

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

MARCH 2023

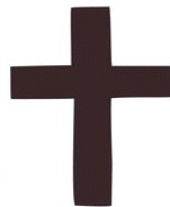
FOR **GOD** SO
LOVED 



THE WORLD

THAT HE GAVE

• His only •
begotten **SON**



THAT WHOSOEVER
BELIEVES in **HIM**
should not perish

• BUT HAVE •
Everlasting

LIFE



JOHN 3:16

Grace Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
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 740-281-7672
Church Council President:	Paul Moentmann 440-728-7067
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873
Council Secretary:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639
Director of Inreach:	Linda Keaser 740-403-4197
Director of Outreach:	Vicki Jones 740-403-7311
Director of Upreach:	Casey Sigler 740-279-5405
Financial Secretary:	Jackie Combs 740-246-4751
Treasurer:	Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241
Bd of Women President:	Cherl Haggenjos 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*

The Worst Time to Be Alive?

*Who shall separate us from the
love of Christ?*

Romans 8:35 ESV

(Monthly Watchword for March,
2023)



Studying history has its benefits.

I know that a lot of people don't like memorizing dates and find it challenging remembering what happened with whom, when, where, and most importantly why. I don't look down on anyone for not liking history. As one who is mostly mathematically deficient, I know what it is like to be less than excited about a subject.

But even I need to break out my limited math skills from time to time. Likewise, we need to crack open our history books from time to time.

We live in a strange world and a conflicted, divided society. These last few decades and even the last few years have seen sweeping social changes in our country and world. What accounts for this? Change is not necessarily bad, but neither is it necessarily good. I have come to believe that a part of the strangeness of our world these days is the result of too much change too quickly. We live in an era of instant communication, with little "filter" to anyone's thoughts. In former times, making an opinion known required some effort, and this tended to moderate extremes. Now, all one must do is sit behind a computer screen and type. There is a saying I heard once: "We are drowning in information while starving for wisdom."

Our world has its challenges, and there is no denying that. Drowning in information while lacking wisdom is a part of this, but we are also still recovering from the effects of COVID, and we just marked the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, just to name a couple examples. Back when COVID first hit in March of 2020, I heard some people claim that 2020 must be the worst time in human history. Some said this as a joke. Others were serious. It helps to have some historical perspective.

Beginning in the year 536 A.D., most of Europe was engulfed by darkness for at least eighteen months. Can you imagine? The Roman politician Cassiodorus commented, "We marvel to see no shadows of our bodies at noon." He went on, "The seasons seem to be all jumbled up together." Reports by others of the time are similar. What was this all about?

Historians believe that a volcanic explosion from Iceland was responsible for the massive cloud of smoke that blocked out the sun from most of Europe during that time. This explosion had far-reaching effects. The temperature of Europe dropped significantly. That and the lack of sunlight led to widespread crop failures. This led to massive starvation. This also led to an occurrence of the Bubonic plague a few years later. Estimates are that as much as a third of the population of the Byzantine Empire (the remnant of the Roman Empire in the East) was dead by the time things returned to normal. This was, according to some, the worst time to be alive.

A lot of things depend on our perspective. Whatever challenges we face in our time, we still have much for which to be thankful. By any standard, we live in the most prosperous time in human history, with access to medical care of which people of previous generations could only dream.

At least for now, the sunlight has not been blocked out of the sky in our time. At the same time, these have been a challenging few years on a lot of levels. And there is no guarantee that the coming years will be much better. If history teaches us anything, it is that we cannot expect that things will ever be perfect on this side of eternity. We live in the world in which we have been placed. But while we do, we continue to trust in the words of the Apostle Paul: nothing "in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39 ESV).

This time of year, the season of Lent, is an annual reminder of on the one hand our mortality and sinfulness, but on the other hand of God's mercy and desire to turn us around. Our technology will only take us so far. Nothing changes our human nature and rebellion from the will of God. But thankfully, nothing changes God's commitment to us, shown to us in the life of His Son, Jesus Christ. With that in mind, this or any time is not the worst time to be alive. In the words of the Psalmist, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

God calls us to faithfulness in hearing his Word that brings life and salvation, even in dark times. There are no guarantees in life from day to day. But while we have breath, we are called to praise and serve the Lord as a congregation and as individuals, a response to His commitment to us. This Lent, let us devote ourselves to continued prayer for the world that God loves, looking for ways for us to be a part of the healing of this world, mindful also of our own need to be reconciled to God.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Worship In March

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am
Wednesdays 7:00pm

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Wednesday, Mar. 1 - 6:00pm - Soup Supper; 7:00pm - Worship

Sunday, March 5 - 2 Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17

Wednesday, March 8 - 6:00pm - Soup Supper; 7:00pm - Worship

Sunday, March 12 - 3 Lent

Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42

Wednesday, March 15 - 6:00pm - Soup Supper; 7:00pm - Worship

Sunday, March 19 - 4 Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41

Wednesday, March 22 - 6:00pm - Soup Supper; 7:00pm - Worship

Sunday, March 26 - 5 Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

Wednesday, March 29 - 6:00pm - Soup Supper; 7:00pm - Worship



January's Vital Signs
Average Worship Attendance - 118
8:00am - 29 10:30am - 89



The Lenten evening worship services will be held again this year, at 7:00 PM each Wednesday during Lent. The Lenten services will be a simple form of evening prayer with a series on the Lord's Prayer. Each week will also feature one of the hymns of Lina Sandell (author of "Children of the Heavenly Father") connected to the various petitions/parts of the Lord's Prayer.

Prior to worship each night, there will be a Lenten supper in the fellowship hall at 6:00.

Volunteers to provide soups, and/or desserts are still needed for our Lenten Soup Suppers, especially for

- March 15,
- March 22,
- and Maundy Thursday, April 6.

Six pots of soup are needed for each supper. A sign-up sheet to provide a soup, and/or dessert for one or more of these dinners, is on the table in the gathering space. Coordinator: Wanda Hupp 740-246-5317.

Lenten Soup Suppers		
Date	I will bring Soup (Name, Phone #)	I will bring Dessert (Name, Phone #)
Wed., Feb. 22	1) Joyce Hafford	Judy DeWitt 740-246-5317
	2) Wanda Hupp	Debra Ledford
	3) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp 740-246-5317
	4) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	5) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
Wed., March 1	1) Sue Cottrell	Joyce Hafford
	2) Susan C. Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	3) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	4) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	5) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
Wed., March 8	1) Sue Cottrell	Sue DeWitt 740-246-5317
	2) Susan C. Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	3) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	4) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	5) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
Wed., March 15	1) Sue Cottrell	Susan C. Hupp
	2) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	3)	
	4)	
	5)	
Wed., March 22	1) Sue Cottrell	Susan C. Hupp
	2) Wanda Hupp 740-524-7741	Wanda Hupp 740-246-5317
	3)	
	4)	
	5)	
Wed., March 29	1) Sue Cottrell	Wanda Hupp
	2) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	3) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	4) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
	5) Wanda Hupp	Wanda Hupp
Thurs., April 6	1) Sue Cottrell	Wanda Hupp
	2)	
	3)	
	4)	
	5)	

+ Presenting our 2023 Church Council + Outreach Leader



Growing up in Somerset, I was previously a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In 1990, I became a member of Grace Lutheran. My husband (Richard) and I were married here in 1995. All three of our boys (Ryan, Kyle and Trevor) were baptized here at Grace Lutheran.

I have been a nurse for 28 years. I have always enjoyed taking care of people (physically and emotionally). I love to make people smile! I enjoy spending time with our family, including our three granddaughters: Alexa, MaKenna and Fallon. Other interests include helping with Manna Monday, volunteering at Licking County Aging Program, spending time with friends, traveling, reading, baking and spending time outside.

**NALC Disaster Task Force
and Perry County Board of Health**

Disaster Preparedness Training

"Learn your strengths in disaster response"

There's still time to register and attend the Disaster Response Workshop! Grace will be hosting an area-wide NALC Disaster Response Training workshop March 10 & 11 in the Fellowship Hall. The agenda and registration forms are located in the Gathering Space. All persons are welcome to participate. Let's be prepared if a disaster hits our area, our church, or our house. If you wish to attend, please let Bob Reynolds know so enough food can be provided at the Saturday lunch. His contact information is bobr22600@twc.com or 630-698-0457.

Friday March 10, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

- Church safety training

Saturday March 11, Registration at 8:30am, Training from 9 am- 4 pm

- What NALC does when disaster strikes
- Treating drug overdoses with Narcan
- "Stop the Bleed" emergency care
- What to do until help comes
- Disaster managements



Women of the NALC
Grace Lutheran Church
Thornville, Ohio
February 13, 2023

Respectfully Submitted By:
Theresa Jacobson, Secretary



THANK YOU!!! Our youth would like to thank you for your contributions to our Super Bowl Bake Sale!! We raised \$609.00 to purchase 40 Easter Bags for the Thornville Food Pantry and Thornville Clothes Closet. Thank you again for helping us make this charity event a huge success!!!

**ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING DAY – SATURDAY,
APRIL 1st**



On April 1st, we will be meeting from 9am to noon to spruce up the church. There are jobs for people of all abilities: polish wood surfaces, cleaning windows

and window ledges, cleaning chair cushions, vacuuming, mopping stairwells and stair steps. There are also jobs outside (weather permitting): weeding flower beds, mulching, trimming bushes, cleaning outside windows and cleaning window wells. Please join us if you can and come early for coffee and donuts/bagels. If you have questions, contact Carl Lahman at carllahman@gmail.com or 614-329-8639.

Facilities Report – February 2023

- Finished replacement of four-foot fluorescent lights and fixtures.
 - As of February 14th, 71 fixtures throughout the entire building have been converted and 254 LED bulbs have been installed.
 - The ceiling in the Fellowship Hall has been rewired.
 - Thanks to Paul Moentmann for providing scaffolding to complete St. John's Hall and upper lighting in Gathering Space.
- Replaced all smoke detector batteries as recommended by DMO Security.
- On January 20th, Fairfield Heating & Cooling did their yearly furnace maintenance.
- Annual Spring-Cleaning Date will be Saturday, April 1, 2023, from 9am to noon.
- Special Cleaning Schedule
 - Created a schedule for special cleaning jobs, such as steam cleaning carpet/upholstery, sanctuary pews (seat cushions) and dossal curtain behind altar.
 - Schedule includes a list of things we can do ourselves, indoor and outdoor, during our annual spring cleaning or other times during the year.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light....

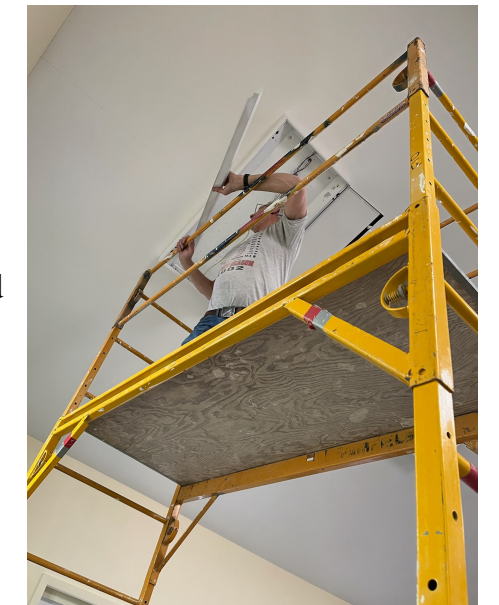
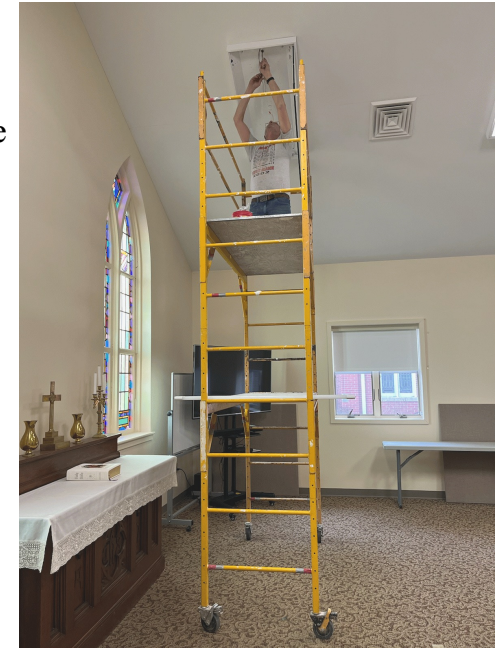
On Tuesday, February 14, David Rodenbaugh with the help of Carl Lahman and Bob Reynolds completed the replacement of

252 fluorescent light bulbs with LEDs in 71 four-foot fixtures throughout the entire church building, along with the removal of all ballasts and rewiring of the fixtures.

Due to the discovery of unsafe old wiring in the ceiling of the Fellowship Hall during this project, that entire room above the ceiling was re-wired.

This effort took the better part of 2 months and 96 total man hours to complete, and was done to greatly reduce the frequency of replacing burned out bulbs, to have all bulbs have the identical color and intensity, and to reduce electricity costs.

A special thanks is due to David for all his volunteer work, and to several anonymous donors who helped fund this project.



Thornville Activity Committee Presents



'The .22-Caliber Killers Case'

Sunday
April 23
6:00 pm



Judge Luann Cooperrider

Held at the
Grace Lutheran Church
65 E. Columbus St.
Thornville, OH 43076

The Thornville Activity Committee is pleased to host Judge Luann Cooperrider on Sunday April 23rd 2023 as she opens the files of the infamous .22-Caliber Killers case.

Central Ohio was terrorized in 1977 and 1978 as two brothers, Gary and Thaddeus Lewingdon... "the .22-caliber killers".... robbed and shot to death 10 people across three counties.

In a recorded statement to police after his arrest, Gary Lewingdon stated, he would change nothing about his actions and would do it all over again under similar circumstances.



Judge Luann Cooperrider was born and raised in Perry County, Ohio and began her legal career in private practice in Thornville in 1983 and continued there until 1991. In 1986, she became the first female lawyer to be an assistant prosecutor in Perry County and continued at that position until 1990. On February 12, 1991, she took office as the Perry County Probate—Juvenile judge, the first female judge in Perry County.

Cost is donation. All proceeds benefit the Thornville Activity Committee.



** Discretion for small children advised due to subject matter.

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for December 2022

Monday, January 16, 2023

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/J/E's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	43,300.30	20077	19480.47	0	43,896.83
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	2,061.96	0	0	0	2,061.96
3,300,000	Mission Fund	5,898.07	4343.75	699.34	0	9,542.48
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,574.46	15	0	0	3,589.46
3,400,000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000.00
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	35,365.58	1.25	7805	0	27,561.83
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	505.08	0	0	0	505.08
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	2,813.00	250	0	0	3,063.00
3,520,000	Library Fund	107.57	0	0	0	107.57
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0	0	0	1,017.41
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	63.08	0	0	0	63.08
3,620,000	Flower Fund	621.22	152	0	0	773.22
3,630,000	Choir Fund	1,817.58	510	0	0	2,327.58
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	22,747.26	1740	1374.27	0	23,112.99
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	20,035.16	85	2037.25	0	18,082.91
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	8,856.52	0	300	0	8,556.52
3,925,000	KFROGS Fund	9,895.85	0	0	0	9,895.85
3,950,000	Investment Fund	107,575.81	0	0	0	107,575.81
	Total	\$276,255.91	\$27,174.00	\$31,696.33	\$0.00	\$271,733.58
	General Fund Budget		21,182	21,182		Net
	va Actuals		-1,105	-1,702		0
						597

Pioneer Bible Translators
The Vogts Serving the Bibleless in East Africa
February 2023

Join Us in Prayer

Lord, we thank you for answering our prayer for more workers.

Thank you for encouraging us with each new potential teammate that has come to investigate the EAB.

Father, we praise you for keeping us healthy and protecting us as we travel to and from the capital and Uganda.

We thank you for the spiritual retreat that took place with the national translators in January. We are so grateful that it was a time of refreshment and encouragement. Lord, continue to be with them and their families as they translate your word into their heart's language. May they hear from your spirit and be bold to share the Good News with those around them.

Lord, be with Mama Rebekah (the office worker who helps clean our facilities) and her health. We pray for healing in her life.

Lord, you are our sole provider. Everything we have comes from you. We don't know how or when but will you provide once again for the Vogts financially (\$650/month)? We know you can do anything. We put our trust and faith in you. Glory be to you and your name alone. But we are weak Lord and it is hard for us to see what you see. Please be patient with us and forgive our weakness. Please be with Rich as he is traveling this week out of country. Help him and other members of the finance department to get accomplished all that they have on their to-do lists. May they also encourage one another during this time.

We are so grateful for the many consultates that will be coming to the EAB in the next month...it means that several languages will be getting another book of the Bible! Please give them healthy bodies, ready spirits, and safe travels. We are so excited to see your Kingdom come!



A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| plants grow here | seeds are planted in this |
| to coil and jump
(also a season of the year) | when watered, these make plants |
| to expand and get bigger | another word for seedling |

For as the _____ makes the _____
 _____ come up and a _____ causes
 _____ to _____, so the
 Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
 and praise _____ up before all nations.

ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: soil, sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

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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