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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: Office Manager: Accompanist: Choir Director: Handbell Choir: Men of Grace: Church Council President: Council Vice President: **Council Secretary** Director of Inreach: Director of Outreach: Director of Upreach: Financial Secretary: Treasurer: Bd of Women President: Safety/Security Team: Sacristan: Facilities:

Tom Jacobson Beth Gilgien Sue Ellen Simmons Diane Christensen Becky Winegardner John Ulmer Carl Lahman Matt Sheridan **Diane** Christensen Linda Keaser Vicki Jones Casey Sigler Jackie Combs **Rick Rockwell** Cherl Haggenjos Jim Lewis Meg O'Reilly 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 Ten Commandments: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, or livestock, or anything that is your neighbor's. Exodus 20:17 ESV



The month of November is upon us once again, and with November comes the holiday called Thanksgiving. In the course of this year, I have reflected on the Ten Commandments given by God first to Moses in the Old Testament. Yet Christians realize that these commandments still have relevance for our lives, even if the context of ancient Israel is quite different than twenty-first century America. The Ten Commandments speak universal truths about our lives and the will of God. When we think about coveting, desiring to have something that is not ours, there is no better time of year on which to reflect on the concept than the month of Thanksgiving. God always calls upon us to recognize His gifts for us so that we would receive such gifts with thanksgiving. And when faith sees the abundance from God that is ours from His hand, this produces in us contentment.

As I mentioned in February of this year, Jews and various kinds of Christians have different ways of numbering the Ten Commandments. For many Christians, the commands regarding coveting are grouped together into the tenth and final commandment. The way that Lutherans and Roman Catholics number them, the prohibition against coveting is divided into two separate commandments. In the end, of course, it doesn't really matter. What matters is what these words say to us, how they communicate God's will to us. At first glance, it might seem a little redundant. We already have heard about commandments against adultery and stealing (the sixth and seventh commandments). So why do we need to hear about coveting? We already know that we shouldn't try to steal someone's property, which presumably includes their house. We already know that we should remain faithful to our own husbands and wives.

The way Martin Luther explained it in his *Large Catechism*, the commandments against coveting are meant for respectable, law-abiding people. It's obvious that God doesn't want us flagrantly to break the civil law by stealing or to commit adultery, and most of us don't. But that doesn't let us off the hook. Our sinful nature still remains, and these commandments are meant to remind us of that. They are meant to remind us that even though something might technically be legal in the eyes of the civil law, it can still be sinful. We are reminded that trying to obtain someone else's property even through legal means is a sign of our rebellious heart and not something God takes lightly. Rather, we are to look to the interests of others and help them keep what is theirs.

In some ways, these commandments against coveting bring us full circle from the first commandment. God calls us in that first commandment to acknowledge Him as the only true God of our lives. How easy it is to get distracted with "stuff" that we neglect the most important thing, which is our relationship with our Creator, who loves us dearly. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Him and what He has so richly lavished on us, that we are filled with thanksgiving for what we *do* have.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Worship In November

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

Sunday, Nov. 3 - All Saints Sunday

☆ Annual Congregational Meeting 9:15am
 Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24
 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44

Sunday, Nov. 10 - Thankoffering Sunday

 1 Kings 17:8-16
 Psalm 146

 Hebrews 9:24-28
 Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, Nov. 17 - 26 Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Mark 13:1-8

Sunday, Nov. 24 - Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37





September's Vital Signs Average Worship Attendance - 141 8:00am - 34 10:30am - 107

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes October 8, 2024

Present: Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (President), Matt Sheridan (Vice President), Diane Christensen (Secretary), Rick Rockwell (Treasurer), Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator), Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator), Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

- 1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Tom Jacobson
- 2. Pastor's Report Pastor Tom Jacobson
- Worship:
 - Children's messages on most Sundays
 - Now using LBW Setting 2 until end of church year
 - Had blessing of quilts on October 6
- Pastoral acts:
 - None since previous month
 - Working with a couple of individuals on membership and baptism
- "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles have begun and are available on my blog, usually one per week: https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/
 - 42 have been completed
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
- Spiritual Book Discussion this fall
 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Letters and Papers from Prison" to go along with upcoming movie (in November) about his life
 - Reading can begin immediately, but will have a first meeting time (briefly) after church on October 20; will have a final meeting to discuss either in January.
- Grace Lutheran hosting NALC event (Note: The October 19th event has been canceled)
 - October 18 (Friday): Interim pastor training from 12:00 to 5:00
 - Simply need to provide space and some snacks
- New confirmation class started on September 8
 - Requirements for the previous class have been fulfilled, and Oct. 27 will be confirmation Sunday for those students

- New class is going well
- Christmas hymn sing and dessert mid to late December, possibly inviting the community
 - Will look into this more as it gets closer
- Video devotion
 - Have begun doing a brief video devotion every other week or so and posting it to YouTube and Facebook
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup was held on October 5
 - Total of seven participants
- LifeWise Academy is expanding to offer a class for the Middle School sixth graders
 - To be held at the South Shore Ministries Church, with bus transportation
 - Asking local churches for financial help to offer the sixth grade program
- Will be at Lutheran Historical Conference in Baltimore, MD from October 10-13, so will be gone that Sunday
 - Pr. Theresa will preach and preside
- For final Sunday off in 2024, will be gone December 29
 - Have sent out an email asking for pastoral coverage that Sunday
 - None that have been contacted are available
- NALC Disaster Response
 - "Stuff the Truck" event on November 3 at St. John's Lutheran, Grove City
- 3. Inreach Ministry Report Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)
- Adventures in Faith (AIF)/Sunday School (SS) (Sunday's 9:15-10:15 am)
 - The AIF/SS mission project "One Plus God" is off to a good start as we share what we have with others through our AIF/SS offerings.
 - The Adventures in Faith classes will hold a Christmas Pageant "A Prophet Foretold the Messiah" between services on Sunday, December 22. Rehearsals will be held during AIF time.
- Women of the North American Lutheran Church
 - October 18th Interim Pastor Training (provide snacks)
 - November 10th Thankoffering Service Sunday (collecting

nonperishable items for our local food pantries)

- October 27th WNALC Board at Grace encourages all to participate in the "Stuff the Truck" for the NALC Disaster Response whether items or gift cards. The Grace WNALC will also be sending gift cards from their budget.
- December 14th Grace WNALC "Circle Up" 10 am 1 pm in the Franks Fellowship Hall for a Christmas gathering with lunch.

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

- Thank you to all those that helped and volunteered their time to work in our booth at the Backwoods Fest this year! We had another successful year! Will have more info soon.
- The youth will be holding their 2nd Annual Pie Bake Sale in our church parking lot during the Country Fair on Sunday Oct 20th. This year's proceeds will be donated to fellow Sheridan High student Alicia Finck who was in a car accident in June and is dealing with ongoing medical conditions and expenses. We may also have Brewholders set up in the parking lot selling beverages and a portion of their proceeds will be donated to Alicia Finck for her medical expenses as well.
- Thursday Oct 31st will be our Annual Party in the Parking Lot with DJ Kurtus Nichols. We will be passing out candy, popcorn and hot chocolate from 6pm-8pm.
- November Thanksgiving Themed Lock-in. Details coming in the next couple weeks
- December Youth Meeting with mission activity and possible movie. Date and details to be announced soon.
- December An exciting event for all members to attend!!! Details soon!!
- December "It's a Wonderful Life" Christmas Celebration in Thornville
- 4. Outreach Ministry Report Vicki Jones (Outreach Leader)
- Backpack Ministry is now serving 47 students (SMS 24 & Thornville Elementary 23) each week. Food and monetary donations are always welcome. They are also in need of plastic shopping bags.
- The Lutheran World Relief is expanding. Quilts will now

comfort families here in the U.S. and abroad.

- Adopt-a-Highway clean up took place on October 5. Thank you to all who helped clean up our adopted section of state route 13.
- We are in need of non-perishable food items to help keep our Blessing Box stocked.
- 5. Upreach Ministry Report Casey Sigler (Upreach Leader)
- Volunteers are always needed for Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors and Communion Assistants. Please contact Casey Sigler if you have any questions or concerns.
- 6. Treasurer's Report Rick Rockwell, Treasurer
- 2025 Budget (Draft for Budget Forum) discussed.
 - Motion to accept draft. Motion: Matt Sheridan, Second: Vicki Jones. Motion passed.
- 7. Facilities Report Dave Rodebaugh, Facilities Coordinator
- Reattached the counter edge on the island in the kitchen.
- Added molding along the window drywall in the prayer room.
- Patched the carpet where the previous bench was in the prayer room.
- Attached the church's address number (65), above the main entrance door, to help visitors find our location.
- Found out that the bees at the parsonage are not in the attic. Bees are still behind the vinyl siding. Talked to the Beekeeper Association and showed them a photo of the bees. They believe they are yellow jackets. If so, they will die at first frost.

8. Old Business

- <u>Parking issue</u>: It was brought to the attention of council that neighbors have been parking in the church parking lot on Sunday mornings, making it challenging for some to find a parking spot close to the church entrance. One of the neighbors has been asked to not park in the church's parking lot on Sundays. Council discussed and decided to wait and see if the issue improves before putting up a sign at the entrance of the parking lot.
- <u>Winnie and Raymond King estate</u>: The King family gave a

generous memorial gift to Grace. Council discussed a proposal by Pastor Tom to use part of the memorial money for a new hymnal project that would be available to other congregations as well. At this time, it was decided to wait until the time when the project is ready to be funded.

9. New Business

- Memorial Resource Box: Recently, an idea was presented to build a library book resource box next to the Blessing Box. Its primary purpose would be to spread the Word with various age-appropriate resources. Council discussed and agreed it was a great idea.
 - Motion to move ahead and approve \$800 for building the new box, including cost of literature to fill the box. Motion: Rick Rockwell, Second: Casey Sigler. Motion passed.
- Elementary school request: The principal of the elementary school, Jay Hickman, has requested that Grace be available as a shelter for the elementary school, in the event of a lockdown. In general, this means that the students, teachers and staff would use the sanctuary and upstairs classrooms for different grades to occupy until parents can pick them up. Council discussed and agreed to be a shelter for the elementary school in case of an emergency. Further discussions will need to clarify exactly the situations for the need of a shelter and the plan as to how this would happen, including if there was to be a practice emergency drill.

10. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

11. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: November 12, 2024 - 7 pm

Coming soon:

- October 13: Budget Forum (9:15 am)
- November 3: Annual Congregational Meeting (9:15 am)

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)



Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 9:15 am in the sanctuary

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome / Objectives Carl Lahman (Council President)
- 2. Confirm quorum / Call to Order
- 3. Opening prayer
- 4. Council president's opening remarks
- 5. Approve minutes from last year's Annual Meeting
- 6. Budget Review Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)
- 7. Ballot: Elect Council Members and Approve Budget
- 8. Ministry Updates
- 9. Voting Results
- 10. Closing comments / prayer Pastor Tom Jacobson
- 11. Motion to adjourn meeting



Women of the NALC Grace Lutheran Church — Thornville, Ohio October 7, 2024

Members Present: Valinda Arnold, Marian DeRolph, Kaye Smith, Linda Keaser /Absent: Cherl Haggenjos, Theresa Jacobson, Anna Oberhauser.

Linda called the meeting to order 10:15 am and led devotions based on 1 John 3:17 & Matthew 25:45 which reminds us to not just love by our words but also with actions.

The Purpose Statement was read by all.

Secretary's Report: The August 19, 2024 minutes were reviewed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Marian reported expenses of \$285.87 for rent of the Thornville Park Shelter, chicken that was provided along with other supplies needed for the church picnic on September 15.
- Current balance: \$3,631.71.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Special thanks to Kaye Smith (picnic coordinator) and everyone who helped and or attended the church picnic. Our hope is to make this an annual event.
- We need a number count for the Interim Training and RESET events on October 18th & 19th events for snacks and lunch. Pastor Tom is checking with the coordinator.
- The November 10th Thankoffering Service was discussed, working on volunteers to serve as lectors and greeters.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mission projects were discussed. With the recent hurricane disaster, we agree to encourage support the NALC Disaster Response "Stuff the Truck" that will be collecting items at Grace through October 28th and will be sending gift cards from our budget to help with their recovery.
- A gathering of both circles to end yet another year will be held December 7th from 10am-1pm for fun. fellowship, lunch, and service (Christmas gifts for our homebound members).

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next scheduled guarterly board meeting will be held on January 13, 2025 at 10 am.

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



What is the significance of such baptizing with water? It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil desires, should be drowned by daily repentance and sorrow for sin and be put to death, and that the new person should come forth every day and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

Saint Paul says in Romans, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4 ESV).

A Day for the Saints

All Saints' Day is November 1 each year. The word saint comes from the Latin word sanctus and refers to the holy - that is, "set apart for the service of God." The New Testament considers all Christians as saints (see 1 Corinthians 1:2, NRSV). Therefore, the first Sunday of November is celebrated as All Saints Sunday, a day to pay tribute to those members and loved ones who have received God's gift of eternal life during the past twelve months.

> Gregory Dennis Thomas 11/12/1953 - 12/8/2023

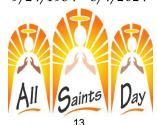
Linda L. Dittoe 3/26/1961 - 3/12/2024

Donna Lynn Winegardner 12/19/1970 - 4/21/2024

> Larry Atlee Arnold 7/23/1943 - 5/11/2024

James P. Harrison, II 4/20/1968 - 7/5/2024

Firl Junior Crist 9/24/1934 - 8/4/2024





Sunday, November 10th is Thankoffering Sunday. Please bring non-perishables and place them on the table in the atrium entrance. The bounty will be split between the Glenford, Thornville and Millersport food pantries.



Shut-Ins

During the holiday season, we remember our homebound and nursing home members. We would like to have a card shower for each of them. (Please consider adding these folks to your greeting cards list for Thanksgiving and Christmas.)

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

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

Kathy Aberegg Crossroad Manor 500 C Eldridge Place Hebron OH 43025

Sue Cottrill 13687 Rosewood Rd. NE Thornville OH 43076

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

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

> ds for the Tomeboynd

Margaret Winegardner 112 Foster Dr. Thornville OH 43076

Irene Forsythe 9975 Twp. Rd. 37 NW Thornville, OH 43076

Pat K'Miller 11397 Bruno Road Thornville, OH 43076

Carol Cormican 5406 Davis Drive SE Newark OH 43056

Keith Stought 2297 Musser Rd NE Baltimore OH 43105

John Lutz 10425 Lake Rd. NE Millersport OH 43046

Vivian Crist Altercare of Thornville 14100 Zion Road Thornville, OH 43076

Thanksgiving Worship Service Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Please join us in giving thanks for the many blessings we all share.

While Thanksgiving is actually a national holiday, it is one which goes back to the traditions underlying the founding of this nation...one



nation under God...and it is appropriate that we gather yearly in observance of this special day.



We will gather here on Saturday, November 30, at 8:30am to decorate the church for the Christmas season. Many volunteers needed! All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Kelly O'Reilly 740-973-3158. Many thanks to Kelly for being our key decorator for 35+ years!!

Heartbeats Update – October 2024 Banquet

"One of the greatest gifts you can give to this mission is your engagement," shared Executive Director Liz McCullough. "We have always appreciated and admired that our supporters don't see abortion as someone else's fight, but as your own...a personal call of duty."

With new guests and long-time supporters, we united this season as Ohio faces a critical challenge—the passage of the abortion ballot initiative last fall, which expanded abortion access in our state. The wall of protection that once safeguarded women and their unborn babies has been decimated. An attempt to dismantle every pro-life law is underway.

The work of pregnancy centers like Heartbeats is essential in this time of crisis. We've experienced a **36% increase** in undecided and abortion-minded women seeking our services, the need is great.

The Benham Brothers' keynote address at this year's event was a truly electrifying moment. Their dynamic energy, combined with their unwavering commitment to Biblical truth, reminded us all that being light in the world often comes with great sacrifice. They recounted their journey of rising to national prominence, only to face a sudden fall due to their unshakable stand for their Christian values. Rather than retreat, they embraced their calling even more fiercely, using the platform God was building to spread the message of life, faith, and freedom.

As we look to 2025, our strategic plan is grounded in a powerful truth from Nehemiah 2:20, "The God of Heaven will prosper us, and we His servants will arise and build." These words, spoken as God's people rebuilt their city walls in the face of opposition, resonate deeply with us today. We, too, are called to rebuild a culture of life here in Ohio.

Please continue to pray and remain engaged as we move forward in this vital mission to protect and cherish every human life both in the womb and in strong families! Stay tuned for more event updates to come!

LifeWise Academy

The weather is changing! We have had lots of asks about where to get a sweatshirt. Here ya go. Now's your chance to get your LifeWise merch while supporting your local LifeWise program.

CODE: northernlocaloh@lifewise.org

Use code

Northern Local.



We are excited to offer an apparel fundraiser for **LifeWise Northern Local** on October 21st- November 4th!



♬ My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns ♬

Pr. Tom is providing 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

7. I Walk in Danger 8. Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain 9. Glory Be to Jesus 10 Near the Cross 11 Ah. Holv 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

Thornville Community Christmas Aid

Once again, Thornville's Community Aid is collecting names of families in the Thorn Township area in need of assistance this Christmas. If you know of any family, please contact either Ginny at 740-246-6448, Beth at 740-242-5350, or Terrie at 740-403-3956.

If you would like to donate, some of the much needed items are adult men's gloves, youth boys and girls gloves and hats, and socks for all ages.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Thornville Community Aid and mail to P.O. Box 433, Thornville, OH 43076.

Thank you for your interest and concern in helping these children have a brighter, happier Christmas. May God bless you all.

Look for the Mitten Tree in the gathering space. This is



Grace's collection spot for donations to this ministry. Deadline to receive your donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, coats, socks, hats, toys, games, etc. is in early December to give the "helper elves" time to wrap and distribute the gifts.



BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

Psalm 145:8 Job 36:5 Psalm 90:2 2 Peter 3:9 1 Thessalonians 5:24 Isaiah 40:25	SGAICURO HGIYMT LTAVREENISG INETTPA FUFHIATL OYHL	
Help me, Lord myod; saveeccordingo your un_ailing lve. Psalm 109:26, NIV		

Answers: gracious, mighty, eventasting, patient, holy; Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your untailing love. Pasim 20; 26, NIV



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 Thornville OH 43076

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 740-246-6576 www.gracethornville.org office@gracethornville.org