

The Grapevine

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, NALC

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



DECEMBER

2023



AND THE SHEPHERDS RETURNED,
**GLORIFYING AND
PRAISING
GOD**
FOR ALL THEY
HAD HEARD AND
SEEN, AS IT HAD
BEEN TOLD THEM.
LUKE 2:20, ESV

Merry Christmas - December 25, 2023

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
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 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*

The Controversy of Christmas

For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

Luke 2:30-31 ESV (Monthly Watchword for December 2023)



“Keep Christ in Christmas.” For sincere Christians, this is a commonly repeated phrase this time of year. I understand and appreciate the point. What was originally intended as a spiritual observance for Christians with rich theological meaning regarding the incarnation of the Son of God has become over the last several decades a secular and commercialized mess. What many people consider “Christmas” is really a broader cultural “holiday season.” There’s nothing necessarily wrong with that. I also enjoy some secular holiday music and traditions and would miss them if they were gone.

But is it possible to get back to a kind of “pure” spiritual Christmas? Doing so is harder than it sounds. In fact, Christmas has had secular “baggage” attached to it for a long time, perhaps from the beginning. A brief history of Christmas is helpful in sorting this out.

The origin of Christmas as a holy day isn’t quite clear. We do know that December 25 came to be observed by Christians in Rome sometime in the 300s A.D. as the “Feast of the Nativity” of our Lord Jesus. From there, it branched out to other locations. But how did we get the date of December 25?

Some claim that the date was chosen in the late 200s A.D. to compete with the pagan festival called “The Birthday of the

Invincible Sun.” This is possible. But it seems more likely that Christians arrived at the date of December 25 in a different way. Many people of that time thought that the death and conception dates of famous figures coincided. Some considered Jesus’ death to have occurred on March 25, which is possible. Hence, March 25 is the festival of the Annunciation of our Lord, when we remember that the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would bear the Son of God. Given the normal gestation period of nine months for human pregnancies, we arrive at December 25 as the birth of Jesus.

Whatever the case, the spiritual meaning of Christmas Day has more than once in history been overshadowed by secular observances, however important they might have been. In the year 800 A.D., the Frankish monarch Charlemagne was crowned “Emperor of the Romans” on Christmas Day. On Christmas Day in 1066 A.D., William the Conqueror was crowned as the first Norman king of England. Even centuries ago, people had a hard time “keeping Christ in Christmas.”

Christmas has also not been universally loved and appreciated in all parts of the Christian world. In parts of Europe and America, Christmas as a holy day has been controversial. The man named Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) was a Protestant Reformer from Switzerland and was a contemporary of Martin Luther. Though they agreed on many things, their differences kept them apart. Zwingli is considered the originator of what would become the broader Reformed Protestant tradition. His point of view was that unless something is specifically commanded in the Bible, we should not do it. From his perspective, there was no such thing as Christmas because the Bible doesn’t directly say to observe it. The Lutherans, however, had a different approach. Their view was that unless something is directly prohibited in the Bible, we have the freedom to do it.

Most of American Christianity is influenced by the broader Reformed Protestant tradition that has its roots in Ulrich Zwingli's theology. Hence, for much of our history as a country, the Protestant religious establishment considered the observance of Christmas to be controversial. Puritan Christians in New England banned Christmas celebrations. Christmas was mostly a "thing" in America among the following Christian groups: Anglicans (Episcopalians), Catholics, and Lutherans. To this day, for example, the concept of a special Christmas Eve worship service is foreign to many churches. If you want to attend one, you usually need to look for an Anglican, Catholic, or Lutheran church.

Despite the lukewarm reception that many in our country had toward Christmas as a holiday, the "holiday spirit" could not be easily suppressed. Gradually, various states and eventually the federal government came to recognize Christmas Day as a holiday, even if it had more to do with giving people a break from work for a day than any spiritual significance. President Ulysses S. Grant signed a law in 1870 that made Christmas Day a holiday, at least for federal employees in the District of Columbia.

The growing popularity of Christmas in the United States after the Civil War is perhaps understandable since it was a time of change, expansion, and urbanization. Christmas as a holiday became a time when families could get together. It promoted community and provided the country with an opportunity for a common experience. Even many Jewish people, who do not believe in Jesus, came to see Christmas as an important secular observance. In a blending of sacred and secular traditions, the figure of "Santa Claus," based on the Christian figure of St. Nicholas, emerged as a symbol of Christmas. Though it didn't create Santa Claus, the Coca-Cola company helped popularize the figure of Santa in their advertising in the first half of the twentieth century.

Which brings us to today. Christmas as a secular holiday is a big part of our Western civilization. It isn't going anywhere, and retailers rely on it for much of their revenue each year. If anything, the task of "keeping Christ in Christmas" falls to us in our daily lives. Amid the jingle bells, Rudolph's red nose so bright, and chestnuts roasting on an open fire, remember to pray, worship, and receive the gifts of Christ this season.

It is true that the Bible nowhere directly commands people to observe Christmas. But we have the freedom to do so, and we remember the truth of Christmas every time we profess our faith in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds: "He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary." Christmas is the great truth of the incarnation. God has come to us deep in the flesh and deep into our sinful world. He came out of love. He came for us. As we open our other presents this season, do not neglect the most important one, the one for which the man named Simeon waited in the temple so long ago.

Let us speak with him as he gazed on the infant Jesus: *For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.*

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Voting Results from last the Annual Meeting on October 29, 2023:

- 34 members present.
- Elected: Carl Lahman, Pres.; Diane Christensen, Sec.
- 2024 Budget was approved.

Worship In December

Sundays 8:00 and 10:30am

Holy Communion Celebrated Every Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 3 - First Sunday in Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Psalm 25:1-10
Romans 1:1-7 Mark 11:1-11

Sunday, Dec. 10 - Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 146
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Sunday, Dec. 17 - Third Sunday in Advent

Malachi 3:1-7 Psalm 111
Philippians 4:4-7 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

★ Worship at 10:30am, 5:00pm, and 9:00pm

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 Psalm 66:1-12
2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

Monday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

★ Worship at 10:30am

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14

Sunday, Dec. 31 - First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40



Midweek Advent services will be held on Wednesdays December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 PM.

We will use a form of evening prayer (vespers), with the texts set to the tunes of familiar Christmas hymns.

We will also sing one Advent and one Christmas hymn, with a brief homily (sermon) on a Scripture reading and the hymns.

★ December 6 Scripture reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

★ December 13 Scripture reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

★ December 20 Scripture reading: Malachi 3:1-7



Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 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)

Absent: Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Tom

- For devotion pastor did a S.O.A.P (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) Bible Study on Matthew 25:14-30. Everyone shared their thoughts.

1. Call to Order: President Paul Moentmann

2. Pastor's Report

- Worship
 - Will be switching to LBW hymnal Setting 1 from Advent to the end of Lent/Holy Week
 - Advent Wednesday evening prayer services scheduled for December 6, 13, 20 and will use a form of evening prayer set to the tunes of familiar Christmas hymns
 - Christmas Eve (24th) is on a Sunday (Advent 4), so there will only be one morning service that day, and then two Christmas Eve services, at 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm
 - Pulpit Bible and chalice dedicated during worship on Reformation Sunday
 - Pulpit Bible now being used for Gospel Reading
 - Installation of council members will be on January 7
- Confirmation
 - Continues to go well
 - Overview of my two-year plan for the program was distributed

- "Serving our Schools and Community" board
 - Beth G. has updated the board to remove Manna Monday and include LifeWise Academy
- Community Thanksgiving Service held at South Shore church on 11/19.
 - Went well, but not hugely attended
 - Will check with other pastors and churches about holding on Wednesday evening instead next year
- Ohio Mission Region NALC gathering (May 3-4) will NOT be held here at Grace
 - Was decided to hold it at Groveport Zion Lutheran Church instead due to easy access to lodging, restaurants, etc.
- Have scheduled Spiritual Book Discussion time for January 14 after worship
 - Will have some lunch in St. John's Hall and then discuss
 - Will begin a new book shortly after
- Have sent out a message about interest in attending a summer mission/service trip
 - We still have a large surplus with the Group organization that implements these trips
- Continuing shut-in visitation with Tom Rodgers
- Activity as NALC Dean for Southeast Ohio
 - Attended meeting of the Deans from November 8-10 in Dallas, TX
 - Led congregational workshop with St. Matthew's Lutheran in Logan on November 18 as they begin the call process for a new pastor
- Church building use request for Thanksgiving
 - Was asked by a non-member family if they could use the Fellowship Hall for Thanksgiving. Motion was made by Rick and seconded by Matt to approve the use of the Fellowship Hall with a free will donation. Motion passed.

3. **Inreach Ministry** – Linda Keaser (Inreach Coordinator)

- WNALC (Women of the NALC)
 - December "Christmas Circle Up" gathering of the Monticello Circle and the Friendship Circle will meet on Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am in the Frank's Fellowship Hall.
- AIF (Adventures in Faith) Sunday School
 - Classes of all ages are available and meeting Sunday mornings 9:15- 10:15 am.
- KFC (Kids Following Christ)/KFROGS (Kids Fully Relying on God)
 - Party in the Parking Lot on October 26 was a huge success this year! Passed out over 100 pre-filled bags of candy in the first 15 minutes! Many thanks to all who volunteered, especially Kathy Barr for making popcorn and organizing the event, Joanne Maxwell for making hot cocoa, Rick and Lillie Rockwell, Pastor Tom and Rick and Vicki Jones for helping pass out candy, popcorn, and hot cocoa. Also, to Kurtus Nichols for being an awesome DJ every year!
 - November 26: Cinema outing to see the movie "Journey to Bethlehem"
 - Thanksgiving Meal following 10:30 service, followed by a trip to the movie theater
 - December 3: Thornville's "It's a Wonderful Life" event/parade
 - Grace will be serve cookies and hot cocoa at 4:00pm
 - January 20: Hocking Hills Winter Hike
 - February 11: Superbowl Bake Sale

4. **Outreach Ministry** – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)

- Thank you to all who donated items and/or assisted with our NALC Disaster Relief "Stuff the Truck" drive. Along with donations from our congregation and community, we also received donations from First English Lutheran Church in Marysville and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

in Logan. Mary Bates picked up items on October 30.

- Luann Cooperrider is planning to have a "Blessing Box" made and installed near the front of the church.
- Updated enrollment for LifeWise is 337 kids in the Northern Local School District!
- Backpack Ministry is currently providing weekend meals for 52 students. Donations for this ministry are gladly accepted and appreciated.
- A suggestion was made that we send out postcards to GLC members we have not seen for a while, introducing Pastor Tom and Pastor Theresa (& family) and inviting them to join us for a service.

5. **Upreach Ministry** – Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator)

- Advent decorating will be held on Saturday Dec 2nd at 8:00 am. Volunteers needed!! No experience necessary.
- Advent will have weekly services starting Dec 6th.
- Christmas Eve services will be held at: 10:30 am, 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm.
- Christmas Day services will have one service at 10:30am.
- Continue to need volunteers for Greeters, Lectors, Acolytes and Communion Assistants.

6. **Treasurer's Report** – Rick Rockwell (Treasurer)

- Reports were distributed.

7. **Facilities Report** – Carl Lahman (Facilities Coordinator)

- Chapel door (next to choir room)
 - Installed a push/panic bar on the old chapel door, disabling previous faulty door knob lock.
- Flat screen TVs and whiteboard
 - Reattached two TVs and whiteboard on the upper-level classrooms after rooms were repainted.
- Fixed electrical panel box ground wire
 - Discovered that the entire kitchen panel ground was disconnected.

- Fall Cleanup
 - Pulled weeds on north and east side of church.
Trimmed long grass bushes on north side of church.
 - Cleaned up leaves at both church and parsonage Saturday morning, Nov. 18th. Thanks everyone that helped: Pete, Paul, Terry, Will, Kelly, Pastor Tom, and Pastor Theresa.
- HVAC Electrical Data
 - Once again, kudos to Bob Reynolds and Dave Rodenbaugh for creating a much needed spreadsheet that identifies all thermostat locations with corresponding furnace locations, furnace breakers, outside A/C unit locations and A/C unit breakers.
- Furnace Filters
 - Dave Rodenbaugh has offered to replace, on a regular basis, all furnace filters (at no cost) for both church and parsonage (6 furnaces at church and 1 furnace at parsonage).
 - Will negotiate with Fairfield Heating & Cooling to see how much less they will charge on next year's maintenance agreement.
- Unsecured exterior door
 - Jim Lewis discovered that the south west doors across from the door to the Fellowship Hall does not always lock properly. It appears that when locking the door from the inside, the panic push bar is not activating the long up-and-down locking pins.
 - Dave Rodenbaugh worked on the doors and believes the doors are fixed.
- Electrical breakers
 - Bob Reynolds and Dave Rodenbaugh are almost done identifying all the electrical breakers in the church building. There remains a couple of puzzling loose ends to finish.
- Facility Coordinator
 - Working on finding a Facility Coordinator replacement

next year for.

- Working on redefining the job the Facility Coordinator to be more of a "contact person" that delegates to specific people that oversee important area. For example, HVAC, electrical and lawn care/landscaping.

8. Old Business

- Elevator Maintenance Agreement
 - It was discovered that our agreement is automatically renewed for successive 5-year periods. It was last renewed in 2021, which means we must wait until 2026 to decide if we want to continue with the same company.
 - Council decided to send a letter requesting a meeting to discuss changes to the current agreement before renewing again.
 - Council also agreed that, unless there is an emergency, we never request services outside of normal business working days and hours because the current overtime rate is \$850/hr.

9. New Business

- Special Christmas Offering
 - A motion was made by Vicki and seconded by Matt to give 50% each to Lutheran Church of South Sudan and the NALC pastor internship fund. Motion passed.

10. Adjourn – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submitted, Carl Lahman (council secretary)



October's Vital Signs
Average Worship Attendance - 121
8:00am - 32 10:30am - 89

Pastor Appreciation

Pastor Tom is overjoyed with the Star Trek Clock he received from the congregation! It is hanging in his office here at church. Stop in and see it sometime!



WOMEN OF THE NALC

Grace Lutheran Church, Thornville, OH



"Christmas Circle Up" Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 am

Lunch will be provided by the circles: Monticello Circle salads and the Friendship Circle soup & rolls. The board will provide dessert.

During this gathering we will have a short business meeting, program "You are the Apple of HIS Eye" (Zechariah 2:8), prepare baskets for homebound members, and eat lunch. Hope to see you there!

The disaster relief "Stuff the Truck" event was a huge success! Thanks to all who donated Bibles, quilts, blankets, kits, and gift cards. And thanks to those who helped "stuff the truck" with those donations.

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

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God comes indeed by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.

How is this done?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and live a godly life now and in eternity.





Mary's Annual Report for **NALC Disaster Response** — 2023

Ohio Train Derailment Feb. 3, 2023 — a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous cargo derailed in East Palestine OH, a town of 4,047 families. 31 pallets of cleaning supplies/flood buckets have been delivered through our NALC congregation, Good Hope Lutheran Boardman OH.

Arkansas Tornado Outbreak Mar. 31, 2023 - Over 200 tornadoes broke out in Arkansas the evening of March 31, proceeding through 7 states: Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, and Mississippi. Thousands of homes are destroyed and over 30 people died. The town of Wynne, AR is wiped out. Regional disaster warehouses delivered emergency relief supplies to Keota and Hedrick in Iowa, Whiteland in Indiana, Elizabethtown Kentucky, Little Rock Arkansas and Wynne Arkansas, and several additional communities. Long term recovery will be extensive.

Oklahoma Tornadoes Apr. 19, 2023 - 3 EF-4 tornadoes struck the Shawnee/Cole area of Oklahoma City, killing 3 people. The NALC congregation Peace Lutheran has responded with emergency relief supplies & volunteers.

NALC Disaster Response continues to:

- Conduct disaster preparedness trainings: 9 disaster preparedness trainings and 1 "train the trainer" event.
- 12 NALC Disaster Response Sundays have been held. Gift cards are really needed!
- Coordinate servant event mission trips — 22 volunteer teams of youth and adults have completed servant event mission trips to date — thank you Jesus!
- Hold "Stuff the Truck" events — 29 Stuff the Truck events have been held in addition to numerous deliveries to our warehouses.

For more information on how to volunteer and support NALC Disaster Response, please contact Mary Bates at 740-509-1132 or disasterresponse@thenalc.org
Thank you & God bless you for all your prayers!

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE"
 Christmas Celebration *In Thornville*

Breakfast with Santa
 Saturday, December 2nd
 8:30—11:00
 Thornville United Methodist Church

Sunday December 3rd

2:00-4:00 **Secret Santa**
 Thornville United
 Methodist Church

3:00 Library
Storytime and Crafts

4:00 Hot Chocolate
 and **Cookies**
 Grace Lutheran Church

Masonic Lodge
 Will have **Hot Dogs**

Buy your chance to win
 a Lottery Tree!
Thornville Activity Committee

Night time Parade

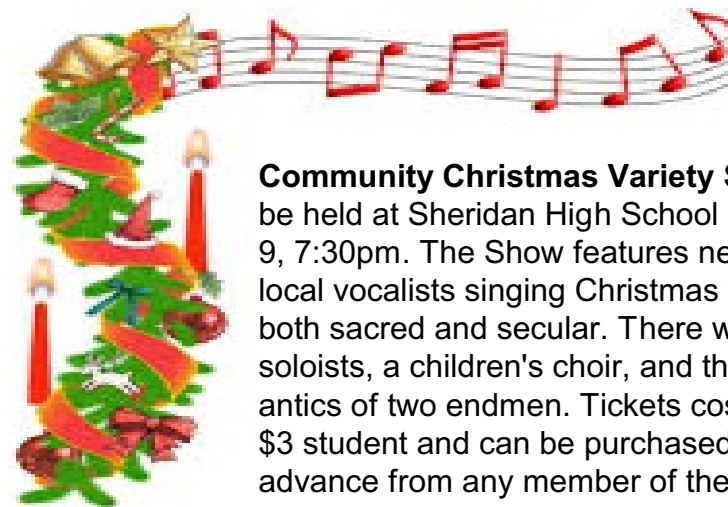
Starts at 5:00

*Line Up at the Elementary School
 at 3:30. For more info, please
 contact Amy Helsel @
 740-808-4731*

Santa arrives
 at the Masonic Lodge;
Tree Lighting to follow

6:00 **Live Nativity**
 Trinity United
 Church of Christ
Cookies and Hot Cocoa

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!



Community Christmas Variety Show will be held at Sheridan High School Dec. 8 and 9, 7:30pm. The Show features nearly 50 local vocalists singing Christmas favorites; both sacred and secular. There will also be soloists, a children's choir, and the funny antics of two endmen. Tickets cost \$5 adult; \$3 student and can be purchased in advance from any member of the cast or at the door on both evenings. A very cheap night out! Proceeds go to scholarships for seniors in the performing arts. Feel free to call John Ulmer @ 740-281-7672 for additional information. Hope to see you there!!



Pastor's Holiday Gift - For the next few Sundays we will be collecting money as our Christmas gift for Pastor Tom. If you wish to contribute, please write the word "gift" on your check or envelope and drop it in the offering plate. The gift will be presented to him during the Christmas Eve service.



A Christmas harvest

Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love.

—Helen Keller



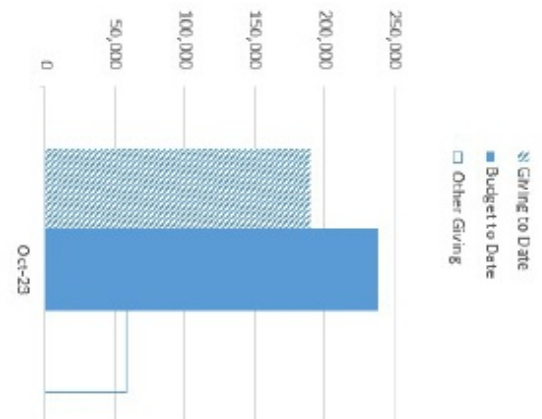
"Phishing" Scams - In our sinful world, there is unfortunately no shortage of people who seek to deceive and take advantage of others. Churches and their leaders are often targets of such scams. Often, such scammers will send emails to church members pretending to be the pastor and then asking for money 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.



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

Monday, November 20, 2023

Account #	Account Name	Reg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/IE's	End Balance
3,100,000	General Fund	83,812.73	1795.772	20814.88	0	80,955.57
3,220,000	Improvement Fund	12,606.71	0	775	0	11,831.71
3,300,000	Mission Fund	14,539.76	715	200	0	15,054.76
3,320,000	Local Good Samaritan Fund	3,479.46	0	0	0	3,479.46
3,400,000	Endowment Orma CD	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000.00
3,400,100	Endowment Fund	28,531.90	0	0	0	28,531.90
3,420,000	Capital Campaign Fund	31,563.44	40	0	0	31,603.44
3,500,000	Adventures in Faith Fund	325.08	0	0	0	325.08
3,510,000	Varner Scholarship Fund	3,028.00	65	0	0	3,093.00
3,520,000	Library Fund	107.57	0	0	0	107.57
3,600,000	Parament Fund	1,017.41	0	0	0	1,017.41
3,610,000	Handbell Fund	397.83	0	0	0	397.83
3,620,000	Flower Fund	504.43	0	0	0	504.43
3,630,000	Choir Fund	2,327.58	150	0	0	2,477.58
3,740,000	Backpack-Ministry Fund	20,316.81	950	0	0	21,266.81
3,900,000	Memorial Fund	20,253.94	250	0	0	20,503.94
3,920,000	KFC Youth Fund	7,097.08	487.019	0	0	11,967.27
3,925,000	KFROGS Fund	8,812.33	0	0	0	8,812.33
Total		\$248,722.06	\$24,997.91	\$21,789.88	\$0.00	\$251,930.09
General Fund Budget			27,571	27,571	0	Net
va Actuals			(9,613)	(6,756)	(2,857)	



SHUT-INS

During the holiday season, we remember our homebound and nursing home members. We would like to have a card shower for each of them. (Please consider adding these folks to your Christmas cards list.)

Deb Winegardner
Chapel Grove Inn
1400 Chapel Way
Heath, OH 43056

John Cooperrider
Fairview Assisted Living
5550 St. Rt. 37 E.
New Lexington, OH 43764

Kathy Aberegg
Crossroad Manor
500 C Eldridge Place
Hebron OH 43025

Sue Cottrill
13687 Rosewood Rd. NE
Thornville OH 43076

Gregg & Vicky Thomas
PO Box 667
4711 Walnut Rd Lot M10
Buckeye Lake OH 43008

Margaret Winegardner
112 Foster Dr.
Thornville OH 43076

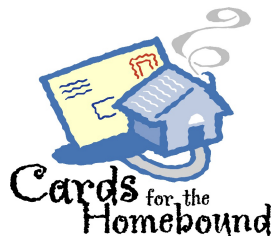
Irene Forsythe
9975 Twp. Rd. 37 NW
Thornville, OH 43076

Pat K'Miller
11397 Bruno Road
Thornville, OH 43076

Carol Cormican
5406 Davis Drive SE
Newark OH 43056

Keith Stought
2297 Musser Rd NE
Baltimore OH 43105

John Lutz
10425 Lake Rd. NE
Millersport OH 43046



Thornville Community Christmas Aid

Once again, Thornville's Community Aid is collecting names of families in the Thorn Township area in need of assistance this Christmas. If you know of any family, please contact either Ginny at 740-246-6448, Beth at 740-242-5350, or Terrie at 740-403-3956.

If you would like to donate, some of the much needed items are adult men's gloves, youth boys and girls gloves and hats, and socks for all ages.

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to Thornville Community Aid and mail to P.O. Box 433, Thornville, OH 43076. The donation deadline this year is December 5th.

Thank you for your interest and concern in helping these children have a brighter, happier Christmas. May God bless you all.

Look for the Mitten Tree in the gathering space. This is Grace's collection spot for donations to this ministry. Deadline to receive your donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, coats, socks, hats, toys, games, etc. is Dec. 5.



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



We're Coming to America!!

- ✪ Week of November 5: Land in America
- ✪ Sunday, Dec. 17: Grace Lutheran Church in Thornville, OH
- ✪ Friday, Dec. 29-Sunday, December 31: Cincinnati, OH
- ✪ Sunday, Jan. 7: New Zion in Baltimore, OH
- ✪ Sunday, Jan. 21: Madison Christian Church in Groveport, OH
- ✪ Week of Jan. 21: Leave America

Mark your calendars and come say hello!

We'd love to see as many of you as possible! Sadly, due to our short stay this time, we will not be able to see everyone on a one on one basis. Please join us at one of these wonderful churches!

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.

Pioneer Bible Translators
Attn: Ministry of Rich and Sarah Vogt
P.O. Box 380820
Duncanville, TX 75138

PUZZLE

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.

"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel

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

Phone: 740-246-6576
www.gracethornville.org
office@gracethornville.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hebron, Ohio 43025
Permit No. 31