

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

FEBRUARY 2025

GRACE, mercy and
PEACE from God the Father
and from
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
will be with us in
truth and love.

2 John 1:3, NIV



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:	Cherl Haggenjos
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



Epiphany

You make known to me the path of life.

Psalms 16:11 ESV (Monthly Watchword for February 2025)



A pastoral colleague of mine from a different part of the country caught my attention the other day with a post on one of our church body's (NALC) Facebook pages. He wrote: "I kind of want to say Epiphany is my favorite season of the church year, but I don't want to stir up troubles."

His comment was meant somewhat as a joke for those of us who pay attention to the unfolding of the church calendar. We think of the major holidays in church as Christmas and Easter. After all the focus and energy spent on Advent and Christmas, the festival of Epiphany (January 6) and the weeks that follow until the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday can seem unimportant. The weeks of January and February are not only cold, bleak, and dark in our part of the world; they are also a time when many people decompress from the stress of the holidays. In this time of year, there doesn't seem to be much to which to look forward. Most people in the church would not say that Epiphany is their favorite season of the year.

However unimportant we might consider the festival and time after Epiphany, I do sympathize with my colleague's comment to an extent. Epiphany is an important part of our Christian faith, and it serves as a critical "bridge" from Christmas to the rest of our lives. God desires that all creation would know His will and His love, and so in this season we rejoice in the truth of the words of the psalmist this month: *You make known to me the path of life* (Psalm 16:11).



The word "epiphany" refers to receiving special insight. When we have an epiphany, something that was once confusing becomes clear. In the church, Epiphany has to do with the message of Jesus becoming clear to people, both far and near. Christmas, the celebration of the Word made flesh, the incarnation of the Son of God, is certainly important. But Epiphany takes us to the next step. Jesus came not to remain in the manger of Bethlehem. He came for the world. He came for us. He came to give us redemption and life with God. And this message goes well beyond the activity and excitement of the month of the December. It comes to us even in dark and bleak times of the year.

There are several Bible passages associated with the theme of Epiphany. The first and most famous is appointed for the Day of Epiphany itself (January 6). In Matthew 2:1-12, we hear of "wise men" (magi) from the east, who see a star and come to visit the child Jesus. These mysterious foreign men who studied the stars might have been unlikely candidates to receive the good news of Jesus. But by the grace of God, they had an epiphany.

Another important "Epiphany story" is the baptism of Jesus, recorded with some differences by all four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. As John the Baptizer preached about the coming of "one who is greater than I," Jesus surprisingly submitted to a baptism that he didn't need. When he did, the Holy Spirit descended, and the voice of God the Father from heaven declared that Jesus is His "beloved Son, with whom (He) is well pleased." This marks the first time that God is revealed as Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a moment of epiphany.

Yet another "Epiphany story" is Jesus' attendance at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, found in John 2:1-11. The newlywed couple is unnamed, but Jesus stepped in and saved the celebration by



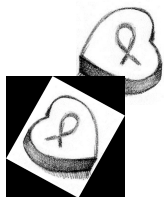
changing water into wine. There, he "manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him." As they came to faith in Jesus, they had an epiphany.

And there are other "Epiphany stories" in the Bible as well. Epiphany is ongoing. God's people today continue to have epiphanies, whether dramatic or ordinary. Whenever the good news of Jesus becomes real for us, God is taking the good news of the Christmas manger and the Good Friday cross and planting it in our lives. For me, Epiphany was a gradual and ongoing process as the words of our faith were proclaimed to me as a child at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Canby, Minnesota. I didn't realize it at the time, but God was using those words to shape and form me so that I might know the love of Jesus.

Just as the good news of Jesus has been revealed to us, I believe that we at Grace Lutheran Church have a role to play in God's ongoing Epiphany to the world. Through our individual lives and our broader congregational witness, God is working in and through us to reveal His glory and love in Jesus Christ to the people near to us. Let us look for opportunities to share that good news and serve as God's Epiphany instruments!

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



God is love, and whoever
lives in love lives in God.
-John 4:16:



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



Sunday, Feb. 2 - Presentation of our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, Feb. 9 - Epiphany 5

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, Feb. 16 - Epiphany 6

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

Sunday, Feb. 23 - Epiphany 7

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38



December's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 132
8:00am - 35 10:30am - 97
Christmas Eve - 221 Christmas Day - 43



Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 11, 2025

NALC Retreat in Springfield

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

Absent: Daria Carr (Outreach Coordinator)

1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman
2. All Church Councils Retreat

Council attended the Church Councils Retreat for Congregations of the NALC on January 11 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. This retreat was organized by the Southwestern Ohio Mission District of the NALC to provide practical resources and an opportunity for connection as we follow our calling and seek to serve our church as leaders. After the retreat and lunch, council met in a separate room for our individual council meeting.

There were two sessions, both led by Wally Martinson:

- Session 1: Why are we here?
- Session 2: How do we do this?

Each church council sat at their own table. During each session, there were group discussions whereby questions were given for each table to discuss. Questions such as: Why does the church exist? How can we get members involved?

A tool that Wally presented to help congregations grow and to help people get involved centered around a PEO Chart. Participate, Engagement, Ownership. This chart can be used for all kinds of ministry such as serving, giving, teaching, sharing, praying, etc. As explained, the PEO model takes time.

Participate is the first step that starts with inviting people to join a ministry, to learn and see if this could be something they would want to be part of. Engagement is the next step and refers to helping lead or co-lead a ministry. Ownership means to be ultimately in charge of a church ministry.

In the afternoon, council discussed ways to grow our ministry at Grace by implementing the model of PEO.

3 Pastor's Report

- Had a good vacation in Nebraska and South Dakota after Christmas, despite illness!
- Worship:
 - o With time after Epiphany, will switch to WOV Setting 5 (Bread of Life)
 - o Advent services went well in St. John's Hall; Pr. Theresa filled in for the last one when I was sick
 - o 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
 - o Looking ahead to Lent
 - For Wednesday evening services, thinking of doing a series on parts of the Bible that never appear on Sunday mornings
 - Evening prayer as usual, either from LBW or Holden Evening Prayer, perhaps combination of both.
- Pastoral acts:
 - o Funeral for Vivian Crist here at Grace on December 13
 - o Working with a few of individuals on membership and baptism
- "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles are available on my blog, usually one per week:
<https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/>
 - o All 52 have now been completed
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers

- Spiritual Book Discussion
 - o Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Letters and Papers from Prison" to go along with movie (in November) about his life
 - o Will plan on January 26 after worship for discussion time; will have lunch at the church before discussion
- Confirmation class
 - o Continuing to go well
 - o Have finished the Ten Commandments and are now on to Apostles' Creed
- 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 Will get the registration process started
- Video devotion
 - o Have begun doing a brief video devotion every other week or so and posting it to YouTube and Facebook
 - o Will continue into the coming year
- Formation of committees, as discussed:
 - o Membership
 - o Inactive outreach
 - o New member "pairing"

4. **Inreach Ministry Report** - Linda Keaser (Coordinator)

INREACH PURPOSE: To Develop People of Faith by providing opportunities to learn & fellowship for all ages!

ADVENTURES IN FAITH (AIF)/SUNDAY SCHOOL (SS): (9:15-10:15 between services)

- All AIF classes 3 yr-12th grades & Confirmation classes have resumed.
- Two Adult Sunday School class offerings: St. John's Chapel (various topics), & in the Church Library (Lutheran Confessions, Small & Large Catechisms)
- The Adventures in Faith/Sunday School weekly offering money will go toward "One Plus God" a Tanzania



Orphanage & Outreach Ministry mission project.

- Thank you, Pastor Theresa Jacobson, for directing the AIF Christmas program in December. Also, thank you to the youth and the congregation who participated, Valinda Arnold for her accompaniment on the piano, and Jessica Rockey, Amber Feyh & Linda Keaser, the behind-the-scenes crew. (John 3:16)

REMINDER: As we begin a new year, please consider one or more of the following opportunities, there is always an empty chair available for YOU!

- Monday Bible Study, Tuesday's Table, Men's Breakfast, Women's Friendship Circle, Women's Monticello Circle, Youth KFROGS & KFC.

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

- Super Bowl Bake Sale will be held Sunday, February 9th, following both services. The youth will plan to get together Saturday, February 8th, to bake and prep for the sale. More information to be posted to the youth Facebook page soon.

5. **Outreach Ministry Report** - Daria Carr (Coordinator)

- Thornville Food Pantry – services about 28 families per month. According to Julia Cooperrider, they are all set with donations at this time.
- Backpack Ministry – services approximately 45 students per week. Donations are always welcome. At this time, there is no prohibition on peanut / peanut butter containing items. As for the high school clothing support, Christmas items were purchased. The approximate number of students assisted will be provided as possible.
- Sewing / Quilting – meeting on Jan 7 was cancelled due to weather. Last year 17 quilts were provided to North Carolina. This year, so far 1 is completed and 3 tops started.
- Military Ministry – no update from last month. Address of one to be updated, I am working on that as we know the family.
- Blessing Box – Vicki Jones says it has to be refilled more



often lately, so it's definitely being used in the colder weather. Someone else refilled it in between her refills too. So, thank you. Donations are always welcome.

- I did not get a chance to contact Dartball.
 - Community Assistance and Adopt a Highway to be discussed with Pastor Tom.
 - Updates will be provided as necessary.
6. **Upreach Ministry Report** – Casey Sigler (Coordinator)
- Removal of Advent/Christmas Decorations were completed on Saturday, January 11th at 2:00 pm. Thank you to all those that volunteered.
 - Ringing of the bell during the Lord's Prayer will continue during worship service.
 - Continue to need volunteers for Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors and Communion Assistants.
7. **Treasurer's Report** – Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)
- Reports submitted.
8. **Facilities Report** – Dave Rodenbaugh (Facilities Coordinator)
- Reattached baseboard cove outside fellowship hall restrooms.
 - Recalked backsplash to counter in all 5 restrooms.
 - Fire concerns were raised regarding the Advent wreath and short candles. A fire extinguisher is now mounted below the Lectern.
 - Carpet was cleaned on January 2.
 - Snow removal was done on January 6. Additional snow removal will be done depending on additional snow accumulation.
 - Removed ceiling tile in library. Paul Moentmann's company will be installing a new drop ceiling in the library and classroom next to the library.
 - New sound panels will be mounted in St. John's Hall.



9. **Old Business**

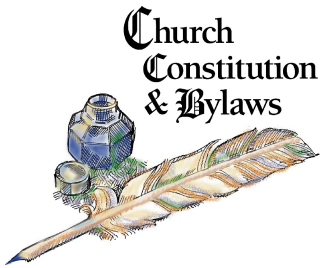
- New Resource Box
 - Bob Reynolds reported that the box construction is done.
 - Pastor suggested the wording on the box to be: "Bread of Life: Feed your soul with the good news of Jesus Christ". Council approved.

10. **New Business**

- 2025 Goals
 - Council discussed the following goals for 2025:
 - 1) New Hymnal
 - Note: this is a long-range goal. Content will need to be determined, then funding from churches. This project is not specifically related to Grace. It is a pan Lutheran project involving people from different congregations and Lutheran groups such as NALC, LCMC, CALC and Pr. Tom is involved with this project in cooperation with others around the country.
 - 2) Programmable Electronic Sign
 - 3) Constitution Revisions
 - 4) Update membership roster
 - 5) Outreach to inactive members
 - 6) New member "pairing" with current members
 - 7) Building security
 - 8) Financial Audit
 - 9) Finish prayer room with some religious art/pictures
 - Question from the Alcoholics Anonymous group
 - Because this group has a smaller number than in the past, they were concerned about what they were able to give to Grace for use of the building. Council was not aware they thought they were obligated to pay "rent". Council agreed that they can simply give whatever they would like to provide as a freewill offering. Pastor will let them know.
11. Adjournment
12. Closing Prayer – The Lord's Prayer
- Respectfully submitted, Susan Cheney (Council Secretary)



Constitution Geeks Needed! The constitution for Grace Lutheran was written and approved in 2011 when we moved our affiliation from the ELCA to that of the NALC which had recently been formed. The time has come for us to take a fresh look at our constitution to see if there is any need for tweaking or updating. If you are interested in helping and have a knack for detail, please let Bob Reynolds know at 630-698-0457 or bobr22600@twc.com.



Holy Baptism - On January 12, 2025, at 10:30 we welcomed three youth into God's kingdom and our congregation through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Their parents are George & Karey Dyer, and their baptismal sponsors are Pastors Tom & Theresa Jacobson. We rejoice at their rebirth through water and the Word!

Annabelle Lynn Gatewood
Born: November 24, 2010

Alexzander Patrick Still
Born: September 22, 2015

Amelia Ember Still
Born: September 23, 2018



Women of the NALC
Grace Lutheran Church – Thornville, Ohio
January 13, 2025

Members Present: Valinda Arnold, Marian DeRolph, Theresa Jacobson, Linda Keaser, Anna Oberhauser, Kaye Smith; **Absent:** Cherl Haggengos; **Guest:** Will Oberhauser

Linda K. called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Women read together the Purpose Statement.

Treasurer's Report: Marian updated the board on our account. 2024 had a starting balance of \$5,955.19 and ending balance of \$2,754.20. The WNALC used much of their funds this year towards donations to charities. Current balance is \$2,754.20.

Secretary's Report: Theresa read the minutes from the November 4th meeting.

Circle Reports: **Monticello Circle** - Anna O. updated the WNALC members on the Monticello Circle. They did a study on Psalms throughout the year. They decided to begin meeting at the church instead of in ladies' homes to make it easier for everyone. They enjoyed a dinner at Max and Irma's in Lancaster in December. They average about 9 to 10 ladies as regular attendees and participants in Monticello Circle.

Friendship Circle - Kaye S. updated the WNALC members on the Friendship Circle. They just completed a study on Psalms as well. They will begin a new study this year called *Leading a Life of Balance* by Marilyn Meberg. They average 14-15 ladies as regular attendees.

Old Business: The women held their December Gathering on December 7th. The theme was *Jesus, the Heart of Christmas*. It was a lovely time to gather and hear the Christmas story, share in a meal and fellowship, and afterwards, put together special gifts for our homebound members. A good time was had by all!



New Business: Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on March 5th and continue through April 17th. The women will be needing help with donations of soup and desserts once again. Thank you to everyone who helps with this special time of fellowship.

Spud Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 16th, following the 10:30 worship service. We will be adding chili to our toppings that are available.

The women are planning to hold a **Spring Banquet** some time in May. More information to come!

Last year's **church picnic** was enjoyed by so many! This year, the women will host the spring picnic the same day as Rally Day: Sunday, August 17th. So mark your calendars!

Thank Offering will be held on November 9th.

Christmas Gathering is planned for December 6th.

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP...

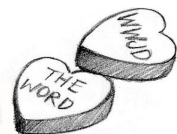
- + March 5th – Ash Wednesday
- + March 16th – Spud Dinner following worship
- + July 31st – Aug. 1, 2026 Yard Sale (Note the date. This will be in 2026!)

Valinda A. closed our meeting with devotions. We prayed together The Lord's Prayer before adjourning.

Next meeting will be February 10th at 10:00 a.m. Theresa will have devotions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Theresa Jacobson, Secretary



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

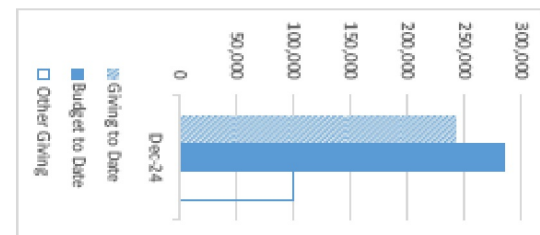
Account #	Account Name	Begin Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	85,584	37,674	22,575	0	100,684
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	9,318	0	0	0	9,318
3,300,000	Mission Fund	19,758	576	274	0	20,060
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,802	0	0	0	3,802
3,400,000	Endowment 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	41,469	35	0	0	41,504
3,500,000	Adventures in Faith Fund	1,500	39	0	0	1,539
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,333	40	0	0	3,373
3,520,000	Library Fund	-19	0	0	0	-19
3,600,000	Paranet Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	499	300	0	0	799
3,620,000	Flower Fund	785	620	0	0	1,405
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,593	0	0	0	2,593
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	16,137	1,515	2,480	0	15,171
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	92,365	1,455	22	0	93,797
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	860	0	0	0	860
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	9,805	0	2,241	0	7,563
3,925,000	KFROGS Fund	8,612	0	0	0	8,612
	Total	345,358	42,255	27,594	0	360,018

General Fund Budget
via Actuals

21,866
15,808

21,866
709

Net Delta
0
15,099



FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.....

First, a big thank you for a smooth transition to the newly designed offering envelopes. Handwriting is neat and numbers are readable which helps me record accurately your wishes to your account.



Second, a couple items need clarification, "**General**" and "**Other**".

- ▶ **General** - Everyday expenses are paid from the General account; salaries, utilities, etc.
- ▶ **Other** - Twenty-seven mission funds fall under "Other". So, please write on the line the fund you want me to credit your offering. If you put X by Other, then your offering defaults to NALC Support. If no designation is written on the envelope, then your offering defaults to General.
- ▶ Name and address are information to verify church member and envelope number match. Historically, parents have mistakenly grabbed their child's envelope which creates confusion. Children are not known to give \$50+ for their weekly offering.
- ▶ Third, below are the 27 funds for **Other**.
 - »NALC Support »Varner Scholarship
 - »Local Food »Disaster Response
 - »Lancaster Food »Local Good Samaritan
 - »Pastor Didi (World Mission Prayer League)
 - »TEAF (Thornville Emergency Assistance Fund)
 - »LWR (Lutheran World Relief) »South Sudan (LCSS)
 - »LSS Food (Lutheran Social Services)
 - »Mowrey Water Project (Guatemala)
 - »Vogt missionaries in Africa »Handbells
 - »World Hunger »Men of Grace
 - »KFC Youth »Military
 - »KFROGS Youth »Vacation Bible School
 - »LifeWise Academy »Paraments
 - »Heartbeats »Library
 - »Backpack Ministry »Choir
 - »Capital Campaign
- ▶ Last, my dad always said, "Jimmy, too much information is better than not enough."
- Jim Roshon, Financial Secretary

♪ My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns ♪

Here is the complete list of Pastor Tom's 52 favorite hymns! Did your favorite make it on his list??

For 2024 Pastor Tom provided us with a weekly devotional reflection on his list of fifty-two of his favorite hymns, one for each week of the year, which is posted on his blog. You can access them at the following link: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com>

- 1: Prepare the Royal Highway
- 2: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
- 3: My Heart Is Filled with Wonder
- 4: I've Found Now the Fairest of Roses
- 5: Of the Father's Love Begotten
- 6: The Only Son from Heaven
- 7: I Walk in Danger
- 8: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
- 9: Glory Be to Jesus
- 10 Near the Cross
- 11 Ah, Holy Jesus
- 12 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- 13 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
- 14 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 15 Beautiful Savior
- 16 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
- 17 The Lord's My Shepherd
- 18 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
- 19 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (Now We Implore God the Holy Ghost)
- 20 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
- 21 Sunshine and Rain
- 22 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go
- 23 This Is My Father's World
- 24 The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies
- 25 Evening and Morning
- 26 Now All the Woods are Sleeping
- 27 Rise Up, All Things That God Has Made
- 28 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

29 Go Forth, My Heart, This Summer Day
 30 Day by Day
 31 Is It True?
 32 Jesus, Lover of My Soul
 33 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
 34 The Lord Protects and Holds Me
 35 As the Sunflower Turns in the Morning
 36 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord
 37 Thy Holy Wings
 38 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!
 39 I'm a Pilgrim, and I'm a Stranger
 40 The Church's One Foundation
 41 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
 42 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice
 43 Rise, O Children of Salvation
 44 God Moves in a Mysterious Way
 45 How Fair the Church of Christ Shall Stand
 46 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
 47 What Wondrous Love Is This
 48 Sorrow and Gladness
 49 Like Noah's Weary Dove
 50 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
 51 Children of the Heavenly Father
 52 The Head that Once Was Crowned



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!
Just a few hours each day can make an eternity
of difference!**

Now gathering volunteers!

Beth Raab (text 740-755-6410 or
braab7478@gmail.com)

Theresa Jacobson (text 605-760-9197)

Thank you to those who have already said 'yes'!





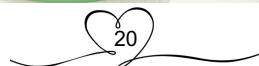
Sunday Feb 9th

in the gathering space following both services

**Sponsored
by our Youth Groups!**

All donations received will go towards purchasing Easter Baskets for the kids of the Thornville Food Pantry and Easter Treat Bags for the kids of the Backpack Ministry.

So please save the date to grab goodies for the big game!!



**LWR Quilt
Group**



This group meets here on the first Tuesday of each month, making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You can join them on Tuesday, February 4, at 9:30am in the fellowship hall.

Please consider being part of this ministry. LWR has published a special report outlining how our generous donations of quilts and kits have helped the people of Ukraine and nearby regions.

ALL welcome! For more information, contact Susan, susancheney74@gmail.com.



Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House in 2024 -Thank you to all of you who have given pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House this past year. On Saturday, December 21st, Henrik, Helena, Antonia, and Pastor Theresa delivered all the pop tabs collected throughout the year to the Ronald McDonald House, located in Columbus, across the street from Children's Hospital. We were able to donate 29.7 pounds of pop tabs!!! The ladies at the reception desk were ecstatic to receive them, and they were so impressed that our Adventures in Faith kids, along with congregation members, would bring a large donation all the way from Thornville. Thank you for blessing this ministry in this way! Let's see if we can beat 29.7 pounds in 2025!



LOOKING AHEAD TO 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 at 7:00pm with soup suppers preceding worship. Pr. Tom will be preaching each week on a Bible passage that does not appear on Sunday mornings. More information on that to follow.

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



This year we will be joining together with other **community** churches to observe Lent. Each week during the season, there will be a worship service on **Sunday evening at 6pm** – with a different host church each week.

The last service on April 13th will be a **cantata** at Hopewell United Methodist Church directed by Susan Ballantine. All adults and teens are welcome to participate! The **first practice** will be at Hopewell UMC on **February 3rd at 7pm**. The practices will be every Monday night after that. Please call Susan at 740-403-0664 or email at humcsusan@gmail.com to let her know that you will be participating in the cantata.

The 2025 Community Lenten Schedule is as follows:

March 9 – Mt. Perry Presbyterian

March 16 – Good Hope Lutheran

March 23 -- TBD

March 30 – Grace Lutheran

April 6 – Somerset Community Methodist Church

April 13th (Palm Sunday)– Cantata at Hopewell United Methodist



Valentines to give your children



Acceptance – Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.



Self-confidence – Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.



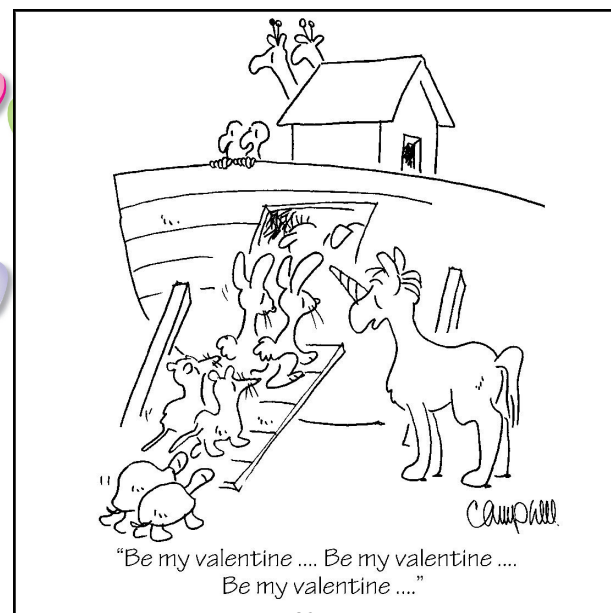
Life without needless fears – Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.



Appreciation – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.

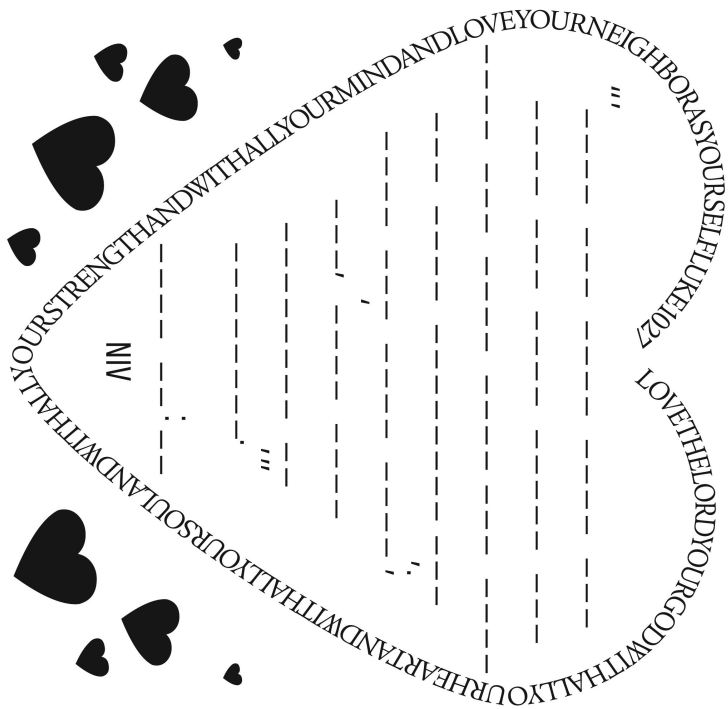


Faith – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with “Love,” write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.

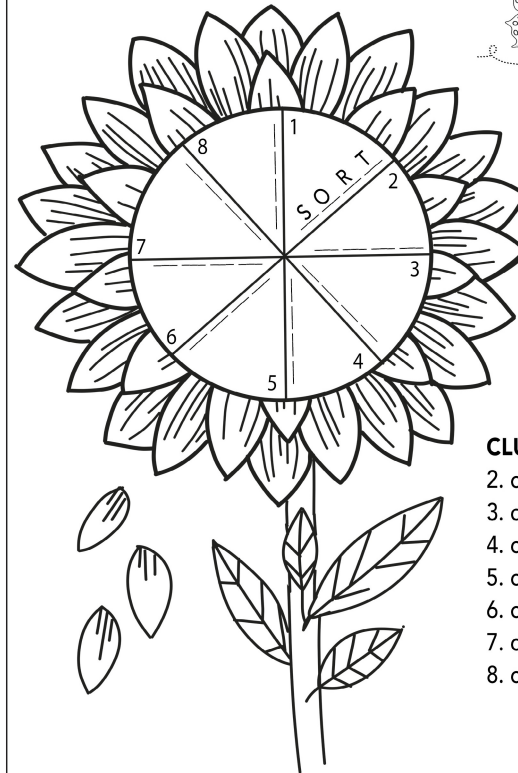


Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV

THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word.
Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this
(see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, move, love, we love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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