

# The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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

September 2023

...so in Christ we,  
though many,



**FORM ONE BODY,**  
and each member  
belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5, NIV

## Grace Lutheran Church



Office: 740/246-6576 Web: [www.gracethornville.org](http://www.gracethornville.org)

Email: [office@gracethornville.org](mailto:office@gracethornville.org)

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville](http://www.facebook.com/Grace.Thornville)

Worship: Sundays 8:00 and 10:30a.m.

### Our Staff

Pastor:	Tom Jacobson 740-242-2192
Office Manager:	Beth Gilgien 740-398-4502
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:	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 Haggenjos 740-342-2276
Safety/Security Team:	Bob Reynolds 630-698-0457
Sacristan:	Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504
Facilities:	Carl Lahman 614-329-8639

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

## Who Are You, Jesus?

[Jesus asks Peter,] *But who do you say that I am?*

Matthew 16:15 ESV

(Monthly Watchword Sept. 2023)



“Doctrine.” The word itself sounds cold and mechanical, perhaps even oppressive. It refers to beliefs that are commonly held by different religious groups. It simply comes from the Latin word *doctrina*, which means “teaching.” When someone is “indoctrinated,” it simply means that the individual is taught a body of doctrine, a group of teachings about how to think of God and human life in relation to Him.

In our time, we tend to hear the words “doctrine” and “indoctrinate” as negatives. But the truth is that everyone is indoctrinated by something. It’s only a question of what. If we do not teach children or even adults about who Jesus is and to know and love Jesus, the world around them will teach them not to.

Who is Jesus? That’s a pretty basic question for any Christian, the foundation of our doctrine. But it’s amazing how much confusion there has been about this issue, past and present. And it’s not a question that only Christian people ask. If someone were to pull us aside and ask us the same question, how might we respond?

The Bible verse from Matthew 16 before us this month is a part of yet another episode in the dramatic story of Jesus’ disciple Peter. His real name was Simon, but he has become known to us mostly by his nickname. Peter is a popular figure among Christians and for good reason. He walked in a

relationship with Jesus characterized by failure, faith, learning, and growing maturity.

His disciples had been with Jesus through a lot by this point. At least some of them had witnessed Jesus’ teaching through both direct instruction and through parables. They had seen Jesus heal others. They had seen him calm a storm on the lake. They had seen him give new life to a dead girl. They had seen Jesus feed five thousand men, not including women and children, with five loaves and two fish. They had seen Jesus walk on water. Peter had his own struggles with faith and doubt, and, true to his nickname (“Peter” means “rock” in Greek), he sank on the water while attempting to walk toward Jesus on the sea. He cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus lifted him up.

Jesus had created quite a stir by this point, but apparently, no one had gotten around to addressing the elephant in the room, at least directly. “Who in the world is this guy who has done all these things?”

When Jesus asked his disciples who people were saying that he was, they gave various answers. But then Jesus directed the question to them: “But who do you say that I am?” For all his failures to that point and that would follow, Peter here gives what Jesus considers the correct answer: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus says that Peter is “blessed” to have such faith revealed to him, to the point where Jesus says that he will build his Church on this “rock” called Peter. Lutherans and other Protestants have interpreted this to mean that the Church of Jesus Christ would be built on the faith that Peter confessed on that day. Roman Catholics came to interpret this as saying that Peter himself would be this “rock” in the role of the Pope, the head bishop of the Church.

So, who is Jesus? There is no shortage of answers to that question. Muslims (followers of Islam) claim that Jesus is one of the greatest prophets (messengers) of God, second only to Muhammad. Some Jewish people today also consider him to be a prophet. Neither of these groups, however, believe that Jesus is actually God. Jesus' popularity also extends beyond the traditional Western religions. Eastern religions and philosophies also take note of Jesus. Buddhists consider Jesus to be an enlightened man. Hindus claim that he is an avatar, meaning a physical appearance of a god. Even in the Christian world, there has been confusion about who Jesus is and his significance. The group known as Unitarians, for example, agreed that Jesus played an important role in the revelation of God to the world, but they denied that Jesus was actually God. All this goes without mentioning the way many people, even many Christians, think about Jesus. The way he is often discussed, he is understood as simply a "nice guy" who talked about love and other nice things.

Early Christians wrestled with this question and the accompanying details for a few centuries and in a couple of stages. The first question had to do with how Jesus is related to God the Father. On the one hand, Jesus seemed to be special somehow. He seemed to have a relationship with God unlike anyone else. And in different passages of the Bible, he claimed to be one with God. But he also appeared to be a human. And if he was God, then does that mean there were now two Gods instead of one?

To make a long story short, this is where we get the doctrine of the Trinity, where we confess we have one God who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the year 325 A.D., the first major church meeting was held in the city of Nicaea, where they agreed that Jesus the Son of God is of the "same substance" as God the Father. There, the roots of what we call the Nicene Creed were written.

But the confusion didn't end there. If Jesus is one with God the Father, then how is he related to humanity? People put forward all kinds of theories. Some claimed that Jesus was not really human, but just looked like a human (Docetists). Some claimed that Jesus had the mind of God but a human body (Apollinarians). Some claimed that the upper half of Jesus was divine, but the lower half human. Some claimed that Jesus was born as an ordinary man, but he was then "adopted" by God the Father at some point (Adoptionists).

Who is Jesus? This basic question to which Peter gives a correct answer required many years to sort out. Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God. But there was not clarity as to what that meant. Finally, in the year 451 A.D., the fourth major church meeting was held in the city of Chalcedon. There, they decided that Jesus should be understood as being completely God but also completely human. In order to be the Savior of the world, he needed to be completely God. But in order to actually save humanity, he needed to be human himself.

"Doctrine" can sound like a scary word, and it is true that doctrine can be handled legalistically, as simply a body of teaching that people are required to affirm. But true doctrine is not just about a cold and mechanical list of things to believe. True doctrine allows for the good news of who Jesus is to be proclaimed. Without that clarity, we have no foundation on which to build. We don't "have to" affirm our faith. We "get to" affirm our faith in the God who loves us and gives us His greatest treasure: His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Thomas E. Jacobson*

Pr. Tom Jacobson

# Worship In September

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 3 - Pentecost 14

Jeremiah 15:15-21    Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21      Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday, Sept. 10 - Pentecost 15

Ezekiel 33:7-11      Psalm 119:33-40  
Romans 13:8-14      Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, Sept. 17 - Pentecost 16

Genesis 50:15-21    Psalm 103:8-13  
Romans 14:1-12      Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, Sept. 24 - Pentecost 17

Jonah 3:10-4:11      Psalm 145:1-8  
Philippians 1:21-30    Matthew 20:1-16



## July's Vital Signs

Average Worship Attendance - 106  
8:00am - 30    10:30am - 76

# Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2023

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

Absent: Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)

- 1. Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom**
- 2. Call to Order: President Paul Moentmann**

### **3. Pastor's Report**

- Conducted baptism for Zachariah Hamilton
  - o July 21, 2023
- Youth mission/service trip to Nashville was good
  - o Three youth from Grace participated
  - o Youth groups from other churches (Presbyterian, Lutheran, and non-denominational) in Indiana and Florida were also present
  - o Was accidentally reimbursed for expenses three times; returned the extra two reimbursements by check to Grace
- Family vacation was good, but good to be home
  - o Reconnected with family and former congregations
- NALC Convocation in Oklahoma City
  - o Grace was well-represented
  - o Usual business conducted and elections for positions held
  - o Bishop Dan Selbo reelected to four-year term with 77% vote
  - o Participated again in the "Theologians for the Church" gathering with Pr. Orrey McFarland and others
  - o Met with other Mission District Deans from around the country
- Sent letter to families of current and potential confirmation students
  - o Informed them that confirmation will begin on September 10
  - o This year's curriculum focuses on the Lord's Prayer and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper



- With Pr. Theresa and Casey Sigler, we planned out some youth events for the upcoming year
  - o Had meeting with a couple of parents and students on Sunday evening
  - o Adopt a Highway cleanup will be a part of youth service, along with other fellowship and educational opportunities
- Have contacted Principal Jay Hickman from Thornville Elementary to set up time to talk about the possible after school homework help at Grace
  - o Probably the earliest this would begin would be after the turn of the year
  - o Have set up a meeting with him tomorrow at 9:30
- Spiritual book discussion group will begin this fall
  - o A signup sheet is now available
  - o A few people have signed up, and will announce for a couple more weeks before we begin
- Archive room
  - o Possibly designate the "intermediate level" small room as an archive room for Grace's documents as well as other Lutheran archival materials from recent history
- Signing LifeWise "lease" agreement
  - o Good questions asked about this agreement; things seem in order
- Southeast Ohio Mission District Dean service
  - o Will lead the installation service for Pr. Kurt Luebke at First English Lutheran Church in Marysville on Sunday August 27 at 3:00 PM

#### **4. NALC Convocation Reports**

- Bob Reynolds and Carl Lahman provided reports (with input from Harold Gutridge) of their experience at the NALC Convocation in Oklahoma City. Pastor Tom will write a composite report to be included in the newsletter.

#### **5. Inreach Ministry – Linda Keaser (Inreach)**

WNALC:

- October 9, WNALC Board meeting. Distribution of the "rummage sale" money (\$1,888.00 will be voted on at the meeting. Thank you to all who helped by donating items,

money, and time to make the sale a success.

- November 12, the annual "Thank Offering Service".
- December 2, "Christmas Circle Up" (a time for the Friendship and Monticello circles to meet together).

PAUL VARNER TUITION AID:

- Thank you to Beth Raab, for coordinating the applications for council's review.
- 2023 Scholarships were awarded to Addyson Boyer, Josiah Hamilton, Brooklyn Heller, Ethan Heller, and Hunter Yates.

ADVENTURES IN FAITH (AIF)/SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- The "Backpack Blessings Sunday" was well attended. Thanks to Pastor Theresa and all who attended and helped August 20th with "Rally Day".

(All AIF classes start at 9:15 am Sunday mornings).

- Adult Sunday school - St. John's Chapel.
- Pre-school-5th grades start in the Noah's Club room on the lower level for an opening. After the opening, the pre-school will stay in Noah's Club. The 1st-5th grades will go upstairs to their 3rd floor classroom.
- 6th-12th grades classroom – classroom upstairs on the third floor.

#### **6. Outreach Ministry – Vicki Jones (Outreach)**

- Spoke to Mary Bates and scheduled a date of October 30 for stuff the truck. On that date, a truck (sent by NALC Disaster Response) will be loaded with the donated items. Mary will send a flyer with donation information to area churches. She will also send a copy of the flyer to us.
- A church member suggested holding a potluck (at GLC) 4-6 times per year so that all members can be together for a time of fellowship. Council thought this was a good idea, maybe quarterly. Vicki will check into the feasibility of doing this.
- Another church member suggested starting a Blessing Box/Little Free Pantry. Possible way of helping those who previously benefitted from Manna Monday meals. Again, council thought this was a great idea, which Vicki will check into.
- LifeWise funding update
  - o Good news, LifeWise has made the deadline for the \$50,000 pledge with \$52,055!

- o There is a total so far of 197 students for the district, 90 of which is come from Thornville.
- o Because the 90 students from Thornville will be attending Grace, the quilt ministry will move from Wednesday to the 3rd Friday of each month.

### **7. Upreach Ministry – Casey Sigler (Upreach)**

- Continue to need volunteers for Acolytes, Greeters and Lectors
  - Pastor Tom Phillips served as Supply Pastor July 30th
  - Pastor Jeff Morlock served as Supply Pastor August 6th
  - Grace Banner- we have come up with a design and will be working on getting this ordered soon
    - o One idea is to put a QR Code on the banner. A QR code (Quick Response Code) is a type of bar code that is used to provide easy access to online information through a digital camera on a smartphone or tablet.
  - Grace Shirts- we are trying to get in contact with the company that did shirts for us in the past and working on coming up with new logos/designs and options for shirts, sweatshirts etc.
- Youth Group Updates
- Grace will have a float in this year's Sweet Corn Festival Parade on Wednesday August 30th
  - Saturday Sept 9th at 2:00pm will be our Annual Messy Games Kickoff Party
  - Saturday September 30th Fall Highway Cleanup (Rain date October 7th)
  - October will be a busy month with a Fall Themed Meeting, Party in the Parking Lot, and a food booth at the Country Fair on October 15th.

### **8. Treasurer's Report – Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)**

- No report this month.

### **9. Facilities Report – Carl Lahman (Facilities Coordinator)**

- New washer/dryer installation is done.
- Library project is mostly done and can now be used.
- Carpet cleaning in the Fellowship is scheduled for August 29th.
- Two new signs are now displayed next to dumpster: "Dumpster not for public use" and "Do not block the dumpster."

- Working on getting an outside spigot on the north side.
- Trimmed bushes and removed weeds on north side of church.
- Three recycling bins have been purchased and available for use (Fellowship Hall, Church Office and Gathering Space)
- Working on building book shelves for pastor.
- Thanks to Paul Moentmann for getting a soffit built around the ceiling pipes, in the basement hallway, from the Fellowship Hall to Noah's Club.
- Thanks to John Ulmer for spraying the lawn for crabgrass and broadleaf weeds.
- Fall Projects:
  - o Fill in stump holes at parsonage with dirt
  - o Reseed some grass areas at both church and parsonage

### **10. Old Business**

- Lifewise Academy
  - o A motion was made by VP Matt Sheridan and seconded by Casey Sigler to accept the lease agreement with Lifewise Academy. Motion was approved.
  - o Thanks to President Paul Moentmann for getting and mounting a new large TV for the Fellowship Hall. This includes a sound board and a DVD.
- Intermediate level A/C unit
  - o Contacted a company to recommend what can be done to repair the A/C unit that supplies cool air from the intermediated level to the sanctuary. Have not heard back yet. Fortunately, the other A/C units have done a good job cooling the sanctuary. Will continue to monitor the situation.
- Community Resource Information
  - o Thanks to Beth Gilgien for creating a community resource information pamphlet to give folks that need help with such things as food, clothing, and utility assistance.

### **11. New Business**

- NALC Intern Funding
  - o Grace has received a request to give to the NALC Intern coming to the Columbus areas this fall. They called about what our level of commitment might be as they are not quite there yet with the funding they need.

- o Pastor will check into getting more detail. In the meantime, an announcement will be made to see if we can get donations for this fund.
- Council approved the request of \$125 for new darts for the dartball ministry.
- Nominating Committee
  - o There are two council positions to be filled next year: President and Treasurer. Paul Moentmann will be finishing his second term as President and Rick Rockwell will be finishing his first term.
  - o Since Paul Moentmann will be an outgoing member, he will be one of three voting members on the committee.
  - o Council is currently working on a list of potential people to serve on this committee.
- Dates
  - o Budget Forum is scheduled for October 8th.
  - o Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer**

Next Meeting – September 18, 2023  
 Respectively submitted, Carl Lahman (council secretary)



Transferred to the  
**Church  
 Triumphant**

*Zelma Brown*

*July 14, 1930 - August 21, 2023*

*Celebration of Life Service will be held here, at Grace,  
 on Saturday, September 23, 2023, 11:00am*



**WOMEN OF THE NALC**  
 Grace Lutheran Church, Thornville, OH  
 July 10, 2023

**PRESENT:** Valinda Arnold, Marian DeRolph, Linda Keaser, Anna Oberhauser, & Kaye Smith

The board meeting was called to order at 10 am and Co-President, Linda presented the meeting agenda and led devotions on “Jesus is the Light of the World”.

Treasurer, Marian presented the treasurer’s report. After the spring luncheon expenses our account balance is \$4,393.92.

Mission Action Secretary, Kaye reported on the disaster relief items that were collected. She is waiting to hear from Mary Bates as to delivery.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

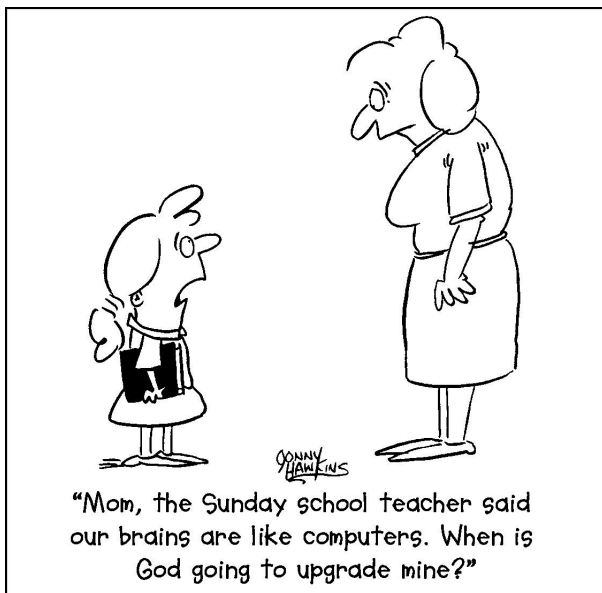
- Additional feedback from the spring luncheon was discussed and all comments have all been positive.
- We discussed the upcoming rummage sale. The dates are *Friday, August 4 from 9-4 and Saturday, August 5 from 9-3*. Set up will be done on August 3 from 9-? Helpers will be needed for set up on Thursday, during the sale on Friday & Saturday, & with clean up. Signup sheets will be presented at the two monthly circle meetings in July and also available in the gathering space outside of the church. Anna agreed to organize the sale signs.
- Proceeds from the sale will be used for local community needs.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- A date has been set for the fall “*Thank Offering Service*”, *November 12*. Nonperishable food, paper products, and soaps will be collected and then distributed to the local food pantries.
- We also discussed a winter event to bring the two circles together, a “*Christmas Circle Up*”. Plans are underway for the event to be held on *Saturday, December 2*. More information about the event will follow.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer and adjourned at 11:30. The next board meeting will be held on October 9, 2023 at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Linda Keaser, Secretary Pro Tem



## 2023 NALC Convocation Report, August 9-11 (Compiled from reports from Carl Lahman, Bob Reynolds, and Pastor Tom Jacobson)

Lutherans from throughout North America gathered at the Omni Hotel in Oklahoma City. More than 600 delegates and visitors gathered around the theme for the week “*Missio Dei: The Work and Mission of God*.” Carl, Bob, and Harold planned on flying, but because of weather cancellations of flights, there was no choice but to drive to Oklahoma City!

The convocation was a success, and the NALC is as well! It is a growing and thriving denomination whose message and beliefs are being spread around the world and embraced by many in several other denominations. The NALC has many global workers in countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Ethiopia, Kenya, Slovakia, Tanzania, Ukraine!, and others. The NALC currently has over 490 congregations.

There were five from Grace Lutheran who attended this convocation: Pastor Tom Jacobson (Southeastern Ohio Mission District Dean), Pastor Theresa Jacobson (Executive Council of the NALC), Harold Gutridge (delegate), Carl Lahman (delegate) and Bob Reynolds (delegate). Note: Bob also served on the Committee of Reference and Council during this convocation. This committee reviews all motions from the floor for grammar, clarity and to ensure it says what was meant and follows the constitution.

One of the most significant events of this year’s convocation was the election of the bishop, who will lead the NALC for the next four years. The Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo was reelected as bishop. Other elections were made for other positions. It was interesting how they gathered votes. Each person had a voting device (looked like a phone) that was used to enter a number for the candidate you selected. Once everyone



pressed "send" immediate results were soon given.

One of the great things about this gathering was the opportunity to meet old friends and make new friends. For example, we got to see Pastor Orrey McFarland again.

There was also a great Ministry Expo that provided a wealth of resources and partnership opportunities for our churches and leaders. There were also workshops on one of the days. There were also ecumenical greetings given by church bodies that are friends of the NALC: Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church in North America, and the new Global Methodist Church.

The hope and prayer of all involved was that this will light a spark, or fan the flame for mission as we return home inspired and excited about the work and mission of God.

We highly recommend that other members of Grace attend the next convocation, which in two years will be in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.



### **Spiritual book discussion**

**group:** The vision statement of Grace Lutheran Church is that "*We are a community developing faithful followers of Jesus through friendship, spiritual growth, and service.*"

A part of "*spiritual growth*" is gaining new insights into our faith. For that reason, Pr. Tom will be leading a spiritual book discussion group for those interested. We will plan on reading one book in the fall and one book in the spring. Participants will be asked to write down comments, observations, and questions as they read the book, and we will then gather to discuss it at the end of the season.

+ A sign up sheet is available in the gathering space for those interested. Please leave the email you would like to use, and Pr. Tom will email the group with details.



### **Confirmation class:**

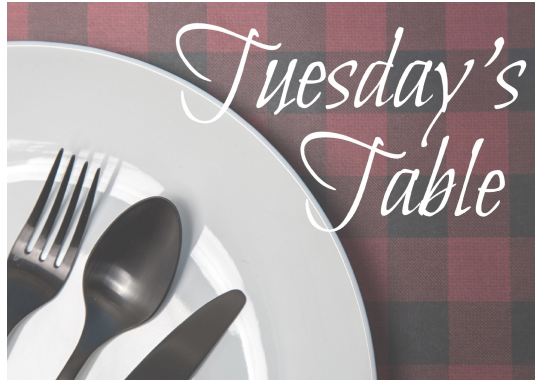
As with last year, confirmation class will meet during the Sunday school/Adventures in Faith time in between the

#### Confirmation Class



services. Any new eighth grade students or others who have not yet begun confirmation are eligible to begin. New and current students will meet together for the first time on Sunday September 10. For any new students, please contact Pr. Tom prior to the first class, and he will provide you with a packet of information about the class and a confirmation agreement that the student is asked to sign.

Twenty people enjoyed talking and dining at the Outerbelt Brewery on August 16.



The next event will be Tuesday, September 19, 5:00pm, at Mug Shots (formerly Pacer's) in Pleasantville. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the Congregation Corner of the gathering space.

A very special event is planned for October!!

Join us on Wednesday, October 4 for a 2 hour dinner cruise on the Lorena Sternwheeler in Zanesville.



Sternwheeler leaves dock at 5PM.

The buffet menu will be stuffed chicken or baked steak, garden salad, glazed carrots, red skinned mashed potatoes, rolls & butter, iced tea and water. Optional dessert can be at Tom's Ice Cream Bowl following the cruise. Cruise and dinner will be \$30 per person.

**Make your reservations and payment to Jim or Sharon Roshon by September 26.**

A minimum of 30 reservations are needed for this event with a maximum of 40. You can also BYOB which includes soft drinks if you wish. You may want to bring a jacket... Car pooling from the church may be arranged if needed. The Lorena Sternwheeler is moored at Zane's Landing Park at the west end of Market Street.



Thank You to the Grace Women for sponsoring the church rummage sale and to all who helped make the sale a huge success! To those who donated items, those who set up the sale, those who worked the sale, and those who cleaned up following the sale, we extend our deepest gratitude. \$1888 was raised.





## CHECK OUT THE NEW AND IMPROVED LIBRARY!

The church library is now available for use! It is located in one of the classrooms in the gathering space, the first room to the right upon entrance. There is a nice round table and chairs in there for people to sit, read, reflect, and pray. Of course, there are also many books for people of all ages.



Many thanks to everyone who helped get the space ready:  
Karen Lewis, Valinda Arnold,  
Jeni Lahman, and Carl Lahman



## BACKWOODS FEST

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17  
YOUTH & ADULTS NEEDED!!!!



This is a major fundraiser for the KFC & KFROGS Youth Groups at Grace. It runs three days: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, so lots of opportunity to help. Knowing our volunteers have busy schedules, flexibility can be worked into the schedule, just let us know. We sell Sausage Gravy & Biscuits and Pumpkin Spice Bread.

Parking is free, however, there is an entrance fee at the gate for those over age 10. Booth workers are required to pay the fee in order to enter. Gate fees will be reimbursed from the Youth Fund for volunteers upon request.

Lots of help is needed, sign-up sheets are located in the "Gathering Space" at Grace or you can sign up through our Facebook online. Thank you in advance for your service!

Questions, please contact

Jason Barrera 740-334-0675 [barrera.jwb@gmail.com](mailto:barrera.jwb@gmail.com)

Kelly O'Reilly 740-973-3158 [blarney87@gmail.com](mailto:blarney87@gmail.com)

# GraceNotes

September is... back to school, back to singing and **back to ringing!** The bells will ring for the 10:30 service September 24. We usually play one Sunday per month. Practices are Monday evenings 7:00 - 8:00 pm. September through Pentecost ( May or June).

## Newest Addition!



We officially welcome Grant McCallum to our ringing family. He began ringing with us last spring and brings much talent to our group.

**There are still positions available!** Anyone interested in ringing, novice or experienced, is welcome. Join us for a great season of ringing, laughter, fun, and especially praise to the Lord!

If you have any questions please contact Becky Winegardner at 740-243-0394 or winegj@outlook.com

## DARTBALL



Our Dartball League is **STARTING SOON!**

**JOIN OUR TEAM...**even if you have never played before!

**Monday evenings 7:00pm - *Join us for a time of fellowship and fun!*** Even if you are not able to make every Monday...

For more info or to join the team, contact:

- Patty Jenny 740-605-4394 or
- Jim Lewis 740-503-0476

n. (dărt-băll) Dartball is a game in which darts are thrown at a large wooden or homasote board that resembles a baseball field with colored areas which denote bases. Dartball uses baseball-like rules and scoring.

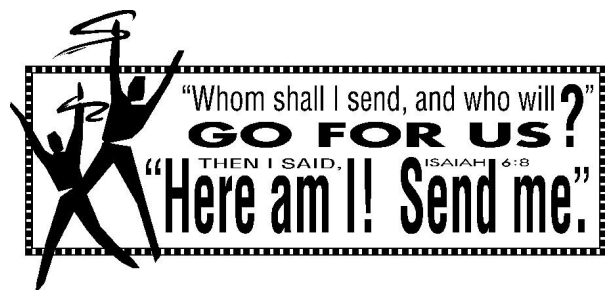



## Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."





# PUZZLE


## A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.


---

*Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.*

---



ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ  
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFE DCBA



---

R      G S Z M P      N B      T L W

V E V I B      G R N V      R

I V N V N Y V I      B L F

R M      Z O O      N B

K I Z B V I H      U L I      Z O O

L U      B L F ,      R Z O D Z B H

K I Z B      D R G S      Q L B

K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

Grace Lutheran Church  
Thornville, Ohio

**Purpose**

To invite All to discover, live and share God's gift of new life through Jesus Christ.

**Mission Statement**

Sharing God's Love through Grace.

**Vision**

We Are A Community-Developing Faithful Followers Of Jesus By Experiencing God's Grace Through Friendship, Spiritual Growth and Service.

**Core Values**

1. That the Gospel calls us to unconditional regard for all people.
2. That Prayer is necessary for our relationship with God, one another, and the world.
3. That Scripture provides the foundation for our lives of faith.
4. That the authority for our ministry is founded in Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, which is the Body of Christ on earth. An elected Parish Council provides administrative authority; our called pastor(s) provides the spiritual authority of the Office of Word and Sacrament Ministry.
5. That each member is uniquely gifted by God for ministry and is expected to mature in discipleship of Jesus Christ.
6. That any ministry based on our Purpose, Mission, Vision and Core Values is valid for our congregation, and may, at any time, evolve or end.

**Grace Lutheran Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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