

The Gracevine

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

 **OCTOBER** 2022



**A MIGHTY FORTRESS
IS OUR GOD**

Reformation Sunday - October 30, 2022

Grace Lutheran Church



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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 740-281-7672
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:	Kate Simmons 740-281-7673
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*

From Our Pastor...



Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love – Joel 2:13 ESV

One thing I like to do when teaching confirmation or otherwise interacting with today's youth is joke about the archaic technology to which I had access when I was their age. I think they find it amusing, but at the very least, it makes me smile to talk about what life was like before smartphones and even cell phones, when we only had access to four television channels, when social media and streaming services were yet in the distant future, when we had to use paper maps and take trips without GPS navigation systems, and when we had to use rotary dial telephones attached to the wall. A few years ago, I asked a confirmation student if she remembered life before the internet, and she said "no," but that she remembered having to use "dial up" internet. I remember when "dial up" internet was a new thing and a real treat to have in the house. These conversations make me feel rather old!

Technology has come a long way in even the last fifteen to twenty years. There are many examples that can be cited, but one noticeable difference between then and now is

computer technology. When I was in college, we still relied on external floppy disks to save our files. If the power went out or if the computer crashed for some reason, I could only hope that I had saved the file on my disk. The sinking feeling upon realizing that the file was lost is hard to describe.

Sometimes computers crash and reboot, and most often without warning. Today's computers mostly save documents automatically and "restore" any unsaved documents, which is a welcome development for anyone who uses technology. In addition, "cloud" technology greatly reduces the likelihood of losing files.

As I think about the life of churches today, the old danger of a sudden reboot or computer crash comes to mind. Without being saved, those files and the ideas they contain can be lost. This is an image we as a church should bear in mind in this "post-COVID" era.

I remember reading an article shortly after COVID-19 came on the scene in March of 2020. It predicted that as many as twenty percent of churches in North America would not survive the pandemic due to the lockdowns, the difficulty of getting people to return to church after the crisis abated, and overall loss of participation and financial giving. I do not know if the twenty percent number was accurate; perhaps it is too early to say. But it is obvious that COVID has had an impact on a lot of things in our society, including our churches.

For churches, maybe the best way to think about COVID is as a computer crash or reboot from days gone by. With this disruption, a reboot is required. What will be lost, and what will remain when the power comes back on? What files were lost that need to be reconstructed? I remember as a college freshman that I had one day written a history essay that for some reason failed to save on my floppy disk. I was forced to

remember what I had written as best I could, and in the end, I was able to reconstruct the content. Though it took some hard work, I handed in the essay and was able to pass the course.

COVID has changed and disrupted a lot of things, but I believe we are now at a point where we need to reboot and reconstruct files that might have been lost in congregational life. This is not easy. It requires commitment and dedication on the part of many people. Perhaps some files have been permanently “lost” in the crash and subsequent reboot. Not everything is meant to last forever. What I have also learned from computer crashes and reboots is that it can be an opportunity for new ideas. When I had to reconstruct my lost history essay after the computer crash described above, I discovered that I was able to incorporate some ideas I had previously forgotten to write about.

As Martin Luther describes in his *Small Catechism*, when we pray “Thy kingdom come” in the Lord’s Prayer, we are confident that God’s kingdom will indeed come, but we pray in that petition that it will also come among us. The Church of Jesus Christ will go on; God will accomplish His purpose. We pray in this post COVID era that we here at Grace Lutheran will be included in that kingdom.

God’s promises are sure. At the same time, God uses us to bring about His kingdom. Please look for ways that you can be a part of the reboot in this place. It is encouraging to see interest in things both new and old. For example, the Men of Grace are resuming their activity. The Women of the NALC organization will begin meeting again this month. We will be starting a new men’s breakfast meeting as well. KFC will begin again as well. We still need to restart the KFROGS group, and of course we can always use more Sunday School/Adventures in Faith teachers! Above all, commit

yourselves to being nourished by the gifts of Jesus Christ in worship.

We are fortunate to have a God of new beginnings, who has a track record of rebooting His people after their crashes. The prophet Joel speaks: *Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism
The Ten Commandments**

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not plot to take our neighbors’ possessions, inheritance, or home, nor obtain them through deceptive means, but assist and serve our neighbors in keeping what is theirs.



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

Sunday, Oct. 2 - 17th Sunday After Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, Oct. 9 - 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Budget Forum held between services

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, Oct. 16 - 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5 Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, Oct. 23 - 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Annual Meeting held between services

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, Oct. 30 - Reformation Sunday

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



July's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 117
8:00am - 27 10:30am - 90

9.19.22 Council Meeting Minutes/Notes

Call to Order- Pastor Tom Bible verse and prayer

Pastor's Report

- Confirmation Sunday Oct 30th, same as Reformation Sunday
- New Confirmation class to start later this fall for 8th graders or older (two-year process)
- Meeting with community pastors monthly
 - Thanksgiving service on day before Thanksgiving discussed with rotating locations and pastors
- Advent starts week after Thanksgiving
 - Looking to start back Wednesday services and Holden Evening Prayer
- KFC for older kids starting this fall- Pastor Theresa is helping
 - KFROGS will hopefully be starting back as well
- Still shy about 20 people to get full discount for Connections Magazine
 - Will continue to promote or may order with current numbers if no more sign up
- Looking to start a men's breakfast on Saturday mornings once a month at a local restaurant
- Last Sunday Pastor Tom will be away this year is Oct. 9th
 - Pastor Long from South Sudan will be supply pastor

Upreach- Kelly

- Kelly made a MOTION seconded by Rick to gift \$300 to the Lancaster Community Band for Flutasia performance. This is the same amount we donated previously. PASSED Unanimously
- Kelly made a MOTION seconded by Rick to pay for travel expenses, supply pastor fee, and have a special offering collected for Pastor Long for October 9th Sunday. A host

family for the pastor has been obtained. PASSED Unanimously

- A social hall plush chair has broken beyond repair. These are used the most when we host funerals. Kelly will research the cost of a similar replacement chair or chairs versus a loveseat
- Greeter sign-ups are moving slowly. It was decided to try using Sign Up Genius to help with recruiting/scheduling
- October is Pastor Appreciation Month- a discussion was had
- WRTF gave their comments to RKA for final construction documents. We are awaiting RKA to redraft them
- Carl Lehman has agreed to fill the council secretary vacancy

Inreach- Kate

- Rally Day is Oct 2 and two former helpers have agreed to help again
- Backpack ministry is currently serving 75 kids
 - At this rate we will need \$40,000 to finish the year, only \$25,000 has been in the account
 - Fundraisers and/or asking for more financial help may be needed

Outreach- Jeff was not present

Treasurer's Report- Rick

- Year-wise we are \$30,000 on the year to the negative on giving projections but we expect to make it up during the last quarter of the year
- Rick made a MOTION and Kelly seconded to move the Osma CD to an FDIC High Yield Savings Account. PASSED Unanimously.
- The company that put a new coat on the parking lot refused to provide information needed for payment and ultimately donated their work

Old Business

- Bob Reynolds presented a flyer regarding our response a Violent Offender
 - Everyone appreciated the artwork
 - Having the information in pew pamphlet form as well as in the Gracevine annually was well received

New Business

- Pastor Tom talked about a three to five minute video introducing the Church to prospective visitors/new members would be helpful
- Rick has a contact who does great work and drone footage as well for a reasonable price
- Scott Shouldis did work for Northern Local Schools before and did good work. His number is 740.438.2216

Next Meeting is 10/17/22 at 7 PM

Matt Sheridan, secretary pro tem

Protestants recall the **Reformation** on October 31. On that day in 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Ultimately, the following five statements of belief became central to Protestant Christians.

1. Scripture alone is the final authority of Christian doctrine.
2. Christ alone is Lord and Savior.
3. God's freely given grace is central to salvation.
4. Sinners are justified by faith in Christ alone.
5. God alone is worthy of all the glory.



THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WILL BE HELD BETWEEN SERVICES ON OCTOBER 23, 2022.

A BUDGET FORUM WILL BE HELD BETWEEN SERVICES ON OCTOBER 9, 2022. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO REVIEW THE 2023 BUDGET BEFORE IT IS VOTED ON AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

COUNCIL POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED:

- + VICE PRESIDENT
- + COUNCIL SECRETARY
- + INREACH LEADER
- + UPREACH LEADER
- + OUTREACH LEADER.

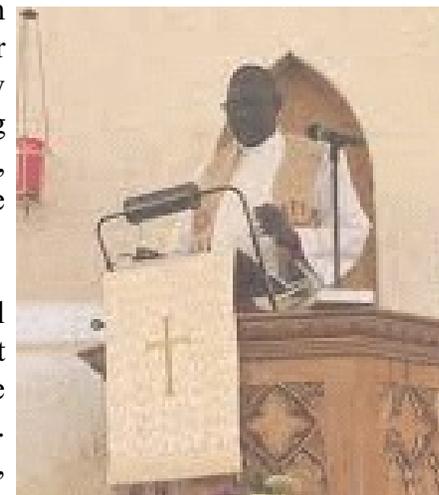
WANT YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT? CONTACT KELLY O'REILLY, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR.

A New Confirmation Class for 8th graders and older unconfirmed youth will begin soon. A parent/student meeting will be held on Sunday, October 30, 9:15am. The current students will be confirmed that day during the 10:30 service. Class will be taught by Pastor Tom during Adventures in Faith time (Sundays, 9:15am) in Classroom 1.

Special Guest Coming to Grace

On October 9, Pr. Tom will be presenting at the Lutheran Historical Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. In his absence, Pr. Jordan Long, President of the Lutheran Church of South Sudan (LCSS) will be here that weekend to preach and lead the adult Sunday school at 9:15.

He will be sharing the story of the war-torn church consisting of over 300 congregations, located in several countries. Among other things, this story includes how genocide and ethnic cleansing have taken its toll on the people, especially the men, and even more so pastors.



More importantly, Pr. Long will also share how our good God is at work in the LCSS healing the refugees, many in refugee camps. Only Christ can heal their pain, and the LCSS brings Christ to them. In addition, the LCSS has a Lutheran seminary to replenish the number of pastors and has a college to enable the refugees to learn skills allowing them to leave the refugee camps.





Calling Students of All Ages:

Let's kick off fall and our Adventures in Faith Sunday School program with a huge turnout for Rally Day, October 2, 2022. We have been anticipating this day for a long time!! We will all meet in the fellowship hall at 9:30am for the start of our new Adventure.

October 2, 2022
9:30am
Fellowship Hall



The Quilters of Grace are pleased to announce that they will display the quilts that were made for Lutheran World Relief on Sunday, October 2. The quilts will be dedicated as part of the worship service, then they will be ready to ship to LWR.

These quilts provide warmth in the form of bedding, shelter in the form of a roof, privacy in the form of a door. They also serve as a tangible reminder of God's presence, love, and hope.



The quilt group meets monthly, here at church. We thank the Quilters in their dedication to this project.



Attention Women of Grace: We want to restart the women's group! It's been too long without you! An informal organizational meeting will be held here on Tuesday, October 11, 10:30am. Please plan to attend! If unable to attend, but interested, please contact Pastor Tom. pastor@gracethornville.org

What we do as a group: The Women's Council and other volunteers are called to assist members in God's mission, study of His Word, service to others in Christ's name, and fellowship among Christian women.

See you on October 11, 10:30am!!!

Deaths

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

James "Jim" Poorman

Born - September 16, 1948

Died - August 19, 2022

Sarah L. Stought

Born - February 26, 1939

Entered the Church Triumphant - September 12, 2022



Backpack Ministry

Thank you everyone for your continued support of this ministry! We surely couldn't do this without you!!

Due to the increase in students that we serve, (almost triple the number from last year) at Thornville Elementary and Sheridan Middle School, we are going to need lots of food and monetary donations to make it through the year! Donations may be dropped off in the atrium entrance at church.

- 📎 Plastic grocery bags, especially the larger clicklist bags
- 📎 Juice box or pouch
- 📎 Cereal (individual box or cup)
- 📎 Oatmeal packets
- 📎 Fruit cups or cans
- 📎 Vegetable cups or cans
- 📎 Ramen noodles
- 📎 Macaroni & Cheese cups
- 📎 Anything like SpaghettiOs ravioli, etc. (cup or cans)
- 📎 Individual Snacks (chips, pretzels, fruit snacks, peanut butter crackers, crackers & cheese, chex mix, etc.)
- 📎 Individual desserts (cookies, pudding cups, cereal bars, etc.)

Nothing homemade, please!

Weekly bagging help needed!
If you would like to volunteer to help bag the food, contact
Barb Ulmer 740-281-7673
or Kate Simmons 740-605-3230.





Homelessness is a problem nationwide and rural Perry County is no different. We have residents who experience homelessness through no fault of their own, such as fires, floods,

building collapse, loss of income, medical/mental health, etc. The obstacle we face is that we do not have a shelter in the county to serve our residents.....

Perry County Housing Coalition will be hosting a Ticket Auction (Chinese Auction) on Saturday, October 15 at St. Rose Community Center in New Lexington. They will have a 50/50 drawing, baskets, gift cards, special raffles, and food. Doors will open at 4pm, drawing begins at 7pm .

All proceeds to benefit the Coalition's efforts to fight homelessness in Perry County.

October 15
Doors open at 4:00pm
St. Rose Community Center
120 N. High Street
New Lexington, OH

September 20, 2022



Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for your support of the ministry we share in the name of our Lord Jesus. It is a joy for us to share with you in a work that carries far beyond the years we have in this life. Because of your contributions, there are immediate and eternal implications and impacts on the lives of those we serve. Thank you for your faithfulness and support of our efforts, financially and in prayer.

Now in our thirteenth year as a denomination, the NALC is fully aware of the ways in which God has blessed our efforts through the generous gifts of individuals and congregations. Your support is enabling a ministry that is literally touching the lives of millions of people throughout North America and around the world. We are now a church body of more than 475 congregations. We have 40 - 45 seminarians studying each year in our North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) network. We have missionaries in eight different countries and are actively working to developing disciple-making congregations and to plant and renew churches throughout North America. These and many other tangible blessings would not be possible without the grace of God and your generosity.

As you plan for the coming year and as you prayerfully consider how and where God is leading you to provide financial support, we hope you will continue your support for the NALC. We hope you will also consider supporting our North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS) and our Great Commission Fund (GCF). Gifts to the NALS support the training of pastors for our church body and the scholarships offered to students. The GCF supports our global workers and our international partnerships with other Lutheran church bodies. In each case, the ministry we carry out in these areas is expanded and made possible because of the financial and prayer support offered. Know

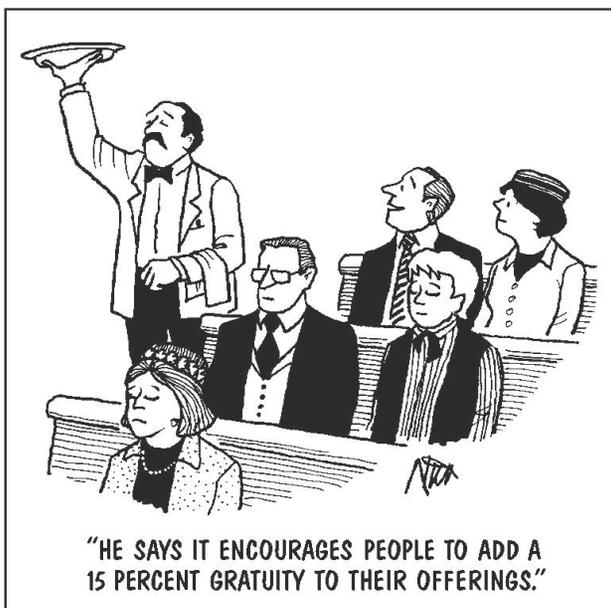
that all gifts go directly to the ministries you designate and are used to further their work and witness in the world.

Once again, thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and in the work entrusted to us by our Lord. We consider it an honor and a privilege to share with you in ministry that is drawing people to Jesus and changing lives for eternity.

May God continue to bless you in ways that will enable you to bless others.

In Christ Jesus,

Bishop Dan Selbo



Candy Needed!!

The youth groups are asking for donations of candy for our Halloween **"Party in the Parking Lot"** on Trick or Treat night, Thursday, **Oct 27 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! Candy collection tubs are near the exit. Adult helpers also needed. Contact Casey Sigler 740-279-5405.



*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.

**Grace Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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