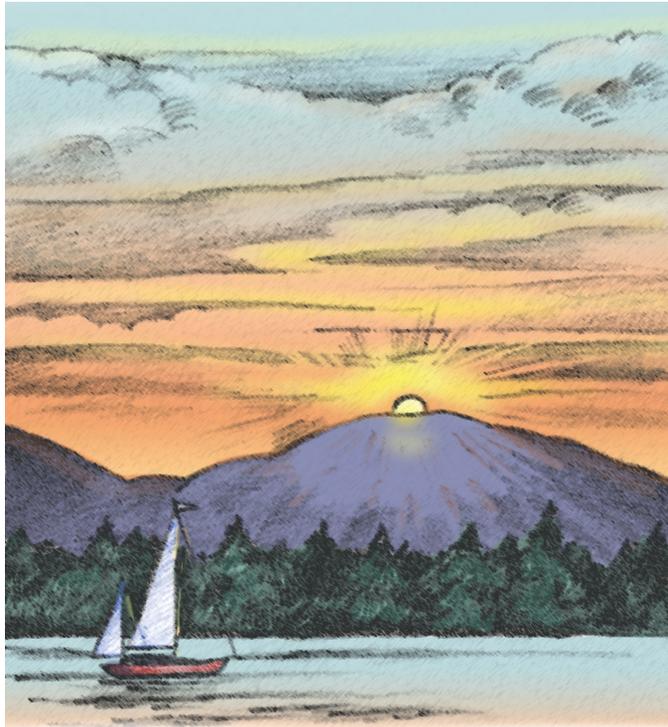


The Grapevine

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

August 2022



*"The LORD make his
face shine upon you ...
and give you peace."*

Numbers 6:25-26, NIV

Grace Lutheran Church



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Email: office@gracethornville.org
Fax: 740/246-6284
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville
Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson 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:	
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 Haggenjos 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*

Judgment

Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. – 1 Chronicles 16:33 ESV

Monthly Watchword for August



When I was younger, I used to laugh at the idea that lesser life forms could praise God. I would hear people say that chirping crickets and birds were really lifting their voices to the Creator of the universe, and I would proceed to roll my eyes. The idea seemed preposterous.

Then I began to read the Bible, and I discovered that the Bible talks often about all parts of creation being in relationship with God. Indeed, there are many places in the Bible that do speak of animal and plant life, not to mention other parts of creation, even inanimate objects, praising God. Such things do not possess the level of consciousness that humans do, but their presence in creation and their “voices” are the result and a reminder of God’s creative activity.

One such verse is this month’s Watchword, from 1 Chronicles 16:33. 1 Chronicles is one of those Old Testament books most often neglected. 1 and 2 Chronicles tell the story recounted in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, but from a different point of view.

Of all parts of 1 Chronicles, chapter 16 is probably the most famous. It recounts King David bringing the Ark of the Covenant, containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments, into the city of Jerusalem. At that time, the Temple had not

yet been constructed, so the Ark was placed in a tent. And David breaks forth into song, of which 16:33 is a part.

This verse is confusing to us, and not just because it speaks of trees singing for joy. We understand that the point of David’s song is that all creation is called to give thanks to God because of His faithfulness to His promises. What is really confusing is the reason behind the joy of the trees: *[F]or [God] comes to judge the earth.*

How can anyone be joyful about judgment? The answer to that question requires us to rethink the whole issue of judgment.

We typically hear of “judgment” in a negative sense. We are warned against “being judgmental,” and the thought of judgment from God can be terrifying. Judgment conjures images of destruction, as in “sulfur and fire” from God on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness (Genesis 18).

But judgment is a much bigger concept. The Hebrew word *shaphat*, translated as “judgment,” is not only about retribution. It is about setting things right, making decisions, and settling disputes.

We might not always like judgment, especially when judgment gets in the way of what we want at the moment. But how blessed we are to live in a world with judgment, with order! Judgment is necessary for us to live in true freedom and peace.

How much more are we blessed to have a God who cares about judgment, who seeks to make things right in creation, and who includes us in that! We believe both that God is a God of judgment and that God has a friendly heart toward us.

By faith, we hold on to God's good news that in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God has given his judgment. It is the judgment that though we are sinners, Christ is a great Savior. For we who trust in God's grace, we need not fear judgment from God. We can receive it with joy.

There are many things for which we can and should be joyful. We are blessed to have daily bread from God in many forms. We are blessed by our true friends and neighbors in this community and elsewhere. We are blessed by the gift of this congregation and our ability to be a part of it. As we are in these waning days of summer and the trees begin to change their color, we rejoice with the trees that God has come and is coming to judge the earth!

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

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

The Seventh Commandment
You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbors of their money or property, nor take from them by unfair dealing or fraud, but help them to improve and protect their property and means of making a living.



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

Sunday, Aug. 7 - 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, Aug. 14 - 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Scholarships / Backpack Blessing

Jeremiah 23:23-29 Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2 Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, Aug. 21 - 11th Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14 Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, Aug. 28 - 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14



June's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 107
8:00am - 32 10:30am - 75

Church Council Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2022 7:00 PM

Present: Paul Moentmann (Council President), Jeni Lahman, Kelly O'Reilly, Jeff Stought, Pastor Tom Jacobson

1. Opening Prayer: Prayer was offered by Pastor Tom Jacobson
2. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Council President Paul Moentmann
3. Pastor's Report
 - Five new members have been accepted.
 - The American Lutheran History Sunday School class has been well attended.
 - Life Wise Academy (a Christian released time program) has not been finalized. People who are interested in implementing it in the community are still in conversation with the Northern Local school administration.
 - Pr. Tom suggested an outreach possibility of having a homework help afternoon each week at Grace for Thornville Elementary students. He will look into this further.
 - Confirmation Class will finish in October for the current class, and a new class will begin sometime in the fall.
 - There are three volunteers from Grace that will be attending the online NALC Convention on August 5th. We can have one more lay delegate beyond this.
 - Looking for a replacement for Amber Feyh as inreach coordinator to get this year's Sunday School and other things organized. Paul will look into this.
 - There are some repairs needed in the parsonage. The

faucet in the kitchen is not working and the A/C stopped working.

- KFROGS (Kids Fully Relying on God) is looking for someone to lead this ministry.
- Parsonage security
 - + Latches have been installed on the backyard fence gates.
 - + A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Paul to install motion activated lights for the front and the back of the house, plus cameras for the front and back doors. Motion was approved.

4. Upreach/Worship Renewal – Kelly

- No updates at this time. Thanks to those who helped with worship preparation while Kelly was gone.

5. Inreach

- No updates at this time.

6. Outreach – Jeff

- No updates at this time. Jeff will contact neighboring school district administrators to talk about how Life Wise Academy has worked in their situation.

7. Old Business

- The photo directory has been postponed.
- Property: A recommendation was made by Carl Lahman to install a dehumidifier on the HVAC that services the basement. A motion was made by Kelly and seconded by Paul to purchase and install a dehumidifier. Motion was approved.

8. New Business

- The Paul M. Varner Scholarship Fund recipients will be presented on August 14, 2022. Motion made, seconded, and approved to distribute the scholarships to the applicants based on their eligibility to receive the funds. This fund is open to all active members of Grace Lutheran Church who are 18-22 years of age during their Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior year at an accredited 2-year school or college, technical college or 4-year college or university and maintain at least a 2.5 GPA, regardless of major. There is no age restriction for a seminary student.

9. Adjourn - Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: 8/15/2022, 7:00 PM (3rd Monday)

Respectfully submitted, Jeni Lahman, secretary

Worship Renewal and Capital Campaign Update

As we discussed in our Congregational Meeting in May, and as you know, we're keeping an active eye on the current economy and world affairs.

They will both impact our timing for this project.

With this in mind, be on the lookout for an update in the next few weeks on the project and expected timing.

- Kelly O'Reilly – Worship Renewal Task Force Chairman
- Paul Moentmann – Council President



Scholarships / Backpack Blessing August 14, 2022

Bring your backpack (or whatever you use!) for a blessing for the new school year during our worship services on Aug. 14! We will be praying for and blessing students of all ages.



Scholarships will be awarded to those students who applied.

Start the new school year out right: worship, pray, and be blessed by the power and joy of God!

Rally Day TBD....



Pray for Our Students

The Backpack Ministry needs your help! In addition to providing weekly food to Thornville Elementary School and Sheridan Middle School, we also purchase supplies and personal items for Sheridan High School. We have started a Wal-Mart registry to make it easy for you to donate. Just follow the link, order what you would like to donate, and it will get shipped directly to us. We will pack up the items and take them to the high school on August 15. If you do not want to purchase from the registry but still want to help, you can give a monetary donation to Grace Lutheran Church. Please mark your donation to be used for the Backpack Ministry. Thank you so much for supporting the students in our community!

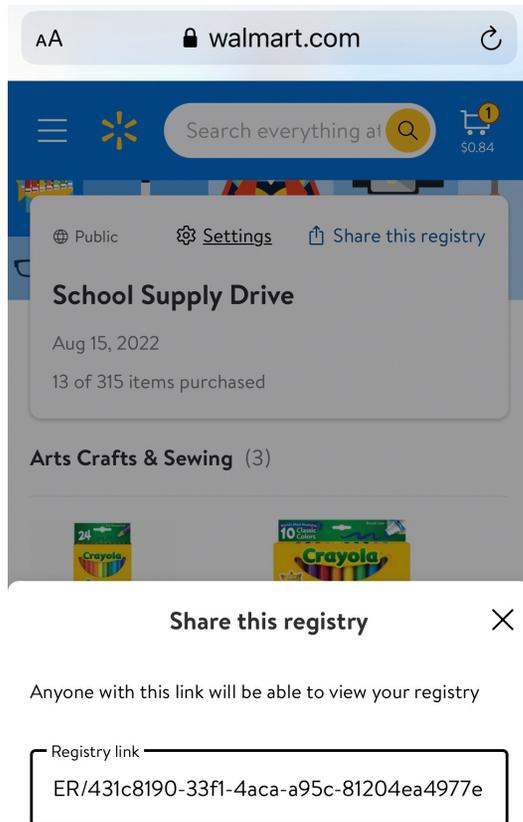
Click on the link below or go to Walmart.com registries and search for School Supply Drive.

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/ER/431c8190-33f1-4aca-a95c-81204ea4977e>



Some Needed Supplies

- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Post-It Notes
- Ballpoint Pens
- Notebook Paper
- Index Cards
- Glue/Glue Sticks
- Personal Hygiene



"I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations." Psalms 89:1

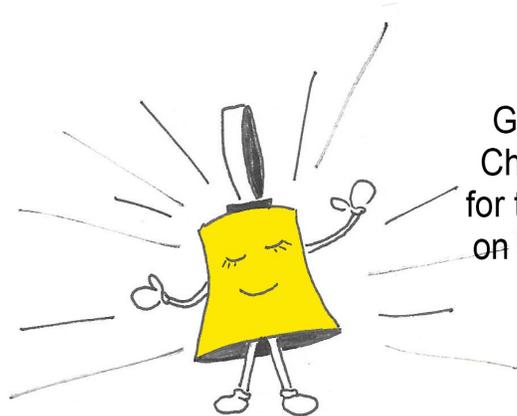
It's that time of year! The new choir "year" is just around the corner. If you can carry a tune (we will even provide the bucket!) then please join the choir at the first rehearsal of fall on **Thursday, August 25th at 7 pm.**

The choir is a wonderful way to participate in worship. We have members who read music and those who don't; who have formal vocal training and those who don't; who are very comfortable being in front of a crowd and those who aren't; those who can do solos all day and those who would NEVER do a solo! The thing that brings us all together is the desire and calling to speak God's word with music. Each member is absolutely essential and precious to the choir's calling. Will you fit in? **ABSOLUTELY!**

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7 pm and usually sings 3 Sundays a month. We welcome members who can make a full year commitment, a season long commitment or an occasional opportunity to practice and sing as schedules allow. For more information please contact director Diane Christensen at dchris174@gmail.com or (740) 215-2396

Get ready to make a joyful noise to the LORD!





Grace Notes Handbell
Choir will begin practice
for the 2022-2023 season
on Monday, August 22 at
7:00 pm.

3 Handbell Positions OPEN!!!

EXPERIENCE: Basic music reading ability helpful.
Training provided for those with
no experience.

HOURS: Mondays 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Sundays once
a month 10:30-11:30 am.

LOCATION: Church Sanctuary

START DATE: Monday August 22, 2022, 7:00 pm.
Instruments, music and gloves are provided.

If interested, contact Becky at 740-243-0394



FACILITIES REPORT as of 7.20.2022

Completed

- Due to water damage and humidity in VBS closet in basement:
 - removed all items from closet
 - removed floor tile
 - scraped loose paint from walls
 - cleaned walls with bleach
 - primed and repainted walls and floor
 - organized and moved items back into closet
- Built a custom-made window well cover for the window well on the southeast side of church.
- Repainted exterior door on the east side of church (handicap entrance).
- At the parsonage, installed pull handles and latches on backyard fence gates.
- Replaced A/C motor at parsonage.

Many thanks to Beth Raab, Bob Reynolds and Scott Schultz for helping with these projects.

Current Projects

- Install a dehumidifier on the HVAC that services the basement.
- Fix florescent lights in the Fellowship Hall.
- Repair stoop over stairwell entrance on west side of church.
- Tuck-point and seal masonry joints on northeast side of church.
- Similar to VBS closet, address water damage and humidity issue in basement closet where sump-pump is located.

Council approved the installation of a dehumidifier for the basement. It will be ordered soon.

- Carl Lahman, Facilities Chair



Saturday, July 9, 2022

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for June 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	67,072	15,237	19,488	0	62,821
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	2,057	0	0	0	2,057
3,300,000	Mission Fund	6,187	2,141	192	0	8,136
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,881	160	528	0	3,513
3,400,000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	31,047	102	0	0	31,149
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	607	0	0	0	607
3,510,000	Varnier Scholarship Fund	2,983	285	0	0	3,268
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	215	0	0	0	215
3,620,000	Flower Fund	991	0	0	0	991
3,630,000	Choir Fund	1,798	0	0	0	1,798
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	23,075	1,342	0	0	24,417
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	19,130	150	0	0	19,280
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	6,182	0	0	0	6,182
3,925,000	KFROGS Fund	10,156	0	0	0	10,156
3,950,000	Investment Fund	138,883	0	0	0	138,883
		<u>\$325,312.25</u>	<u>\$19,417.45</u>	<u>\$20,208.01</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$324,521.69</u>
	General Fund Budget		21,182	21,182		Net
	vs May actuals		-5,945	-1,694		0
						-4,250

THE WAY

The world is in such a terrible state.
The solution is beyond man's comprehension
But we know that God is all-powerful,
And He is not limited to any dimension.

Nothing is impossible with our great God.
His power is greater than the evils in these lands.
He is all-wise and ever-present.
He has all things in His mighty hands.



In His power, He has everything in His control.
He is not limited to time or to space.
By giving His Only Son to die for us,
He offers all His saving Grace.

Jesus is the answer to the world's problems.
He is the only solution if all will see.
Through His death, burial and resurrection,
He provided the Way for you and me.

- Delores Morrison

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." KJV

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven, whereby we must be saved. KIV

PUZZLE

Fruit or false

Spotting true fruits can be tricky. Thankfully, it's much easier to spot the fruit of the Spirit.

Directions: Determine whether each item is a fruit or vegetable and circle the correct letter. Then insert the letters in order below to complete the verses.

	Fruit	Vegetable		Fruit	Vegetable
Apple	V	P		Pepper	O U
Carrot	E	O		Spinach	R S
Tomato	Y	R		Watermelon	H P
Grape	C	F		Broccoli	G N
Eggplant	T	D		Pumpkin	T Y
Celery	I	N		Pear	F C
Banana	K	M		Asparagus	L R
Cucumber	N	W			

But the fruit of the Spirit is lo__e, j__ __, pea__e,
pa__ie__ce, __ind__ess, go__dne__s,
fait__ful__ess, gen__leness, sel__-cont__ol.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, ESV

Answer: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

*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
65 E. Columbus St.; PO Box 284
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