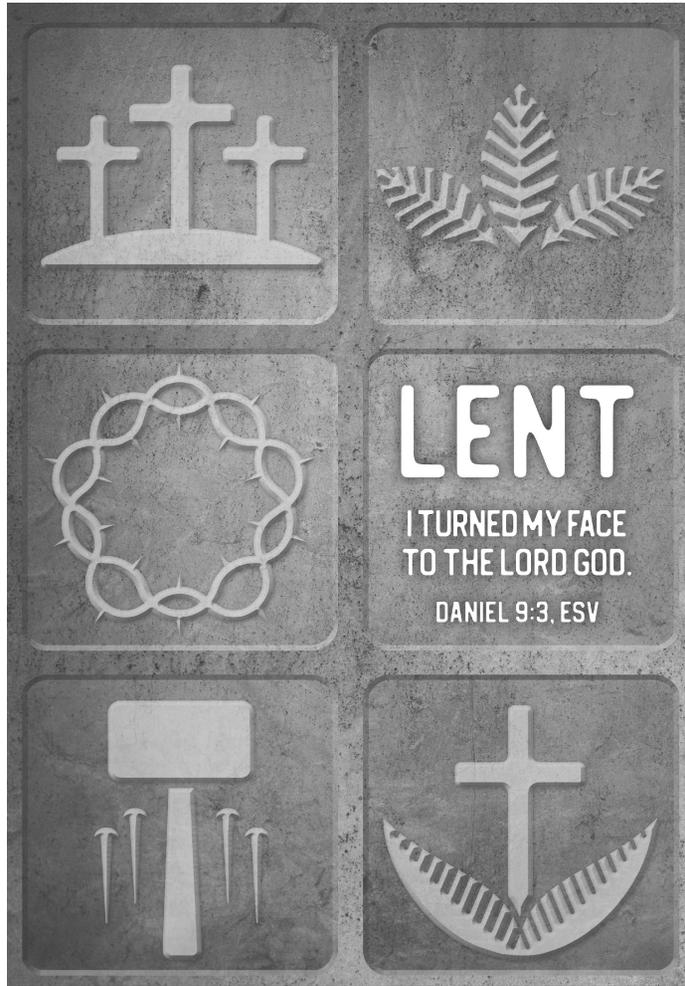


# The Grapevine

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

## March 2022



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me bear much fruit..."

## Grace Lutheran Church



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

### Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson 740-242-2192
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien 740-398-4502
Organist:	Sue Ellen Simmons 740-605-1530
Choir Director:	Diane Christensen 740-215-2396
Handbell Choir:	Becky Winegardner 740-467-3164
Men of Grace:	John Ulmer 740-246-6626
Church Council President:	Paul Moentmann 440-728-7067
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873
Council Secretary:	Jeni Lahman 614-371-4851
Director of Inreach:	Amber Feyh 740-415-5955
Director of Outreach:	Jeff Stought 740-407-0617
Director of Upreach:	Kelly O'Reilly 740-928-7626
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs 740-246-4751
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241
Bd of Women President:	Cherl Haggengjos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Bob Reynolds 630-698-0457
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Facilities:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639

*Please call the church office with regard to any of the following:  
Hospitalizations; Baptisms; Confirmation; Weddings;  
First Communion; Spiritual Counseling; Prayer Concerns*

## Forty Days

*And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days. – Luke 4:1-2 ESV*



The time has arrived once again for the season of Lent. In these weeks preceding Easter, churches of our liturgical type take on a more somber tone. We dress the church up in purple. We talk more about fasting, sin, and repentance. We use symbols associated with the suffering of Jesus. And as is the custom in many places, we remove the word "alleluia" from worship. This word "alleluia" just means "praise the Lord." In Lent, the focus is not on praise, but on God's call to turn to Him and be renewed.

In the Bible, there are certain numbers that keep popping up. One of those is the number seven (7), which has to do with wholeness and completeness. Another is the number twelve (12). God's people of Israel were divided into twelve tribes. Jesus chose twelve apostles. But another is the number forty (40). Forty is often used as a number to describe a full and complete reign of a king. More familiar might be the flood Noah experienced, described in Genesis chapters 6-9, which lasted for forty days and forty nights. More relevant for the season of Lent, the Israelite people wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering the Promised Land. During that time, which you can read about in the books of Exodus and Numbers, Moses and the Israelites faced temptation. They often failed and looked to God for mercy.

So when Jesus came on the scene hundreds of years later, it's no mere coincidence that he was tempted for forty days and forty nights. After his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into

the wilderness, and there he faced the assault of the devil, trying to trick him into abandoning his mission and instead take the easy way out. But each time, Jesus refused.

The season of Lent lasts for forty days, not including the Sundays. These forty days symbolize the forty days that our Lord Jesus faced temptation. In the life of the Christian Church, this season was designed to remind the faithful of the reality of temptation in their own lives and of the importance of vigilance in prayer and devotion.

As Jesus fasted (went without food) for those forty days and nights, it is common for Christians to fast during this season by "giving something up for Lent." Common things that people try to ditch for Lent include chocolate, television, and even social media. Last year, I gave up Facebook for Lent, and I will probably do so again this year.

But it's not only about giving things up. Lent is also an invitation to add things into our life that were missing before, chief among them prayer and more consistency with it. Another thing to consider is almsgiving, contributing to the needs of others and the world. When we develop those habits, we find our life changed in relationship with God.

To be honest, I've always had mixed feelings about the season of Lent. I like this time of year, especially the worship and hymns. But especially as a Lutheran, placing so much emphasis on what we as human beings do makes me uncomfortable. After all, our faith is not about what we do to please God. Rather, it is about God's graciousness to us through the gift of His Son.

So what is Lent all about for us? How do we understand fasting? Unfortunately, a practice like fasting from certain things can be understood in the wrong way. "Giving something up for

Lent" can turn into a silly game of self-improvement or more harmfully the idea that our spiritual practices earn us favor in the sight of God.

We do not earn points with God by giving something up for Lent. The idea behind it is that when we experience a desire for something that we cannot have, it is a reminder to pray to the God who loves us. This does take discipline. Fasting and prayer have been a part of Christian life from the earliest days.

Lent is also not meant to be a legalistic list of things you can and can't do during these forty days. Certainly, we can praise God anytime, and we should. But Lent is a reminder that our faith vocabulary needs to be more than just "alleluia." Praising God is great. But we also need to learn to express our faith in different ways. There are times in life when we don't feel like or can't praise God. There are times in life when we find ourselves down, when we need to repent, to seek God's mercy.

The reality is that the sinful world around us can be harmful. Like Jesus did, we face temptation daily. Lent is a call for us to remember the reality of our situation, our mortality, and our weakness. But it is also a call to remember God who is strong on our behalf, who held nothing back in the gift of His Son, who wins for us the ultimate victory and gives us mortals, who are but dust and ashes, the hope of everlasting life.

From the great Danish Lutheran hymn writer Thomas Kingo (1634-1703 A.D.):

*On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace, that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase; let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me, is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation. (Lutheran Book of Worship, 102)*

*Thomas E. Jacobson*  
Pr. Tom Jacobson

## ♣ Worship In March ♣

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

### ☆ **Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday**

Soup Supper at 6:00pm; Worship at 7:00pm

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Sunday, March 6 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

### ☆ **Wednesday, March 9**

Soup Supper 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm

### **Sunday, March 13 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;

Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

### ☆ **Wednesday, March 16**

Soup Supper 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm

### **Sunday, March 20 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;

1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

### ☆ **Wednesday, March 23**

Soup Supper 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm

### **Sunday, March 27 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;

2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### ☆ **Wednesday, March 30**

Soup Supper 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm

## Church Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2022 7:00 PM

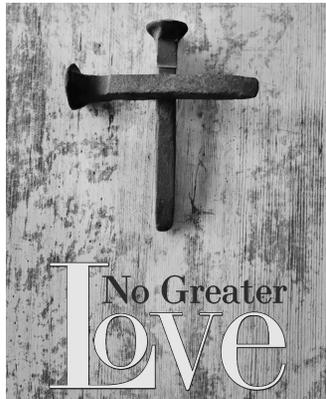
### From Martin Luther's Small Catechism The Ten Commandments

#### *The Second Commandment*

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,  
for the Lord will not hold guiltless those who take  
his name in vain.

#### *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not use  
his name superstitiously or to curse, swear, lie,  
or deceive, but call upon him in every time of need,  
and worship him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.



#### January's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 118  
8:00am - 28    10:30am - 90

Present: Paul Moentmann, Matt Sheridan, Jeni Lahman, Kelly O'Reilly, Rick Rockwell, Jeff Stought, Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (guest)

Opening Prayer: Prayer was offered by Pastor Tom Jacobson  
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Paul Moentmann

#### Ministry Directory and Facilities Committee

- Carl Lahman handed out a draft of a Ministry Directory for council's review. The purpose of the directory is to highlight Grace's ministries and to help members, visitors and new members discover how God may be calling them to serve.
- Carl also updated council on current maintenance projects. A Facilities Maintenance Log was passed out which highlighted both church and parsonage projects. Council suggested that Carl provide a monthly update to council and also a summary for the monthly Gracevine newsletter.

#### Pastor's Report

- Pastor reported that his trip to Orlando for the NALC Pastor's Conference was good. There was a good turnout and Pastor Tom was one of the presenters. He mentioned that the NALC logo will be changing.
- A meeting was held with Diane Christensen, Sue Ellen Simmons, Kate Simmons, Kelly O'Reilly, Cherl Haggengjos, and Becky Winegardner to go over some worship and music changes.
- Future plans are to have evening prayer services on Wednesday evening.
- An Easter Vigil service is being planned for the Saturday before Easter.
- The Confirmation Class is going well. We have five students in the class.

- Since offering plates are not passed in the pews, it will be announced that all Connection Cards can be passed to the center of the isle and an usher will collect them after the offering plates have been placed on the altar.
- Made a hospital visit in Lancaster.
- Attended the women's Friendship Circle gathering.
- This month's youth meeting was held at the parsonage during the Super Bowl game.
- Karen Lewis has been working on reorganizing the library and pastor has some books to add.
- He is very pleased that there will be 25 people attending the first Cottage Gathering.

#### Upreach/Worship Renewal

- The Worship Renewal Task Force met on 2/20/2022 to review construction plans and to prepare for a meeting on 2/28/2022 with the contractors to review these plans.
- The sound system is not working properly. A review will be made to see what needs to be done to correct the issues.
- Pastor Tom will be meeting with the assisting ministers to review how things are to be done and whether any changes need to be made.

#### Inreach/AIF

- Lifetouch will begin taking pictures of members of Grace for our Photo Directory on Saturday, September 24th. Members will be asked to sign-up. Members not signed up will be contacted.
- Adventure in Faith is currently one group. Plans are to return to classes grouped by age as we get teachers.

#### Outreach

- Manna Monday will start again on April 25th.
- VBS is scheduled for the week of June 13th.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Rick reported that financials are in good shape

#### Old Business

- Covid-19 response: for now, we will continue to do what we have been doing.

#### New Business

- Paul reported that we're working on a plaque to recognize the significant gift given by the Franks following the last remodel.

Adjourn - Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: 3/21/2022

Respectfully submitted, Jeni Lahman, secretary

#### Our stain remover

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The good news is that with one "application" (the cross), Jesus makes us "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!

# Worship Renewal Capital Campaign

We're to the point in the project where we need to begin the discussion around fundraising.

We'll be having several temple-talks over the next couple of months at the beginning of service followed by Q&A sessions after service to discuss current plans and answer any questions regarding the project and capital campaign.

We won't be collecting any money initially since the project hasn't been approved. We just need to get an indication of our ability to raise a down payment and then to pay on a mortgage. We'll want to know this before approving the project to move forward. – Worship Renewal Task Force

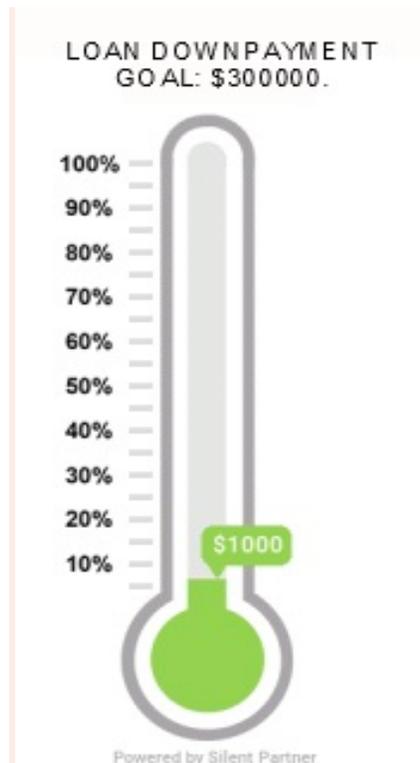


## FACILITIES UPDATE

On February 26, the newly formed Facilities Team met for the first time to discuss the maintenance needs of both the church and parsonage.

Highlights of that meeting:

1. It was decided that due to the heart attack of Beth Gilgien, we will seek to find volunteers to do some basic janitorial duties. Depending on how long Beth will be out, we may need to find a temporary person to do the janitorial duties. We are asking all members of Grace to help us keep our church as clean as possible.
2. A church spring cleaning day has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9th, from 8am to noon.
3. Prior to the spring-cleaning day, our goal is to reorganize as many storage rooms and class rooms as possible. This means we need to identify what can be thrown away, what can be donated or sold and what needs to be kept. This will be a major task! As a result, we will need help from the congregation to accomplish this goal.
4. A Facilities Maintenance Log has been created to keep track of things that need to be fixed or replaced. Some noteworthy items are:



- Replace an AC unit for the Fellowship Hall.
- Repair a furnace unit.
- Fix electrical range hood above stove in kitchen.
- Fix some electrical light fixtures.
- Fix or replace one or two windows at the parsonage to prevent the window sash from dropping on a child.

Items completed include:

- Fixed roof leak
- Installed door closer
- Installed pull handles on inside of bell tower
- Replaced window blinds at the parsonage with cordless blinds.
- Installed some grab bars in two bathrooms at the parsonage.

If anyone has any questions, please contact anyone on the Facilities Team: Carl Lahman (coordinator), Paul Moentmann, Pete Oberhauser, Kelly O'Reilly, Beth Raab, Bob Reynolds, Sue Ellen Simmons.

## CHURCH SPRING CLEANING DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>



On April 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting from 8am to noon to spruce up the church, both inside and outside. There are jobs for people of all abilities, some example jobs: cleaning windows, floors, bathrooms, dusting; spreading

mulch, cleaning up flower beds. Many hands make light work, please join us if you can! Breakfast will be served. If you have questions, contact Carl Lahman at [carllahman@gmail.com](mailto:carllahman@gmail.com) or 614-329-8639.

An invitation for a 50th Anniversary Celebration. The top features a decorative floral border. Below it, the text reads "JOIN US FOR A 50th Anniversary CELEBRATION". The date and time are "March 19th, 1-5pm". The address is "5017 Stagecoach Road, Somerset, Ohio 43783". At the bottom, the names "Patty &amp; Paul Jenny" are written in a large, elegant script font, also framed by a decorative floral border.



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH  
 Consolidated Fund Activity Report for January 2022  
 Saturday, February 12, 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	End Balance
3.100.000	General Fund	90,856	20,934	19,048	0	92,743
3.220.000	Improvement Fund	2,057	0	0	0	2,057
3.300.000	Mission Fund	2,593	2,157	0	0	4,749
3.320.000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	4,203	0	0	0	4,203
3.400.000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3.420.000	Capital Campaign Fund	30,908	668	5,200	0	26,376
3.500.000	Adventures In Faith Fund	607	0	0	0	607
3.510.000	Vamer Scholarship Fund	2,128	80	0	0	2,208
3.520.000	Library Fund	33	0	0	0	33
3.600.000	Parament Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3.610.000	Handbell Fund	320	0	0	0	320
3.620.000	Flower Fund	897	0	0	0	897
3.630.000	Choir Fund	1,758	0	0	0	1,758
3.740.000	Backpack Ministry Fund	25,976	1,005	436	0	26,545
3.900.000	Memorial Fund	19,130	0	0	0	19,130
3.920.000	KFC Youth Fund Balance	6,182	0	0	0	6,182
3.925.000	KFROGs Fund Balance	10,156	0	0	0	10,156
3.950.000	Investment Fund Balance	138,883	0	0	0	138,883
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$347,702</b>	<b>\$24,844</b>	<b>\$24,684</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$347,861</b>

General Fund Budget vs Budget for January	26,478	26,478	Net	0
	-5,543	-7,429		1,886

**Celebrate Earth Day! April 25, 2022 at Mount Aloysius, 10-2pm!**

Featuring: Interactive fun learning stations! School awards & presentations! Bring your zero waste lunch picnic! Special feature presentation by Tom Noll, Children's author! Grand Finale concert with the Banana Slug String Band, all the way from California!

A SPECIAL Partnership Community Event! Made possible by contributions from local organizations!

School Contest!!!! To be featured & recognized at Earth Day 2022!

**All Schools in Perry County!**

- Green School Challenge! \$700 grant! Funded by WM, Inc!  
 Due: April 15, 2022

All programs coordinated by Perry County Waste Reduction & Recycling. Need more INFO?

[www.perryrecycling.com](http://www.perryrecycling.com)

Contact Katrina Carpenter for details!

[kcarpenter@perrycountyohio.net](mailto:kcarpenter@perrycountyohio.net) 740-721-0765

Seek us out on FB! IG! Snapchat! Twitter!

*Sharing education for the good of future generations!*

## Cultivating kindness

Kind hearts are the gardens.  
 Kind thoughts are the roots.  
 Kind words are the flowers.  
 Kind deeds are the fruits.



Take care of your garden  
 and keep out the weeds.  
 Fill it with sunshine,  
 kind words and kind deeds.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



## *A wonderous washing*

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

*Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.*

- |                   |       |  |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| ETRCAE _ _ _ _ _  | _____ | out my transgressions (v. 1)               |
| HSAW _ _ _ _      | _____ | away all my iniquity (v. 2)                |
| RSEEROT _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7) |
| WNERE _ _ _ _ _   | _____ | me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)  |
| TLBO _ _ _ _      | _____ | your face from my sins (v. 9)              |
| DIHE _ _ _ _      | _____ | out all my iniquity (v. 9)                 |
| NATRG _ _ _ _     | _____ | in me a pure heart (v. 10)                 |
| LNSECAE _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)       |
| LBTO _ _ _ _      | _____ | to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)    |
| WHSA _ _ _ _      | _____ | me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12) |

Answer: blot, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant

*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.

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**Grace Lutheran Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED