

The Grapevine

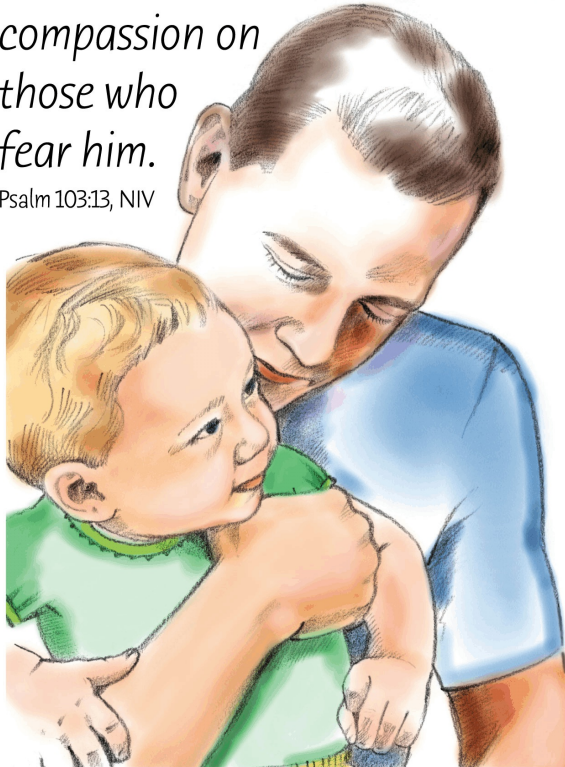
NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

June 2023

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

Psalms 103:13, 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

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 Haggensjos 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 Father's Day - June 18, 2023

“Live Long and Prosper!”

May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.

Genesis 27:28 ESV (Monthly Watchword for June)



Ever since I was a teenager, Star Trek has been inspiring for me. Growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, I didn't experience much of the original show with Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock, and crew. Instead, Captain Picard and company of Star Trek: The Next Generation were the ones through whom I learned about "strange new worlds" and "new life and new civilizations." But one phrase to come from the original show from the 1960s has lingered throughout all the iterations of the Star Trek franchise in recent decades and has become a part of popular culture. It is the Vulcan blessing: "Live long and prosper."

If you don't know, the Vulcans are one of the friendly alien races in the Star Trek universe. Mr. Spock in the original show was half human and half Vulcan. They have pointed ears and place high value on logic. They suppress their emotions and come across at times as cold and indifferent. Yet the Vulcans are more complex than that. Watching Star Trek, I often found myself sympathizing with them. From their point of view, they simply believe that extreme emotions cloud our thinking, lead to bad decisions, and therefore hinder human thriving. Though they express themselves differently, they do care about other people. In the Star Trek shows, you will see Vulcans extend their hands, part their fingers in a "V" shape, and declare: "Live long and prosper."

When I look at the monthly Watchword from the Bible for June, I think about this Vulcan blessing. In this part of the book of Genesis, we hear more of the unfolding story of Abraham's family and their internal turmoil. Chapter 27 deals with Abraham's son Isaac as an old man. His two sons were Esau and Jacob. According to the custom of the time, Esau was entitled to a special blessing from his father by virtue of being the elder brother. But Jacob, prodded by his mother Rebekah, had different plans. They plotted to steal the blessing from Esau so that Jacob would receive it instead. In his old age, Isaac's eyesight was failing him. When Jacob dressed in his brother Esau's clothes, Isaac was tricked. Isaac could feel the animal skins of Esau, but more importantly, he could smell the scent of Esau. Isaac proceeded with the blessing, given to Jacob, but intended for Esau: May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. In some ways, this is an eloquent way of saying, "Live long and prosper."

The biblical figure of Jacob has always fascinated me, perhaps because my last name originates from this man. In the Hebrew language of the Old Testament, the name Jacob means "supplanter," someone who takes the place of someone else. The events of his life fulfill the meaning of his name, and not in ways we would consider positive. In his dealings with his elder brother, Jacob steals both Esau's birthright and blessing.

And so, Jacob received the blessing that rightly belonged to his brother. May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine. Those words washed over him, even if the manner in which he obtained the blessing was, politely speaking, less than honest.

There is a lesson here for all of us. It is common for people to ask the question, "Why do bad things happen to me?" When misfortune comes our way, we might feel we do not deserve it. But what if we ask the opposite question: "Why do good things happen to me?"

As much as there are times we receive bad things that aren't our fault, I suppose if we think hard enough, we can recall good things that have come our way that we don't deserve. Our sinful natures tend to focus on the negative, but faith in God's grace has the power to change our perspective. Indeed, there are many blessings we enjoy that we did not earn. Even the fact that we are alive is itself a pure gift. And even if we worked hard to obtain some benefit, where did we get the ability to do so if not from God? When we pray for "daily bread" in our Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther explained in the Small Catechism that we are asking for God to help us recognize the many blessings we have received so that we receive them with thanksgiving and look to God in faith, who is the source of all good gifts.

Jacob went about his life in the opposite way: looking out for himself, his interests, his well-being. He coveted God's blessing so badly that he resorted to thievery. With the help of his mother, he succeeded in his dishonest endeavor. He received that which he did not deserve. In other words, Jacob received grace. God's presence continued to follow him, and God gave him much. Jacob received his daily bread and then some.

But did he recognize it? Even before he stole Esau's blessing, God had given him much. But the fact that Jacob felt he needed to go to such great lengths to get a blessing from God indicates that he didn't really understand the true nature of God's blessing. He most definitely didn't let that blessing from God define who he was.

Jacob was a work in progress, much like all of us. God had lavished blessings upon him in spite of his failure to reflect the love of God. But eventually, Jacob was required to confront his past. In chapter 33, Jacob meets his brother once again, having not seen him in many years. Not sure how Esau would react after their previous difficulties, Jacob finds himself reconciled to his brother. Rather than responding to Jacob with revenge, Esau embraces Jacob his brother. Once again, Jacob received grace.

Maybe this was the beginning of Jacob's true blessing. Maybe Jacob finally understood the meaning of grace. Maybe Jacob was able to "receive his daily bread with thanksgiving," to borrow words from Martin Luther. Maybe Jacob came to realize that truly living long and prospering was only something he could receive as a gift, not take for himself.

As this summer season begins, we see the earth in full bloom. We see the first growth of crops. It is an annual reminder of the goodness of God. I pray that we, like Jacob, would have our eyes opened to receive the grace of God with thanksgiving and to let that thanksgiving shape our lives. God has indeed given us much: our life, health, and daily food. But above all, God has given us the love of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. When we understand that love and live in that love, then we can truly live long and prosper. Our life on earth is a mixture of blessings and burdens, but with Jesus Christ and the grace of God lavished on us through him, we can truly live long and prosper with faith and thanksgiving now and eternally in the joy of God's kingdom.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

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

Sunday, June 4 - The Holy Trinity

Graduation Sunday / New Member Recognition

Genesis 1:1-2:3 Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-14 Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 11 - Pentecost 2

Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday, June 18 - Pentecost 3

Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sunday, June 25 - Pentecost 4

Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39

****Sunday, July 2 - Independence Sunday**

** 8am - Worship at Grace

** 10:30am - Community Worship at Thornville Park



April's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 153

8:00am - 37 10:30am - 116

Church Council Meeting Minutes

05/15/2023

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

1. Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom
2. Call to Order: President Paul Moentmann
3. Pastor's Report
 - Attended the NALC Commission for Theology and Doctrine (CTC) in Pittsburgh at beginning of month
 - o Now newly appointed by the NALC Executive Council
 - o A few meetings a year, online as well as twice in person (one in conjunction with Deans' meeting in Dallas)
 - Attended the NALC Ohio Mission Region meeting (gathering of the five Mission Districts in the state as well as Indiana/Kentucky) at Grace Lutheran in Westerville at the beginning of the month
 - o Gave presentation on the history of pastoral formation and need for new pastors in conjunction with Pr. Jeff Morlock
 - o Was officially elected the Dean of the Southeast Ohio Mission District of the NALC (had been appointed earlier)
 - o Tom Rodgers attended as lay delegate
 - Confirmation class has concluded for the school year
 - o Will start again in the fall, including any new eighth grade students or older who have not yet started the process
 - Youth event at end of April
 - o Did first trash pickup for Adopt a Highway; was successful (but a lot of work!), and will schedule three

- more times in the year for older youth and adults to help
- o Youth lock in was successful; many thanks to everyone who helped, especially Casey Sigler
- Continuing shut in visits with Tom Rodgers
- Continuing to meet with the other Thornville pastors periodically
 - o Planning for joint services and cooperation on community assistance fund
- Sunday worship
 - o For variety (and for fill-in pastor on June 18), for the month of June switch to using Setting 1
 - o Toward end of summer, possibly use for a few weeks the "new" setting from the Blue Book that we did in the time after Epiphany
- Time of community Fourth of July worship in the park
 - o July 2 this year; had been 10:00, but we agreed that 10:30 would be better for the other pastors to get from where they were earlier in the morning
- Lay delegates for the NALC Lutheran Week (national convocation) in August
 - o I had mistakenly thought we could only send two lay delegates
 - We can actually send four; we can apply for up to \$500.00 from the NALC for assistance in sending lay delegates
 - Harold Gutridge, Carl Lahman and Bob Reynolds are our delegates thus far
- Time away this summer
 - o Attendance at ILT (school I teach with) faculty retreat in June in South Dakota and a few days with parents in Minnesota (gone from June 14-20)
 - June 18, contacted Fr. Shannon Ramey (Anglican priest who fills in for NALC churches) to cover that Sunday
 - o Youth mission trip (July 23-28)

- July 23, Pr. Theresa will cover that Sunday
 - o Family trip and NALC convocation
 - July 30, August 6, August 13, will need supply pastors
 - Reinstate membership for Rhonda (Swinehart) Rife
 - o A motion was made by Casey and seconded by Matt to reinstate Rhonda. Motion was passed.
 - Work in progress on the video script
 - o Handed out a sample of what I've done so far
 - Graduate gifts
 - o Book of daily devotional readings from Martin Luther
 - Starting a spiritual book discussion group in the fall
 - o Maybe read two books a year
4. Inreach Ministry – Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)
- WNALC
 - o The Women's Spring Luncheon is Saturday, May 20th, noon at Grace.
 - AIF/Sunday School
 - o No classes for PS-12th grades from June 4 – August 13.
 - o Kris Lamphere's adult class will continue to meet throughout the summer, in St. John's Chapel.
 - o Rally Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, August 20th.
 - o Community Vacation Bible School is June 12-16.
 - Graduation/New Member Sunday
 - o On Sunday, June 4th, a reception will be held in honor of our graduates and new members following the 10:30 service.
 - Paul Varner Scholarship Fund
 - o Application deadline is June 30th.
5. Outreach Ministry – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)
- Pre-registration is open for VBS. Approximately 40 kids have signed up so far. Pre-registration numbers usually increase as the end of the school year nears. Last summer

we had 110-120 kids in attendance. Still looking for volunteers (adults and youth) to help make VBS a success.

- Still need helpers for Manna Monday. Food preparation, dessert donations and clean up are just a few ways anyone could help.

- Backpack Ministry is in need of additional storage space.

6. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

- Rick Rockwell instructed several individuals to run the sound system and live stream. A schedule is in place for the remainder of the year.

- Have begun having two communion assistants for the 10:30 service so that both sides can receive communion simultaneously. This will continue.

- Still in need of greeters, lectors and acolytes

7. Treasurer's Report – Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)

- Reports were distributed and discussed.

8. Facilities Report – Carl Lahman (Facilities Coordinator)

- Fixed downspout

- o Thanks to Jim Roshon for discovering and cleaning a clogged downspout on the southeast side of the church.

- Library

- o On May 1st, Karen Lewis, Valinda Arnold and Jeni Lahman went through many boxes of books and determined what to keep and what not to keep for the library. Great Job so far.
- o An oak table and chairs have been purchased, from Ernie's Furniture in Newark, for the library.
- o Once books have been categorized and put on shelves, announcements will be made as to when the library will be officially open.

- New Tree

- o Albyn's nursery planted a Royal Raindrop Crabapple

Tree at the parsonage (northside, along Columbus Street).

- Tree trimming/removal

- o Broken Limb Tree Service is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30th. They will be working at both the church and parsonage.

- Quilt closet

- o Saturday morning, June 3rd, will be scheduled in the morning to reorganize the Quilt Closet in the basement. In preparation, the week before, all items will be removed from the closet so that the closet can be cleaned. An announcement will be made for volunteers to work a couple of hours max on the 3rd. For those that are not available that day, but have an interest in how the closet is reorganized, they can contact me and let me know their availability.

- Classroom on 3rd Floor

- o Another classroom (207) has been repainted.

- Washer/Dryer

- o Council discussed getting a washer/dryer and looked at different cost estimates.

- o A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Vicki to purchase an Electrolux stack washer/dryer from Big Sandy Superstore. Motion was passed.

- Gas Leak

- o Gas company repaired a small gas leak outside at one of the meters.

- Lawn Care

- o John Ulmer has volunteered to fertilize the church's lawn with Scotts 4 step fertilizer. He has also treated the dandelions.

9. Old Business (none)

10. New Business

- Church Investments

- o Council discussed Grace's investment fund and decided to stay with our current investment plan.

11. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting – June 19, 2023 – 7:00 pm

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

Respectively submitted, Carl Lahman (council secretary)



Thank You

- + **Choir**
- + **Organists**
- + **Directors**
- + **Adult Choir**
- + **Grace Notes Handbell Choir**
- + **Men of Grace**
- + **Instrumentalists**

For the beautiful music on Sunday mornings, For inspiring us to lift our hearts, minds, and voices in singing praises to our Lord, For filling our souls with beautiful melodies... We thank you!



Congratulations Graduates!

Dear Lord, we thank you for these graduating students. We pray that you will give them direction, purpose, and perseverance as they enter the next phrase of their lives. Give them clearness of mind to move forward into the plans and purposes that You have for them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Our High School Grads:

Christopher Ames - Sheridan High School - He will enter the work force.

Josiah Hamilton - Sheridan High School - He will be attending Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio. He plans to major in computer science and has accepted a position on the university soccer team.



Reid Packer - Sheridan High School - He will be attending Ohio University in the fall and majoring in Civil Engineering.



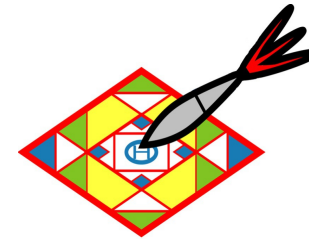
Cabot Black - no picture available



Our College Grad:

Ethan Heller - Concord University. He graduated on May 6, 2023 from Concord University in Athens, West Virginia with a B.S. in Business with an emphasis in Marketing and Finance. He was on an athletic scholarship for the men's basketball program during his college career where he scored over 1,000 points. He has been accepted into the Masters program at Concord University for Business Administration.

Paul Varner Scholarship Fund applications are available in the gathering space at church, also on our website. 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.



Dartball in the Park...ing Lot



All are invited to join the dartball teams for a potluck in the parking lot at Grace Lutheran.

Save the date for **June 24th at 3 PM.**

Look for more details in the upcoming announcements.



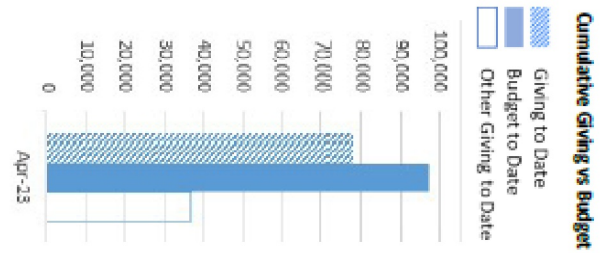
Women of the NALC Grace Lutheran Church

Thank You to all who made the women's luncheon on May 20 a success, including the men who helped serve and clean up, especially cleaned up. Forty-two women enjoyed a delicious lunch and special guest presentation from Betsy Ross.



Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for April 2023
Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Account #	Account Name	beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	39,186	22,385	25,693	61,579	92,720
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	2,433	100	399	11,292	13,427
3,300,000	Mission Fund	13,407	1,585	106	0	14,578
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,389	25	0	0	3,409
3,400,000	Endowment Osma CD	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	0	0	0	28,532	28,532
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	(11,180)	292	3,853	23,499	18,754
3,500,000	Adventures In Faith Fund	505	0	0	0	505
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,148	65	0	0	3,213
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	416	116	0	0	532
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,328	0	0	0	2,328
3,740,000	Backpack Ministry Fund	22,670	1,365	2,655	0	21,161
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	18,269	0	0	0	18,269
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	8,509	509	328	0	8,690
3,925,000	KFRNGs Fund	9,076	0	87	0	8,988
3,950,000	Investment Fund	115,576	0	0	-115,576	0
Total		\$248,921	\$26,443	\$33,120	\$9,327	\$246,295
General Fund Budget			27,571	27,571	0	0
va Actuals			-5,186	-1,878	-3,308	0
					Net	





From Pastor Theresa Jacobson: “We have been working hard in Adventures In Faith to memorize the Old Testament books of the Bible. I set a lofty goal to get them memorized before summer. We are VERY close, but those minor prophets are hard to memorize! Here is the link to the YouTube video I use for memorization.

☺ ♥ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7ZtWRSCH7E>

In addition, we've been memorizing the following facts: 1. Two main parts called the Old Testament and New Testament; 2. The Bible has 66 books all together; 3. The Old Testament has 39 books; 4. The New Testament has 27 books. It would be GREAT if they can keep this up for the summer as we'll pick up with it in the Fall and then move on to memorizing the New Testament books.

AIF will break for the summer. We'll start up again in August. Thanks and have a wonderful summer! Hope to see you at VBS June 12-16, too!”



Betty Shell
Oct. 4, 1924 - May 19, 2023

Carlos "Dean" Boyer
Jan. 4, 1940 - May 21, 2023



Thornville Community VBS

STELLAR
“Shine Jesus’ Light!”

JUNE 12-16, 9AM-NOON

PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED

1) Please pray for the kids attending, and their families, that the love of Jesus will touch their hearts.

2) Pray for the volunteers who will share their time and the love of Jesus with the children. We have over sixty volunteers!

June 5-9: We'll be working at Grace the week prior to VBS, doing our best to get as much prepared ahead of time as possible.

We would appreciate your help (even for an hour!) during that week, so our Sunday, June 11 will be easier for everyone.

Contact Beth Raab (740-755-6410) for information.
THANK YOU!

VBS DECORATING
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1PM

We will decorate the sanctuary at Grace and others will put finishing touches on Noah’s Club, the Gathering Space and Fellowship Hall. Tubs will be labeled, and supplies will be in the tubs. Thank you for considering!

We will also need a few folks to:

- 1) help set up the space at the Methodist Church fellowship hall for Pre-K classes,
- 2) help set up the kitchen at both locations (deliver drinks, drink mix, Monday snack).

Summertime splendor

One theme in Psalms is how nature reveals God’s glory. That’s especially evident during summer. “There is a signature of wisdom and power impressed on the works of God, which evidently distinguishes them from the feeble imitations of men,” writes John Newton. “Not only the splendor of the sun, but the glimmering light of the glowworm, proclaims his glory.”

That glory shines even brighter when we spend time in God’s Word. Thomas Merton writes, “By reading the scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God, and I feel fire and music under my feet.”

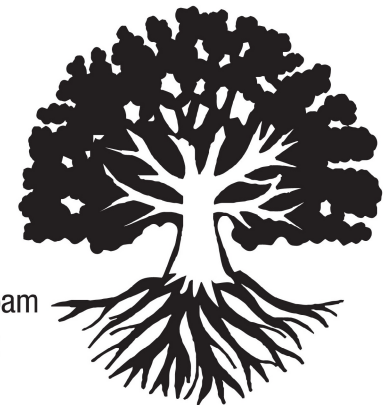


JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus’ family dating back to Abraham.
Do you know who is in Jesus’ family tree?

Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.

- T. Uzziah the father of Jotham
- O. Jacob the father of Judah
- N. Jacob the father of Joseph
- E. Elihud the father of Eleazar
- U. Boaz the father of Obed
- F. Abraham the father of Isaac
- R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam
- E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah



How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Answer: FOURTEEN

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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