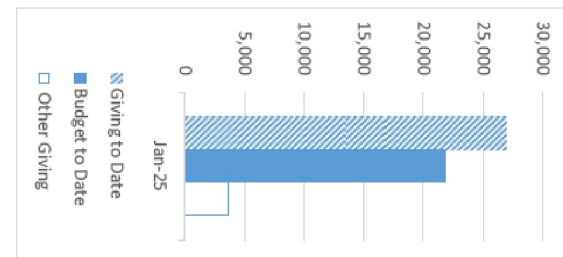
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (Grades 1-6)
&
THORNVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(Ages 4 & beginning K)

What a great opportunity for outreach!

We are especially in need of Pre-K Crew Leaders and Assistants for this year. Get a friend and team up together! Contact Beth Raab (text 740-755-6410 / braab7478@gmail.com) or Theresa Jacobson (text 605-760-9197) with questions or to volunteer. We would love to have you!

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH Consolidated Fund Activity Report for January 2025 Sunday, February 9, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	100,684	26,950	21,888	0	105,745
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	9,318	0	0	0	9,318
3,300,000	Mission Fund	20,060	245	0	0	20,305
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,802	170	156	0	3,816
3,400,000	Endowment Osmia 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	41,504	55	0	0	41,559
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	1,539	389	267	0	1,661
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,373	30	0	0	3,403
3,520,000	Library Fund	(19)	0	0	0	(19)
3,600,000	Parment 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	0	0	0	1,405
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,593	200	0	0	2,793
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	15,171	410	2,480	0	13,100
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	93,797	120	106	0	93,810
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	860	0	0	0	860
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	7,563	0	2,140	0	5,423
3,925,000	KFROGS Fund	8,812	0	0	0	8,812
Total		\$360,018	\$28,569	\$27,041	\$0	\$361,546
General Fund Budget			22,222	22,222		
va Actuals			4,728	(334)		
					Net Delta	
					0	
					5,062	



The Lenten Desert



During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."



FROM WORD TO WORLD

Words are important! God spoke and created all things.
What does the psalmist declare about creation?

Directions: Using the word clues, unscramble the letters to complete Psalm 102:25, NIV.

A preposition	NI	--
An article	HTE	---
Genesis means this	NINBGEIGN	-----
A second-person pronoun	OUY	---
Past tense of to lay	IDAL	----
An article	HET	---
A plural noun meaning base	SODTAINFONU	-----
A preposition showing possession	FO	--
An article	TEH	---
A concrete noun meaning world	HRTEA	-----

Psalm 102:25, NIV

Answer: In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth. (Psalm 102:25, 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,

"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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**Grace Lutheran Church
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