

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

June 2024



**"Honor your father...
as the LORD
your God has
commanded,"**
you

Deuteronomy 5:16

Happy Father's Day - June 16

Grace Lutheran Church



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

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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
Accompanist:	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:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639
Council Vice President:	Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873
Council Secretary:	Diane Christensen 740-215-2396
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 Haggengos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Jim Lewis 740-503-0476
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Facilities:	David Rodenbaugh 740-215-6099

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

The Ten Commandments: The Fourth Commandment

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

Exodus 20:12 ESV



Government. At times, the word “government” is not used in the most positive sense. When people think about “the government,” they often think of negative things associated with it, which sometimes includes things like corruption, hypocrisy, and scandal. This is understandable to an extent. We are, after all, inundated with news stories about wrongdoing on the part of government representatives. This is also a bit unfair. There are many honest and dedicated people involved “the government,” and we rarely get the chance to hear about them. That’s not the kind of thing that makes good headlines.

Government also demands things of us and imposes restrictions upon us, which we sometimes don’t like. We pay taxes to the government, and we must obey its laws. At times we wonder if such laws are necessary and if our hard-earned tax dollars are being put to effective use. It’s easy to be resentful of government. Indeed, there are times when governments are corrupt. Perhaps we’d be better off without it.

But not according to this fourth of the Ten Commandments. The commandment speaks of honoring “fathers” and “mothers,” but Martin Luther in his *Small Catechism* understood it to refer to more than just dad and mom. It refers to “government” more generally:

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.

According to Martin Luther, there are three “governments” or “estates” active in the world. One of them is the organization of the Christian Church, whereby people are governed spiritually. Another is the broader civil authority of the city or state, whereby order is maintained in the world.

But he understood the “first government” to be much closer to home: family. Normally we don’t think of our fathers and mothers as government representatives, but Luther viewed them as such. Our first experience of being governed as children comes from our parents, who have the divine call to watch over us, teach us, guide us, and yes—even restrain us when we get out of line. God has given us fathers and mothers as a gift to govern us in a personal way. As hard as it is to accept at times, all government is given by God as a gift. A sinful world needs government, or else we quickly descend into total chaos. For this reason, God gives the command to honor the government, and especially our parents, who are the closest government representatives to us. They at times impose rules on us that we don’t like, but we often come to realize how important such rules really were. They were intended to protect us and prepare us for the rest of our lives.

It had been some time since I had read Martin Luther’s thoughts on the Fourth Commandment in his *Large Catechism*. And so when I read them again just recently, I found myself surprised and a bit distraught after reading the first few pages. He strongly emphasized the duty of children to obey their parents as God’s representatives and of all people to honor the government. I wondered if he was ever

going to talk about the duty that the government has toward those they govern. After all, we know that in many places in the world there are governments that abuse and exploit their people. And we know that sometimes parents misuse the authority they have over their children, treating them in abusive ways.

It takes a little while, but Luther does get there. He writes:

More than enough has now been said to all those to whom this commandment applies. In addition, it would also be well to preach to parents on the nature of their responsibility, how they should treat those whom they have been appointed to rule... For he does not want scoundrels or tyrants in this office or authority; nor does he assign them this honor so that they may receive homage. Instead, they should keep in mind that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of their office... Therefore do not imagine that the parental office is a matter of your pleasure or whim. It is a strict commandment and injunction of God, who holds you accountable for it.

In other words, this commandment applies to all people and is not simply directed toward children. As important as it is for people to honor their parents and “others in authority,” those in authority also have a command from God not to abuse their power.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Worship In June

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

Sunday, June 2 - 2 Pentecost

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday, June 9 - 3 Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15 Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 16 - 4 Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 23 - 5 Pentecost

Job 38:1-11 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 30 - 6 Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33 Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-42:3



April's Vital Signs
Average Worship Attendance - 130
8:00am - 34 10:30am - 96

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism The Lord's Prayer



The Conclusion

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean?

It means that I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to our heavenly Father and are heard by him, for he himself has commanded us to pray in this manner and has promised to hear us. So we pray with confidence: "Amen," meaning, "Yes, it shall be so."



Church Potluck

Sunday, June 23

An all-church potluck is planned for June 23, following the 10:30 service. Bring your favorite dish to share. Church will supply plates, table service, drinks. Everyone is invited! (No special occasion- just a time for fellowship).

Questions, contact Vicki Jones
rvjones1995@sbcglobal.net

Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes May 14, 2024

Present: Pastor Tom Jacobson, Carl Lahman (President), Matt Sheridan (Vice President), Diane Christensen (Secretary), Rick Rockwell (Treasurer), Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator), Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator), Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

Guest: Jackie Combs, Grace Financial Secretary

- 1. Call to Order:** President Carl Lahman.
Opening Devotion/Prayer: Casey Sigler
- 2. Offering Envelopes** - Jackie Combs
 - Discussion - Looked at some options to change Offering Envelopes.
 - New 2025 envelopes will have a slight change, allowing for more space for parishioners to designate funds beyond the general fund.
- 3. Pastor's Report** - Pastor Tom Jacobson
 - Worship:
 - Children's messages on most Sundays.
 - Now using LBW Setting 2 since Easter. Will move back to Setting 1 for first part of summer.
 - Have been doing announcements after the "sharing of the peace" for the last couple of Sundays. Seems to work well.
 - Colored binders for worship leaders have been purchased and used for the last couple of Sundays. Works well.
 - First Communion class and service went well.
 - April 28, Intern Dale Stanley was here to preach.
 - Larry Arnold funeral will be on May 20, held at the funeral home in Newark.
 - Confirmation class has finished for the year.
 - Working with them to get remainder of requirements completed.
 - Confirmation Sunday for those who have completed requirements will be last Sunday of October. (Reformation Sunday)

- “My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns” devotional articles have begun and are available on my blog, usually one per week:
<https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/>
 - Twenty have been completed.
- Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers.
- Starting in June, will be leading “My Neighbor’s Faith” (about different religious traditions) during adult education hour on Sundays.
 - Will meet during the regular adult class between services.
- Summer youth trip.
 - Have three youth registered to go in addition to myself to Charleston, South Carolina July 21-26.
 - Will get all the relevant information to the youth and their families.
- Egress window project at parsonage seems ready to go.
- Thornville Community Assistance fund.
 - My turn in the rotation of pastors holding the “checkbook”.
 - A lot of activity in the last month.
- Pr. Theresa has been filling in for Beth the last few weeks in the office.
 - Beth plans on returning to office later this week.

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

- Women of the North American Lutheran Church (WNALC)
 - The Friendship Circle will not meet on June 11th during Vacation Bible School. The next meeting will be July 9th.
- Adventures in Faith/Sunday School
 - Adult classes will continue to meet in St. John’s Chapel at 9:15 am during the summer.
 - The 3yr old-12th grade classes are on summer break; classes will resume Sun., Aug. 11th with “Rally Day” and the blessing of backpacks. Youth are encouraged to register and participate in Vacation Bible School June 10-14.
- First Communion Class
 - Eight youth received their First Communion on Sunday, May 12th: *Lucy Jean Faith Carr, Carmen Abriel Packer, Wyatt Paul DeRolph, Jase Robert Ridenour, Annabelle Lynn Gatewood, Kynlee Joleen Roshon, Helena Rakel Jacobson, Luke Michael Washburn.*

- Thank you to Pastor Theresa Jacobson for teaching the class. Also, thank you Lillie Rockwell & Sally Wilke for helping with their reception.
- Graduation Sunday
 - On Sunday, June 9th we will honor our graduates! Please submit a photo with your name, name of high school, technical college, college or university, date of graduation, and future plans to the church office by June 2nd.
- Paul Varner Scholarship
 - Applications are available for tuition aid in the church office with information regarding the qualifications. Application deadline is June 30th.
- **Youth Report, Casey Sigler**
 - Spaghetti Dinner raised \$464.00. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated desserts and attended!
 - Youth Mission Trip - July 2024 - Update in Pastor’s Report
 - Highway Clean up -Rain came in so didn’t get entire stretch completed. Will schedule another date soon.
 - Hocking Hill Hike - 13 people attended. Great weather, great fellowship, beautiful views! Hope to go again in fall.

5. Outreach Ministry Report – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)

- Adopt-A-Highway clean-up took place on May 11 but was cut short by the arrival of rain. The next clean-up will take place sometime this summer. (Date to be determined). As always, volunteers are appreciated!
- Thornville Food Pantry served 29 families, including two new families, in April.
- GLC provided pizza for the Thornville Lifewise group on April 17 & 18 at a cost of \$375.
- When Manna Monday ended, Sue Cottrill suggested we hold a potluck lunch a few times a year on Sunday following the late service. The date of June 23 has been suggested. To be finalized.

6. Upreach Ministry Report -Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

- Nothing new to report

7. Treasurer's Report - Rick Rockwell, Treasurer

- Reports submitted.

8. Facilities Report - Dave Rodenbaugh, Facilities Coordinator

- Egress window for parsonage basement bedroom
 - Received proposals from two different companies: The Basement Doctor and Ohio Basement Authority.
- Spring Cleaning was done at the church on April 13th. Did outside cleanup at both church and parsonage. Many thanks to all that participated!
- Thorn Township Fire Inspection was done on April 19th.
 - Six violations were found.
 1. Lack of exit signage on existing doors.
 2. Extension cords not permitted in elevator room, only outlet strips.
 3. Open junction box found in basement stairwell. [Note: The receptacle plate in the stairway had one screw which had fallen out.]
 4. Hole in ceiling drywall found in Room 215.
 5. Hold open devices are prohibited on all fire doors.
 6. Fire alarm needs to be serviced annually.
 - All violations have been addressed.
 - Waiting for an estimate to install magnetic hold-open devices with automatic door closers on fire doors.
 - Another fire inspection is scheduled for May 20st to see if the violations are fixed.
- Fixed loose counter top in family restroom.
- Tree Removal
 - On April 28th a team of volunteers removed a couple of smaller trees on the east side of the parsonage's fence.
- A/C Unit
 - With a few buckets of stones, leveled the A/C unit on the northwest side of the church.
 - Looking into how thermostats are programmed and whether some need to be replaced.

9. Safety & Security Report – Jim Lewis, Safety & Security

- VBS Background Checks
 - Have started receiving volunteer applications and am

working on putting together a spread sheet.

- Offering Counting Teams
 - Working on getting volunteers to work in teams of 2-3 persons responsible for counting the offering.
- Church Key Holders
 - Announcements have been made to make folks aware that changes are coming, including communication with each other to make sure the building is locked once everyone has left the church.
- Security Volunteers
 - Working on getting volunteers to ensure all doors are locked at the end of church services.

10. Old Business

- Egress window for the parsonage. Received proposals from two different companies: The Basement Doctor and Ohio Basement Authority.
 - Motion to hire Ohio Basement Authority to install the egress window. Motion: Matt Sheridan, Second: Rick Rockwell. Motion passed.

11. New Business

- Memorial contribution from estate of Raymond & Winnie King
- Sunday Church Services - pros and cons of going to one service
 - Discussion. Decision made to stay with two services at this time.

12. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

12. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: June 11, 2024 - 7 pm

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)



Larry A. Arnold
7/23/1943 - 5/11/2024

First Communion

Congratulations to these eight youth who received their First Communion on May 12, 2024.

*Lucy Jean Faith Carr
Carmen Abrielle Packer
Wyatt Paul DeRolph
Jase Robert Ridenour
Annabelle Lynn Gatewood
Kynlee Joleen Roshon
Helena Rakel Jacobson
Luke Michael Washburn*



12

Congratulations to Our 2024 Graduates



CJ Reynard

Lakewood High School
May 26, 2024

Future Plans:
Apprenticeship Program
& Work



Collin Hill

Denison University
May 11, 2024

Major: Environmental
Studies
Minor: Agricultural
Sustainability

Played Football
and Track

13

Luken Hill

Muskingum University
May 4, 2024

- Major: Business, Marketing and Management
- Minor: Entrepreneurship

- Plays Basketball

- Going to Grad School in the fall

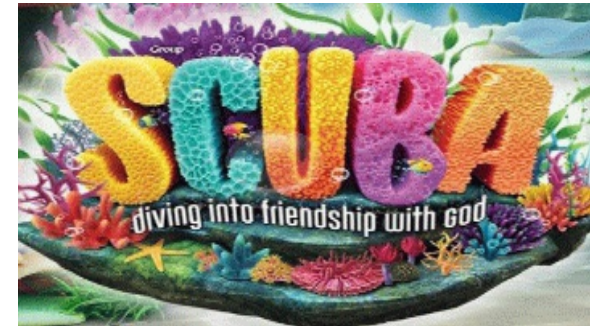


Paul Varner Scholarship Fund applications are available in the church office. Application deadline is June 30th of current year. Applicants need to submit a completed application, an essay of 500 words or more (750 maximum) describing their recent involvement at Grace Church and how your involvement 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. Please contact Beth Raab 740-755-6410 or any council member for more information.

2024 Thornville Community VBS

June 10-14, 9am-12pm

Grace Lutheran Church (Gr. 1-6)
Thornville United Methodist Church (Pre-K)
Thornville, OH 43076



Kids will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they will experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. They will be immersed in the Word and discover what Living Water is really all about!

Pre-registration is now closed, but adults may register children in person at Grace Lutheran any morning, 8:30 a.m., June 10-14. We hope to see you there!

This community outreach is one of the largest Grace is involved with each year. Many of the kids who attend do not have a home church where they can learn about God's love for them.

Adults and youth from Grace and the other supporting churches have joined to make this year's event possible, *and we thank you!* We want your prayers! Please lift the children, their families and all who volunteer to serve.

♪ My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns ♪

Pr. Tom is providing a weekly devotional reflection on his list of fifty-two of his favorite hymns, one for each week of the year, which is posted on his blog. You can access these weekly reflections at the following link:

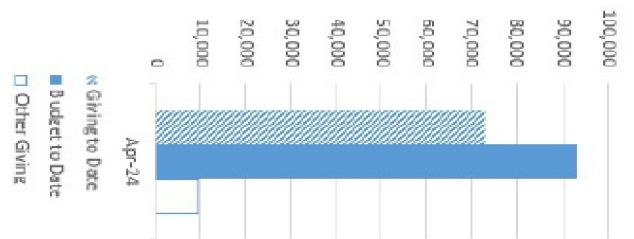
<https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com>

- 1: Prepare the Royal Highway
- 2: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
- 3: My Heart Is Filled with Wonder
- 4: I've Found Now the Fairest of Roses
- 5: Of the Father's Love Begotten
- 6: The Only Son from Heaven
- 7: I Walk in Danger
- 8: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
- 9: Glory Be to Jesus
- 10: Near the Cross
- 11: Ah, Holy Jesus
- 12: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
- 13: Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
- 14: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
- 15: Beautiful Savior
- 16: My God, How Wonderful Thou Art
- 17: The Lord's My Shepherd
- 18: Jesus, Priceless Treasure
- 19: To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (Now We Implore God the Holy Ghost)
- 20: Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord
- 21: Sunshine and Rain



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for April 2024
Saturday, May 11, 2024

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	76,887	15,215	20,589	0	71,512
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	10,255	5	0	0	10,260
3,300,000	Mission Fund	17,634	200	303	0	17,531
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,599	100	350	0	3,349
3,400,000	Endowment Osma Lawyer	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	28,532	0	0	0	28,532
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	32,032	20	0	0	32,052
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	325	0	0	0	325
3,510,000	Warner Scholarship Fund	3,513	130	0	0	3,643
3,520,000	Library Fund	108	0	0	0	108
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017	0	0	0	1,017
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	514	0	0	0	514
3,620,000	Flower Fund	1,289	0	0	0	1,289
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,478	0	0	0	2,478
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	18,282	471	1,703	0	17,049
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	20,504	0	0	0	20,504
3,910,000	GLCW Fund	445	0	0	0	445
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	10,528	130	397	0	10,261
3,925,000	KFRogs Fund	8,812	0	0	0	8,812
Total		\$246,752	\$16,271	\$23,343	\$0	\$239,680
General Fund Budget			21,866	21,866	0	
va Actuals			(6,651)	(1,277)	(5,374)	
					Net	





THE THORNVILLE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE PRESENTS

THE 3RD ANNUAL
Thornville

FREEDOM FESTIVAL

JULY 4TH, 2024

- 10:00AM - FOOD TRUCKS OPEN
- 11:00AM - CRAFT VENDORS OPEN
- 12:00PM - PARADE
- 1:00PM - KIDS ACTIVITIES BEGIN
- 1:00PM TO 5:00PM- DJ KURTUS
- 1:15PM TO 3:00 HELICOPTER DEMO
- 1:30PM - PET SHOW
- 2:00PM - HOT DOG EATING CONTEST
- 2:30PM - ICE CREAM EATING CONTEST
- 5:00PM TO 7:00PM - LUKAS HARLAN
- 7:00PM TO 9:00PM - BRIAN LEWIS
- 10:00PM - FIREWORKS

**PARADE BEGINS AT THORNVILLE ELEMENTARY
FESTIVITIES AT THE PARK**



FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

*Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words.
Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.*

Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that _____

and I will raise them up at the last day." *John 6:40, NIV*

Answer: everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life

*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
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