

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

Our Mission: "Sharing God's Love Through Grace"

JULY 2024



Grace Lutheran Church



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

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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
Accompanist:	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:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873
Council Secretary:	Diane Christensen 740-215-2396
Director of Inreach:	Linda Keaser 740-403-4197
Director of Outreach:	Vicki Jones 740-403-7311
Director of Upreach:	Casey Sigler 740-279-5405
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs 740-246-4751
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241
Bd of Women President:	Cherl Haggengos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Jim Lewis 740-503-0476
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Facilities:	David Rodenbaugh 740-215-6099

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 Fifth Commandment

You shall not kill.
Exodus 20:13 ESV



Moving along down the list of the Ten Commandments, we get to number five this month. In the Bible, the commandment prohibiting "killing" apparently does not include capital punishment or lethal force used in legitimate police and military operations. As we have seen in the previous commandment about authority, God gives certain authority to human representatives, and at times this civil authority is called upon to use force for the purpose of maintaining order in the world. For this reason, some translations of the Bible use the word "murder" instead of "kill" in this Fifth Commandment. Whether capital punishment or certain military actions are wise things for governments to engage in is a separate question, but it is simply important for our purposes here to distinguish between such actions and the kind of "killing" described by this Fifth Commandment.

When we hear commandment number five, we might be tempted to pat ourselves on the back. After all, most of us have never been in the situation of physically murdering someone. But as we have discovered with the previous commandments, things aren't quite so simple. It is good of course that we have never physically murdered anyone, but "killing" has a much broader meaning. Martin Luther summed it up in his Small Catechism:

We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbors no bodily harm nor cause them any suffering, but help and befriend them in every need.

In this brief explanation and in his lengthier explanation of the Fifth Commandment in his Large Catechism, Martin Luther points out that it is not only murder that God prohibits, but rather "everything that may lead to murder." God knows that the inclinations of our hearts are sinful, and so this commandment against "killing" is meant to serve as "a boundary between good and evil." Luther goes on to explain:

This spirit of revenge clings to every one of us... God wants us to keep this commandment ever before our eyes as a mirror in which we see ourselves, so that we may be attentive to his will and with hearty confidence and prayer commit to him whatever wrong we suffer... Thus may we learn to calm our anger and have a patient, gentle heart, especially toward those who have given us occasion for anger, namely, our enemies.

The hard pill to swallow is that God prohibits revenge and feelings of revenge. This commandment reveals to all of us our sinful and unclean hearts and need for our Savior Jesus Christ.

We also need to be aware that "killing" and "murder" have broad definitions. We are commanded to *do our neighbors no bodily harm nor cause them any suffering*. As human beings, we possess the power not only to harm people physically, but also verbally. Our words and actions have the power to tear people down, and this Fifth Commandment applies to those situations as well. Once again, this commandment reveals to us the depths of our sin and need for Jesus Christ and his mercy.

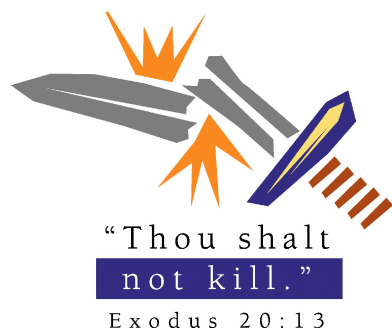
But like other commandments, this one doesn't end with prohibiting certain activities. Spiritual insight often comes from odd places. From the time he was very young, my son developed a liking for the superhero Spiderman, and so I

have become quite familiar with the story. The young man who became Spiderman, Peter Parker, is told by his uncle Ben Parker that "With great power comes great responsibility." As human beings, God has given us great power, and as Christians we know of our great responsibility.

I can think of no better way of expressing the last part of Martin Luther's explanation of this Fifth Commandment: "but help and befriend them in every need." As people who have been redeemed and reborn as God's children, God places us in the world and calls upon us to bear witness to his great love for us through our love for others. It is so tempting to lash out in anger and retaliation, but God has "a more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12) for us to follow. As Luther writes in the *Large Catechism*: *Therefore it is God's real intention that we should allow no man to suffer harm, but show to everyone kindness and love.* I pray that we as individuals and as a congregation will continue to demonstrate this outward focus of kindness and love, rooted in the undeserved love of Jesus Christ that has been so freely given to us.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



Worship In July

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

Sunday, July 7 - 7 Pentecost

**Independence Sunday - 8:00am Worship here,
11:00am Community Worship at Thornville Park.*



Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:14-29



Sunday, July 14 - 8 Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 21 - 9 Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 28 - 10 Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21



May's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 136
8:00am - 33 10:30am - 103

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes June 11, 2024

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

1. **Call to Order:** President Carl Lahman.

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Vice President Matt Sheridan

2. **Pastor's Report** - Pastor Tom Jacobson

- Correspondence:
 - Thank you note for all the church support from local LifeWise program director Kendra Lawrence. Thank you "card" from the LifeWise kids for the use of the facility.
- Worship:
 - Children's messages on most Sundays
 - Now using LBW Setting 1 for first part of summer
 - Made a mistake in my announcement this last Sunday:
 - The Community 4th of July worship service in the park will not be June 30, but rather, July 7 at 11:00
 - We will still have the 8:00 service that Sunday at Grace
- Pastoral acts:
 - Funeral service for Larry Arnold, May 20 at Brucker and Kishler Funeral Home in Newark
 - Baptism of Janet Ganci (former foster daughter of Raymond and Winnie King), June 7 at Grace
- Confirmation class:
 - Working with students to get remainder of requirements completed
 - Confirmation Sunday for those who have completed requirements will be last Sunday of October (Reformation Sunday)
 - Will be in contact later this summer with families of new students for the fall
- "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles have begun and are available on my blog, usually one per week: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/> 24 are completed.

- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
 - The "My Neighbor's Faith"(about different religious traditions) adult education hour on Sundays continues until June 30
 - So far have discussed Eastern Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism
 - Will discuss Reformed Protestantism, "Restorationist" movements, and Judaism and Islam
 - Summer youth trip
 - Have three youth registered to go in addition to myself to Charleston, South Carolina July 21-26. We will need to leave very early that Sunday morning
 - Egress window project at parsonage is scheduled for July 15-16
 - Down payment made from our parsonage furnishing allowance
 - Thornville Community Assistance fund
 - A lot of activity over the last month or so.
 - Request from nurses who work in Columbus to use Grace's parking lot for their "park and ride"during the week while construction on Ohio 13 is underway
 - Regular "park and ride"location is unavailable during that time
 - Three vehicles involved; I told them that would be OK, just to try to park in the back of the lot
- ### 3. **Inreach Ministry Report** - Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)
- Adventures in Faith/Sunday School:
 - The adult class which meets on Sunday, in St. John's Chapel (9:15 am) is being led by Pastor Tom Jacobson "My Neighbor's Faith."
 - The 3yr old-12th grade classes are on summer break, classes will resume Sunday, August 11th with "Rally Day"and the blessing of backpacks.
 - Graduation Sunday:
 - On Sunday June 9, 2024 we honored our graduates:
 - CJ Reynard, Lakewood High School
 - Brian W Luft III, Newark Catholic High School
 - Lauren Riley Feyh, K12 Homeschool Program
 - Collin Hill, Denison University
 - Luken Hill, Muskingum University
 - Thank you to Lillie Rockwell, Amber Feyh, & Pastor Theresa Jacobson for helping with their reception.

- Paul Varner Scholarship Fund:
 - Application deadline for the Paul Varner tuition aid scholarship is June 30th.
 - Motion to amend the scholarship amounts to \$350 for a maximum of 4 years.
 - Motion: Matt Sheridan; Second: Rick Rockwell. Motion passed.

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

- The youth will once again put together a float for the Thornville 4th of July parade that will be held at 12:00 on July 4th. The theme this year is simple, **"We are Grace Lutheran"**. The float will focus on all the wonderful people that make up Grace, looking for members of ALL ages to ride or walk in the parade. More info to be announced soon.
- Messy Games will return again this year to kick off another year of Youth Group meetings! Date to be announced soon!

4. Outreach Ministry Report –Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)

- Church potluck planned for Sunday, June 23, following the 10:30 service.
- The Blessing Box continues to offer free items to those in need. Anyone can help keep this mission going strong by restocking the Blessing Box. The box can be restocked with non-perishable food items, basic toiletries, baby supplies, pet food, or anything else that might be considered a blessing to someone in need. Thank you to all who have helped already!
- Vacation Bible School started yesterday, June 10 and runs through Friday, June 14. Attendance for the first day was 110 kids and 115 kids for the second day!!

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

- Community Church Service to be held at Thornville Shelly Park on Sunday July 7th at 11:00.
- Need volunteers for Greeters, Communion Assistants and Lectors
- Sue Ellen Simmons on vacation till August 11th, Cheryl Haggenjos to cover.

6. Treasurer's Report - Rick Rockwell, Treasurer

- Reports submitted.

- Motion to submit paperwork for NALC Group Tax Exemption. (current church designation is still with ELCA).
 - Motion: Rick Rockwell; Second: Diane Christensen. Motion passed.
 - Rick Rockwell will submit necessary paperwork.

7. Facilities Report - Dave Rodebaugh, Facilities Coordinator

- New egress window for parsonage basement bedroom is scheduled for July 15-16.
- A second Fire Inspection was done on May 22. All violations from the April 19th inspection have been fixed. No more violations were found.
- The heating vent baffles in the restrooms upstairs were closed halfway to help control the heat in heating season.
- The outside water shut-off valve, above a ceiling tile in the Fellowship Hall, now has an easy access door.
- Trimmed bushes on north side of church and sprayed weeds.
- Thanks to John Ulmer for applying Scotts' Step 2 on lawn.
- The pulpit and lectern now have clip-on reading lights available on the shelf below if needed.
- Thanks to Bob Reynolds for putting up outside banner for VBS.
- Thermostat Control Project
 - Bob Reynolds is working on a master schedule of times and rooms for regularly scheduled programs and events. Will get input from program and event leaders as to time, location and temperature needs.
- Finished replacing 16 ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall.

8. Old Business

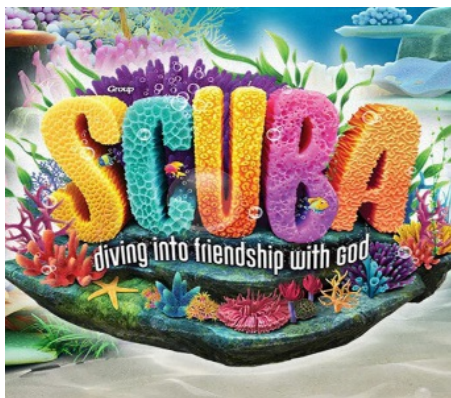
- Church directory is done.
 - Special thanks to Church Secretary Beth Gilgien for all the work on formatting, organizing and printing.
- Special thanks to Beth Raab, and her co-directors Annabelle Currence and Mel Crader and their committees and teams for all the time and effort put into an outstanding Vacation Bible School.

9. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

10. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: July 9, 2024 - 7 pm

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)



THANK YOU!

To all who have prayed or helped in any way, we thank you for supporting this year's Thornville Community VBS.

Hearts were touched and lives were changed as Jesus' love was made known to all.

He is Real. He loves. He is trustworthy. He is forever. He is for everyone.



God is so good!

It's not our VBS; all of it belongs to Him.







THE THORNVILLE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE PRESENTS

THE 3RD ANNUAL

Thornville

FREEDOM FESTIVAL

JULY 4TH, 2024

10:00AM - FOOD TRUCKS OPEN

11:00AM - CRAFT VENDORS OPEN

12:00PM - PARADE

1:00PM - KIDS ACTIVITIES BEGIN

1:00PM TO 5:00PM- DJ KURTUS

1:15PM TO 3:00 HELICOPTER DEMO

1:30PM - PET SHOW

2:00PM - HOT DOG EATING CONTEST

2:30PM - ICE CREAM EATING CONTEST

5:00PM TO 7:00PM - LUKAS HARLAN

7:00PM TO 9:00PM - BRIAN LEWIS

10:00PM - FIREWORKS

PARADE BEGINS AT THORNVILLE ELEMENTARY
FESTIVITIES AT THE PARK

Congratulations to Our 2024 Graduates



Brian W Luft III

Newark Catholic
High School

May 26, 2024

Brian received an academic scholarship as well as an athletic scholarship.

He will be playing golf for Barton College in Wilson NC, where he will be studying Business.



Lauren Riley Feyh

K12 Homeschool Program

June 2, 2024

She is interested in pursuing computer hardware engineering or IT sciences. Lauren loves playing video games, building gaming computers and recently picked up crochet. She is excited to see what God has in store for her!



College:

Collin Hill

Denison University - Major: Environmental Studies
Minor: Agricultural Sustainability
Played Football and Track

Luken Hill

Muskingum University - Major: Business, Marketing and Management
Minor: Entrepreneurship
• Plays Basketball
• Going to Grad School in the fall

NALC Constitution Revisions, Bob Reynolds

During the 2023 NALC Convocation, several people (including myself) with backgrounds in church constitutions were invited to participate in reworking the NALC constitution, mainly with respect to separating out procedural issues from major items. My background in working with church constitutions involves rewriting or revising the constitution of our previous churches, including First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Odenton, MD (LCMS), St Timothy Lutheran Church of Naperville, IL (ELCA), St Peter's Lutheran Church of Lancaster, OH (ELCA), the Southern Ohio Synod (ELCA), and the national ELCA constitution.

This work involves creating bylaws where, at present, there are none in the constitution. Individual Sections of each major Article are considered for what is the main point of that Section and what aspects of that Section are then procedural and can be a bylaw.

For example, Article 7 covers the Biennial Convocation. Section 7.01 in its entirety states "*A Convocation of the NALC shall be held biennially.*" Section 7.02, however, states "*Delegates with voting privileges at a Convocation shall be the ordained ministers of the NALC and lay delegates representing congregations of the NALC.*" How the delegates are chosen and then allocated are stated in 8 separate bylaw statements, none of which existed prior to our work.

The benefit of pulling procedural aspects from a Section statement and "reducing" them to bylaws makes it much easier for subsequent Convocations to change the bylaw as needed, requiring just one majority vote of that Convocation. If bylaws were not created from the overall Section, then the constitution requires that changes to Sections requires the two-thirds

approval of TWO consecutive Convocations! This is exceptionally cumbersome and unnecessarily time-consuming.

In addition to creating bylaws from existing Sections, the format of the constitution was “not uniform”, to put it mildly.

My current role on reworking the NALC constitution is that of, as I call it, “Scribe (but not Pharisee)”. This involves coordinating, maintaining and integrating all suggested changes from the other members of the committee (3 ordained ministers, one member of the Executive Council, the General Secretary of NALC, with oversight by the Bishop) and cleaning up the format of all documents involved.

This is a very time-intensive role that involves extreme attention to detail, an ability to integrate concepts across multiple Articles and Sections, and an ability to figure out how MS Word works at its most extreme minute level.

We are to present a draft version of the revised constitution to the NALC Deans about October of this year, followed by presentation to the Executive Council in November, and having a final version ready to be considered for approval and adoption in time for the 2025 Convocation.

*“O beautiful for spacious skies, for
amber waves of grain” (Katherine Lee
Bates). God, thank you for bright
summer skies, crops growing to feed the
world and your countless other gifts.*



Grace Notes Handbells

The summer break from ringing means bell maintenance and cleaning. Saturday, June 1, Sally and Rhianna Wilke, Becky and Jim Winegardner gathered for a day of bell cleaning. Although the bells are wiped down after every use, the bells must be completely dismantled for deep cleaning. Since all the internal parts are specific to each individual bell note, care is necessary to prevent a mix up. For that reason, to quote an old saying, “Too many cooks spoil the broth.” So the cleaning crew is kept small in number. The crew worked from 9:30 to 4:00 with a short lunch break of pizza. Big thank yous to my crew! The bells are now already for September ringing. All bright and shiny, they even sound better!



Taking the bell apart



WOW... sooo dirty!



Replacing worn parts
with new and putting
them back together



All bright and shiny,
they even sound
better!



LIFEWISE ACADEMY +++

Grace Lutheran Church,
I wanted to take a moment & thank you
for opening your doors to the kids in our
community. God has given you big hearts
toward the physical (backpack ministry) &
spiritual (lifewise) needs to the kids in our
backyards. I will forever be grateful & thankful
for the friends I've made with my family in
Christ at Grace, With love, Kendra

"And God called
the light daytime,
and the darkness
he called primetime."



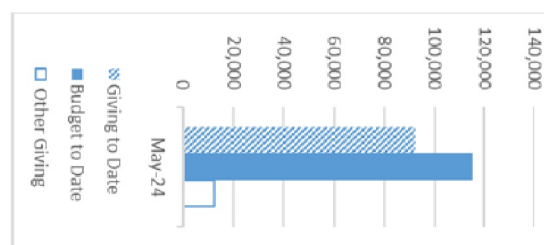
Campbell.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- 1: Prepare the Royal Highway
- 2: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
- 3: My Heart Is Filled with Wonder
- 4: I've Found Now the Fairest of Roses
- 5: Of the Father's Love Begotten
- 6: The Only Son from Heaven
- 7: I Walk in Danger
- 8: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
- 9: Glory Be to Jesus
- 10 Near the Cross
- 11 Ah, Holy Jesus
- 12 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- 13 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
- 14 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 15 Beautiful Savior
- 16 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
- 17 The Lord's My Shepherd
- 18 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
- 19 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (Now We Implore God the Holy Ghost)
- 20 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
- 21 Sunshine and Rain
- 22 Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go
- 23 This Is My Father's World
- 24 The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies
- 25 Evening and Morning
- 26 Now All the Woods are Sleeping

Monday, June 10, 2024

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	73,023.49	19280	24572	0	67,731.30
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	10,239.51	5	0	0	10,264.51
3,300,000	Mission Fund	17,565.61	330	583	0	17,312.61
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,349.46	200	0	0	3,549.46
3,400,000	Endowment Osnia 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	32,066.64	25	0	0	32,081.64
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	325.08	0	0	0	325.08
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,643.00	150	0	0	3,793.00
3,520,000	Library Fund	107.57	0	0	0	107.57
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0	0	0	1,017.41
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	513.69	0	0	0	513.69
3,620,000	Flower Fund	1,289.43	0	0	0	1,289.43
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,477.58	0	0	0	2,477.58
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	17,049.41	691	530	0	17,210.37
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	20,503.94	610	0	0	21,113.94
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	445.00	0	0	0	445.00
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	10,260.84	964	199	0	11,025.55
3,925,000	KFROCs Fund	8,812.33	0	0	0	8,812.33
	Total	\$241,231	\$22,255	\$25,885	\$0	\$237,602



Thank you to the Church Women for placing this memorial of Zelma Brown, a member of Grace from 1944 to 2023 in our Church Library!

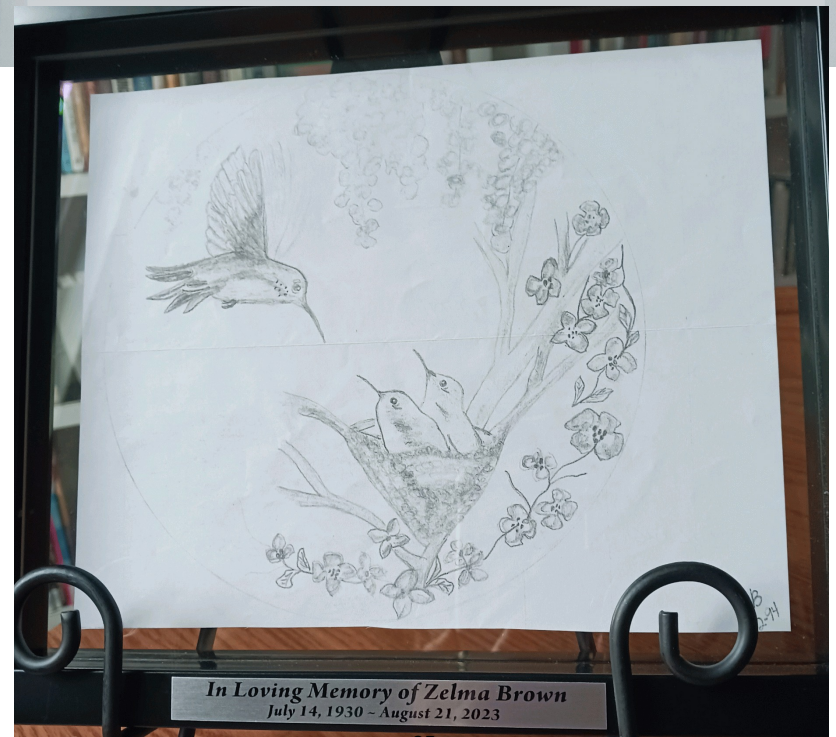
◆ Grace Lutheran Women

This donation is in memory of our mother
Zelma Brown.

Grace was such an important part of her
spiritual and social life & she especially
enjoyed being a part of the Women's Circle.

The Children of
Zelma Brown

This note was drawn by mom. She took up
painting & drawing later in her life.

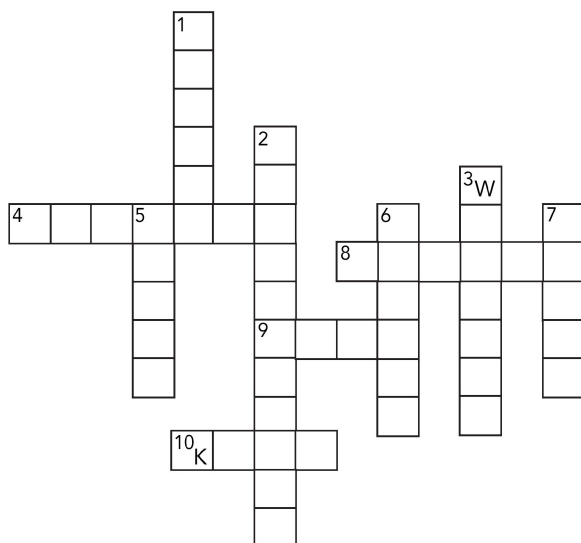




THE WONDER OF STARS

The heavens display evidence of God's great power.
What else does the Bible say about the sky?

Directions: Use the clues and Bible references (all NIV) to complete the crossword.



DOWN

1. The sun, moon and stars do this to God. (Psalm 148:3)
2. God made these as numerous as the stars. (Genesis 26:4)
3. Don't do this to the stars and sky. (Deuteronomy 4:19)
5. What do the heavens declare? (Psalm 19:1)
6. The moon and the stars do this at night. (Psalm 136:9)
7. When we're pure, we do this like the stars. (Philippians 2:15)

ACROSS

4. The heavens are the work of these. (Psalm 8:3)
8. On what day did God create the stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)
9. God calls each star by this. (Isaiah 40:26)
10. A star announced the arrival of him. (Matthew 2:2)

Answers: DOWN: 1. praise, 2. descendants, 3. worship, 5. glory, 6. govern, 7. shine, 8. fingers, 9. fourth, 10. king

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
Thornville OH 43076**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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