

The Gracevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

♡ February 2024 ♡

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

John 13:34, NRSV



"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

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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 |
| 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 Haggenjos 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:

Introduction

I am the LORD your God.
Exodus 20:2 ESV



Among the many things that people associate with the Christian faith, the Ten Commandments rank high on the list. It is common to see Christian homes display replicas of the two stone tablets that God first gave to Moses in the time of the Old Testament. The Ten Commandments are certainly important, but there is some confusion about them and the role they play in Christian life. It is important to understand them properly and how they fit into our broader faith.

In the year 1528, Martin Luther took a tour of the churches in his general area. He wanted to see firsthand how life in the churches was being conducted. What he discovered shocked him. Later he wrote, "What misery I beheld." To his dismay, he learned that most church members and even the pastors themselves knew little to nothing about the Christian faith. For many years, people had been accustomed to practicing their faith through mere ritual observance. Luther felt strongly that people should know about basic matters of the faith so that they can actively participate with understanding. To that end, in 1529 he wrote his *Small Catechism* and *Large Catechism*. Both these books are still used in Lutheran congregations today.

When Martin Luther set out to explain the Christian faith in his *Small Catechism*, the first thing he did was list and explain what we know as the Ten Commandments. Throughout this year of 2024, I will devote these newsletter articles to discussing each of these Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are found in two places in the Old Testament. The first is Exodus chapter 20, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments after God led the people out of slavery in Egypt and into freedom. The Ten Commandments are repeated in Deuteronomy chapter 5.

One surprising thing is that even though everyone agrees that there are ten of these commandments, Jews and Christians themselves disagree about how exactly to number the commandments. The Bible itself provides no system of numbering, and so different groups have interpreted differently what comprises separate commandments.

For example, Lutherans and Roman Catholics number the Ten Commandments in the following way:

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his workers, or his livestock, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Most other Protestant churches, influenced by the Reformed theological perspective, number the Ten Commandments differently because they interpret the explanation of the first commandment as a separate commandment, dealing with the issue of worshiping "graven images" or "idols" rather than God Himself:

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Interestingly, many Jewish people number the Ten Commandments even differently than the two systems above. In the Hebrew language, the word that is translated as “commandments” (*davarim*) can mean “words” more generally. So, they sometimes refer to the Ten Commandments as the “Ten Words” that God spoke to His people. This is because Jews believe that the first “Word” that God spoke is not really a commandment at all, but simply a declaration:

1. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
2. You shall have no other gods beside me.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

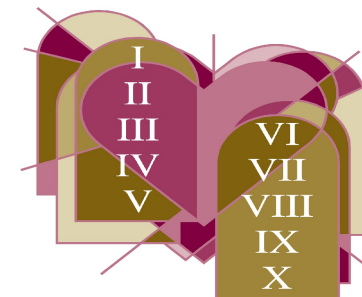
I have come to believe that thinking of the Ten Commandments as the “Ten Words” is helpful for us as Lutherans. Martin Luther was clear that we do not earn our

salvation by obeying the Ten Commandments. In fact, we cannot, as we do not possess the ability to live up to God’s righteous standards. If we did, we would have no need for Jesus Christ to be our savior. Instead, just as God declared to the Israelite people that He had saved them from Egypt that He was their God before listing his expectations of them, we believe that God has first saved us through Jesus Christ and then gives us guidance for how to conduct ourselves.

The word “commandment” sometimes conjures negative images in our minds. Human beings do not always like rules. But we believe that the Ten Commandments are actually a precious gift from God. True, we do not earn our salvation by obeying them. But without guidance from God as we live our lives, chaos rules in our world. When these Ten Commandments are broken, there are often devastating consequences. When Martin Luther explained these commandments, he not only focused on what Christians should not do, but he explained what Christians should do in response to their faith in the God who graciously declared to us: “I am the Lord your God.”

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson



I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

Jeremiah 31:33

Worship In February

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, Feb. 4 - Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-121, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, Feb. 11 - Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

Wednesday, Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday

Soup Supper at 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6-10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, Feb. 18 - 1 Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday, Feb. 21 - Kingship Psalm: Psalm 20

Soup Supper at 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm

Sunday, Feb. 25 - 2 Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

Wednesday, Feb. 28 - Wisdom Psalm: Psalm 36

Soup Supper at 6:00pm; Worship 7:00pm



December's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 125

8:00am - 38 10:30am - 87

Christmas Eve 5pm: 98; 9pm: 127; Christmas Day: 46

Lent Midweek Service Plan 2024

Wednesdays 7:00pm

February 21:

- Kingship Psalm: Psalm 20
- Hymns:
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Green Book 482)
Now the Day Is Over (Green Book 280)

February 28:

- Wisdom Psalm: Psalm 36
- Hymns:
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain (Green Book 301)
Jesus, Refuge of the Weary (Green Book 93)

March 6:

- Trust Psalm: Psalm 63
- Hymns:
Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Green Book 107)
All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night (Green Book 278)

March 13:

- Lament Psalm: Psalm 130
- Hymns:
Out of the Depths I Cry to You (Green Book 295)
Glory Be to Jesus (Green Book 95)

March 20:

- Praise Psalm: Psalm 148
- Hymns:
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (Green Book 526)
My God, How Wonderful Thou Art (Green Book 524)



Church Council Meeting Minutes

January, 2023

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

Not present: Vicky Jones (Outreach Coordinator), Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Tom Jacobson

1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman.

- New council member, Diane Christensen, welcomed.

2. Pastor's Report - Pastor Tom Jacobson

- Funeral for community member: Marjorie Allen, Bope-Thomas Funeral Home, Somerset, December 30
- Worship:
 - Advent and Christmas went well
 - Have resumed children's messages on some Sundays (usually when choir isn't singing). Pr. Theresa will be doing some of these
 - Will be using the WOV Setting 5 "Bread of Life" setting for worship for the four Sundays after Epiphany, up to the beginning of Lent
- Confirmation class continues to go well
 - Onto the final unit for the year
- Will install the new Pastor at Groveport Zion on February 4th (in capacity as Dean).
 - Pastor Theresa will be the supply pastor for Grace that day.
- Starting with February 2024, will be writing monthly newsletter articles on the Ten Commandments
- "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles have begun

and are available on my blog, usually one per week: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/>

- Six have been completed
 - Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers
 - Will be preparing for Lenten "March Madness Hymn Bracket"
 - Nominating ballot will be available soon, before Lent begins
 - "Champion" hymn will be announced at Easter
 - Will be attending the NALC annual clergy retreat, in Orlando, from January 15-18
 - Will be leading one of the breakout sessions, so my travel cost is covered by NALC
 - Lenten evening worship and soup suppers will happen again this year
 - Theme of Lenten series will be on the different types of Psalms in the Bible
 - Problem with water softener in parsonage seems to be resolved
 - Simply required a "recharge" or "reset"
 - This summer, will plan on a series "My Neighbor's Faith" during adult education hour on Sundays
 - Spiritual book discussion group will meet on January 14 after worship to discuss the book "Silence"
 - Will then pick another book to continue for the spring
- ## 3. Inreach Ministry Report - Linda Keaser (Inreach Ministry Team Coordinator)
- WNALC - the board met on Monday, January 8, 2024.
 - Lenten Soup Suppers will begin on February 14th, which is Ash Wednesday. Soup and desserts will be needed for all the Wednesdays in Lent & on Maundy Thursday. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gathering Space.
 - An "Irish Spud Luncheon" following the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 17th is being planned. Potatoes, fixings, & dessert will be provided. A number count is needed for the potatoes; an interest sign-up sheet will be located in

the Gathering Space.

- Ladies Spring Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 18th.
- Rummage sale proceeds from 2023 will be donated to: Lifewise Academy, Christ's Table, the Backpack Ministry Store, and to the Bucky Water Project.
- Sunday School (AIF - Adventures in Faith)
 - Classes are held 9:15-10:15 am. 2 yr old – K are in the Noah's Club classroom (lower lever), 1st-12th grade classes are held upstairs and an adult class meets in the St. John's Chapel.
- Youth Report by Casey Sigler
 - Hocking Hills Winter Hike – Saturday, January 20th. All ages welcome.
 - Winter Lock-In and bake day – Saturday February 10th
 - Superbowl Bake Sale – Sunday, February 11th to raise money for Easter baskets for kids of local food pantry
 - Easter Breakfast – Sunday, March 31st
 - Spaghetti Dinner – Sunday, May 5th to raise money to purchase a new exterior Nativity Scene for the church

4. Outreach Ministry Report – Vicki Jones (Outreach Ministry Team Coordinator)

- VBS meeting is scheduled for January 17. Beth Raab will represent Grace.
- Blessing Box is now stocked
- LifeWise Ministry Update
 - LifeWise greatly appreciates the support that Grace has given to this program.
 - LifeWise started in 2018 and has grown extremely fast.
 - The original hope was that LifeWise would have 25 schools by 2025; they now have more than 300 public schools in 12 states, with 35,000 students enrolled.
 - The Northern Local LifeWise board is exploring the possibility to expand this program to middle and high school students.

- Starting in January, LifeWise board members are hoping to give churches updates on Sundays.
- Looking into Grace helping LifeWise children with a warm lunch on occasion.

5. Upreach Ministry Report - Casey Sigler (Upreach Ministry Team Coordinator)

- Thank you to all those that helped to take down the Advent decorations on Saturday Jan 6th.
- Preparing for Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th.
- Continue to need volunteers for Greeters, Lectors, Communion Assistants and Acolytes
- Ordering additional colored cinctures for acolytes
- Possible speaker issues in cry room; will discuss with Rick.

6. Treasurer's Report - Rick Rockwell, Treasurer

- Reports distributed.

7. Old Business

- Facilities Coordinator
 - Dave Rodenbaugh has agreed to replace Carl Lahman as Facilities Coordinator.
- Facilities Report
 - Hallway from Fellowship Hall to Noah's Club has been repainted.
 - HVAC maintenance agreement has been renewed with Fairfield Heating & Cooling
 - Bob Reynolds finished installing a new outdoor PVC Banner Frame for LifeWise.
 - Dave replaced some door stops.
- Photo Directory
 - Mike Keaser, cousin of Carl Keaser, has agreed to take pictures for a new photo directory. Mike currently is on staff for LifeWise. He does photos for LifeWise and special events. We hope to set something up in spring.

- Banner for parades and Grace T-shirts/Polo shirts
 - Both Casey and Matt are working on the designs.
- Care Team: Prayer Requests
 - Pastor will look into adding to the Prayer Cards a place to indicate whether the prayer request is a member or non-member (relative or friend).
- Electrical and HVAC Maps
 - There are now maps that can track all electrical outlets and switches (27 breaker boxes).
 - The new maps include a new numbering system to eliminate uncertainty when identifying room locations.
 - Care will be taken to prevent any damage to the doors and will not be put on doors that are not necessary, for example, Sanctuary and St. John. Funds will be donated to cover the cost.
 - Motion made by Linda and seconded by Casey to re-number the rooms. Motion passed.

8. New Business

- Improvement Fundraiser for special projects
 - Will work with Facilities Coordinator and team to determine what projects to address before starting fundraiser.
- Children & Youth Safety Policy
 - Our insurance company requested we have an abuse policy.
 - Thanks to Bob Reynolds, we now have a draft abuse policy which has been submitted to our insurance.
 - Council discussed the draft policy and noted a few questions to discuss with insurance company. We are now waiting to hear back from them.

9. Adjournment - The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)

Council President Carl Lahman: Reflections since joining Grace



Now that I am installed as council president, I thought this would be a good time to share some of my reflections since joining Grace.

It was September 27th of 2020 that my wife (Jeni) and I became members of Grace. We moved here from Heath where we lived for two years. Prior to that we lived in Columbus where we raised two children.

The reason we moved from Columbus to a condominium in Heath was to downsize and move closer to the country side and to enjoy a less hectic life style once I retired from DeVry University. Soon after we moved it was very important to us to find a new church. I grew up a Methodist and Jeni grew up a Lutheran, so when we got married 40 years ago, being a good husband, I became a Lutheran.

When we moved to Heath, we naturally looked for a Lutheran church, but for some reason, none of the Lutheran churches felt right. One day, a friend of mine invited us to join First Presbyterian in Granville. As I discovered, the theology of a Presbyterian church is much different than a Lutheran church. I also discovered that we were not ready for condominium living. So, we decided to move AGAIN and ended up here in Thornville. It didn't take long for Jeni to find Grace.

One of the first things I noticed at Grace is how old and how big this church is. If my calculations are correct, Grace is now 187 years old. With all the building additions and

changes it is easy to get lost in this church. Secondly, I noticed there is a good mix of age groups. Thirdly, I noticed how friendly people are. And finally, I noticed that Grace is traditionally grounded.

Since becoming members Jeni and I found it easy to be part of the many “growing” ministries of Grace.

Have you ever heard someone talk about a “spiritual marker” in their life? A spiritual marker identifies a time when you clearly know that God has guided you. I often look back on my life and recognize the events in my life where God brought me to a particular place and time. It is a very revealing exercise that I recommend. However, it doesn’t always answer the question, “why?” or “why me?”, For example, I am NOT a handyman, so I often ask the question, “why was I the property coordinator these past couple of years?”

To summarize, Jeni and I have been truly blessed to be part of Grace. One of the things I noticed very quickly about this congregation is that there are a lot of gifted folks here. This church also thinks BIG. A good example of thinking “big” is our Worship Renewal Project. The future looks bright for Grace but we do have challenges like ensuring Grace’s financial future. Filling the shoes of our previous council present, Paul Moentmann, will be challenging, so I ask for your support and prayers.

Finally, I would like to close with a description I heard long ago, at an ELCA Synod Conference, of a “**flock of geese**”. This description is often used to describe healthy congregations, which reminds me of how healthy this congregation is. Here are 5 observations and their related church messages:

1. As each goose flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a “V” formation the

whole flock adds greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

The Message is: We can go somewhere more quickly and easily if we have a common direction and give a good uplift to one another rather than trying to tear each other down.

2. Whenever a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. The goose will return to the formation quickly to benefit from the lifting power of the bird in front.

The Message is: We need the support of others.

3. If a goose in front gets tired, the goose simply rotates to the back of the formation and another goose goes to the front.

The Message is: No one has to do the difficult tasks all of the time and we don’t do them alone.

4. At the back of the formation the geese constantly honk to encourage those up front to maintain their speed.

The Message is: Yes, folks you got to honk encouragement all of the time.

5. When a goose becomes ill or wounded, and falls from the sky, other geese will fall out of formation. They follow the other goose down to the ground to help and protect it. They remain until the fallen bird is able to fly again or until it dies.”

The Message is: We stand by each other, in sickness and in health.

So, the next time you see a flock of geese, **listen for their honks of encouragement**. Let that be a reminder of how blessed we all are to be part of this church family.

"My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns"

For this coming year, Pr. Tom will be providing a weekly devotional reflection on his list of fifty-two of his favorite hymns, one for each week of the year, which will be posted on his blog. The hymns chosen correspond roughly to the unfolding church calendar. Hymns provide us with a window into the time and circumstances in which they were written, but they also help us in our own life of prayer as they express the faith of the Church with grace and beauty. The first few posts are live on his blog. You can access these weekly reflections at the following link, which will also be provided in the weekly email reminder about worship for the coming Sunday: <https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com>

- Week 1: Prepare the Royal Highway
Week 2: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
Week 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

The **Monday Bible Study** group meets from 4-5:30 weekly in the Frank's Fellowship Hall, currently studying the book of *Ezra*.



During Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, (February 14th), we will meet at 4 pm each Wednesday before the "Soup Supper & Lenten services" in the Noah's Club classroom.

We will not meet during Holy Week or on April 1, but will resume study weekly on Monday's beginning April 8th.

All are welcome! Questions, contact Carl Keaser
740-403-4197

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



The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God indeed gives daily bread to all, even unbelievers, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that he would help us to recognize this so that we would receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything required to meet our earthly needs, such as food, drink, clothing, home, property, employment, necessities; devout parents, children, and communities; honest and faithful authorities, good government, seasonable weather, peace, health, an orderly society, a good reputation, true friends and neighbors, and the like.



"Phishing" Scams - In our sinful world, there is unfortunately no shortage of people who seek to deceive and take advantage of others. Churches and their leaders are often targets of such scams. Often, such scammers will send emails 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, please let the church office know.




Lock-in!!! Kfros and KFC groups will have a Lock-in on Saturday Feb 10th!! We will be baking that afternoon for our Superbowl Bake Sale and then follow with all of our favorite Lock-in activities. Kids may arrive at 1:00pm and will need to bring pillow, sleeping bag and pajamas. All kids will attend the 10:30 service on Feb 11th. Any questions ask Casey Sigler or Theresa Jacobson.

Superbowl Bake Sale will once again be held this year on Superbowl Sunday, Feb 11th, following both services in the gathering space. This is a great fundraiser for the youth to raise money to purchase Easter bags for the kids of the local food pantry. So please save the date to grab goodies for the game!!



LUCKY YOU!

You are invited to a
St. Patrick's Day
"Irish Spud Lunch"

| | | | |
|--------|--|---|---|
| SUNDAY | March 17, 2024 After Worship (11:45am) | In the Fellowship Hall  | Menu: Baked Potatoes w/ variety of toppings, Salad, Drinks, Dessert |
| | Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Women Please RSVP so we order enough food | | |



"Irish Spud Lunch"

Name _____

Number Attending _____ Return to Kaye Smith or Pastor Theresa



Lenten SOUP Suppers

Wednesdays February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20,
and Maundy Thursday, March 28
6:00pm

Each Lenten Wednesday and on Maundy Thursday, we will be serving:

- 5 - 6 Big pots of **Soups**
- 5 - 6 Different **Desserts**
- Assorted **Breads/Crackers**

Plan on attending! Enjoy sharing a meal with fellowship and fun. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come. Worship service will be held at 7pm in the sanctuary.

Volunteers are needed to provide the soups and desserts. Sign-up sheet has been placed in the gathering space for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your help!

Coordinator: Wanda Hupp 740.246.5317.



LifeWise is a blessing to our schools! Each week when the students come for class, they learn something new about Jesus.

Most of LifeWise's programs service students in 1st through 5th grade. Joel Penton, founder and CEO, said that when kids start, they begin in Genesis and that by the time they graduate out of 5th grade, they have learned the Bible through the Book of Revelation.

"We teach through the entire Bible, and every lesson has a three-fold focus: head, heart and hands," he explained. "With the head, we just ask and answer the question: 'What is the information on the page of the Bible? What does the story say?' Heart, we ask the question: How does this connect to the bigger picture of the Gospel message? How does it point to Jesus? And hands, if we rightly understand this Bible story in the Gospel, 'How does that transform our character?'" says Penton,.

More than 300 public schools nationwide give students the opportunity to learn the Bible during school hours. Consider volunteering! Check out their website or facebook page!



Our Bulletin Announcement in December:

“NALC Internship - This coming year (2024), the Southeast Ohio Mission District of the NALC will be hosting a seminary intern preparing for ordination. This intern will be based at Groveport Zion Lutheran Church, but will have the chance to do things in all the congregations of our district. Funding for the intern is needed. Our church council decided to designate half of the special Christmas offering to help fund this internship, with the other half going to the Lutheran Church-South Sudan. You can give by writing “NALC Internship” on your offering envelope.”

Your response was very generous! Thank you!!

January 12, 2024

Dear Members of Grace,
On behalf of the SEOMD Executive Council, I would like to thank you for your support of our Internship initiative. We appreciate your partnership in this shared ministry opportunity as we strive to be and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely
Karen Bentley
Secretary of the SEOMD



Valentine's Day jokes for animal lovers

What did one sheep say to the other?
I love ewe!

And how did the other sheep respond?
You're not so baaa-d yourself.

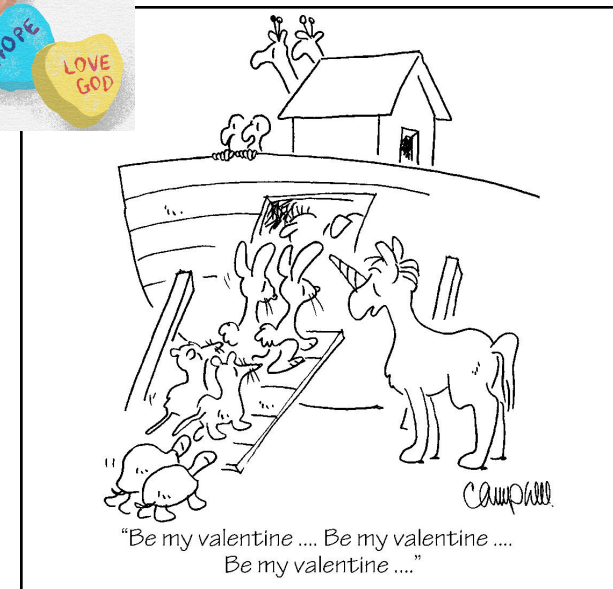
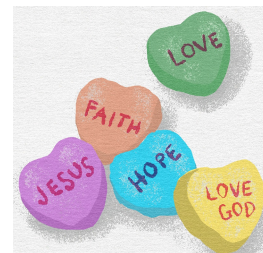
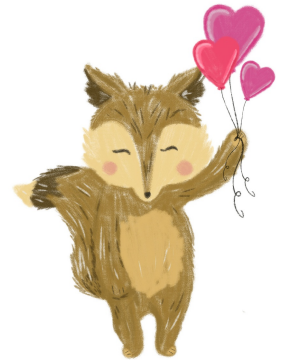
Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?
They are very scent-imental creatures.

What did the enamored deer say?
I'm very fawn-ed of you!

What question did the penguin ask on February 14?
Waddle I do without you?

What do you call two birds in love?
Tweethearts!

What did one bee say to the other?
I love bee-ing with you, honey!





CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love,
which connects us to God and to one another.

*Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse
(on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse
(on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.*

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command is this:
- d. And over all these virtues put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what great
- g. There is no fear in



- 1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
- 2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
- 3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
- 4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- 5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
- 6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- 7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

Grace Lutheran Church - Thornville OH
Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2023
Sunday, January 7, 2024

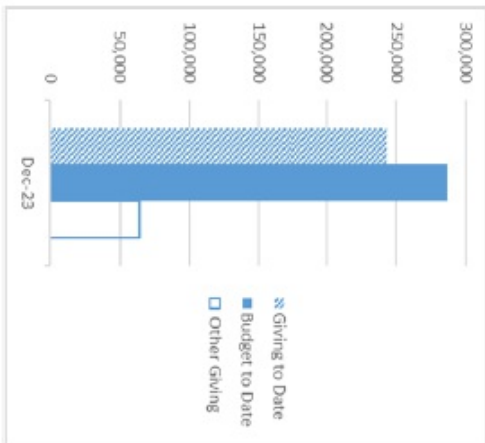
| Account # | Account Name | Beg Balance | Receipts | Disbursements | Transfers/IE's | End Balance |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3,100,000 | General Fund | 52,992 | 247,609 | 276,690 | 61,079 | 84,990 |
| 3,220,000 | Improvement Fund | 2,062 | 1,228 | 4,428 | 11,292 | 10,155 |
| 3,300,000 | Mission Fund | 9,657 | 14,340 | 7,958 | 0 | 16,039 |
| 3,320,000 | Local Good Samaritan Fund | 3,589 | 290 | 400 | 0 | 3,479 |
| 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 |
| 3,410,000 | Anniversary Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3,420,000 | Capital Campaign Fund | 27,562 | 52,069 | 71,467 | 23,499 | 31,663 |
| 3,500,000 | Adventures In Faith Fund | 505 | 0 | 180 | 0 | 325 |
| 3,510,000 | Varner Scholarship Fund | 3,063 | 1,710 | 1,600 | 0 | 3,173 |
| 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 | 260 | 500 | 303 |
| 3,620,000 | Flower Fund | 773 | 940 | 689 | 0 | 1,024 |
| 3,630,000 | Choir Fund | 2,328 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 2,478 |
| 3,740,000 | Backpack Ministry Fund | 23,275 | 10,989 | 14,233 | 0 | 20,031 |
| 3,900,000 | Memorial Fund | 18,083 | 2,450 | 29 | 0 | 20,504 |
| 3,910,000 | GLCW Fund | 0 | 445 | 0 | 0 | 445 |
| 3,920,000 | KFC Youth Fund | 8,557 | 6,007 | 4,235 | 0 | 10,329 |
| 3,925,000 | KFRG's Fund | 9,896 | 0 | 1,084 | 0 | 8,812 |
| 3,950,000 | Investment Fund | 107,576 | 0 | 0 | (107,576) | 0 |
| Total | | \$281,106 | \$338,226 | \$383,252 | \$17,327 | \$253,407 |

General Fund Budget
va Actuals

286,740
(39,131)

286,740
(10,050)

Net
0
(29,081)



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.

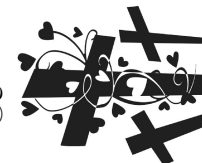
Core Values

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
65 E. Columbus St.; PO Box 284
Thornville OH 43076**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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