

# The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

## August 2025



*"For where two or three  
come together in my name,  
there am I with them."*

*Matthew 18:20, NIV*

Rally Day - August 17, 2025

## Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: [www.gracethornville.org](http://www.gracethornville.org)

Email: [office@gracethornville.org](mailto:office@gracethornville.org)

Fax: 740/246-6284

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville](http://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*

## “Here I Raise My Ebenezer”

*To this day I have had the help  
that comes from God, and so I  
stand here testifying both to  
small and great.*

Acts 26:22 ESV (Monthly  
Watchword for August 2025)



One of the most popular Christian hymns in the English-speaking world is “*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*” by Robert Robinson (1735-1790). Though he was a Baptist dissenter from the Church of England, his hymn has had true “staying power” over the last few centuries among Christians of many types.

Its popularity is understandable. The text and tune merge to form a beautiful expression of the Christian faith: the call to recognize our sinful human tendency to wander from God (“prone to wander, Lord, I feel it...bind my wandering heart to thee”), the debt we owe to God because of His goodness to us (“Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be”), and the call Christian people have to express their faith with their lives (“Tune my heart to sing thy grace”). I have never grown tired of this hymn in all the years I have sung it.

The one part of his hymn, however, that raises some eyebrows is an odd reference in the second verse: “Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I’m come.” What is an Ebenezer? I have received this question often when we have sung this hymn in worship in other places, and so I always try to provide an advance explanation, thereby allowing the congregation to sing the hymn with greater meaning. Many of us have heard the name of Ebenezer Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol*, but this reference goes back much farther.

From the book of 1 Samuel in the Old Testament, the word in Hebrew means “stone of help.” In chapter 7 of that book, the Israelites had struggled in their battle with the Philistines, and Samuel wanted to remind the people that it was by God’s help, God’s grace, that they came through their struggle. He therefore set up a stone as a monument in that place.

Speaking only for myself, though I am guessing it is true for most anyone, I often fail to reflect on the ways that God has helped me. Especially in our country, we are taught the values of personal responsibility, hard work, and achievement. On a certain level, it is not wrong to take pride in our accomplishments. But proper perspective is important. A 1998 *Survey of Lutheran Beliefs and Practices* conducted by Lutheran Brotherhood (one of the predecessors of Thrivent Financial) tried to “take the temperature” of Lutherans in the United States by asking questions about how they understand their faith. It revealed, among other things, something disturbing: 44% *disagreed* with the following statement: “Property (house, car, money, etc.) belongs to God and we only hold it in trust for God.” Really? Who is it that gave us the ability to acquire those things?

A foundational aspect of Christian faith is that God is indeed the “Fount of Every Blessing.” We are who we are by the grace of God. This includes not only what we need physically from day to day. It includes also our spiritual life. God provides us with the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is our life and salvation.

In this month’s Watchword from Acts 26, the Apostle Paul stands before King Agrippa, and he provides a simple yet powerful statement of faith: *To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great.* Years before, God had turned Paul’s life upside down. He had once persecuted the early Christian

believers, but once Jesus appeared to him, he himself began to serve Jesus in humility. God called him to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the outside world, to both “small and great.”

Paul’s life was not easy. God’s call upon him and His presence in his life did not fix every problem or eliminate every struggle. In a way, actually, God’s call on his life made his life *more* challenging. But it was also more rewarding. Because of how God intervened in his life, Paul came to see more deeply how God is truly the “Fount of Every Blessing” and how “to grace how great a debtor” he truly was.

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we, like the Apostle Paul two-thousand years ago, must still always ask, “How has God helped us?” He has helped us all in different ways, through family, friends, strangers, teachers, mentors, pastors and the encouragement of others in the family of faith. Coming up with our own list is a valuable spiritual exercise. As we do, then we are also called, like Paul, to testify to how God has helped us, to “raise our Ebenezer,” in the hope that others might find in God the source and goal of their existence.

*Thomas E. Jacobson*

Pr. Tom Jacobson



#### June's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance -110  
8:00am - 33    10:30am - 77

## Worship In August

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

### **Sunday, Aug. 3 - Pentecost 8**

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23    Psalm 49:1-12\  
Colossians 3:1-11    Luke 12:13-21

### **Sunday, Aug. 10 - Pentecost 9**

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

### **Sunday, Aug. 17 - Pentecost 10**

RALLY DAY - BACKPACK BLESSING - CHURCH PICNIC  
Jeremiah 23:23-29    Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2    Luke 12:49-56

### **Sunday, Aug. 24 - Pentecost 11**

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

### **Sunday, Aug. 31 - Pentecost 12**

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

## From Martin Luther's Small Catechism

### *The 10 Commandments*



### **The Sixth Commandment**

*You shall not commit adultery.*

### **What does this mean?**

*We should fear and love God so that in matters of sex we are chaste and disciplined in our words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.*

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes July 15, 2025

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

1. Call to Order: Carl Lahman
2. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Rick Rockwell
3. **Pastor's Report**
  - Worship
    - Will switch to LBW Setting 2 around beginning of school
  - Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
  - Remaining Adopt a Highway date for 2025, meeting at church at 9:00am: October 4
  - Summer youth trip
    - Kenosha, Wisconsin July 20-25
    - Rick Rockwell will be adult chaperone with me
    - Will leave Sunday morning at 7:00 from church; Pr. Theresa will cover that Sunday
  - 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
    - Will have a brief family trip afterwards; Pr. Mark Daniels, Dean of Southwest Ohio Mission District NALC will fill in Aug. 10
  - Membership committee
    - Purpose of identifying active and inactive membership, reaching out to inactive members
    - Have made some progress on the list; will schedule next meeting soon
  - New member, seeker, or "refresher" course for current members on "What Lutherans Believe"
    - Has begun for this summer
    - Will plan on offering regularly, perhaps in fall, winter, and summer, for anyone interested
      - No strings attached for anyone participating, but this is the path for new membership

- New "Bread of Life" Blessing Box next to the "Blessing Box" for food
    - Am gathering Bibles and devotional materials for free distribution
    - Some materials have been taken
    - Anyone interested in helping organize the materials, contact Pr. Tom
  - Electronic sign
    - Put out a notice on the NALC Facebook groups asking if another Grace Lutheran Church would like our old sign
      - Possible interest from a congregation in North Carolina, but haven't heard anything more recently
    - Have been working on sign playlists through their programming website
    - Is easy to work with and program
    - Development of policy for use of the sign
  - Men's breakfast will be reading through Nestingen and Forde's "Free to Be" confirmation handbook
    - One chapter per month (not very long)
    - Copies are available in church office, and if desired can give donation to the church for the cost of the book; \$16.99 each
  - Pr. Tom will be attending the Global Lutheran Forum meeting in Nairobi, Kenya as a NALC representative September 23-25
4. **Inreach Ministry Report** – Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)
  - ADVENTURES IN FAITH (AIF)/SUNDAY SCHOOL (SS):
    - August 17th (Rally Day for AIF) blessing of backpacks for the new school year.
  - WOMEN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH (WNALC):
    - Sunday, August 17, RALLY DAY Congregational Church Picnic at Thornville Park following second service.
    - Mission Project: The board met and agreed to sponsor collection of items for Health Kits and to collect Bibles for the NALC Disaster Response Team.
  - PAUL VARNER TUITION AID
    - Special thanks to Beth Raab for organizing and verifying the applications for the Paul Varner Tuition Aid Fund. She recommends four recipients for Congregational Council



consideration: Josiah Hamilton, Emily O'Hara, Grant McCallum, and Josie Sigler.

- YOUTH REPORT (KFC & KFROGS) as reported by Casey Sigler:

- Thank you to all those that participated in making this year's 4th of July float a success! Our Theme was "We've got Spirit, the Holy Spirit!" If you missed it you can see it in the Sweet Corn Festival Parade!
- Messy Games will be held Saturday, August 16th from 11:00am – 3:00pm. Youth are to wear old clothing and shoes and bring a towel. Lunch will be provided.
- We will be showcasing our float in the Sweet Corn Festival on Wednesday, August 27th.

#### **5. Outreach Ministry – Daria Carr (Outreach Coordinator)**

- VBS – already working on next year's 2026 VBS.
- The Membership Committee met at the end of June and is now about halfway through the congregational listing. Reach outs will follow.
- Crochet Club resumed monthly in June with three new friends. Summer club started meeting weekly and also has a couple new attendees.
- America 250 – A motion was made by Casey Sigler and seconded by Carl Lahman to participate in the national America 250 celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Motion passed. Grace will be part of the Village of Thornville committee to plan events throughout the year. Specific details about Thornville's plans are not yet available.

#### **6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)**

- Volunteers needed for Greeters, Lectors, Communion Assistants, and Acolytes. Thank you to all those that have signed up to volunteer!

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

- Reports submitted

#### **8. Facilities Report – Dave Rodenbaugh (Facilities Coordinator)**

- Window shades in the parsonage were replaced.

- Door hinges and door latches on both Blessing Boxes were replaced with solid brass to prevent rusting of the brass plated hardware.
- Extended conduit and re-pulled longer wire to the new sign.
- Helped with the installation of the new sign on July 11.
- Removed dirt from around new sign and planted grass around sign and under the tree.
- Replaced HVAC damper motor to office as to work properly and not be so cold.
- With agreement of the local fire department, we will be replacing all of our rechargeable fire extinguishers. They need to be serviced every six years. Non rechargeable are good for twelve years. Seven were needed to be serviced this year, so they been (donation) replaced.

#### **9. Continuing Business**

- New Outdoor Sign
  - A new footer has been dug, prepped, and poured per engineering specifications. Time was needed to let the concrete cure and hardened before putting the new sign on it.
  - Installation of sign was finished on July 11th.
- Roof damage claim for hail damage
  - An engineering inspection was done by Haag Engineering on June 11, confirmed minor hail-related damage. However, the roofing shingles at both the church and parsonage did not exhibit hail-related damage. The granule loss, surface wear, and scuffing were attributed to long-term weathering, foot traffic, and maintenance-related aging. It was decided not to proceed with the claim.
- Constitution Review Update
  - The next step is for council to review and make any suggestions/revisions before making it available to congregation members for consideration before a possible vote at our annual fall congregational meeting. Council will discuss at the August meeting.
- Door Lock Replacements
  - Door locks have been upgraded and new keys were issued.
- Installing parking stops in the handicap parking spaces and their location

- Council decided to have the Sign Committee discuss whether we need parking blocks, and if so, where should they be placed.
- Resident parking violators on Sunday mornings
  - A friendly note has been put on non-member vehicles that typically use the parking lot on Sunday mornings. So far, the problem seems to be solved.
- NALC Convocation Delegates
  - Four delegates have been registered to the NALC Convocation representing Grace: Steve Carr, Kris Lamphere, Bob Reynolds, and Shane Rockey.

#### 10. New Business:

- Paul Varner Scholarship
  - Rick Rockwell made a motion and Daria Carr seconded the motion to accept the four recommended recipients for this year's Paul Varner Scholarship: Josiah Hamilton, Emily O'Hara, Grant McCallum, and Josie Sigler. Motion passed.
- LifeWise Academy Lease Agreement
  - Council is in the process of reviewing a new LifeWise Academy Lease Agreement.
  - LifeWise starts Sept. 10, 2025 and ends Apr. 9, 2026.
- Nominating Committee
  - Council is starting to work on a list of potential people to serve on this committee. Three voting members are to serve on this committee, one of which is to be an outgoing council member.
  - This year we have two positions to be filled next year: President and Treasurer. Carl will be completing his first term and has decided not to run again for a second term. Rick will be completing his second term.

#### 11. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – August 12

NALC Convocation – August 3-8

Respectfully submitted, Susan Cheney (Council Secretary)

## Women of the NALC Grace Lutheran Church – Thornville, Ohio July 14, 2025

**Members Present:** Valinda Arnold, Marian DeRolph, Cheryl Haggenjos, Theresa Jacobson, Linda Keaser, Kaye Smith; Absent: Anna Oberhauser

Linda K. called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Women read together the Purpose Statement. Cheryl led a devotion called, "Do We Care?", reminding us that God is always with us! Love goes a long way, and God trusts us to do his deeds of love.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$2,799.70.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes were reviewed from the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and approved.

#### Old Business:

Spud Dinner – March 16<sup>th</sup> following 10:30 worship service: We had a nice turnout for our second Spud Dinner this past spring and brought in \$363 in donations. Thank you to EVERYONE who helped with decorating, cooking, baking, cleaning, etc. If we didn't have all the willing volunteers, we wouldn't be able to do these special fellowship events.

*Lenten Soup Suppers* – Thank you again to everyone who helped with six weeks of suppers this past winter/spring. We had so many delicious soups and desserts, and the many hands that helped with serving and cleaning made it enjoyable for all! Thanks again for all your help!

#### New Business:

*Church Picnic – Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 worship service at the Thornville Community Park:* Theresa will have an announcement put in the bulletin. The women will provide fried chicken, drinks, plates, napkins, cups, and utensils. Those attending will be asked to bring a dish to share (side dish, salad, or dessert). Bingo will be offered at 1:00 p.m.

- Kaye – will get hand sanitizer, toilet paper, bathroom/cleaning products, and table cloths
- Valinda – will provide beverages (lemonade, iced tea, and water)

- Theresa – will provide ice and contact Jessica Rockey for Bingo
- Linda – will provide cups and cutlery
- Cheryl – will provide napkins and plates
- Marian – will order chicken from TC Market

*Thank Offering* – This will be held on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> this year. Pastor Theresa will be preaching, and the women will be taking donations for the food pantries in our area (Glenford, Somerset, and Thornville)

*Christmas Gathering* – This will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. **It is open to ALL members of Grace Lutheran Church.** A program will be provided by Mrs. Sandy Zikursh entitled *Christmas Memories*. Women will serve a luncheon meal.

*Birthday Party for the Congregation* – The women discussed this briefly and thought that maybe doing something in February would be an option. It was decided we table further discussion until our next meeting.

*WNALC Mission Project* – The women discussed a mission to support throughout the year. They will be collecting items to use for putting together Health Care Kits for NALC Disaster Response. More information on requested items will be provided in the Gracevine newsletter and bulletin.

### **IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP...2025**

**August 17<sup>th</sup>** – Rally Day, Backpack Blessing, and Church Picnic at Thornville City Park (following 10:30 service)

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Thank Offering Sunday

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Gathering for all members of Grace Lutheran – “*Christmas Memories*” program provided by Mrs. Sandy Zikursh

### **DATES IN 2026...**

**May** – Spring Banquet with program provided by Mrs. Sandy Zikursh “*Life in the Western Reserve*”

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – Aug. 1, 2026** Yard Sale (Note the date. This will be **2026!**)

We prayed together The Lord’s Prayer before adjourning. Next meeting will be **October 13<sup>th</sup>** at **10:00 a.m.** Valinda will provide devotions in October. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By: Theresa Jacobson, Secretary



Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00am to 3pm we will be holding once again our **Messy Games** and are inviting all kids in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to attend. Please let Casey Sigler or Pastor Theresa know if you are interested in participating this year.

All kids attending are asked to bring old clothes and an old towel that can get stained. Also, bring an outfit to change into to go home.

Lunch will be provided!

We are looking for adult volunteers to help with game stations and food. Contact Casey Sigler.



**Rally Day and Backpack Blessing** will be held on **Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**. Join us as we kick-off a new year of Adventures in Faith at 9:15 a.m. **All ages are invited to attend in Noah's Club.** Our theme for this year's Rally Day is "Our Good Shepherd Guides and Comforts Us: Psalm 23." **Backpacks** will be blessed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on the 17<sup>th</sup> and students will receive a tag to attach to their backpacks as a reminder that our Good Shepherd guides us everyday, throughout the school year. **Paul Varner Scholarships** will be awarded during the 10:30 service.

## Our Adventures in Faith Classes and Leaders:

- ✦ Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Linda Keaser in Noah's Club
- ✦ 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade - Jessica Rockey, Amber Feyh, Pr. Theresa, upstairs on Mt. Sinai. 2nd through 12th graders will be divided up each week based on kids in attendance.
- ✦ Confirmation Class - Pastor Tom in Classroom 1.
- ✦ Adults - Kris Lamphere in St. John's Hall.

**The Backpack Ministry Team** needs your help to provide **shoes** for the beginning of the school year. We are able to accept new and very gently used athletic and casual shoes. We need women's sizes 7-11 and men's sizes 9-13. These shoes will go to high school students, so please keep that in mind when donating. Colors such as gray and black that can be worn daily are good choices. Name brand shoes such as Adidas, Nike, New Balance, Skechers and others are best for comfort and durability. Donations can go in the bins near the coat rack near the main floor restrooms. All donations needed by Aug 3. If you have questions, call or text Kate Simmons at 740-605-3230. Thank you so much for continuing to support the Backpack Ministry.



The Grace Women of the NALC will once again host a church picnic following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, August 17th** at the Thornville Community Park.

The WNALC will provide fried chicken, drinks, plates, napkins, cups, and cutlery.

Bring a dish to share (side dish, salad, or dessert). Bingo will be offered at 1:00 p.m.

All are invited and welcome to attend for fellowship and food!



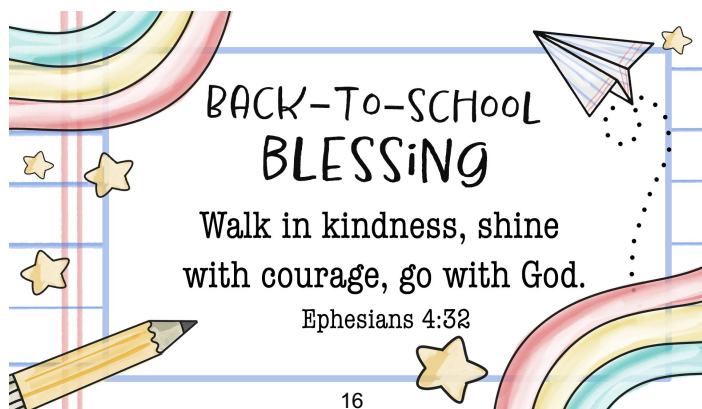




Summer vacation has gone much too fast! It's now time to think of resuming school, Adventures in Faith, and BELLS! It's time to get back to Grace Notes and ringing.

And, unfortunately as always the case, we need more ringers! We practice on Monday nights, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and ring for the 10:30 service on Sundays once a month and on special occasions. For questions or to learn more contact Becky Winegardner.

**Our first practice for the 2025/2026 season will be 7:00p.m., Monday, September 8.**



## MISSION PROJECT 2025:

Health Care Kits and Bibles for the NALC Disaster Response Team!

During August and September we will be collecting Health Care Kit items. A box is located in the Atrium door area and in the Gathering Space for donations. Items needed are listed below; you can donate individual items or feel free to put together a full kit on your own.

### HEALTH CARE KIT ITEMS:

- 1 two-gallon plastic storage bag (used to pack items)
- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush (individually sealed)
- 1 pack dental floss (optional)
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clippers (optional)



### BIBLES:

- Bibles, new or used (highlighted and underlined text is acceptable), child, teen, or adult.
- Bible story books for children
- Prayer books

Sponsored by the Grace Lutheran Church Women



# TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IN PERRY COUNTY WITH JIMMY & ROBIN BURROW

A behind the line look at "Raising Joe"

**AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> 2025**  
**NEW LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CAFETORIUM**  
**SOCIAL HOUR 5:30PM**  
**FOOD 6:00PM**  
**PROGRAM 6:45PM**  
**LIVE/SILENT AUCTION 7:30PM**

## Table Sponsor Levels

### Touchdown Sponsor

1,500 Includes table seating for 12 guests, very large sponsorship sign, Facebook blasts, large logo representation in all promotional advertising and spotlight recognition during the event.

### Field Goal Sponsor

\$1,000 Includes table seating for 6 guests, sponsorship signage, mention in Facebook blasts until the night, newspaper exposure and shoutouts during the event.

### Extra Point Sponsor

\$500 Includes table seating for 6 guests, sponsorship signage, mention in Facebook blasts, name recognition during the event.

### Kickoff Sponsor

\$250 Includes table seating for 6 and recognition during the event.

### SPONSOR TYPE:

Email all logos to [morgan.holman@nlpanters.org](mailto:morgan.holman@nlpanters.org)

**Cover a Student Athlete's Ticket**  
*Instead of sponsoring, you can cover the ticket of a student athlete for \$10.00.*

Scan QR Code to Purchase!



PLAY ACTION! Mail payment to the following to reserve your table and entry fee: Perry Housing Coalition P.O. Box 917 New Lexington, Ohio

**LOCK & KEY UPDATE** A total of 23 doors throughout the building have had their locks updated, and new keys have been issued to those who requested them. The **ONLY** locks that still accept the old "blank" key are the four Backpack Ministry cabinet doors along the west wall in the Fellowship Hall. If you don't need access to those cabinets, please either discard those old keys or return them to Beth Gilgien. If you need new keys and don't yet have one, contact Bob Reynolds at [bobr22600@twc.com](mailto:bobr22600@twc.com). This will be the last notice of this change-over.



Grace Lutheran Church  
 PO Box 284  
 Thornville, OH 43076

July 16, 2025

Dear Grace Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for your June 16, 2025 donation in the amount of \$11,380 for the Classroom Building Project.

We are grateful for your support as we endeavor to glorify God by reaching out to North Americans and inviting them to give of their time, talents, and treasures to help the LCSS share the Gospel.

God bless you!

*Carol*

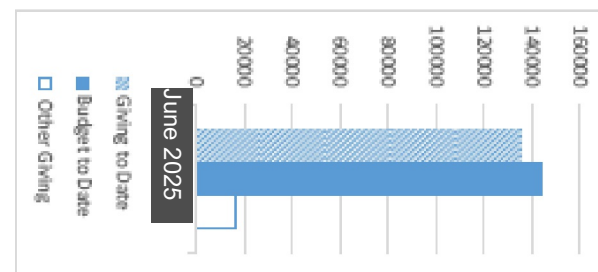
Carol Davis

Assistant Treasurer, LCSS-NA

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

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IEs	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	95,130	249.42	220.20	0	98,052
3,200,000	Improvement Fund	10,698	0	0	0	10,698
3,300,000	Mission Fund	5,147	765	400	0	5,512
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan	3,747	0	106	0	3,641
3,400,000	Endowment Osma	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,400,100	Endowment Osma	41,149	0	0	0	41,149
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	57,495	105	3,300	0	54,300
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith	15,76	32	55	0	1,552
3,510,000	Warner Scholarship	4,178	425	0	0	4,603
3,520,000	Library Fund	37	0	0	0	37
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	709	0	0	0	709
3,620,000	Flower Fund	1,602	0	0	0	1,602
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,793	0	0	0	2,793
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry	11,121	565	0	0	11,686
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	95,130	100	102	0	95,128
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	860	0	0	0	860
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	2099	0	268	0	1,791
3,925,000	KFCOGs Fund	8,812	0	0	0	8,812
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$353,260</b>	<b>\$269.34</b>	<b>\$26,253</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$353,942</b>



Dear Tom,

I want to add my personal note of gratitude for Grace Lutheran's generosity to lead the way to build the classroom for the LCSS. Since I have been involved with this very effective ministry, I have seen God's hand at work in remarkable ways, and this time is no different. Thanks for being a part of it. Please pass on to the Grace community the sincere expression of our thankfulness.

It is a privilege to serve the Lord with you.

Blessings!

In Christ,  
Dave Mann

Gift: \$11,380



**July 11, 2025  
New Sign Installation**



*Many thanks to everyone who was involved in the process of getting the new electronic sign up and running. Huge thanks to the anonymous donor who purchased it for Grace. It looks great and will be of great service to Grace Lutheran and the wider community!*



**Pioneer Bible Translators  
The Vogts Serving the Bibleless in East Africa  
Special Summer 2025 Edition**

***IT'S OFFICIAL!!!!***

*Join us in rejoicing that our sweet girl, Zawadi, is finally a part of the Vogt family!*

When we walked into the Tanzanian municipal office September 29, 2022 inquiring about adopting, we had no idea what God had in store for us. We trusted and took it one step at a time. This is something we have been doing when we have felt Him calling us to step out into the unknown and outside our comfort zone. There has been many times with just a mustard seed of faith (and at times even smaller) that we took that first step. Anyone who knows our story/life can testify to this.

It took over a year to collect all the appropriate documents to submit to the commissioner for his/her approval to be matched with a child. On February 6, 2024, we were handed the smallest, most precious, smiling girl that would forever change our lives. We then fostered Zawadi for 6 months.

After several hearings, a fake lawyer, change in judges...we walked into our hearing on April 9th not knowing what to expect. This is the day we have been praying and longing for, to add to our family. We thank God for "adoption" not only here on earth but in Heaven. If you don't know what we're talking about, we'd love to share it with you!!

How Can We Bless the Vogts This Summer?



Thanks for asking! Here are a few simple and easy ways that would have a large impact for us this summer. Jonathan and Sarah have a couple trips planned for the month of September to visit colleges, family, friends, and partners. Any amount is appreciated. We know a little bit can go a long way!

- \* Gas gift cards!
- \* Fast food gift cards
- \* Grocery store gift cards
- \* Click here to help us with our Amazon list...when we return to TZ, we will have 6 totes to fill

Send all gift cards by September 1 and Amazon list items by September 14 to the following address:

The Vogts  
5969 Heimberger Lane  
Baltimore, OH 43105



## WHO AM I?

*Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets? Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines. Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.*

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort. It is book 23.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials. My book is number 24.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.

Prophets are \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel; Messengers.

*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

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[office@gracethornville.org](mailto:office@gracethornville.org)

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