

# The Grapevine

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

January 2023

HAPPY  
New Year

Praise be  
to his  
glorious  
name  
forever;  
may the whole  
earth be filled  
with his glory.

Psalm 72:19, NIV



"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](http://www.gracethornville.org)  
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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 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:	
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*

## Sunday School

*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6 ESV



There are among pastors differences of approach when it comes to newsletter articles for church. Some view them as opportunities to promote events in the congregation. Some view them as opportunities to teach people about the Christian faith. Though I tend toward the latter view, I suppose there is nothing wrong with some promotion mixed in with education. Such is the case with this month, as we kick off a new calendar year.

Many of us remember Sunday school growing up. I certainly do. Over the last century and a half, it was rare to find a “mainline” Protestant congregation without a Sunday school program. Congregational Sunday schools were similar across the board. We remember the Sunday school songs, the Bible lessons, and singing in front of the congregation. To this day, many Sunday school songs still surface in my head from time to time!

Sunday school might seem like it has been around forever, but it is actually a fairly recent phenomenon among Christian churches. We are familiar with Sunday school as we know it: a time usually before worship or in between worship services where children in the congregation gather to learn. But its beginning was much different.

Sunday schools first began in eighteenth century England. Though not the first, the chief promoter of English Sunday schools was an Anglican layperson named Robert Raikes (A.D. 1735-1811). Raikes was from the city of Gloucester and

was concerned about the welfare of children in the slums of English cities. Such children often performed hard labor in factories during the week. Sunday was their only day off.

Raikes gathered the children on Sunday for what was an all-day educational program. Remember that for most of these children, this was the only formal education they received. Raikes and his assistants taught the children literacy in order to read the Bible. They were also taught from a catechism of the Church of England. Children were expected to dress neatly, and they were instructed in basic manners. Though there was some controversy attached to the practice, these types of Sunday schools became popular throughout England. No doubt the lives of many children were transformed through Sunday school. It was an important part of social reform in English society.

In those days, Sunday school was an outreach to disadvantaged children. Over time, however, the concept of a time of learning on Sunday became incorporated into regular congregational life and was adopted by churches of various denominational families: Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, and others. What became the International Sunday School Movement was a pan-denominational Christian organization devoted to Christian education. In fact, we have a remnant of this movement in our sanctuary. The symbol of this International Sunday School Movement was the so-called “Christian flag” that stands at the front of many congregations (including our own), opposite the American flag.

Sunday school has been a part of the fabric of American congregational life for many generations. But it has also not been without some controversy. In some congregations, children were dismissed from worship itself to attend Sunday school while their parents remained in the sanctuary. Many

believe that it was this practice that led to such children distancing themselves from church as adults. Not being involved in worship itself growing up, such children never developed the habit of worship attendance. In other places, Sunday school was viewed as a replacement for church, which was never the intention. Some people have also been concerned about the lack of doctrinally specific educational materials for Sunday school, which means that Lutherans and Presbyterians might be using lesson plans designed by Baptists, and so forth.

What shall we say to all this? Some people think that the traditional Sunday school is a concept that needs to fade away in favor of a new model of cross-generational learning. And practically, it is getting more challenging to find people willing and able to teach Sunday school. But I am not convinced that Sunday school is something that should disappear. When understood properly and implemented in a way that does not take away from the worship of the congregation, I believe it can be a good thing and an opportunity for children to learn more about God's love through Jesus.

Thankfully, we do have some people in our congregation willing to help with Sunday school, what we here call "Adventures in Faith," though we definitely can use more. Perhaps it is something that you have done in the past. Perhaps you have not done it and are unsure if you would be good at it. Whatever your situation, please consider giving it a try. It can be not only a blessing for the children, but for yourself as well.

And even more so, I encourage attendance at Sunday school for our children. It is important that children are in worship. But children can also benefit from the experience of Sunday school as a supplement to that. In this coming year, let's try

to fill those Sunday school rooms on the third floor! Sunday school at Grace Lutheran now begins at 9:30 (different than what the church sign says, which is 9:15).

As we begin a new calendar year, I want to say thank you to all who teach with Adventures in Faith/Sunday school and to those who serve in this congregation in any other way. Working together, we accomplish much for the kingdom of God.

Pr. Tom Jacobson

The following persons, having been elected into positions of leadership in the church, will be commissioned January 8.

### **Our 2023 Church Council**

*President: Paul Moentmann 440.728.7067*

*Vice President: Matt Sheridan 740.405.6873*

*Council Secretary: Carl Lahman 614.329.8639*

*Treasurer: Rick Rockwell 740.624.2241*

*Inreach Leader: Linda Keaser 7740-403-4197*

*Outreach Leader: Open*

*Upreach Leader: Casey Sigler 740-279-5405*

*Financial Secretary: Jackie Combs 740.246.4751*

Thank you to our out-going council members for a job well-done! *Kelly O'Reilly, Jeff Stought, Amber Feyh*

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

**Sunday, Jan. 1 - The Name of Jesus**

*Worship at 10:30 only. No Adventures in Faith classes.*

Numbers 6:22-27                  Psalm 8  
Galatians 4:4-7                  Luke 2:15-21

**Sunday, Jan. 8 - Baptism of Our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9                      Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43                      Matthew 3:13-17

**Sunday, Jan. 15 - 2 Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-6                      Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9                  John 1:29-42

**Sunday, Jan. 22 - 3 Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4                        Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18              Matthew 4:12-23

**Sunday, Jan. 29 - 4 Epiphany**

Micah 6:1-8                        Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31              Matthew 5:1-12



November's Vital Signs  
Average Worship Attendance - 128  
8:00am - 28    10:30am - 100

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**11/21/2022**

Present: Paul Moentmann, Pastor Tom Jacobson, Rick Rockwell, Jeff Stought, Kelly O'Reilly

Absent: Matt Sheridan, Kate Simmons

Call to Order- Paul

**Pastor's Report:**

- Attended the Annual Meeting of Deans and the Commission for Theology & Doctrine in Dallas, TX.
- Ordination under special circumstances is being considered by the NALC
- Confirmation Sunday went well; new confirmation class has begun with (6) students
- Encourage next year for the Party in the Parking lot that individual bags be put together with cards from Grace
- Community Thanksgiving service to be held at Grace on 11/23/2022 with fellowship to follow
- Midweek Advent services to be held Wednesdays at 7PM
- Christmas Eve services to be held 5pm & 9pm; Christmas Day one service at 10:30am
- Youth Meetings; October campfire at the parsonage, Caroling in December and a possible Lock-in in January. Summer mission trip is scheduled 07/23-28/2023 in TN, currently (4) youth attending
- Reviewing Adopt-A-Highway for the youth and church
- First Men's Breakfast attended by (7)

**Upreach Report:**

- WRTF meeting with Architects and consultants for kick-off of Construction Documents phase scheduled 11/30/2022
- Advent/ Christmas decorating scheduled for 11/26/2022
- Will sort through gifted used LBW hymnals for condition and distribute in pews

**Inreach and Outreach Report:** no report

**Treasurer's Report:** received

**Old Business:**

- Inreach and Outreach ministry team coordinators are still being sought
- Lutheran Church of South Sudan thankoffering goal was (\$5k), we received (\$11,820) more than double our goal

**Facilities Report:** received

**New Business:**

- Council agreed that Kelly O'Reilly continue to serve on the WRTF.
- Receive New Member via transfer Steve Williams, motion by Paul and seconded by Rick, pass.
- New computer installed for Office Manager

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer  
Kelly O'Reilly, secretary pro tem

**12.19.22 Meeting Minutes/Notes**

Call to Order- Pastor Tom- Martin Luther sermon reading and prayer

- **Pastor's Report**
  - Three mid-week Advent Evening services held so far, possibly hold in St. John's Hall next year, maybe with meal preceding
  - NALC Ohio Region Mission Convocation has expanded to be a multi-state event and will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Grace Lutheran in Westerville. We can send as many people as we want
  - Lutheran High School choir from Outlook, Saskatchewan (Canada) will be touring in the area a week after Easter. No

date has been set yet but they may perform at our Church. We will need to provide a dinner.

- Adopt a Highway was looked into. Both youth (over 12) and adults may participate. We would need to pick up trash 4 times a year. A close location on 13 is being looked into
  - The granddaughter of a member is interested in becoming a part of Grace. Pr. Tom will do a preparation class with her from January to March, with baptism possibly on Easter vigil
  - Pr. Tom connected with a new member; his transfer paperwork has been received
  - Jim and Sharon Roshon are attempting to start Tuesday Table back up and also the Support our Troops ministry
  - Older youth met yesterday to make gift bags for shut ins and went out caroling with the community
  - New Confirmation Class is up and running
  - Men's breakfast group has met a few times. They will now start meeting at 8 AM on the third Saturday of the month at Nanna and Papa's restaurant in Thornport
  - There will only be one service (10:30) on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day
  - Being co-dean of NALC SE Ohio has been uneventful so far
- **Upreach/Worship Renewal Task Force (WRTF)- Kelly**
    - WRTF Met with two consultants on Nov. 30 to start to get more information for the construction documents.
    - A payment schedule has been developed.
    - The next meeting is in late Jan. and the process will take though March to be completed
  - **Upreach**
    - Music is now being played before the service to calm the noise level.
    - Greeters are still needed
    - The pouring chalice was ordered and will arrive mid Jan.



- **Inreach- Kate**
  - Theresa Jacobson and Jessica Rockey have been doing Sunday School
  - Groups are PreK-1, 2-7, and the older kids are in confirmation or attending adult classes
  - 55 students (and holding steady) are being served though the backpack ministry
- **Outreach- Jeff** - Nothing new to report
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - Nov. was a low month for both income and expenses
  - We were \$8,000 over budget in church repairs due to a necessary HVAC replacement, council will be careful in the project to weigh needs versus wants with repairs, prioritizing safety and fixes that need addressed before they become bigger issues
- **Old Business**
  - Nominating Committee
    - An outreach nomination is pending
    - Installation of new Officers will be Jan. 8
- **New Business**
  - **Motion-** made by Kelly and seconded by Rick to give 5% of the offering specifically for the NALC mission fund to the SE Ohio Mission District, Passed Unanimously, This year that is approximately \$300
- Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer
- Next meeting is 1/16/23 at 7 PM (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month)

Matt Sheridan, secretary pro tem



The Women of Grace will hold their first quarterly meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to attend. The agenda will include appointing officers for the board and brainstorming ideas for 2023.



### Support Our Troops



We asked the congregation to supply names of members in the military that Grace could send a "goodie" Christmas box to, and possibly thereafter.

A box of snacks and requested thermal socks and magazines has been sent to the following: Ethan Boyd, Marine; Kole Moore, Marine; William Wilke, Navy; Lucas Butler, Air Force; Dakota Scheuvront, Navy.

If you wish to support this ministry, mark your offering envelope "Military". Thank you for your support in Grace's recognition of our local military.

Additional names, addresses, and items they like/need may be added to the list. Contact Jim or Sharon Roshon 740-467-3198.

# FACILITIES REPORT

- Carl Lahman, Chair

## Projects Completed from 11/20/2022 to 12/19/2022

+ Thanks to David Rodenbaugh and Bob Reynolds for replacing all fluorescent bulbs in the main office and pastor's office with LED bulbs.

+ Kudos to Jonathan Roshon for installing a new faucet with sprayer for the utility sink in the basement (furnace room).

+ Thanks to Paul Moentmann for replacing a water-stained ceiling panel in the Gathering Space.

## Current Projects

- Replace fluorescent bulbs with LED bulbs, especially in areas where they are most needed, like the Fellowship Hall.
- In the spring remove and/or trim some trees at the parsonage and church. Once this is done, one or two new trees could be planted in the fall. Locations and type of trees would have to be determined. Pastor would like to have a tree planting ceremony after worship someday, whereby people can bring their worn-out Bibles to bury. The idea is that the words of the Bible "feed" the tree as it grows. It is a symbol of how God's word feeds us as we live and gives us life.
- Change all door locks and create a list of who has church access.
- Get a couple of heating & cooling proposals for preventive maintenance on all the furnaces and A/C units.

*Transferred to the Church Triumphant:*



*Ronald William Mai  
October 31, 1939 - December 19, 2022*

*Ronald Wayne Mohler  
June 24, 1941 - December 27, 2022*

Sunday, December 18, 2022

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IEs	End Balance
3.100,000	General Fund	51,305.36	12,761.88	12,629.96	0.00	51,437.28
3.220,000	Improvement Fund	2,061.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,061.96
3.300,000	Mission Fund	4,584.07	1,456.00	290.00	0.00	5,750.07
3.320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,404.46	165.00	0.00	0.00	3,569.46
3.400,000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
3.420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	34,823.68	541.90	0.00	0.00	35,365.58
3.500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	505.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	505.08
3.510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	2,773.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	2,813.00
3.520,000	Library Fund	57.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.57
3.600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,017.41
3.610,000	Handball Fund	63.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.08
3.620,000	Flower Fund	621.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	621.22
3.630,000	Choir Fund	1,797.58	20.00	0.00	0.00	1,817.58
3.740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	25,787.34	890.00	3,646.49	0.00	23,030.85
3.900,000	Memorial Fund	19,760.16	275.00	0.00	0.00	20,035.16
3.920,000	KFC Youth Fund	9,231.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,231.52
3.925,000	KEROGs Fund	9,895.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,895.85
3.950,000	Investment Fund	107,575.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	107,575.81
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$285,265.15</b>	<b>\$16,149.78</b>	<b>\$16,566.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$284,848.48</b>
	General Fund Budget		21,182	21,182		
	via Actuals		-8,420	-8,552		
					<b>Net</b>	<b>0</b>
						<b>132</b>

**From the Lutheran Church of South Sudan**

December 27, 2022

(\$11,920. Donated)

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generosity toward the Lutheran Church of South Sudan. Thank you for blessing the lives of those laboring to bring the hope of the Gospel to various tribes in various refugee camps in various countries. Your gift will bless so many people and help provide the next generation of teachers, preachers, evangelists and nurses.

May the Lord bless you abundantly,

John C. Klein  
Treasurer

Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning at Grace







# PUZZLE

## Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

**FIRST SECOND THIRD FOURTH FIFTH SIXTH**

- God made wild animals and livestock. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God said, "Let there be light." \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky." \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God created plants and trees. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God separated the light from the darkness. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made the water teem with living creatures. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made the sun and moon. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ○
- God made birds fly above the earth. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God made stars. ○ \_ \_ \_ \_
- God created mankind in his own image. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**God \_aw all tha\_ he \_ad ma\_e, an\_ \_t was ve\_y g\_od.**

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fourth, fifth, fourth, fifth, fourth, sixth, and it was very good.

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  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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