

The Gracevine

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

May 2025



"Honor ... your
mother, as
the LORD
your God
has
commanded
you"

Deuteronomy 5:16

Happy Mother's Day - May 11

Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: www.gracethornville.org
Email: office@gracethornville.org
Fax: 740/246-6284
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville
Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien
Accompanist:	Sue Ellen Simmons
Choir Director:	Diane Christensen
Handbell Choir:	Becky Winegardner
Men of Grace:	John Ulmer
Church Council President:	Carl Lahman
Council Vice President:	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

“The Author and Goal of Our Existence”

To you, O LORD, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field. Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up...

Joel 1:19-20 ESV (Monthly Watchword for May 2025)



Just a few days ago, on Good Friday, the gathered congregation recited the traditional "Bidding Prayer" for that service. This prayer consists of several different petitions, asking that God would work in the lives of Christians for unity in faith, in the lives of people of other faiths that they might come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the life of the world and all its people, among other things.

Yet my favorite part of this "Bidding Prayer" is the following: "Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find him who is the author and goal of our existence." To paraphrase the prayer that follows, God created humanity so that all might long to know Him and have peace in Him. We pray that God would work through the lives of all Christian people so that people everywhere might acknowledge Him as the one true God and Father of us all.

We find ourselves now in the season of Easter, God's great reminder that the suffering and death of Jesus is indeed good news for us. Easter is what allows us to look at the Friday before and call it "Good." Even more, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the good news and the pledge of our own hope of resurrection life, all of which comes to us as a gift of God, received by faith.

But even though we as Christians live with the good news of Jesus' resurrection, that good news is still hard for us to see at times. There are still disappointments, accidents, and tragedies, and these things do not discriminate in the despair they can bring. All people, including those of faith, face such challenges. In the Bible, God never promised that life would always be easy. In the present age, the fog of sin still clouds our vision, and we know that fog will dissipate completely only in the age to come.

The book of Joel is not the most widely read section of the Bible. One of the so-called "Minor Prophets," this short book is tucked away toward the back of the Old Testament, most often to be ignored. Not much is known of Joel, though it seems he was active in the latter part of the Old Testament period, perhaps somewhere between the years 500 and 300 B.C.

The words of Joel focus, somewhat oddly to our ears, on a plague of locusts. In the days of insecticides in our modern world, the danger posed by these devouring insects is minimal. But even a few generations ago, a swarm of locusts could mean the loss of crops and therefore livelihoods of farmers. And, like a domino effect, the loss of a farmer's crop could mean famine and starvation for an entire community. In the Watchword for this month, apparently the disaster caused by these locusts was exacerbated by devastating drought and fire. We might not relate directly to the situation described by Joel, but we certainly can relate to the despair created by natural disasters and tragedies of any kind.

Joel uses the image of the locust swarm and subsequent disaster as a warning for the people, that they might be prepared for the coming judgment of God. He wanted them, in their distress, to turn to God and receive His mercy. Joel knew that times of loss can turn us inward on ourselves. But

he instead called the people to turn to God. To you, O Lord, I call. In doing so, their perspective on life would change, and in the process they would "find him who is the author and goal of our existence."

In our own generation, God calls us to the same faith, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead gives us the perspective we need. Even in a world still filled with sin, Jesus' resurrection is the "first fruits" of those who have died, and we trust that by God's grace we will one day be a part of the much larger harvest of God's kingdom at the day of Jesus' coming, when locusts, drought, and fire will be no more.

In the meantime, we live with faith that God is still active in the world and that His promises are sure. And we live with joyful hope in the great Easter words of 1 Peter 1:3:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



March's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance -123
8:00am - 28 10:30am - 95

Worship In May

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

Sunday, May 4 - 3 Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 11 - 4 Easter

Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 18 - 5 Easter

Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 25 - 6 Easter

Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism

The 10 Commandments

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.



What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
April 8, 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 (Treas.)

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

3. Pastor's Report

- Worship:
 - o During Lent, now using LBW Setting 1 until Easter
 - Will switch to LBW Setting 2 with Easter
 - o Current season of Lent
 - Wednesday evening prayer has gone well
 - o Community Lenten services
 - Well attended overall at all the congregations
Grace hosted on March 23
 - o April 6 (Fifth Sunday in Lent), presentation from Debbie Wright during worship
- Pastoral acts:
 - o 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
 - o Called upon to officiate at graveside service for Lewis Ridenour on March 28 at Zion Cemetery
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers Confirmation class
 - o Continuing to go well
 - o Have now finished the units on the Ten Commandments and Apostles' Creed and will be wrapping up for the year in the couple of weeks after Easter
- Adopt a Highway dates (Saturdays) scheduled, meeting at church at 9:00am.
- Summer youth trip
 - o Have decided on Kenosha, Wisconsin July 20-25

- o Right now, seven youth are committed; might be possible for more to attend if desired
- o Have sent out the registration information to the youth and their families
- o Right now, Theresa and I are planning on attending as adult chaperones unless there is another available female chaperone
- NALC Ohio Mission Region convocation May 2-3 at Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH
 - o Let's try to get some good representation from Grace in Thornville
 - o I was asked to preside at the closing worship
- Possible Upreach idea:
 - o Watching "The Chosen" at the church with a meal beforehand and discussion
 - o Will be looking at some possibilities for times
- Membership committee met in March, and process of going through the whole list will take some time
 - o Hoping to be done by the end of this year

4. Inreach Ministry Report– Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)
ADVENTURES IN FAITH (AIF)/SUNDAY SCHOOL (SS)

- Sunday, May 11, PreK-12th last AIF class until August 17 (not including Confirmation class).
- Youth are encouraged to participate in the Community Vacation Bible School June 9th-13th held at Grace.
- August 17, "Rally Day" AIF classes will start back in session and backpacks will be blessed during church.

WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (WNALC):

- July 14, WNALC of Grace Board meeting at 10 am.
- August 17, mark your calendar, "Church Picnic" at Thornville Park after second service

YOUTH REPORT

- Highway Clean-up will be held Saturday April 12th at 9:00am. Many volunteers needed. Lunch to be provided to all those that participate.
- Lock-in will be held Saturday April 12th at 2:00pm.
- Youth will be donating Easter Baskets to the children of the

Thornville Food Pantry and Easter Treat Bags to the Children of the Backpack Ministry and our Military Members.

- Easter Breakfast will be held Easter Sunday from 8:00am - 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Menu includes: pancakes, scrambled eggs, hashbrowns, sausage, fruit, pastries, donuts, juice and coffee. All proceeds will go to the Perry County Housing Coalition to help those Perry County residents dealing with current homeless situations.
- 5. Outreach Ministry – Daria Carr** (Outreach Coordinator)
1. Membership Committee met on March 25 for about 2 hours. Made good progress on review of membership list. Goal is to complete review this calendar year, with yearly updates thereafter being much easier / accomplished more quickly. Plan to reach out to inactive members with a mailer and/or personal phone call.
 2. LifeWise is looking for Somerset volunteers. Lifewise now has 31 children attending at 6th grade. Looking for another bus driver. Hope to add 7th and 8th grade. Last classes of the year will be end of April. Vierstra food truck in the parking lot for last class dates. I am working on cross bookmarks for Thornville kids.
 3. Crochet Club had first meeting on March 30 at 1:30 in Fellowship Hall with 15 in attendance, relatively equally split between youth and adult. Next meeting is April 27. The kids are very excited. Would like to meet weekly in the summer (after VBS).
 4. Backpack ministry - Beth Raab reached out and said one of the VBS missions will be the backpack ministry. We are so grateful for that! We discussed canned goods as the best option from a storage perspective given the restart of the school year is months away. We made a list of canned vegetables, soups, stews and pasta. If other items come in through VBS, we will be mindful of dates and packaging.
 5. Adopt a highway cleanup is this Saturday April 12. More information will be provided at next meeting.
- 6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler** (Upreach Coordinator)
- Lenten Services:
 - o Palm Sunday- April 13th @ 8:00am & 10:30am
 - o Maundy Thursday- April 17th @ 7:00pm

- o Good Friday- April 18th @ 7:00pm
 - o Easter Vigil- April 19th @ 7:00pm
 - o Easter Breakfast-April 20th @ 8:00am-10:00am in Fellowship Hall
 - o Easter Sunday- April 20th @ 8:00am & 10:30am
- A new brazier for Easter Vigil has been ordered
 - A list of Greeter Responsibilities has been updated and is located on the Greeter's pew in the sanctuary.
 - Greeters, Acolytes, Communion Assistants and Lectors continue to be needed for worship services. Thank you to all those who have volunteered.
- 7. Treasurer's Report – Rick Rockwell** (Treasurer)
- Reports submitted
- 8. Facilities Report – Dave Rodenbaugh** (Facilities Coordinator)
- Basement leak has been fixed
 - New lawn care service contract for 2025
- 9. Safety & Security Report – Jim Lewis**
- No Report
- 10. Continuing Business**
- Door locks- Pastor Tom suggested 1 key for external doors and 1 key for pastor's office.
 - New outside electronic sign- Carl reported that we are still waiting on getting the permit approved.
 - Greeters - Bob suggested scheduling greeters for 4 weeks on a rotating schedule yearly. Carl suggested that greeters could be responsible for their replacement if they cannot make it.
 - Organ - The organ company has inspected and fixed the problem with the "Midi".
 - New Picture – There is now a new canvas religious art picture of the Ascension of our Lord in St. John's Hall, as a memorial for Firl and Vivian Crist.
- 11. New Business**
- Handicap Parking Signs - Council discussed Sandstone or concrete barriers vs Pole type signs.

- Pastor Tom mentioned that the water bill in the parsonage was higher than normal, and for no specific reason. Also, the parsonage needs a shed. Council discussed prices.
- The chapel room off of sanctuary will soon have a framed picture of the last supper. Pastor mentioned a smaller picture was found on the 3rd floor can be put in the office.
- Bob discussed the Jordan River water, donated to Grace by Bob, could be used in addition to the water for baptisms.

12. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – May 13th 2025

Respectfully submitted, Susan Cheney (Council Secretary)



United in Marriage:
Kendyl Mick & Edward Siefring
April 26, 2025



Transferred to the Church
Triumphant:
David Paul Roshon
Nov. 10, 1983 — April 15, 2025



What: Pastor Paul Hansen's Retirement Celebration

When: Sunday, May 18, 2025
 10:30 Worship; 11:30 Potluck Dinner

Where: St. Paul Church
 127 Mill Street, Glenford

Please bring a dish to share. Ham and chicken will be provided.

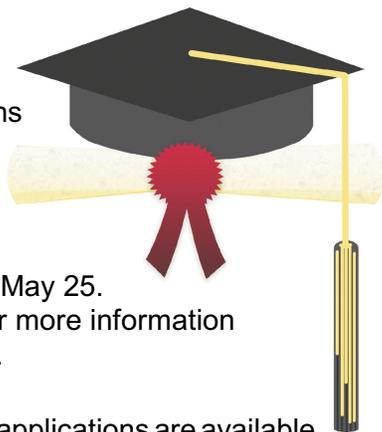
"Two By Two" will be our special guests performing at worship. 🎵🎵🎵

If you will be attending, please RSVP by May 10 to Deb Mechling 440-915-4433.



Attention Graduates:

We want to honor you! We would like your photo along with the name of your school, graduation date, and plans for the future in the church office. Info and photo can be emailed to office@gracethornville.org



Info and photos need to be submitted by May 25. Graduation Sunday will be June 1. For more information contact Linda Keaser (740-403-4197).

Paul Varner Scholarship Fund applications are available in the church office. Application deadline is June 30th of current year. Applicants need to submit a completed application, an essay of 500 words or more (750 maximum) describing their recent involvement at Grace Church and how your involvement has created an awareness of the need to help others, a high school final grade card or transcript, and formal proof of acceptance to secondary education institution. Please contact Beth Raab 740-755-6410 or any council member for more information.



Spring Cleaning

On May 3rd, 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. If you have questions, contact Carl Lahman at carllahman@gmail.com or 614-329-8639.



Thornville Community VBS June 9-13, 9am-noon daily

Grace Lutheran Church (Grades 1-6)
Thornville United Methodist Church (Age 4 Pre & K)
Pre-registration closes Monday, May 26.

Online registration and vbs details:
vbspro.events/p/thornville2025
OR use the QR code



You may also pick up and return a paper form at Grace.

Walk-in registration opens Monday, June 9, 8:30 am at Grace and remains open each day of VBS.

YOUTH, Grades 7 through HS: We want and need your help in serving as assistant crew or station leaders! (Even if you do not have every day free, we would love to have you any morning you are available! Thank you!!)

For questions or to volunteer: Contact Pr Theresa Jacobson (text: 605-760-9197) Beth Raab (text: 740-755-6410 text or braab7478@gmail.com)

Thornville Community VBS
Mission Projects
Thornville Food Pantry
Backpack Program

This year's True North VBS will focus on local need and we are asking for your help in this endeavor.

Items welcomed for this summer are listed below, and may be dropped of at Grace in the atrium entrance.

Thank You for your generosity!

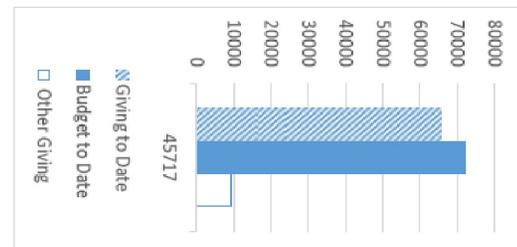
Thornville Food Pantry	Backpack Program
Peanut butter Tuna in cans Toothpaste Shampoo Paper towels Toilet paper Shower soap in bar form	Canned pasta (spaghetti, ravioli, etc) Canned soups (including hearty stews and soups) Canned veggies (including green or brown beans, corn, peas, carrots or mixed vegetables)

Jesus is our True North!



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for March 2025
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IEs	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	101,983.31	19219	23343	-50	97,809.33
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	10,666.97	30	0	0	10,697.57
3,300,000	Mission Fund	20,635.01	275	200	0	20,710.01
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,952.25	60	145	0	3,867.25
3,400,000	Endowment Osma Lawyer	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000.00
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	41,149.41	0	0	0	41,149.41
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	94,386.67	45	18740	0	75,690.70
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	1,590.07	124	0	0	1,714.07
3,510,000	Varnier Scholarship Fund	3,923.00	0	0	0	3,923.00
3,520,000	Library Fund	(18.68)	0	0	50	31.32
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0	0	0	1,017.41
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	703.69	0	0	0	703.69
3,620,000	Flower Fund	1,455.43	236	430	0	1,261.43
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,792.58	0	0	0	2,792.58
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	12,107.63	1395	946	0	12,557.14
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	93,681.76	850	442	0	94,089.38
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	860.20	0	0	0	860.20
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	6,005.48	0	2189	0	3,815.66
3,925,000	KEROGs Fund	8,812.33	0	0	0	8,812.33
Total		\$415,704	\$22,236	\$46,438	\$0	\$391,502
General Fund Budget			27,778	27,778		
va Actuals			(8,559)	(4,435)		
					NetDelta	
					0	
					(4,124)	



A Week of Tributes to Mom

To celebrate the special woman in your life, use a quote a day the week before Mother's Day, or honor her with tributes the whole week after. Write one of these (or one of your own) on a card, make a message into a placemat, tape one to the bathroom mirror — get creative! Every day of the week is a good day to celebrate her love and show her yours.

♡ *"There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one."* —Jill Churchill

♡ *"The art of mothering is to teach the art of living to children."* —Elaine Heffner

♡ *"An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."* —Spanish proverb

♡ *"When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway."* —Erma Bombeck

♡ *"The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom."* —Henry Ward Beecher

♡ *"Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible."* —Marion C. Garretty

♡ *"Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had."* —Linda Wooten



A NOBLE EXAMPLE

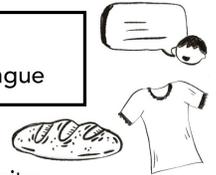
Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh, children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is _____ with strength and dignity; she can _____ at the days to come.

She _____ with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her _____.

She watches over the affairs of her _____ and does not eat the _____ of idleness.

Her _____ arise and call her blessed; her _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many _____ do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is _____eptive, and be_____ty is fl_____eting; but a woma_____ w_____o f_____rs the Lo_____d is to be prais_____d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household, bread, children, husband, women, Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, 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.

Grace Lutheran Church
65 E. Columbus St.; PO Box 284
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www.gracethornville.org
office@gracethornville.org

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