

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

May 2023



"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 740-281-7672
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 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

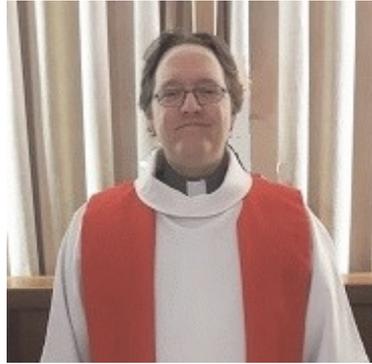
Please call the church office with regard to any of the following:
Hospitalizations; Baptisms; Confirmation; Weddings;
First Communion; Spiritual Counseling; Prayer Concerns

Happy Mother's Day - May 14, 2023

“Do the Little That You Can!”

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 3:27 ESV (Monthly Watchword for May 2023)



During this year's season of Lent, I enjoyed talking during Wednesday evening worship about the petitions of the Lord's Prayer in conjunction with the various hymns of a Swedish Lutheran woman named Lina Sandell (full name: Carolina Wilhelmina Sandell-Berg). The daughter of a Lutheran pastor in Sweden, she lived between 1832 and 1903. During her life, she wrote approximately 600 hymns, leading many to label her "the Fanny Crosby of Sweden." In the English-speaking world, her most famous hymns are "Children of the Heavenly Father," "Day by Day," and "Thy Holy Wings." All these and more have been a great strength to me personally. They are warm, sweet expressions of faith. Though the texts are simple, they are filled with biblical concepts and images. One must know the Bible well to pick up on all of them.

When I think of the many spiritual influences in my life, Lina Sandell ranks high on my list. Unfortunately, only a tiny fraction of her hymns have been translated into English for us to enjoy. But as I thought about the Watchword for this month of May, I call to mind one of her hymns that as of yet remains only in Swedish: *Gör det lilla du kan* (Literally: "Do the little that you can"). It is based on the words of Jesus from Matthew 25:40. In response to the righteous, who served those in need, Jesus says, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

These people did little things that might not seem so significant: giving the hungry food, giving the thirsty a drink, welcoming a stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and the prisoners. In *Gör det lilla du kan*, Lina Sandell encourages people to go about their lives remembering that in the process of serving others, we are really serving God.

One of the great contributions of the Lutheran tradition to the broader Christian world is its emphasis on what we call vocation. In what we sometimes call "the priesthood of all believers," Martin Luther taught that the "religious" calling of the pastor does not place the pastor on a higher spiritual level than laypeople. True, the pastor's call is distinct and important, but he wanted all Christians to realize that together we share in a common priesthood as the body of Christ: *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.* (1 Peter 2:9 ESV).

We are all called to be priests in service to God in our own stations in life, in our families, professionally, and as volunteers, and God can and does use us in many and various vocations in life. God has blessed us in many and different ways, but as Peter reminds us in the verse quoted above, those blessings are given for a purpose: to give glory to God and help to our fellow humans, even in small ways. The Watchword for May from Proverbs 3:27 prods us to share good with "those to whom it is due."

To whom is good due? Sometimes our daily tasks seem like a burden. Sometimes the help we offer others seems to go unappreciated. Sometimes we wonder what impact our lives actually make. Sometimes we wonder what we have to contribute. As thankless as our service can seem, good is due to everyone simply by virtue of the fact that God loves

His creation and the people of the world. The events leading up to Easter remind us that God has not held anything back in showing his love to us. All around us we see great need in those who are lonely, afflicted, and in other types of distress, and such people are also the objects of God's love.

"Do the little that you can." A little can go a long way. While it is important to be wise and discerning in *how* we serve others (avoiding enabling rather than genuine helping), God gives us many opportunities to share His love. The people I remember most in my own life are those who treated me kindly in challenging times, and they most likely did not realize the effect they had on me.

As priests in service to God, we show forth the power of Jesus' death and resurrection not usually by miracles or mighty acts of heroism, but rather by looking at those around us with the eyes of our Savior, with eyes of love and compassion. How is God currently working through you? How is God calling you to do the little that you can?

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



Worship In May

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

Sunday, May 7 - 5 Easter

Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 14 - 6 Easter

Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-18
1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 21 - Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:16-23 Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 28 - Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23



March's Vital Signs
Average Worship Attendance - 118
8:00am - 22 10:30am - 96

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism

The Apostles' Creed

The Third Article

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith. In the same way, he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in unity with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church, he daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and at the last day will raise me and all the dead, and will grant everlasting life to me and all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.



Jokes only a mother could love

Why is a computer so smart?

It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?

Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?

Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?

"Don't be knotty."



Church Council Meeting Minutes

04/17/2023

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

Absent: Paul Moentmann (President), Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

1. Opening Prayer: Devotion and prayer was given by Pastor Tom.
2. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Vice President Matt Sheridan.

3. Pastor's Report

- Lent, Holy Week, Easter Sunday all went well
 - Attendance similar to last year
- Five baptisms on Easter Vigil
 - One adult, four children between ages 4-10 (not all from same family)
- Men's breakfast continuing
 - Third Saturday at Nana's and Papa's in Thornport
 - Fellowship and brief devotion/Bible study
- Last confirmation class for the year will be April 23rd
 - Will resume with two new units next year, with the addition of new eighth grade students
- New member recognition
 - Discussed with council as to what has been done in the past.
 - Suggestions were to have a cake and pictures taken to put in the monthly Gracevine and maybe displayed in the Gathering Space. This would be done yearly.
 - Tentative date June 4th, which is also Graduation Sunday.
- Will be doing Adopt a Highway cleanup at the end of month connected with youth lock in
 - Signs have been put up
- Have started writing script for introductory video of congregation
 - Will have a draft by next month
- Tree planting
 - A Royal Raindrops Crabapple Tree from Albyn's nursery

- will be planted soon at the parsonage, to replace the three dead crabapple trees that were cut down.
- o A motion was made by Carl and seconded by Linda to have Albyn plant the crabapple tree for \$100 with a two-year guarantee. Motion was passed.
 - NALC Convocation August 7-11 in Oklahoma City
 - o Bob Reynolds and Carl Lahman have offered to be our delegates if no one else wants to attend. Both have attended convocations in the past.
 - o If more than two wants to attend, council will vote to appoint two delegates.
 - Also need people to register and attend the NALC Ohio Mission Region Convocation May 5-6
 - o I will be leading a session with Jeff Morlock entitled "The Call to Pastoral Ministry."
 - Continuing to serve as the NALC dean for SE Ohio District
 - o Pr. Scott Smith from St. Matthew's Lutheran in Logan is leaving for a church in Illinois, leaving me the sole dean for the district (at least for the moment)
 - Have been officially appointed to the NALC Commission on Theology and Doctrine
 - o Will meet in Pittsburgh May 1-2
4. Inreach Ministry – Linda Keaser (Inreach Ministry Team Coordinator)
- WNALC
 - o Tickets are available for the Women's Spring Luncheon on May 20. Congregation response to the NALC Disaster Team collection of kitchen items as well as blankets and quilts has been well received and continues.
 - KFC/KFROGS
 - o Thanks go to the youth and their parents for providing Easter Breakfast. Donations received go to the Perry County Animal Shelter and to the Military Ministry at Grace.
 - o A lock-in is planned for KFROGS and KFC youth for April 29-30 at the church.
 - Adventures in Faith (AIF)
 - o Pastor Theresa Jacobson, our Sunday school coordinator has posted the schedule for Sunday School PS-12th

- grades. The last day for class is May 28th. Community Vacation Bible School is June 12-16 at Grace. Sunday school will resume on Rally Day, August 20.
- Graduation Sunday
 - o Graduation Sunday is planned for June 4th. High school, college, technical school graduates for 2023 need to contact the church office with their information.
 - Paul Varner Scholarship Fund:
 - o Beth Raab has agreed to coordinate applications for this tuition aid fund which are disbursed in the fall.
5. Outreach Ministry – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)
- Lenten soup suppers
 - o Average weekly attendance at Lenten soup suppers was 60. Wanda Hupp oversaw sign-ups for soups and desserts. (I think she did a fabulous job)! She mentioned that it was a lot for one person to coordinate and thought we would benefit from more than one coordinator in the future.
 - Manna Monday
 - o Manna Monday restarted on April 17 (27 attended). Donations of desserts are often needed and volunteers are always appreciated!
 - Thornville Food Pantry
 - o Visited the Thornville Food Pantry and spoke with coordinator, Julia Cooperrider. Currently the food pantry is assisting 28-30 families per month. Donations of non-perishable food items and monetary support are always welcome.
6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)
- New Paschal Candle
 - o New Paschal Candle arrived and was used during Lenten Services
 - Greeters, Lectors and Acolytes
 - o Continue to look for volunteers for Greeters, Lectors and Acolytes
 - Sound System
 - o Looking for volunteers to learn and run live stream and

sound system for 8:00 and 10:30 services. Pastor has been in contact with someone that is interested.

7. Treasurer's Report – Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)
 - Reports were distributed and discussed.
 - The Consolidated Fund Activity Report, in the monthly Gracevine, now shows a bar chart that compares actual giving-to-date to budgeted giving-to-date, as well as other giving-to-date that is not part of the budget.
 - Giving is \$20,000 below what we have budgeted (or planned) for the year-to-date, as of end of March.
8. Facilities Report – Carl Lahman (Facilities Coordinator)
 - Steam cleaning
 - On March 30th, Nice & Clean Chem-Dry steam cleaned the carpet in the Gathering Space/hallway and church office, plus the pew cushions in the sanctuary.
 - Furnace repairs
 - On March 31st Performance Heating & Cooling replaced the 2" air flow pipes and exhaust pipes with 3" PVC pipes on one of the dual furnaces in the basement. They also rerouted the pipes that required boring holes in masonry. As a result, the dual furnace is finally working properly. This was a major project that corrected a long-time problem.
 - On April 7th, Fairfield Heating & Cooling replaced an inducer motor on another furnace in the basement that services the Fellowship Hall. Was lucky to get it done before Easter.
 - Lawn Care
 - Negotiated with PC Lawn Care to get a lawn care service contract with terms and conditions.
 - Thanks to John Ulmer for fertilizing the church's lawn with step 1 of a 4-step program. Also, thanks to Gene Raab for treating the dandelions at the parsonage.
 - Spring-Cleaning
 - On April 1st, we had our annual Spring-Cleaning Day. At last count, 20 people worked that day. New bookcase and chair for the cry room/nursery were assembled. Many thanks to all

those who worked that day. We got a lot done.

- Bookcase
 - Fixed the bookcase that is in the Gathering Space. One of the bolts was missing and a new hole had to be drilled. Thank you, Bob Reynolds.
- Light bulbs
 - Dave Rodenbaugh and Bob Reynolds finished replacing bulbs throughout the entire building.
- Electrical repairs
 - Dave Rodenbaugh (with the help of Bob Reynolds) replaced an A/C whip on the southwest side. [A whip is a conduit that connects the compressor to the disconnect box.] They also replaced both exterior outlets on the west side entrance, with ground fault breakers and waterproof outlet covers.
- Tree trimming/removal
 - Once school is out, Broken Limb Tree Service will be trimming and removing some trees at both parsonage and church (mostly parsonage).
- Washer/dryer
 - A request has been made to purchase a washer/dryer. Currently, we are exploring the feasibility of doing this. The location would be the closet where the sump pump is located, off Noah's Club. Council felt it was a good idea, but would like to see the cost of purchasing and cost of installation (plumbing and electrical) before making a final decision.
- Library
 - Repainted the library room, located off the Gathering Space.
 - Karen Lewis has organized a group of volunteers on May 1st to finish organizing the books in the library.
 - Plans are to put a small table and some comfortable chairs in the library.
- Quilt Closet
 - Currently this closet is used by many people and ministries. Plans are being made to contact those who use this closet and see if we get a group of volunteers to clean and reorganize this closet.

- Door lock on the southwest entrance
 - There is a lock problem with the double metal door that leads into the Fellowship Hall. Hopefully we can find a local locksmith that can fix the problem. Other door locks will need to be inspected in the future. In the meantime, when possible, use a key to unlock and lock the door from the outside to avoid problems.

9. Old Business (none)

10. New Business

- Working on getting a new updated Phone Directory.

11. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – May 15, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Vision: We are a community developing faithful followers of spiritual growth and service.

Respectively submitted, Carl Lahman (council secretary)



Women of the NALC

Grace Lutheran Church

April 17, 2023 - 10:00am

Members present: Valinda Arnold, Susan Cheney, Marian DeRolph, Cheryl Haggenjos, Theresa Jacobson, Linda Keaser, Anna Oberhauser, Kay Smith

Cheryl called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Valinda led with devotions and opened in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Theresa read minutes from the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Marian presented the treasurer's report for the previous month. Current Balance is \$4,648.90.

Old Business: Discussion was held on the rummage sale for later in the summer. Kaye S. will check on the date.

Spring Luncheon

The Women's Spring Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 20th at noon, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall of Grace. The theme will be "Of God and Country." Our entertainment is planned for Ms. Sandra Zikursh to come and portray Betsy Ross.

Further discussion and planning of the spring luncheon was held.

LBW Hymn #569 "God Bless Our Native Land" will be sung during the luncheon

Table decorations will include potted flowers of red, white, and blue with a garden stake inserted—these will be given as door prizes. Valinda A. and Cheryl H. will look into flowers for this project.

The committee decided on the following menu:

- Hawaiian Ham & Cheese Sliders (Valinda A.)
- Shredded chicken on buns (Marian D.)
- Baked Beans (Theresa J.)
- Vegetable Plate (Linda K.)
- Fruit Plate (Kaye S. & Anna O.)
- Pasta Salad (Cherl H.)
- Beverages: Iced Tea (Linda K.), Lemonade (Marian D.), Coffee, Water
- Cake for dessert (Marian will check on a cake ordered from TC's Market)

Theresa J. will lead the prayer for the meal

Cherl H. will create some trivia and puzzles to be placed at each place setting

Anna O. ordered name tags to be used for the luncheon

The women will meet on **Friday, May 19th at 1:00 p.m.** to decorate the fellowship hall.

Next meetings are scheduled for:

July 10th – 10:00 a.m. (Cherl has devotions)

October 9th – 10:00 a.m.

We closed with praying together the Lord's Prayer.

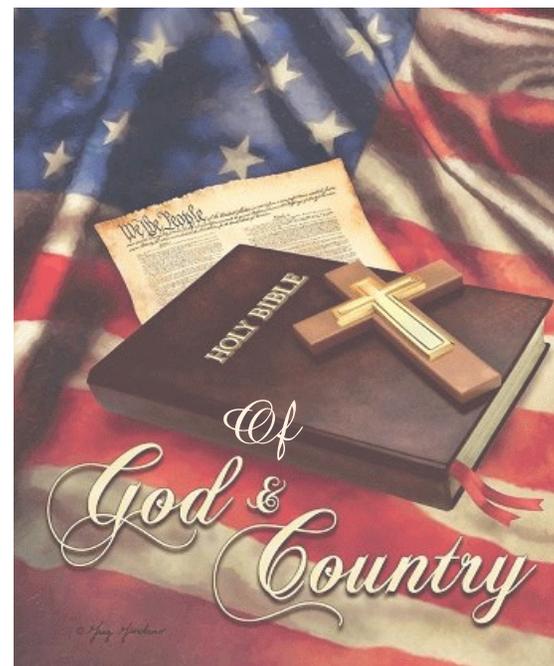
Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Theresa Jacobson, Co-Secretary

Women's Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 20, 2023 - Noon
Fellowship Hall



“Of God and Country”

Special Guest: Betsy Ross

Great Food! Prizes! Free!

Please get a free ticket to reserve your seat!
We encourage all who are attending to have a ticket so we know how much food to prepare. Get your tickets from Cherl Hagenjos, Linda Keaser, Marian DeRolph, Kaye Smith, or the church office.

NALC Disaster Kits

The Women's Board would like your help in collecting items for NALC Disaster Response. Through May 20th we will be focusing on items for the **Kitchen Kits**, also **Quilts and Blankets**. Individual items can be placed in the tote located in the fellowship hall. You do not need to put a whole kit together. The Women will finish the kits after the May 20 collection date..

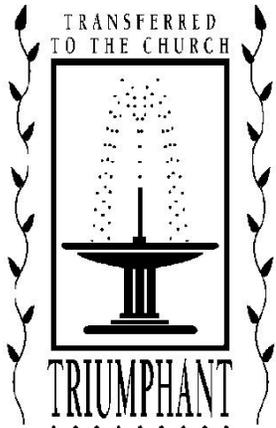
Kitchen Kits

(Pack kits in a 2-gallon plastic storage bag or drawstring backpack)

- ◆ cookbook ◆ hot pad ◆ storage containers
- ◆ dish towel ◆ dish cloths ◆ spatula
- ◆ garbage bags (a few, mixed sizes)
- ◆ measuring cups/spoons
- ◆ another helpful kitchen item of your choice

Quilts and Blankets new or slightly used

- ◆ any size including baby
- ◆ any fabric including religious, patriotic/military, seasonal



The family of **Jonn Simmons** truly appreciates all of the many prayers, cards, messages of support, and scholarship donations.

Jonn Louis Simmons

January 29, 1946 - February 4, 2023



MILITARY NEWS

Five Easter gift boxes were sent to:
 ☆Major Bethany Williamson, Army surgeon in South Korea;
 ☆Dakota Scheuvront, Navy;
 ☆Lucas Butler, USAF;
 ☆William Wilke, Navy;
 ☆Kole Moore, USMC.

Thank you for supporting this ministry. Jim Roshon 740-467-3198



Adventures in Faith Youth are collecting pop-tabs to send to the Ronald McDonald House in Columbus, Ohio. Please help us with this special local mission



support and bring in your aluminum can tabs and place them in one of the containers located in the Gathering Space or Noah's Club. Thank you!



Easter Celebration

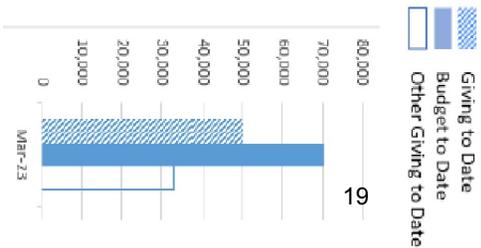


The joy of Easter was presented with the anthem "On the Third Day" The vocal choir was joined by:
 Handbells: Trisha Reynard, Rhianna Wilke, Cindy Wilson, Becky Winegardner
 Trumpets: Jim Lewis, Grant & Kate McCallum, Rick Rockwell
 Trombone: CJ Reynard Tuba: Chris Szkolnik
 Timpani: Chris Reynard
 Organ: SueEllen Simmons



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH Consolidated Fund Activity Report for March 2023

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	43,242	12,965	19,388	0	36,820
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	2,433	0	0	0	2,433
3,300,000	Mission Fund	12,702	905	200	0	13,407
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,369	20	0	0	3,389
3,400,000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	(3,444)	25,720	23,456	0	(1,180)
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	505	0	0	0	505
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,113	35	0	0	3,148
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	63	0	0	0	63
3,620,000	Flower Fund	903	174	661	0	416
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,328	0	0	0	2,328
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	23,758	550	1,638	0	22,670
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	18,269	0	0	0	18,269
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	8,509	0	0	0	8,509
3,925,000	KFROGs Fund	9,518	0	442	0	9,076
3,950,000	Investment Fund	115,576	0	0	0	115,576
Total		251,970	40,369	45,785	0	246,554
General Fund Budget			22,057	22,057	Net	0
va Actuals			-9,092	-2,669		-6,423



NALC National Convocation

The **National NALC Convocation** (Lutheran Week) will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from August 7-11. The Convocation itself will be on August 9-11, with other events preceding it. We can send two (2) lay delegates from our congregation.

Attendance is highly recommended. It is a great opportunity to connect with other congregations and members of the NALC around the continent. Contact Pr. Tom for more information!



Breath of the Spirit

The breathing I did yesterday will not keep me alive today. I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or my life will cease. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment in order that I may continue to enjoy him and to work the works he has assigned me.

—Augustus Toplady



Holy Baptism

We welcomed these new members into God's kingdom and our congregation through their baptism at the Easter Vigil service on April 8, 2023. We rejoice at their rebirth through water and the Word!

*Ashley Ann Norman
Adult*

*Guinevere Karen Norman
Born: August 23, 2016*

*Fawna Mary Norman
Born: September 27, 2018*

*Krislyn Grace Straits
Born: April 29, 2013*

*Sailor Penelope Black
Born: October 18, 2015*



Tuesday's Table

Nineteen people enjoyed talking, eating, and laughing at Shirkey's Pizza Zone in Carroll on March 28. The April dining excursion was at the Canal Mexican Grill in Millersport. The location for May 23rd to be announced. The sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space if interested in joining the group. All ages are welcomed. Questions, ask Jim or Sharon Roshon. 740-467-3298.



Thornville Community VBS

☆☆ June 12-16, 2023 ☆☆

9am-Noon

Pre-registration: April 19-May 30

www.vbspro.events/p/thornvillevbs2023

or complete a paper form at Grace

Did you know many kids who attend VBS do not have a home church?

Stellar VBS will help kids discover the love of Jesus, and learn how to shine His light to others around them.

MISSION: collect dollars and items for food pantries and backpack programs to share with Glenford, Somerset and Thornville, as there is great need all around us.

Food Pantry Needs	Backpack Needs
Peanut butter, tuna, soup, Hamburger Helper, 1 lb coffee, paper goods (paper towels, tp), personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste), laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap	Individual cereals, instant oatmeal, Mac-n-cheese, breakfast bars, Chef Boyardee, beef/chicken ramen, canned corn/green beans, fruit cups, pudding cups

We are also collecting aluminum can/pop tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House at Children's Hospital.

WAYS YOU CAN JOIN OUR MISSION AND SUPPORT VBS:

- Volunteer to serve as a crew leader, teacher or assistant leader or teacher (we love having teen helpers, too! – Grades 7 and up)
- Donate items to help kids bless families in Glenford, Somerset and Thornville
- Donate aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- Contact Theresa Jacobson or Beth Raab for details (Beth:740-755-6410)

If you're new to VBS, serving as an assistant may be just right for you!

**"Let your good deeds shine...
so that everyone will
praise your heavenly Father."**
(Matthew 5:16)

Graduates - We want to honor you on Sunday, June 4. Please leave your photo along with the name of your school, graduation date, and plans for the future in the church office by May 21. For more information contact Linda Keaser (740-403-4197). Congratulations, and we hope to see you on Sunday, June 4!



Paul Varner Scholarship Fund - applications are available in the church office. Application deadline is now 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.

Lutheran World Relief



Thank You

To the people of Grace,
Thank you for your compassionate
commitment to sharing your love
and generosity with our global
neighbors. We hope you will share
this with your congregation and display
for all to see.



Grace + Peace,
**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**
LWR.ORG

Thanks to your congregation's love, Roselvina De León González (pictured with 4-year-old daughter Katherine) no longer considers migrating to other countries because she has learned new, profitable farming techniques. She is now hopeful for her family's future together in Guatemala.

Thank you. Your 12 years of consecutive support and kindness saves and improves lives, traveling the distance to reach neighbors in need, no matter where they are in the world. Thank you for stepping out in faith and being the hands and feet of Christ.



In you, O LORD,
do I take refuge;
let me never
be put to shame;
in your righteousness
deliver me!

PSALM 31:1, ESV

Phone Directory

A new telephone directory for members and friends of Grace is in the works! Please take a moment to fill out the attached Grace Phone Directory Info card, We want to include you! Especially if you are not sure that the office has your current household info; if you were not included in the 2021 directory, but would like to be; or if you want to be removed from the directory. Return completed Grace Phone Directory Info card to Beth Gilgien at the church office 740-246-6576 or office@gracethornville.org
Deadline: May 14, 2023.



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

A Lot To Be Thankful For

We are so thankful that the Lord has answered our prayers and we are happy to announce that the East Africa Branch has been granted their religious exemption status!! This means that we will be recognized by the government as a religious organization and we hope this will bring some financial relief to our EAB missionaries for permits, tax exemptions, etc. We are also hoping that it will help with the amount of time Rich spends at government offices applying for permits. Join us in praising the Lord!

Over the Easter weekend (Saturday) we had around 125 EAB employees with their families come to the office to enjoy games, food, and the Jesus Film. We are so thankful for each person who attended. Please continue to keep our employees in your prayers and that they may see God's love through His Son.

We are excited to announce that we are expanding our family! We have begun the process of adopting here in Tanzania. In some ways, it's a lot like adopting in the States and in other ways, not at all. In our next newsletter, we discuss the process and more details but for now, we ask that you keep this process and our child-to-be in your prayers.

We have been so blessed since February to have many people coming and going from Morogoro. It has been a good time to see and catch up with several teammates that are now based in the States. We are now heading into a time of rest. And we are needing it. It has been an adjustment to care for so many with only three family units based in Moro but we made it! We are so thankful for all the work that has been accomplished.

Sarah had a retreat here in Morogoro with her friend. They attended a THRIVE ladies' live retreat. It was a good time of worship in her heart language. She also attended several classes. Some were: Raising Global Children (Third Culture Kids related), Sacred Siblings

GRACE PHONE DIRECTORY INFO

Household Last name:	
First names:	
Mailing Address:	
Home or Main Phone:	

First Name	Cell Phone	Email Address

(single and married missionaries working together), Inevitable Change, Don't Push My Buttons (How we react emotionally), Learning About Prayer from Nehemiah and a few others. Since it was all recorded, Sarah will be able to return to the materials and sessions to review in the future.

Jonathan has completed his 9th grade year and will begin his 10th grade year this week. He has had the last few weeks off. In that time, he went to teen day camp and has played many video games with friends and cousins. He will be join the Yarick family at their house for the mornings again. It is such a blessing for him to be with other kids!

Rich has a very successful time in Uganda. He was able to join other PBT people from the main office in Dallas to work on assisting the North Africa Branch. The NAB currently does not have a finance person at that branch (pray for more workers!). Rich is helping implementing a new payroll system and prepare accounting reports that will be helpful in their upcoming branch meeting.

Rainy season has began and the cooler temps are slowly making their way here. We are so thankful for this. Pray that the country is able to grow all the food that they need and then some. The prices for basic foods have skyrocketed, making it very hard for those living on an average wage of \$2-5 a day. (Our only complaint is that this rainy season has been the leaking roofs at the PBT property. There is a family living in one of those properties and the damage to their home has been extensive and we are having to consider putting on a new roof or raising the pitch of the roof...both will need to be done after the rains have stopped. Meanwhile, their ceiling continue to leak...the whole length of their home.)

Financial Need: Please pray that God will provide new financial partners or that current partners will increase their financial support. \We are in need of \$650 in monthly support.

--Rich, Sarah, and Jonathan Vogt



PUZZLE

Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV

2. ABLE

3. AY OF PENTECOS

4. ONGUE

5. PIRI

6. OGETHE

7. ES

8. ONGUE

9. A

10. IND



“When the _____³ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁵ and began to speak in other _____⁸ as the Spirit _____² them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. saw, 9. tongues, 10. wind

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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