

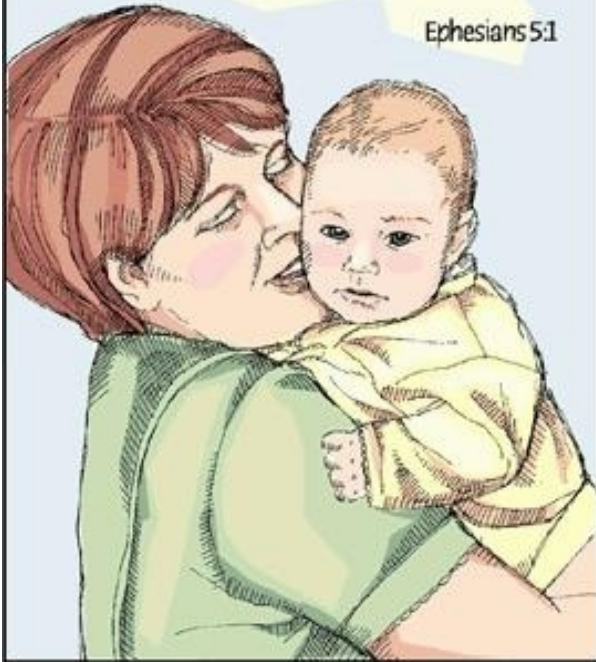
The Grapevine

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

MAY 2022

Be imitators of God,
therefore, as dearly
loved children.

Ephesians 5:1



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me bear much fruit..."

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 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:	Amber Feyh 740-415-5955
Director of Outreach:	Jeff Stought 740-407-0617
Director of Upreach:	Kelly O'Reilly 740-928-7626
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs 740-246-4751
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241
Bd of Women President:	Cherl Haggengjos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Bob Reynolds 630-698-0457
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Facilities:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639

Please call the church office with regard to any of the following:
*Hospitalizations; Baptisms; Confirmation; Weddings;
First Communion; Spiritual Counseling; Prayer Concerns*

Happy Mother's Day - May 8, 2022

Cheerleading

*And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ...
Ephesians 4:11-12 RSV*



When I was growing up in my community in southwestern Minnesota, cheerleading was an exclusively female thing. Boys played sports. Girls did too, at least some of the time. But the girls were known more than anything for being cheerleaders. It took me by surprise, then, when I realized that there is such a thing as a male cheerleader. At larger schools and especially colleges and universities, cheer squads often include young men, who perform various functions.

Because of my experience as a youth, I never considered the possibility that I would serve as a cheerleader, nor did I have any desire to do so. But as the years have gone on, I have come to see that my role as a pastor is in many ways like that of a cheerleader.

Over the last sixteen years that I've served as a pastor in different locations, the question of how to understand a pastor's role in a congregation and community has been one with which I've continued to wrestle. I know I'm not alone in this. Is the pastor a preacher? Is the pastor a "nice guy," an involved member of the community? Is the pastor a judge of doctrine, a scholar? Is the pastor a listener, a counselor? Is the pastor an

administrator? There is some truth behind all these descriptions, and that is why it is hard to come up with a single label for what a pastor is. It is a diverse, multifaceted role.

In addition to these things, I have come to believe that a big part of a pastor's role is that of a cheerleader in a congregation. Part of what I am called to do is cheer on and encourage the great work that goes on, carried out by so many here. When the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians about the calling that some have to serve as pastors, he described it as designed "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ."

This season of Easter consists of fifty days of rejoicing in the good news of Christ as our risen Lord and Savior, who has accomplished his work of sacrifice, shown his power over hell and all that keeps us from God, and now proclaims that victory to the world. It is a time of joy, and for me it is a time of thanksgiving.

Even though I have only been among you for a few months, I want to take an opportunity in this time of Easter joy to serve as a cheerleader. You won't see me doing flips in the air or holding pom poms, but let me encourage you all by saying the following:

It is obvious that people here at Grace Lutheran bring many and various gifts to this place. Because I don't want to risk leaving anyone out, I won't "name names." But the dedication of so many people skilled in so many areas is what keeps this place running. All the attention devoted to worship, facilities, education, music, outreach, and service does not go unnoticed. The work of everyone is appreciated. Everyone's willingness to come together and cooperate in the life of this congregation is an expression of our unity in the risen Christ.

And there is room for more! Feel free to reach out to those in charge of various areas for ways to be involved. Our new Ministry Directory is a great tool for navigating congregational life.

I am grateful to be among you, and thank you for serving as the body of Christ in this place!

Basking in the Easter afterglow,



Pr. Tom Jacobson

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



Worship In May

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, May 1 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30;

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 8 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 15 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 22 - 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

Sunday, May 29 - Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47;

Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53



March's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 128

8:00am - 30 10:30am - 98

Church Council Meeting Minutes April 18, 2022 7:00 PM

Present: Paul Moentmann (Council President), Amber Feyh, Jeni Lahman, Kelly O'Reilly, Rick Rockwell, 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 Paul Moentmann
3. Pastor's Report
 - Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday went well.
 - Confirmation class is going well. With this group, we will break for the summer and then resume classes in the fall. The confirmation service for this group will occur late October.
 - Visited future new members, Larry & Valinda Arnold. The council voted to receive them as members of Grace Lutheran Church
 - There has been interest in a new member class. Pr. Tom will soon begin a six-week class called "What Lutherans Believe," which can be used for people who come from non-Lutheran backgrounds to become members, but the class will be open to anyone, even those interested in a confirmation refresher course.
 - LifeWise Academy, an inter-denominational education ministry, reached out to Pastor Tom regarding starting a program in Thornville for elementary students. The program makes use of a "released time" option, where students can be dismissed from school for a period of

time for religious instruction. The program provides Bible-based character education, and given Grace's location, there was interest in having Grace involved as the host site. Jeff volunteered to assist Pastor in talking with the local steering committee about the possibility of getting this program started and how Grace can be involved.

- Upreach/Worship Renewal – Kelly
 - We had at least 22 people, that we are aware of, that participated in the 24-hour prayer vigil for the crisis in Ukraine (April 2-3).
 - All Lenten Midweek services and Holy Week services were live-streamed.
 - Significant attendance was experienced during Holy Week/Easter services.
 - Thank you to Sally Wilke and the Reynards in pulling off our last-minute Easter Breakfast.
 - Thank you to the many servants during these Lent/Holy Week/Easter services: Lectors, musicians, choir, acolytes, assistants, greeters, soup supper providers, bread bakers and behind the scene helpers!
 - Gluten free communion wafers are now on hand and will begin use on 4/27.
 - Work is continuing with WRTF team to finish the Design Development phase of Worship space transformation. Next meeting with the project team is scheduled for 4/27.
 - Capital campaign down-payment as of 4/18 is \$195k of our \$300k goal. Additional temple talk is planned for 4/24.

- Meeting with stained-glass vendors, week of 4/18
- Inreach/AIF – Amber
 - No updates at this time.
- Outreach – Jeff
 - Manna Monday will start again on April 25th.
- Treasurer's Report
 - A new A/C has been installed.
- Old Business
 - We received the facilities report that will be summarized in the upcoming Gracevine. We're always looking for additional help where talents and needs on that list align. Planning ahead, we will also be needing someone to replace Carl Lahman as coordinator next year. Carl has done a great job setting up the process and will ensure a smooth handoff.
 - There will be a congregational meeting on May 1st to discuss the Construction Documents Phase of our worship space transformation.
- New Business
 - Southeast Ohio (SEO) Internship: The Southeast Ohio Mission District of the NALC is asking for Grace to consider partnering with the other congregations of our Mission District in an effort to fund an internship for future pastors for the NALC, which will be hosted this time by St. John's Lutheran in Grove City.
 - Archives: Council reviewed the Archive Team Proposal and appreciates the effort put into the task thus far by

Trisha Reynard (Head), Karen Lewis, CJ Reynard and Bob Reynolds. We agree that our archives should be digitally preserved in more than one format and hard copies should be kept in appropriate archival storage boxes.

- Background checks: We will be reviewing the current policy and revising as necessary. Rick indicated that backgrounds can be done online.

Adjourn - Lord's Prayer

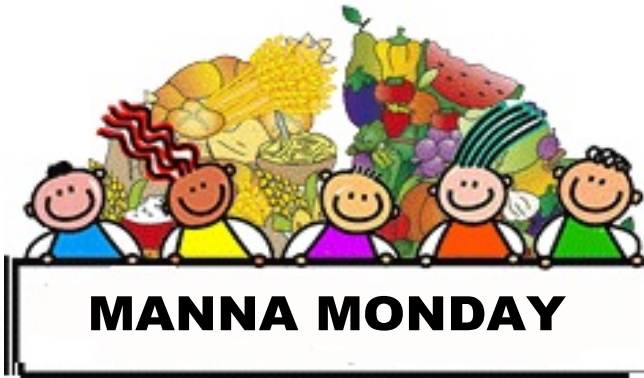
Next Meeting: 5/16/2022, 7:00 PM (3rd Monday)

Respectfully submitted, Jeni Lahman, secretary



"What Lutherans Believe"

Starting on Wednesday May 4 at 6:30 PM, Pr. Tom will lead a six-week class for new members and anyone who is interested in a confirmation refresher course. We will meet for an hour at a time each Wednesday evening, concluding on June 8. Anyone is welcome to attend. At the conclusion, people coming from non-Lutheran backgrounds who desire to become members of Grace can be received as members. We will meet for this time of informal instruction in St. John's Hall. Contact Pr. Tom Jacobson for more information and to let him know if you will be in attendance. pastor@gracethornville.org



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:00pm
excluding holidays and snow days

Join us for a delicious meal and dessert at
our first meal on April 25th!

Manna Monday began in 2014 as a way to give back to
the community in thanksgiving for the 175 years of
Grace in Thornville.



Volunteers will be needed for
each meal!! Contact Sue Cottrill
740-258-8060 or Jeff Stought
740-407-0617 to volunteer.
Thanks in advance for your help!

Grace Lutheran Church Paul M. Varner Scholarship Fund

Reverend Paul M. Varner was a son and member of Grace Lutheran Church. His home was between the Thornville and Glenford areas, and while he did not serve as pastor of Grace, his legacy for a life of service was known to many. In 1984, to commemorate his life of service, a tuition aid fund was established at Grace, in celebration of Pastor Varner's fiftieth year of ordination.

The amount of the tuition aid awarded will depend on the amount in the fund. The maximum amount dispersed per year is \$350.00 per student. The maximum amount a student may receive will be \$500.00 for a 2 year college or technical degree or \$1000.00 for a 4-year college or university degree. An additional amount will be considered for a seminary degree.

The application is to be received or postmarked by June 30th of each year. Grace Lutheran Church Council will be in charge of reviewing documents and awarding scholarships every August.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Paul M. Varner Scholarship 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.

Please submit the following documents:

First year applicants:

- + completed application (available in the church office or our website), postmarked or received by June 30th of current year
- + essay of 500 words or more (750 maximum) describing your recent involvement at Grace Lutheran Church and how your involvement has created an awareness of the need to help others
- + high school final grade card, transcript or copy of diploma

+ one formal proof of acceptance and intent to attend a secondary education institution. Suggested documents include: Current financial document from the school showing payment or student loan disbursements Current course schedule. Other official school documents showing current registration in courses.

For those reapplying each year tuition aid is sought, please submit the following:

- + completed application submitted by June 30th of the current year
- + a new essay (word count above) describing or updating your plan for a life of service within your field of choice
- + a current transcript or document from the school, college or university that includes your GPA
- + one of the formal proofs of acceptance listed above



Attention 2022 Graduates of High School or College:

I would like to honor all graduates in the next newsletter. Please submit the names of anyone graduating this year to the church office by **May 23**. I would like to include the following from each graduate:

- One or two pictures – these may be printed photographs or (preferably) digital photos in .tif, .jpg or .jpeg format emailed to me at office@gracethornville.org
- Information about the grad - Name and school, Parents and family, Future plans, School activities, honors, Hobbies, Memorable event during your years at Grace Church.

Please email the info and picture files by May 23 to office@gracethornville.org. Or you may drop off the pictures and information at the Grace Lutheran office by Monday noon (May 23) If you have any questions, contact Beth Gilgien 740-246-6576.

FACILITIES UPDATE



1. Spring Cleaning: April 9
 - Had a great turnout – 24 volunteers.
 - Due to inclement weather, outside work was postponed.
2. Completed Projects
 - Dowler Heating and Cooling installed a new A/C Unit for Fellowship Hall on April 7th.
 - Fixed some pew kneelers that were loose
 - Painted some ceiling panels with a Kilz primer to block water stains
 - Replaced some light bulbs in sanctuary that were burned out
 - Fixed some ceiling light fixtures that were loose
3. Janitorial Update
 - Sally Wilke, Brenda Shearer and Carl Lahman continue to help out with the janitorial duties during Beth Gilgien's time off to recover from her illness.
 - The good news is that Beth is feeling much better and has resumed much of her normal duties.





Future Projects: If anyone has the skill set and can help with any of the following projects, please contact Carl Lahman – Facilities Coordinator [carllahman@gmail.com, 614-329-8639] or Paul Moentmann – Council President [pmoentmann@fairfieldid.com, 440-728-7067]



- Yard work (spread top-soil and reseed)
- Clean outside window wells
- Fix gutters and downspouts
- Clean out clogged drainage pipes
- Tuckpoint exterior bricks (mortar joint repair)
- Replace stoop over stairwell entrance on west side of building
- Replace missing siding on exterior bell tower
- Repair/replace membrane on flat roof on west side of building
- Electrical repairs (both interior and exterior)

Thornville Community VBS June 13-17 • 9am-12:30pm



Grace will open its doors this summer to welcome children, ages 4 through those entering Grade 6. Registration information will be coming out soon. VBS Mission Projects: 1) Thornville Food Pantry; 2) Backpack Ministry for local children

Needed items for the food pantry:

- Cans of baked beans, beets, lima beans, potatoes.
- Instant boxed Potatoes. Spaghetti sauce.
- 1 pound Coffee, tea bags, sugar.
- Dish soap, laundry soap, paper towels.

Needed items for the Backpack Ministry:

- Cans of vegetables, fruit cups, mac & cheese cups.
- Small boxes of Cereal, Ramen noodles.
- Pudding cups, juice boxes.
- Deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, chapstick, tampons, sanitary napkins, basic school supplies.

All of these items can be dropped off at church, or taken the week of VBS. For more information regarding VBS, contact Mel Crader, director, at 740-246-5855 or 740-504-1310. Thank you so much for your support of our students and community.

We want to thank those from Grace who have already volunteered to help this year: Pr Tom Jacobson, Pr Theresa Jacobson, Jim Roshon, Peggy White, Bob Reynolds, Larry Arnold, Barb Ulmer, Kelli Hupp, Jill Fellows, Beth Raab, Marian DeRolph, Karen Pairan, Daria Carr, Meg O'Reilly, Kaye Smith, Molly White, Carl Lahman, Rick Rockwell, CJ Reynard, Tom Rodgers, and of course, Beth Gilgien. These folks have volunteered to serve in security, running the sound system, overseeing background checks, as a station leader or assistant station leader at the preschool or elementary, at in-person registration on Days 1 & 2, as crew leaders or assistant crew leaders, and getting the word out about VBS. As you can see, there are many moving parts to a successful VBS, and we still need a few more folks to help us out.

We do not have enough volunteers to serve as crew leaders for the elementary students. Crew leaders usher kids from station to station, helping them stay together and complete the tasks offered at each stop. They will meet their crew at the same place each morning, and help them with pick-up at each day's end. Most importantly, crew leaders show love, get to know some amazing kids, and help them learn more about Jesus!

We also welcome our high school and middle school youth (entering grades 7-12) as volunteers to help as a station assistant or assistant crew leader for this amazing week!

Contact Beth Raab (740-755-6410) to let us know how you can help spread the good news!!

VBS dates/times: June 13-17, 2022; 9am-12:30pm
@ Grace Lutheran Church

Worship Renewal 2-Step Capital Pledge Campaign

1. Begin Capital Campaign for Down Payment (Step 1) – March 13, 2022 through the end of April. (Estimated Cost of \$300,000). Obviously, the more we raise for the down payment, the less we'll have to borrow on a mortgage. This money would be needed by the end of 2022.
2. Congregational meeting - approve Construction Documents Phase – May 1, 2022
3. Commitment Sunday for Loan Pledges (Step 2) – August 21, 2022. (Estimated Cost of \$1.2MM - \$1.6MM) and will be made on Commitment Sunday (August 21st). This will be a 5-year commitment and will be used to qualify for a mortgage. The money would be needed beginning next year. Our prayer is that our 5-year commitment will significantly exceed our mortgage expense for that period and we're able to pay off our loan early. A second pledge card will be distributed in July for Step 2 - Mortgage.
4. Final bids from contractors – August 23, 2022
5. Congregational meeting - approve/postpone project – September 11, 2022
6. If project is approved, finalize loan – September 16, 2022
7. Preferable timing of construction - Begin in January 2023 and finish by August 2023

No money is needed, or collected, until after we have a congregational vote on September 11th to move forward with the project. We won't decide if we should move forward with the project until we know how much has been pledged for both steps (the down payment and on-going mortgage). If we decide to postpone the project, due to funding or any other reason, we won't need any of the above money.

You can either return your pledge card to the church office - Attention: Financial Secretary – Jackie Combs, or e-mail your pledge amount directly to Jackie at giving@gracethornville.org.

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
 Consolidated Fund Activity Report for March 2022
 Saturday, April 16, 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance	Budget Calcs
3.100.000	General Fund	78,240.89	22,211.26	17,958.70	0.00	82,493.45	3/1/2022
3.220.000	Improvement Fund	2,056.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,056.96	4
3.300.000	Mission Fund	5,914.54	2,575.50	0.00	0.00	8,490.04	275,367
3.320.000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,930.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,930.53	5,296
3.400.000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	21,182
3.420.000	Capital Campaign Fund	4,989.76	147.80	9,805.17	0.00	(4,667.61)	
3.500.000	Adventures In Faith Fund	606.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	606.82	
3.510.000	Verner Scholarship Fund	2,258.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	2,383.00	
3.520.000	Library Fund	32.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.57	
3.600.000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,017.41	
3.610.000	Handbell Fund	320.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	320.00	
3.620.000	Flower Fund	521.16	180.00	0.00	0.00	701.16	
3.630.000	Choir Fund	1,757.58	20.00	0.00	0.00	1,777.58	
3.740.000	Backpack Ministry Fund	26,493.03	637.00	258.23	0.00	26,871.80	
3.900.000	Memorial Fund	19,130.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,130.16	
3.920.000	KFC Youth Fund	6,181.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,181.91	
3.925.000	KFROGS Fund	10,155.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,155.79	
3.950.000	Investment Fund	138,882.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	138,882.54	
Total		\$332,489.65	\$25,896.56	\$28,022.10	\$0.00	\$330,364.11	

General Fund Budget vs March actuals	Net
21,182	0
1,029	4,253



Missionaries: Rich, Sarah, and Jonathan Vogt

Over the last few weeks and over the next couple weeks some of our teammates have or will be returning for a short term trip to Tanzania. They will join with our national translators and consultants for the final review on the books of the Bible they have completed. Please pray for them as they travel, for the families they leave behind, and that God will give the all project groups complete unity and peace about the translation.

We have received word that there may be good news on the horizon for our teammate's son, Titus, Jonathan's friend. He has been battling with health issues for over a year now and they were forced to return to the states to find out answers. They have a new doctor that is very hopeful that this problem is treatable. Praise God for this!

The Barton family, who recently had twin girls, are remaining in good health but continue to keep Jireh and Anna in your prayers. Please continue to pray for Elizabeth & Faith who lost their husband and father in a car accident in December. They are very close friends of ours as this tragedy has affected us dearly.

Please pray for the Vickios and their family as they await the birth of their baby in the states and will then be transitioning to Italy to join another branch of PBT.

Pray for the Lungus and Lundeens as they transition back into life but with an infant.

Please also pray for the Beeman's, MacSaveny's, and Hill's as they continue their ministry in Tanzania.

After more than a year of pain and suffering and two root canals with the same tooth, Sarah is finally healed and will be getting her crown permanently attached this month!

Please pray for Sarah's mom as she travels up with two of our teammates and will visit us for three weeks. Traveling these days can be pretty stressful with all the regulations with COVID.

We were so thankful for the rains that we received in January and February during the short rainy season. We are now waiting for the long rains to come and for cooler temperatures to arrive..

Financial Praise

We want to give God all the praise and glory for how He met all our needs in 2021.



"Let's take the corn flakes just in case."

PUZZLE

A VALUABLE *command*

God instructs children how to relate to their parents.

Directions: Arrange the words in alphabetical order. Then insert the circled letters in order to complete Exodus 20:12, NIV.

1. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ ○
2. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○
3. _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _
4. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
5. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
6. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
7. _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _
8. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
9. ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
10. _ _ _ _ ○

son	mother	father
daughter	honor	home
respect	family	obey
	love	

_ _ on_ your _ _ ather and _ _ our mo_ h_ r,
 so t_ at y_ u may _ _ i_ e l_ ng in t_ e land
 the L_ RD _ _ ou_ God i_ givi_ g you.

EXODUS 20:12, NIV

Answer: 1. daughter, 2. family, 3. father, 4. home, 5. honor, 6. love, 7. mother, 8. obey, 9. respect, 10. son, Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

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
Thornville OH 43076**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.gracethornville.org
office@gracethornville.org

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