

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 17, 2023

Parking | spots are available in the parking lot and on the Park Drive side of the church. Additional Parking spaces are available across the street, at the school.

Large Print Bulletins | If you would like to use a large print bulletin, please help yourself to one on the back pew or ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING | Stationary plates are placed at the rear of the pews for your offerings. Online giving through the church's website is also encouraged. <https://www.gracethornville.org/giving>

PRAYER | Family of Gregg Thomas, Kate Simmons, John Cooperrider, Linda Dittoe, Larry Arnold, Donna Winegardner, Casey Sigler, Diane White, Bob Druchel, Bob Myers, Fred Boring, Lynda, Bob Little, Dave Shelly, Andrew Smith, Sherry & Pat Shay, Lisa Snider, Misty Hoover Connor, Jon & Patti Ridenour, David Turner, Larry, Mike Forsythe, Phyllis Beavers, Theresa Ralston, Reggie Johnson, Lainey Betz, Debbie. Prayer-line: prayer@gracethornville.org, 740.246.6576, or Sharon Roshon 740.467.3198.

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Brandon Haggengos, by his family.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended Vicky, and the family and friends of Gregg Thomas, who passed away on December 8. Funeral services were held at Newcomers Funeral Home on Friday, Dec. 15.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Gene & Bonnie Goldsberry who will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

We Welcome Rich, Sarah, and Jonathan Vogt to our worship service this morning at 10:30. The Vogts are missionaries with Pioneer Bible Translators currently serving in Tanzania, East Africa. Grace has been financially supporting their ministry for the past nine years. Currently on home assignment (or furlough) they have been traveling around visiting individual supporters and churches. We are grateful for them and their service to our Lord.

Newsletter Articles for the January *Gracevine* are due in the church office on Tuesday.

Our Homebound Members would like to thank the Women of Grace for the Christmas basket of gifts given to each of them. The church's acknowledgment of each shut-in member is very much appreciated!

Midweek Advent Service will be held on Wednesday December 20 at 7:00 PM. We will use a form of evening prayer (vespers), with the texts set to the tunes of familiar Christmas hymns. We will also sing one Advent and one Christmas hymn, with a brief homily (sermon) on a Scripture reading and the hymns.

Christmas Eve/Day Services:

- Sunday, Dec. 24: No 8am service. 10:30am Service we will celebrate as 4 Advent; 5:00pm and 9:00pm will be celebrated as Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
- Monday, Dec. 25: 10:30am Christmas Day Worship Service

Poinsettias - Order yours today for Christmas altar decoration! The flowers will be used to adorn the altar area, and may be taken home following either the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service. Cost is \$20.00 each and can be ordered by placing a Poinsettia Order Envelope in the offering plate, or contacting the office 740-246-6576 or office@gracethornville.org. Envelopes can be found in the gathering space.

"My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" - For this coming year, Pr. Tom will be providing a weekly devotional reflection on his list of fifty-two of his favorite hymns, one for each week of the year, which will be posted on his blog. The hymns chosen correspond roughly to the unfolding church calendar. Hymns provide us with a window into the time and circumstances in which they were written, but they also help us in our own life of prayer as they express the faith of the Church with grace and beauty. The first and second posts are live on his blog. You can access these weekly reflections at the following link, which will also be provided in the weekly email reminder about worship for the coming Sunday: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com>

Military Mission Grace sent Christmas boxes to Kole Moore, Marine; William Wilke, Navy; Lucas Butler, Air Force; Dakota Scheuvront, Navy; and Zac Grant, Air National Guard. The next gift box from Grace will be for Easter. Thank you to those that donated to our Military Mission - Jim Roshon.

Pastor's Holiday Gift - Today is the last day that we will be collecting money as our Christmas gift for Pastor Tom. If you wish to contribute, please write the word "gift" on your check or envelope and drop it in the offering plate. The gift will be presented to him during the Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Offering: Council agreed to split the special Christmas offering between the Lutheran Church of South Sudan and the NALC intern. Any donations either marked as such on a regular envelop, or whatever is received in the "Christmas" envelopes will be divided.

NALC Internship - This coming year (2024), the Southeast Ohio Mission District of the NALC will be hosting a seminary intern preparing for ordination. This intern will be based at Groveport Zion Lutheran Church, but will have the chance to do things in all the congregations of our district. Funding for the intern is needed. Our church council decided to designate half of the special Christmas offering to help fund this internship, with the other half going to the Lutheran Church-South Sudan. You can give by writing "NALC Internship" on your offering envelope.

NEEDED: New Facilities Coordinator. Due to changes in council next year, at the end of this year, Carl Lahman will no longer be the facilities coordinator. As noted in the facilities annual report, church maintenance is becoming increasingly important and the list of items to address continues to grow. Sometimes, the job of the facilities coordinator can be overwhelming. Efforts are now being made to simplify this job. In general, the job of a facilities coordinator is to be a "contact person" that delegates to specific people that oversee important areas. For example, there are already volunteers willing to oversee some of these areas like HVAC, electrical, and lawn care. The facilities coordinator will serve as a "liaison" between council and their team. The facilities coordinator can select his/her own team to assist them. Council will take recommendations and go through a collaborative decision-making process to make the best decision. If anyone is interested in this job and would like to know more about it, please contact Carl Lahman at 614.329.8639 or carllahman@gmail.com.

Pop Tabs - We will continue this ministry throughout the year. A collection jar for your tabs is in the gathering space. Thank you for your support of Ronald McDonald House with your donation of pop tabs.

Backpack Ministry is in full steam again this school year! A donation bin for food donations, grocery bags and the larger clicklist grocery bags is located in the atrium. Monetary gifts may be given through your offering envelope, just write "Backpack Ministry" on the envelope. If you would like to volunteer to help bag the food contact Barb Ulmer 740-281-7673 or Kate Simmons 740-605-3230.

Ways To Serve - Sign up! Ways to help with the worship service are posted at the "Congregation Corner" in the gathering space. **Greeters:** a very important ministry in our parish, welcoming people coming to Grace for worship, handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and more. **Lector:** Reading of the lessons. **Acolytes:** Lighting the candles. **LifeWise Safety:** This takes approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays assisting kids crossing Columbus Street from Thornville Elementary School to Grace and back. Please take a moment to check it out, then choose a date and time that works for you.

"Phishing" Scams - In our sinful world, there is unfortunately no shortage of people who seek to deceive and take advantage of others. Churches and their leaders are often targets of such scams. Often, such scammers will send emails 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, please let the church office know.

Upcoming Youth Events:

- + January 2024: Saturday January 20th-- Hocking Hills Winter Hike
- + February 2024: Sunday February 11th-- Superbowl Bake Sale

SCHEDULE FOR DEC 17-24		
<u>Today</u>	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Adventures In Faith
	9:15am	Confirmation Class
	10:30am	Worship
	2:00pm	O'Reilly
<u>Monday</u>	4:00pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	Council Meeting
	7:00pm	Handbell Practice
	7:00pm	Dartball vs. Ziegler
<u>Tuesday</u>	12:00pm	Senior Citizens
<u>Wednesday</u>	7:00pm	Advent Worship Service
<u>Thursday</u>	7:00pm	Choir Practice
<u>Friday</u>	8:00pm	AA Meeting
<u>Saturday</u> <u>Next Sunday</u>	9:15am	Adventures In Faith
	9:15am	Confirmation Class
	10:30am	Worship
	5:00pm	Worship
	9:00pm	Worship

Serving this Sunday:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Jacobson
 Assisting Minister: Jeff Stought (8am); Tom Rodgers (10:30)
 Greeters:
 Lector: Luann Cooperrider (8am); Bob Reynolds (10:30)
 Acolytes: Brayden Large, Karsen Large (10:30)
 Accompanist: Sue Ellen Simmons

Serving Next Sunday 10:30am:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Jacobson
 Assisting Minister: Tom Rodgers
 Greeters:
 Lector: Valinda Arnold
 Acolytes: Brody Barrera, Kolie Barrera
 Accompanist: Sue Ellen Simmons

Serving Next Sunday 5:00pm:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Jacobson
 Assisting Minister: Jeff Stought
 Greeters:
 Lector:
 Acolytes:
 Accompanist: Sue Ellen Simmons

Serving Next Sunday 9:00pm:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Jacobson
 Assisting Minister: Kelly O'Reilly
 Greeters:
 Lector: Lisa Duerson
 Acolytes: Henrik Jacobson, Abby Duerson
 Accompanist: Sue Ellen Simmons

Serving Christmas Morning 10:30am:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Jacobson
 Assisting Minister: Tom Rodgers
 Greeters:
 Lector: Theresa Jacobson
 Acolytes: Henrik Jacobson, Abby Duerson
 Accompanist: Sue Ellen Simmons

Attendance: 8am: 3; 10:30: 90; Wednesday Advent: 15

Giving: (12/3) General: \$8,573.38; Lancaster Food: \$15; LWR: \$12.50; NALC: \$20.; TEAF: \$78.; Local Food: \$90.; Backpack: \$310.; Pastor Didi: \$100.; Vogt family: \$15.; LifeWise: \$205.; NALC Internship: \$135.; Heartbeats: \$200.; Homeless Shelter: \$5. Capital Campaign: \$5.; Thanksgiving: \$250.; Flower Fund: \$60.; South Sudan: \$100.; Pass Thru: \$90. Total: \$10,263.88