

The Gracevine

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

OCTOBER 2024



Reformation Sunday

Therefore, since we have
been justified through
faith, we have peace with
God through our Lord Jesus
Christ, through whom we
have gained access by faith
into this grace in which we
now stand.



OCTOBER 27, 2024

Matthew 5:1-2, 11-12

Grace Lutheran Church



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

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Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien
Accompanist:	Sue Ellen Simmons
Choir Director:	Diane Christensen
Handbell Choir:	Becky Winegardner
Men of Grace:	John Ulmer
Church Council President:	Carl Lahman
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan
Council Secretary:	Diane Christensen
Director of Inreach:	Linda Keaser
Director of Outreach:	Vicki Jones
Director of Upreach:	Casey Sigler
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs
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

The Ten Commandments: The Eighth Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.



All of the Ten Commandments that we have explored thus far in the year 2024 are relevant for our lives today, as we have seen. But I have to admit that this Eighth Commandment hits home for me personally more than any other. In the Bible, there are many warnings about the power of the human tongue. In other words, the words that we speak have power, and we need to be careful how we use those words. As I talked about in my sermon on September 15, the New Testament letter of James says this in the third chapter:

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness...It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so (James 3).

When I think back on the things I regret most in life, almost all of those things have to do with something I said. From my “mouthing off” to teachers to my hurtful words directed at others close to me, I know that the words of James in the Bible are true. By this commandment, God searches our hearts. We know that we are sinful and unclean. It is much more exciting for us to hear gossip about someone else than to hear something positive. Perhaps negative news about someone else has the ability to make us feel better about ourselves? Martin Luther described it in the following way in his *Large Catechism*:

It is a common vice of human nature that everyone would rather hear evil than good about his neighbor. Evil though we are, we cannot tolerate having evil spoken of us; we want the golden compliments of the whole world. Yet we cannot bear to hear the best spoken of others.

Our personal reputations are important to our well-being, just as our physical well-being and personal property are. God knows that our words can harm other people and therefore the world at large, and so this Eighth Commandment addresses how we speak. Martin Luther’s brief explanation of the Eighth Commandment in his *Small Catechism* goes as follows:

We should fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, lie, or gossip about our neighbors, but defend them, speak well of them, and put the most charitable construction on all that they do.

Understanding this Eighth Commandment in the right way is challenging. Sometimes people get the idea that Christians are never supposed to speak about anything controversial. This is not true. There are some circumstances where we as Christian people should speak about others, but we need to exercise care in doing so.

The way Luther talks about it, when we hear about someone else’s sin, we should remain silent about it or follow the proper procedure for dealing with it. There is a good chance that what we have heard is not true. Even if we know something to be true about someone else, we should first confront the person directly about it, and, if appropriate, report such activity to the proper authorities. Judges, rulers, and witnesses are appointed by God to deal with such matters. Outside of this, our own tongues can easily spread false information and can destroy lives. We should seek to

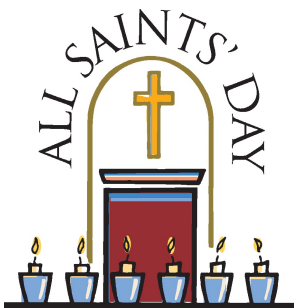
“put the most charitable construction” on things that we hear about others, at least until the full truth is revealed.

On the other hand, this Eighth Commandment has sometimes been used as a license for people to adopt an indifferent attitude toward life, as though there really is no such thing as right or wrong and we should just “accept everything.” But this is not the meaning of this commandment. Luther points out that when a situation is very public and visible, we should feel free to address the situation. In Luther’s own life, when he saw false teachings threatening the truth of the faith, he did not hesitate to speak. When we look at the world around us and the many harmful things that seek to tempt us, we also should not hesitate to, respectfully of course, “call a thing what it really is.”

Our words have power, and so we pray that God would help us to tame our tongues and use them in the right way.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on **Nov. 3rd**. It is a day we pay tribute to those members and loved ones who have received God's gift of eternal life during the past twelve months. If you would like to bring in one or two pictures of your loved one(s) in a stand-up frame (include their name), before that Sunday, the pictures will be displayed in the altar area. Candles will be lit in their memory.

Greetings everyone!

Last fall, I started this "Spiritual Book Discussion Group" at Grace, and we read the book "Silence." I had originally thought we might read a couple of books a year, but as they say, "life happens," and other things prevented me from doing a book in the spring. So, it's probably more realistic to do one book a year.



Now that the fall is in full swing, I wanted to touch base with you about a new book that I think will work well. It is called "Letters and Papers from Prison" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. You might be familiar with his name, as he was a Lutheran pastor in Germany during the Nazi era, and he became involved with the group of conspirators who tried to get rid of Hitler and negotiate a peace with the Allies during World War II. I will say more about his life when we have a chance to meet, but this book is a compilation of his letters and other writings while he was imprisoned by the Nazis. It is regarded as a "Christian classic."

There is an expanded edition of this book, with the ISBN number 0-684-83827-3. I would imagine you could obtain a copy on Amazon or elsewhere. This is very informal. If you want to participate, you can get a copy and start reading anytime.

A sign up sheet is available in the gathering space for those interested. Please leave the email you would like to use, and Pr. Tom will email the group with details.

Thanks, and let me know if you have any questions!
Pr. Tom Jacobson

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

Sunday, Oct. 6 - 20 Pentecost

Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 8
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, Oct. 13 - 21 Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17
Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, Oct. 20 - 22 Pentecost

Isaiah 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16
Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Reformation Sunday

Confirmation at 10:30 Service

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36



August's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 126
8:00am - 34 10:30am - 92



**Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 10, 2024**

Present: Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (President), Matt Sheridan (Vice Pres.), Diane Christensen (Secretary), Rick Rockwell (Treasurer), Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator), Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator). Absent: 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
- Pastoral acts:
 - Graveside service for Ronald Fulk (brother of Travis Hupp) on August 16
 - Memorial service for James Harrison on August 17
 - "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles have begun and are available on my blog, usually one per week: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/>
 - 37 have been completed
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
- Spiritual Book Discussion this fall
 - Sent out message to last year's participants
 - Will be reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Letters and Papers from Prison" to go along with upcoming movie (in November) about his life
 - Reading can begin immediately, first meeting to be determined, then will have a final meeting to discuss either in December or January
- The NALC will be offering and two events in October, and Grace Lutheran has agreed to host them:
 - October 18 (Friday): Interim pastor training from 12-5:00

- Simply need to provide space and some snacks
 - October 19 (Saturday): RESET event, focused on church finances and stewardship, giving
 - All day, women have agreed to provide lunch; have asked for more concrete numbers
 - New confirmation class started on September 8
 - Requirements for the previous class have been fulfilled, and October 27 will be confirmation Sunday for those students
 - Five new confirmation students this year, plus one who is finishing his final year
 - Christmas hymn sing and dessert mid to late December, possibly inviting the community
 - Starting this week, will be doing a weekly (or so) brief video devotion to post to Facebook and YouTube
 - With Rick's help, have figured out how to upload to Grace's YouTube channel
 - As part of the youth schedule, Adopt-a-Highway cleanup on October 5
 - 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
 - Will need a pastor to fill in, as family will be traveling to Nebraska and South Dakota
 - Update on requests to church for financial assistance
 - Extent of the church's ability to help and need for reasonable boundaries
- 3. Inreach Ministry Report - Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)**
- Adventures in Faith/Sunday School:
 - AIF/SS Leaders installed Sept. 8, 2024 at worship services
 - Mission Project is "One Plus God"
 - For the Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach Ministry Project - a partnership between Lutheran churches and churches of Tanzania
 - Offering baskets for donations will be in each classroom.

- Two Adult Classes - Kris Lamphere in St John's Chapel (main level); Karen and Jim Lewis in the Fellowship Hall
 - 6th - 12th grades
 - Pastor Theresa Jacobson, AIF/SS Coordinator and Amber Feyh (third floor)
 - 1st -5th grades - Jessica Rockey (third floor)
 - PreK-K - Linda Keaser in Noah's Club (lower level)
 - Confirmation Class
 - Pastor Tom Jacobson (off Gathering space, main level)
 - Women of the North American Lutheran Church (WNALC)
 - September 15th: Church Picnic
 - November 10th: Thankoffering Service Sunday
 - Friendship circle: 2nd Tuesday, 11:30 am
 - Monticello Circle: 4th Wednesday, 7 pm
 - Tuesday Table: 4th Tuesday as advertised in the Congregation Corner
 - Men's Monthly Breakfast: 3rd Saturday at Nana & Papa's Restaurant
- Youth Groups (KFC and KFrogs) reported by Casey Sigler**
- Thank you to EVERYONE who helped out and/or participated in Messy Games last Sunday! We had 19 youth, ranging from Kindergarten through High School, who participated in our activities. Our BIG surprise was a foam party to serve as the grand finale of the day's event. We also had 15 adults, who volunteered their time and talents to help us out. We can't thank these folks enough! Everything ran so smoothly. It was a success!
 - Upcoming events to watch out for: September - Backwoods Fest; October - highway cleanup, Thornville Country Fair, Party in the Parking Lot; November - Youth Lock-in. Watch the announcements for more information as well as our Facebook Page: GLC Youth (KFROGs and KFC)
- 4. Outreach Ministry Report – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)**
- Susan Cheney has volunteered to take over the quilting group.

- Backpack Ministry has restarted. Nineteen food bags were sent home the first week. Numbers will most likely increase as more students sign up for assistance.
- Lifewise also restarted last week.

5. Upreach Ministry Report - Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

- No new report - still always need greeters, ushers, acolytes, etc on Sunday mornings

6. Treasurer's Report - Rick Rockwell, Treasurer

- Reports submitted.

7. Facilities Report - Dave Rodenbaugh, Facilities Coordinator

- Prayer room and parsonage bedroom renovations are done.
- Working on new Blessing Box signage.
- New sign for southwest entrance has been mounted.
- Still working on getting rid of a bees nest at the parsonage.

8. Old Business

- Further discussion of use of money from the Winnie and Raymond King estate.

9. New Business

- Council discussed the parking issue with neighbors parking their vehicles in the church parking lot. Council will continue discussing options at the next council meeting.

10. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

11. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: October 8, 2024 - 7 pm

Coming soon:

- September 29: Annual Reports due
- October 13: Budget Forum
- November 3: Annual Congregational Meeting

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church will be held between services on **Sunday, November 3, 2024.**



A **Budget Forum** will be held between services on **October 13, 2024.** This is your chance to review the 2025 budget before it is voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Your invitation to our annual meeting

Dear Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church,

Sunday, November 3, is the day of our Annual Congregational Meeting at 9:45 am in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to report on the ministry of Grace this year, report on some goals for next year, elect new members to council and to approve the budget for 2025.

A copy of the 2024 Annual Report and the 2025 Budget will be available for your review when we have our Budget Forum on Sunday, October 13th between services. It's another record of God's faithfulness and your support; it is a composite of many reports.

If you are a member of Grace or a friend of Grace, please plan to come and participate in this important meeting as this is a church run by the people for the people of God. [Note: Voting members are confirmed members who have communed and made a financial contribution of record during the current or preceding calendar year.]

Carl Lahman, Council President

Report of the Nominating Committee

The 2024 Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates for positions to be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 3rd.

† **Vice President: Bob Reynolds**

Basic Biographical Information: I am a life-long Lutheran, with the exception of when I strayed from attending church in my 20s while I was having doubts about the importance of church (see below). I was born in Mansfield, graduated with a BS in zoology from Ohio State and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin (cancer research/biochemistry). Being a scientist is in my genes, so my career involved research and teaching. My last faculty position was with Ohio State, which brought Becky and me back to Ohio for good in 2009. We joined Grace in February 2020. If I had a “hobby” at my age, it would be helping others – including and especially Grace.

Experience within the Body of Christ, here at Grace and previous churches: I served as Council Vice President in two previous congregations and Secretary once before joining Grace. I have also served as Head Usher, Head of Safety & Security, lector, Communion assistant, counting team member, helping with facilities, general handyman, among other positions here at Grace and previous congregations. I have directed the revision of the constitutions at 3 previous congregations, helped with revising the ELCA Southern Ohio Synod and the national ELCA constitutions, and am a current member of the NALC constitution revision team.

What hopes do you have for Grace in the coming years?: First and foremost, my main priority as Vice President would be to assist Grace in accomplishing whatever tasks are needed. As is the case with the NALC and most NALC congregations, our constitution is in need of review and selective revision. Some additional projects I would like Grace to consider are the realignment of the west parking lot spaces, consider a once-a-month/quarter contemporary service to better attract younger members, consider having a yearly Volunteer Fest to increase participation where needed. I like to get things done and like to make changes for the sake of improvement, not just for the sake of making changes.

What is your favorite scripture verse?: Without a doubt, it is Matthew 18:20 “*When two or more are gathered together in My name, I am with you.*” I heard Jesus speak those words aloud to me while I was mountain climbing in 1973, and it turned my life around back to the church. That was when I understood that church is mainly where “...*two or more*...” are gathered together in His name, and that church was not just an invention of people to get money, as I had thought at the time. I have that scripture designation inscribed on a silver ring I always wear on my right hand.

† **Secretary: Susan Cheney**

Basic Biographical Information: Growing up in Germany as an “Army Brat,” I was privileged to learn and speak both languages fluently since my mother was German. My father was born and raised in Millersport on Cherry Lane. My husband Thomas and I lived in Millersport on Lakeside, where I still reside. Together we have 6 adult children and 12 grandchildren. They reside in Columbus, Pickerington, and Hebron areas. I’ve been a member of Grace for 3 years now. Pastor Tom was kind enough to give me membership classes, as I had been out of touch for many years with the Lutheran Faith and I needed to reaffirm my faith.

Experience within the Body of Christ, here at Grace and previous churches: I was baptized as an infant where I was born (Fort Sill, Oklahoma). While living in Germany I was confirmed in a Lutheran Church (Neu Städt) at 14 years old. During my married life, my husband (Baptist) and I attended Spring Hills in Granville. My husband passed away in June of 2019. I always loved traditional worship vs. contemporary. I love being a part of Grace, the people are wonderful and I feel very much at home here. What hopes do you have for Grace in the coming years?

To be fully devoted in making followers of Christ. Let’s be a vibrant and generous community of Faith, sharing the beauty and struggles of life through a Lutheran perspective.

What is your favorite scripture verse? Psalm 91:1-3, Isaiah 40:31. Christian life in its fullness is a gift of divine power affecting a knowledge of Christ and the bestowal of divine promises. (Notes from 2 Peter 3:4-9)

† **Financial Recording Secretary Jim Roshon** (Elected but not a voting member):

Basic Biographical Information:

- Raised in Westerville, Ohio
- Graduated from Otterbein College and The Ohio State University
- Taught 15 years grades 4, 5, and 6 at Millersport Elementary
- Retired after 20 years as Curriculum Director for Liberty Union – Thurston Local Schools
- Married 46+ years to Sharon with sons Jeff, Jonathan, David, granddaughter Kynlee and a take-over cat Patches
- Interests include volunteering and a 13 year Plant Give Away project
- Hobbies include gardening, cooking/baking, and piano

Experience Within the Body of Christ, here at Grace and Previous Churches:

- Director of Christian Education
- Director of Upreach
- Financial Secretary
- Taught Sunday School
- Manna Monday kitchen worker
- Assistant minister
- Lector
- VBS security
- LifeWise security
- Choir
- Grace Notes
- Men of Grace
- Schedule communion bread bakers
- Tuesday's Table co-organizer
- Backpack delivery boy

What hopes do you have for Grace in the coming years?

- Grow membership
- Increase programs offered to members and the community
- Maintain current and future facilities

What is your favorite scripture verse?

Luke 18:27 *The things which are impossible for men are possible with God.*

† **Upreach Ministry Team Coordinator: Casey Sigler** (2nd term)

I was born and raised in the great community of Thornville Ohio, graduating from Sheridan High and have been a member of Grace Lutheran Church my entire life. I was baptized, confirmed and married at Grace. I grew up attending the Sunday School program, VBS and in high school was a member of Luther League (High School Youth Group). I was blessed to be able to attend two National Youth Gatherings with our Church as a high school student. Growing up in Grace has been an absolute blessing. I have been involved with the acolyte program for over 35 years when I myself became an acolyte. I taught Sunday School for 18 years, retiring from that position this past year to take on the role of Upreach Leader. Myself along with Kelly Tolliver and Sally Wilke started the Kfrogs youth group back in 2010-2011 and I have enjoyed being a part of leading that group. I have been involved in many activities in our church including VBS, Party in the Parking Lot, Noah's Club, Fourth of July Float and a greeter.

My husband Jim and I live in Logan and have been there for the 28 years that we have been together. We have three children, Seth who lives in Akron and is an OB/GYN, Kayleann who lives in Lancaster and is a Deputy at the Fairfield County Jail and Josie who is in high school and very active in basketball and tennis. I am currently working at Hopewell Health Centers as an LPN in Logan and have been there for over five years.

I am excited to serve as Upreach Leader to be able to serve the Lord, our church and to grow my faith. My interests include family history, antiques, attending my kid's sporting events, watching movies, traveling and spending time with family.

† **Inreach Ministry Team Coordinator: Linda Keaser** (2nd term)

Basic Biographical Information: I grew up in Newark, Ohio, an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Newark. My husband Carl and I moved to my family farm land north of Glenford and joined Grace Lutheran in 2010. We have two daughters. Jennifer and her husband Chad who attend Grace with our two grandsons, Josiah and Zachariah. Our daughter Jaclyn and her husband Chris live in Whitmore Lake, Michigan with our three granddaughters, Cristen, Loreli, and Abby.

Experience within the Body of Christ, here at Grace and previous churches: At St. Paul's and Grace I have always been active in Sunday School, VBS, and youth programs. I have served on the Women's group boards, church councils, social ministry, and evangelism committees.

What hopes do you have for Grace in the coming years? My hope and prayer is that we continue developing people of faith, by working together, sharing God's word with family, friends, and the community around us!

What is your favorite scripture verse? My favorite scripture is Proverbs 22:6 *Train your child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

† **Outreach Ministry Team Coordinator: Daria Carr**

Basic Biographical Information:

Husband, Steve; daughter, Lucy. Attorney since 1998. Grew up in the northeast but settled in the Midwest with college. Lived in Thornville since 2015 and began to attend Grace soon thereafter and found members to be very welcoming. Hobbies include crochet, cooking, and gardening.

Experience within the Body of Christ, here at Grace and previous churches:

Within Grace I have been active in the Backpack Ministry for approximately 5 years.

What hopes do you have for Grace in the coming years?

Continue to grow our congregation and serve our community, identifying and meeting their needs where they are.

What is your favorite scripture verse?

This question is asked of everyone and frequently. But the point to me is that there is help for every season in the Bible, and different verses speak to us at different times. Today I say 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*



The Youth's Annual Messy Games was held on Sunday, September 8th. Thank You to EVERYONE who helped out and/or participated in Messy Games last Sunday! We had 19 youth, ranging from Kindergarten through High School, who participated in our activities. Our BIG surprise was a foam party to serve as the grand finale of the day's event. We also had 15 adults, who volunteered their time and talents to help us out. We can't thank these folks enough! Everything ran so smoothly. It was a success!

Upcoming events to watch out for:

October - Highway cleanup, Thornville Country Fair, Party in the Parking Lot;

November - Youth Lock-in. Watch the announcements for more information as well as our Facebook Page: GLC Youth (KFROGs and KFC)

Do you recognize Pastor Theresa??!?



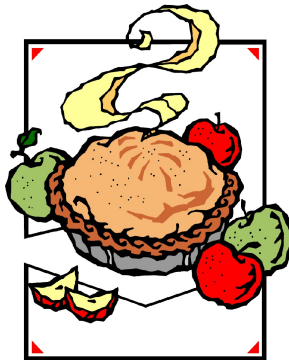


Adopt-A-Highway clean-up day for Grace is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 9:00am. This is a servant event for our Youth and families. Time commitment is approximately 2 hours that morning, then we will come back to Grace for some food! A sign-up sheet for volunteers has been placed in the gathering space. Contact Pastor Tom for more info: pastor@gracethornville.org

PIES WANTED!!

The Youth will have a food booth this year at the Thornville Country Fair (Oct. 20) and will be selling slices of pie and candy/caramel apples. We are looking for our great bakers of the congregation to donate pies for this fundraising event.

- Apple
- Cherry
- Pecan
- Pumpkin



There is a sign up sheet in the gathering space of pies requested. All pies will need to be dropped off at church by 9:00 am Sunday October 20th. Any questions ask Theresa Jacobson or Casey Sigler.



Update on Adventures in Faith (PreK - 12th grade)

We have gotten off to a great start this year in Adventures in Faith! We are using SEED (Sola's Electronic Education Database) from Sola Publishing for our curriculum. We spend 16 weeks in the Old Testament prior to Christmas. Then we switch gears and spend 16 weeks in the New Testament, following Christmas, which takes us to the end of the school year.

This year we have reincorporated offering as a part of our weekly lessons. The kids have been encouraging the other adult AIF groups as well as the Confirmation class to contribute to the offering as well. This year our mission focus is *One Plus God: Tanzania Orphanage and Outreach Ministry*. This ministry is "A Partnership between the Lutheran churches of Tanzania and the States" and "An initiative of Grace Lutheran Church of Jackson Center, Ohio." The purpose of this ministry is: "to partner with Christian Lutheran churches both locally and in the USA to provide holistic care (spiritually, emotionally and physically) to people struggling in remote villages, and orphaned children so that they can be integrated well into society, but also be sufficiently equipped to lead effective change in their communities." We do that through directing "all to Jesus, so that they can find life in Him, experience His love and grace, and then start to share that with the community around them." Please pray for this ministry throughout the school year, and we will plan to send a financial offering in May, at the end of AIF fall/spring classes.

We will also be reinstating a **Children's Christmas Program**. The program will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at 9:15 a.m., during the education hour. Mark your calendars!

Christmas Program Rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- ☐ Sunday, December 8th - During Adventures in Faith from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
- ☐ Sunday, December 15th - During Adventures in Faith from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.
- ☐ Sunday, December 15th - AFTER church, we will have a dress rehearsal with participants. Lunch will be provided at 12 noon. We will do a dress rehearsal from 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. (approx.)

Please note the TWO rehearsals on December 15th
Our program this year is A Prophet Foretold the Messiah written by Kelly Hanson, one of the primary children's writers at Sola Publishing, who is very active in her own congregation's Sunday School program. We hope your child can come and participate!

As always, please keep our young ones in your prayers as they grow in their faith and learn all about God's love for them!

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Theresa Jacobson

Our Adventures in Faith Classes and Leaders:

- Two Adult Classes
 - Kris Lamphere in St John's Hall, Room 203 (main level)
 - Karen and Jim Lewis in The Franks Fellowship Hall (lower level)
- 6th - 12th grades
 - Pastor Theresa Jacobson, AIF/SS Coordinator and Amber Feyh (top floor)
- 1st -5th grades
 - Jessica Rockey (top floor)
- PreK-K
 - Linda Keaser in Noah's Club (lower level)
- Confirmation Class
 - Pastor Tom Jacobson Classroom 1, Room 206 (off Gathering space, main level)



CANDY NEEDED!!

The youth groups are asking for donations of candy for our annual Halloween "PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT" on Trick or Treat night, Thursday, Oct 31 from 6:00 to 8:00pm. This is a community event!



The event was created to give those too old "to beg for candy" a chance to dress up and have fun on this night! Candy collection tub is near the atrium entrance. Adult helpers also needed. Contact Casey Sigler 740-279-5405.

A HUGE Thank You to everyone who helped out at Backwoods Fest this year! It is a lot of hard work, and it takes lots of people to make it run smoothly! We couldn't do it without all of you, who graciously gave of your time to be out there to help. It's a big fundraiser for our youth groups, especially KFC, so again, thank you for supporting our youth in this way!



Confirmation Class

Confirmation class meets during the Sunday school/Adventures in Faith time in between the services. Any new eighth grade students or others who have not yet begun confirmation are eligible to begin. The Following five Youth will have completed their confirmation studies and will celebrate their Affirmation of Baptism at the 10:30 service on October 27. Congratulations Confirmands!

Stella Rockey
Caleb White
Grant McCallum
Brody Barrera
Brayden Large



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



How can water do such great things?

It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God connected with the water and our faith which relies on that Word. For without the Word of God it is simply water and not Baptism. But when connected with the Word of God, it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit. As Saint Paul says to Titus, "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the home of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy" (Titus 3:5-8a ESV).

Pastors appreciate your prayers

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, *"Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company"* (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!



The Quilters of Grace are pleased to announce that they will display the quilts that were made for Lutheran World Relief on Sunday, October 6.

The quilts will be dedicated as part of the worship service, then they will be ready to ship to LWR. The quilt group meets monthly, here at church. We thank the Quilters in their dedication to this project. If you want to quilt with this group, contact Susan Cheney 740-527-1313.



Special music filled our sanctuary on September 1, 2024. The music group *Flutasia* inspired us with their gift of music. Members of the group include: Judy Rehrer, Director, Lancaster; Laurie Seymour, Lancaster; Deb Hatch, Lancaster; Debbie Behringer, Lancaster; Jordan Sheehan, Lancaster; Niki Lambert, Lancaster; Amy Zeuch, Lancaster; Cassie Bull, Lancaster; Kelly Raybourne, Lancaster; Jonna Barr, Lancaster; Kim Lutz, Thornville; Renee Bartholomew, Logan; Nancy Starn, Pataskala; Samuel Maffit, Columbus.

We thank them for sharing their gift with us and look forward to their next visit!



LifeWise Academy

Meet Miss Lillie!

My name is Lillie Rockwell. I live on a farm in Mt. Perry with my husband Rick who is a retired Lt. Colonel, USAF. We have three adult married children and three grandchildren, with one on the way. Children and grandchildren all live out of state. I am a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville.

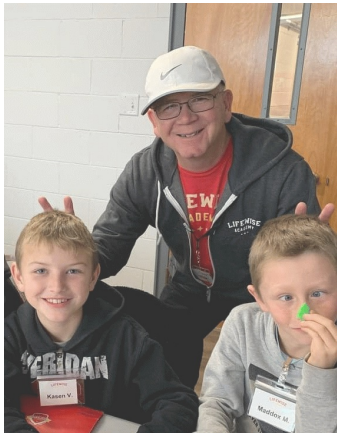
I have two masters degrees: Speech Pathology and Early Childhood Education. My first passion is spreading the Good News of Jesus. My second passion is teaching children. I feel extremely blessed to have the opportunity to combine these two aspirations in teaching for LifeWise Academy. I am so excited to teach the love of Jesus to Glenford Elementary students in the 2024-2025 school year!



Volunteer Spotlight

Mike Keaser - I volunteer as a LifeWise assistant teacher because of Jesus. The words that come to mind are the harvest is plentiful, the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. Thornville kids are great. However we all need to know about Jesus and his fierce love for us. I hope to be generous in modeling what Jesus has done for us in front of the kids. Helping them hear and understand biblical truths is a very rewarding task. LifeWise has provided a structured learning experience for school age children to grasp. LifeWise has united people who care to share the good news

with young people in a very productive environment. I am thankful to be part of the solution.



♪ 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>

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1: Prepare the Royal Highway | 22 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go |
| 2: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending | 23 This Is My Father's World |
| 3: My Heart Is Filled with Wonder | 24 The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies |
| 4: I've Found Now the Fairest of Roses | 25 Evening and Morning |
| 5: Of the Father's Love Begotten | 26 Now All the Woods are Sleeping |
| 6: The Only Son from Heaven | 27 Rise Up, All Things That God Has Made |
| 7: I Walk in Danger | 28 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy |
| 8: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain | 29 Go Forth, My Heart, This Summer Day |
| 9: Glory Be to Jesus | 30 Day by Day |
| 10 Near the Cross | 31 Is It True? |
| 11 Ah, Holy Jesus | 32 Jesus, Lover of My Soul |
| 12 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded | 33 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing |
| 13 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands | 34 The Lord Protects and Holds Me |
| 14 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness | 35 As the Sunflower Turns in the Morning |
| 15 Beautiful Savior | 36 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord |
| 16 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art | 37 Thy Holy Wings |
| 17 The Lord's My Shepherd | 38 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought! |
| 18 Jesus, Priceless Treasure | 39 I'm a Pilgrim, and I'm a Stranger |
| 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 | |



SAVED BY GRACE

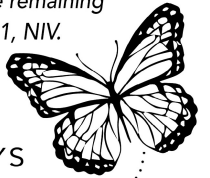
Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.

~~N~~OWEBEKLIBEVG~~E~~ITIYS
TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH
CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP
USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED
RJUCSTQASHTHBEYFAROE

"_____"
"_____
"_____
"_____. Acts 15:11, NIV

Answer: "No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:11, NIV



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH Consolidated Fund Activity Report for August 2024 Monday, September 9, 2024

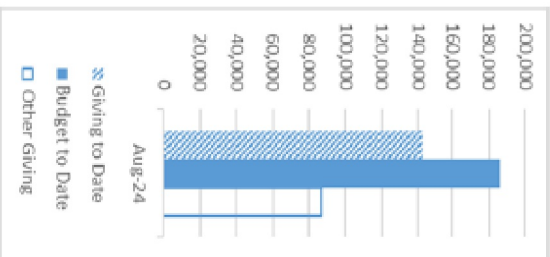
Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	72,265.52	16,791	18,434	0	70,622.36
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	10,264.51	0	0	0	10,264.51
3,300,000	Mission Fund	18,207.61	125	200	0	18,132.61
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,590.90	50	0	0	3,640.90
3,400,000	Endowment Osma Lawyer	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000.00
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	28,531.90	0	0	0	28,531.90
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	33,431.64	343	0	0	33,774.84
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	325.08	0	0	0	325.08
3,510,000	Warner Scholarship Fund	3,303.00	20	0	0	3,323.00
3,520,000	Library Fund	127.57	0	152	0	(24.68)
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0	0	0	1,017.41
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	498.69	0	0	0	498.69
3,620,000	Flower Fund	765.43	0	0	0	765.43
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,577.58	15	0	0	2,592.58
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	19,100.70	265	403	0	18,962.30
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	21,763.94	70692	0	0	92,456.69
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	445.00	0	0	0	445.00
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	9,709.34	0	488	0	9,220.91
3,925,000	KFROGs Fund	8,812.33	0	0	0	8,812.33
	Total	\$244,738	\$88,302	\$19,679	\$0	\$313,361

General Fund Budget
va Actuals

21,866
(5,075)

21,866
(3,432)

0
(1,643)



*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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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