

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

June 2025

As a father shows compassion
to his children, so the Lord shows
compassion to those who fear him.

Psalm 103:13



Happy Father's Day - June 15

Grace Lutheran Church



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

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
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:	Bob Reynolds
Council Secretary	Susan Cheney
Director of Inreach:	Linda Keaser
Director of Outreach:	Daria Carr
Director of Upreach:	Casey Sigler
Financial Secretary:	Jim Roshon
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell
Bd of Women President:	Linda Keaser
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

Common and Unclean

*But God has shown me that I
should not call any person
common or unclean.*

Acts of the Apostles 10:28 ESV
(Monthly Watchword for June 2025)



One challenging thing about reading the Bible is understanding its original context. Naturally, there are differences between twenty-first century America and the Roman Empire of the first century. The culture and issues of that time that we read about in the Bible, two millennia removed from us, can seem foreign and strange. To understand the Bible requires us to get into the minds of the people of that time and see life through their eyes. When we do, though we see the differences between our time and theirs, we also see ongoing relevance. God's Word of the Bible continues to speak to us.

In the earliest years of the Christian faith, these believers faced a controversy that is for the most part unfamiliar to us. For them, however, it was a big deal. The broad question was this: How does God relate to the people of the world? In the Old Testament, God made a special relationship, or covenant, with the people of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God gave them a law to guide them and warned them of the corrupting influences of other societies. A large part of the Old Testament deals with the unfaithfulness of the Israelite people through their worship of foreign idols as gods.

At the time of the New Testament, the descendants of these Israelites were known as "Jews," a title that comes from one of the Israelite tribes called "Judah." Jesus himself and his

disciples came out of this Jewish background, and they carried forward the traditions of their people. One of those traditions had to do with dietary restrictions. In the Old Testament, certain types of animals were declared "unclean," unfit for consumption by God's people (see the book of Leviticus). Most of the animals on this list are uncontroversial. My mouth has never watered when thinking of roasted mice, rock badgers, or bats, for example. But two of the restricted types of animals are an accepted part of our modern diets: pigs (pork) and aquatic creatures without fins and scales (crustaceans and shellfish).

The exact reason for such dietary restrictions among the Israelite/Jewish people is unclear. People have provided various possible explanations. Perhaps the meats described on the list are harmful for people, especially when undercooked. We have likely heard of salmonella infections, for example. More likely, however, the consumption of the meat of such animals was associated with the neighboring cultures of the Israelites, and God desired that His people remain holy (set apart) from what is "common" and "unclean."

The answer seems obvious to us in our time and part of the world, but did Jesus come only for the Jewish people, or did he come for the whole world? And if Jesus did come to be the savior of the whole world, do non-Jewish people (Gentiles) need to adopt the practices of the Jewish people once they become Christians? Most pressing to resolve was whether new Christian believers needed to be circumcised like Jews. And did they need to stop eating pork and shellfish? This was the burning controversy of the first century, and large parts of the New Testament are devoted to responding to this.

To make a long story short, the answer was "no." Christians are not required to be circumcised and adopt the dietary

restrictions of the Old Testament. This required a shift in the thinking of Jewish believers in Jesus, even the most prominent of Jesus' disciples, Simon Peter. The book of Acts in the New Testament, which is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke, deals with this issue head on. Acts chapter 10 tells us how God changed and expanded Peter's perspective. Not only was Peter permitted to eat what had been declared "unclean," the relationship between Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) was also different. No longer was there a dividing wall between God's people and those of other nations. Through Jesus Christ and faith in him, God has brought together what had formerly been separate.

But God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. That is Peter's statement of faith in this chapter. This early controversy among Christians might seem distant from our situation, and indeed the details of it are. But it stands today as an important reminder that all human beings of all nations and backgrounds are of value and indeed of sacred worth. When we look at another person, whatever it is that might divide us, we also remember what we share: the love of God for us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Whatever differences of appearance there are between people, the love of God for all humanity binds us together by faith in one body and one Spirit (Ephesians 4:4).

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



April's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 155
8:00am - 36 10:30am - 118

Worship In June

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

Sunday, June 1 - Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost

Genesis 11:1-9 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Sunday, June 15 - Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15

Sunday, June 22 - Pentecost 2

Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 29 - Pentecost 3

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9:51-62

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism

The 10 Commandments



The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not show contempt for our parents and others in authority, nor provoke them to anger, but respect, obey, serve, love, and honor them.

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Present: Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (President), Bob Reynolds (Vice President), Susan Cheney (Secretary), Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator), Daria Carr (Outreach Coordinator), Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator), Rick Rockwell (Treasurer).

1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman
2. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Susan Cheney

3. Pastor's Report

- Worship:
 - Now using LBW Setting 2
 - Developing schedule for rotation between Setting 1, 2, and 5 (from the Blue Book)
- Pastoral acts:
 - Renewal/affirmation of baptism for Christopher Szkolnik, April 19 (Easter Vigil)
 - Wedding of Kendyl Mick and Edward Siefring, April 26
 - Memorial service for David Roshon, May 10
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
- Confirmation class
 - Have now finished the class for the year
 - Students are now completing any makeup work they have to do for the year
 - One student will be confirmed this fall
- Remaining Adopt a Highway dates (Saturdays) scheduled, meeting at church at 9:00am:
 - June 28
 - October 4
- Summer youth trip
 - Kenosha, Wisconsin July 20-25
 - Right now, seven youth are committed
 - Have sent out the registration information to the youth and their families
 - Right now, Theresa and I are planning on attending as adult chaperones unless there is another available female chaperone
- NALC Ohio Mission Region convocation May 2-3 at Grace Lutheran Church, Springfield, OH

- Went well, but I was the only person from our congregation
- New Dean was elected for our Southeast Ohio Mission District: Pr. Kurt Luebke from First English Lutheran in Marysville, assisted by Pr. Matt Cox (retired)
- NALC Convocation this summer
 - "Lutheran Week" in Pittsburgh goes from August 3-8, but the convocation part is only from 6-8. Theological conference will be earlier, and I will be one of the speakers
 - Grace is allotted a total of 6 (six) lay delegates. Convocation probably won't be this close to us for a while again, so let's take advantage of the proximity to Thornville and try to get 6 lay delegates to attend; it's a great experience
- Membership committee will meet again May 20
 - Purpose of identifying active and inactive membership, reaching out to inactive members
- Have finally developed a statement about how to handle requests to the church for financial and material assistance
 - Have provided copies
 - Nothing new from what has been happening, but having it on paper clarifies for the future
- NALC BYLD youth event July 7-12
 - Registration is \$100.00 each
 - If there are any interested from Grace, could we use money from youth fund?

4. Inreach Ministry Report – Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)

- ADVENTURES IN FAITH (AIF)/SUNDAY SCHOOL (SS)
 - Adult Sunday school meets weekly in St. John's Chapel from 9:15-10:15.
 - Community Vacation Bible School, June 9th-13th at Grace.
 - Rally day AIF classes, 3 yr. – 12th grades, resume, Sunday, August 17, 2025.
 - August 17, is also student & backpack blessing Sunday, during church services.
- WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (WNALC):
 - Monday, July 14, WNALC of Grace Board meeting at 10 am.
 - Sunday, August 17, "Church Picnic" at Thornville Park following second service.

- o Saturday, December 6th, "Circle Up Time" both women's groups gather for fun, lunch, and fellowship. Program "Christmas Memories".
- GRADUATION SUNDAY:
 - o On June 1st graduates will be honored at the second service with a reception following. Graduates name, photo, school, graduation date, and future plans needs submitted to the church office by May 25th.
- PAUL VARNER TUITION AID:
 - o Applications are available in the church office and on line with the requirements. Applications need submitted to Beth Raab or the church office by June 30th.
- MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:
 - o The study meets at 4:30 on Mondays at Grace and is working their way through the book of Psalms. No study will be held on May 26th, Memorial Day.
- TUESDAY'S TABLE:
 - o Tuesday's Table meets at 5 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month for a meal together at various eating establishments in the area. Watch for monthly information, and sign up in the "Gathering Space".
- MEN'S BREAKFAST:
 - o A Men's breakfast is held at Nana's & Papa's on the 3rd Sat. of the month at 8 am.
 - o KFrogs- No report.
- 5. Outreach Ministry – Daria Carr (Outreach Coordinator)**
 - Blessing Box – Vicki Jones asked if we could check for storm damage on the doors and seals. There was some water in there.
 - VBS – Beth Raab mentioned that decorating will take place the week prior to VBS, with the Sanctuary being decorated on June 8 starting around 1pm (although they may work between services on the 8th as well). Adults and youth 7th grade and up are welcome to be volunteers during VBS.
 - The Backpack Ministry will deliver this week for the final time this school year. This ministry served approximately 45 students each week this past year. Considering – "youth pack" one week per month next school year, as service hours.

- LifeWise held their last classes for this school year at the end of April. 156 children from Thornville Elementary attended.
- Crochet club will meet weekly in the summer beginning after VBS. April's monthly meeting was well attended (approx. 15). Monthly meetings will resume for June, July and August.
- The Membership Committee will meet again on May 20.
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup was held on April 12th.
- Bed Brigade – if anyone is interested in viewing the process or working a shift either making or delivering beds with a chapter currently in existence, you can sign up for a location and date that works for you. See Bedbrigade.org or bedbrigadecolumbus.org (based in Grove City) for more information.
- Considering – 2 mini youth events over the summer to bridge the gap.
- Re: VBS will have security following the guidelines as in the past 2 years.

6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler (Upreach Ministry Team Coordinator)

- Thank you to all those that attended our Annual Easter Breakfast! We were able to raise \$651.00 for the Perry County Housing coalition. A huge thank you to all those that volunteered! The Youth distributed Easter bags to the kids of the Thornville Food Pantry, Backpack Ministry and those Military Members.
- We will have two summer meetings in June and July following a 10:30 service. More info to follow in a couple weeks.
- Exciting things happening later in the Summer and Fall Season:
 - o 4th of July Float in the Thornville Parade, Messy Games in August, OSU Tailgate Party- watch for more information on this event!

7. Treasurer's Report – Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)

- Reports submitted

8. Facilities Report – Dave Rodenbaugh (Facilities Coordinator)

- Church spring cleaning was done on May 3rd. Due to the weather, outside work could not be finished until the following

week. Many thanks to all the volunteers.

- Installed two exit signs requested by the fire inspector. Fire inspector also wanted the fire alarm system tested/inspected. Silco Fire Inspections submitted a proposal.
- Installed the molding around the painting in classroom 206.
- A picture of the Last Supper and a cross are now hung in the chapel room off of sanctuary.
- Looking into generator options for supplying power to church office.

9. Safety & Security – Jim Lewis

- No report

10. Continuing Business

- New Outdoor Sign Update
 - Shipping date is scheduled for 05/13/2025.
 - The sign will be shipped to a terminal shipping address in West Chester Township, where the installer will pick up the sign. Installation will get scheduled with installer after he receives sign.
 - Regional Sales Manager said with a ship date of 5/13, we are looking at a week for delivery and another few weeks before installation begins. For now, we are looking at May 31st to remove existing sign.
 - Insurance for Outdoor Sign
 - Wichert Insurance suggested adding to our policy an additional annual premium of \$135 to cover things like wind or hail damage not covered in the warranty. Council approved adding additional coverage for the new sign.
- Door Lock Replacements
 - Council discussed two proposals by Bob Reynolds. Council agreed to replacing external locks only at this time. Adding electronic key codes will need further discussion. Motion was made by Rick Rockwell to approve changing the external locks only at this time and seconded by Casey Sigler. Motion passed.
- Handicap Parking
 - Council discussed a parking lot proposal by Bob Reynolds involving re-alignment of the parking spaces, including parking

stripes and wheelchair logos. No decision was made. Council will continue to discuss at next meeting.

● Resource Box Install

- Bob Reynolds indicated that the resource box is ready to install. No date has been set yet to install.

11. New Business

- Roof damage on 04/03/2025
 - A claim has been submitted to our insurance company for roof damages at both church and parsonage.
 - At this time the roofing company (Premier Roofing) and our insurance company (Selective Insurance) are working to reconcile their differences in what damages to the shingles are considered damages made by hail.
- Council discussed how to best handle parking violators. The decision was made to not put up a No Parking sign, but to try to identify the owners of the vehicles 1st and then approach them in a Christian manner about this issue.
- Council discussed briefly who will be in charge of creating play lists and sending them to our new sign. In general, pastor can be the one that will send play lists to the sign; however, he will need others to create play lists. An announcement will be made to see who might be willing to help create play lists. If anyone is interested, please contact pastor.

12. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – June 10, 2025

VBS- June 9-13 2025

Respectfully submitted, Susan Cheney (Council Secretary)

Transferred to the Church Triumphant:

Charles "Dick" Palmer

May 6, 1937— April 28, 2025



Congratulations to Our 2025 Graduates



Emily O'Hara
Utica High School

Will attend Columbus State to take their veterinary technician program to become a Veterinary Technician.



Brooklyn Heller
Muskingum University

Planning to attend graduate school to earn her Master's degree in Occupational Therapy.



Ava Heller
Sheridan High school

Planning to attend Marietta College, majoring in Health Science and playing basketball.



Grant McCallum
Sheridan High School

Will attend Ohio University.
Majoring in Secondary Education - Integrated Social Studies



Josie Sigler
Logan High School
with Honors

Planning to attend
 Columbus State
 College to obtain her
 degree in
 Sonography.

Paul Varner Scholarship Fund applications are available in the church office. Application deadline is June 30th of current year. Applicants need to submit a completed application, an essay of 500 words or more (750 maximum) describing their recent involvement at Grace Church and how your involvement has created an awareness of the need to help others, a high school final grade card or transcript, and formal proof of acceptance to secondary education institution. Contact Beth Raab 740-755-6410 or any council member for info.



You're going places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. *"There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on,"* writes Dr. Seuss.



In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): ***"Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."***

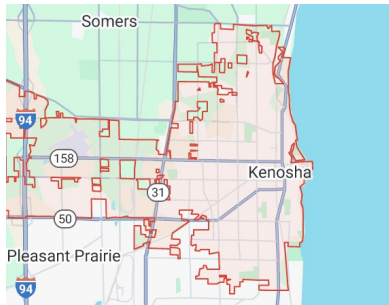


NALC Convocation Delegates:

Grace is allowed to send up to six (6) lay delegates to represent the congregation at the upcoming NALC convocation in Pittsburgh from August 6-8. It is a good experience, and it likely won't be held this close to us again for some time. Early registration is due by the end of May. Let Pr. Tom know if you would like to attend.



Female Chaperone Needed: We are in need of a female chaperone to accompany the summer youth trip to Kenosha, WI July 20-25. The youth and the adult chaperones are active during the day doing light service projects at different locations in the community. Let Pr. Tom know of your availability. Thank you!



Lutheran Church South Sudan (LCSS):

In the past, Grace has supported the LCSS, which is in exile in neighboring Ethiopia and other countries due to the civil war in South Sudan. The President of the LCSS, Pr. Jordan Long, has visited Grace. They are in need of constructing a new building for their college and seminary in Ethiopia in order to maintain their accreditation. They are hoping for some financial support to realize their goal. Contributions can be noted on offering envelopes and will be forwarded to the LCSS.



The Perry Housing Coalition would like to thank the **Grace Lutheran Youth Group** for their generous donation from their Easter breakfast. It is estimated that approximately 35 people are homeless each day in Perry County. Currently Perry County does not provide any funds to help the unhoused in Perry County. The Perry Housing Coalition operates on donations and an auction that is held each year. The Coalition is grateful for the generous donation from the youth of Grace Lutheran Church. The Perry Housing Coalition also is instrumental in building the Blessing Boxes all over the county and are thankful that Grace Lutheran shares in the vision of helping folks with food insecurity. We believe God loves everyone.



The **Thornville Activity Committee** would like to thank **Grace Church** for allowing them to have their Italian Dinner Fundraiser on April 27. They raised \$1200. for their 4th of July Event. Thank you so much. God is good!

Tom Welter
Margel Wilson
Lea Copeland
Martha Rusler
Sherry Sheppard
Tim Sheppard
Frank Crawford
Ann Copeland
Josh Copeland



TRUE NORTH VBS

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

THORNVILLE COMMUNITY VBS

JUNE 9-13, 2025; 9AM-NOON DAILY

Everyone begins at Grace Lutheran @9:00 a.m.

Pre-K and K walk to their own special VBS at Thornville United Methodist Church.

Grades 1-6 remain at Grace Lutheran Church for their fun VBS activities.

We gather back at Grace Lutheran at 11:30 to see our photos, sing and have fun. Parents may join at the back of the sanctuary.

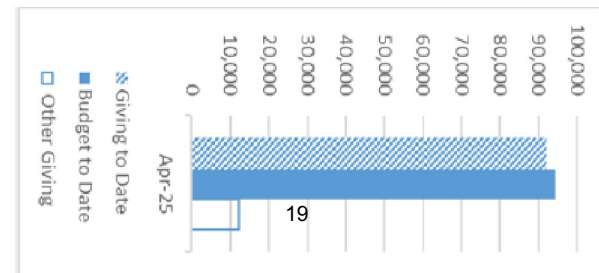
Dismissal at Noon each day.

Pre-registration is now closed, but in-person registration is open each morning from 8:30-9:00.

We hope to see you there!

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH Consolidated Fund Activity Report for April 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Monday, May 12, 2025	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	98,115		26,270	20,505	0	103,880
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	10,698		0	0	0	10,698
3,300,000	Mission Fund	20,510		225	15,490	0	5,244
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,867		5	0	0	3,872
3,400,000	Endowment Osmia Lawyer	10,000		0	0	0	10,000
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	41,149		0	0	0	41,149
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	75,691		520	0	0	76,211
3,500,000	Adventures in Faith Fund	1,714		83	49	0	1,747
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,923		80	0	0	4,003
3,520,000	Library Fund	31		0	0	0	31
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017		0	0	0	1,017
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	704		0	0	0	704
3,620,000	Flower Fund	1,261		446	105	0	1,602
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,793		0	0	0	2,793
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	12,478		537	1,585	0	11,429
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	94,089		300	739	0	93,650
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	860		0	0	0	860
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	3,816		651	1,405	0	3,061
3,925,000	KFRGs Fund	8,812		0	0	0	8,812
	Total	\$391,529		\$29,117	\$39,881	\$0	\$380,764



General Fund Budget
va Actuals

22,222
4,048

22,222
(1,717)

0
5,765

Celebrating the church's birthday

On Pentecost, June 8th this year, we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem 10 days after Jesus' ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ.



Like the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is important and relevant today. As theologian Henri Nouwen writes, "Without Pentecost the Christ-event — the life, death and resurrection of Jesus — remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."

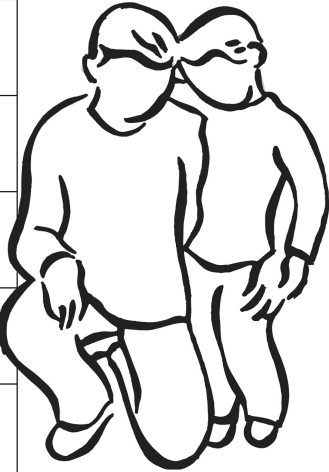


FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God. Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 parents	3 faithfulness	1 you	



_____, _____, _____, _____,
_____; _____,
_____.
_____.

Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV

*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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