

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: Office Manager: Accompanist: Choir Director: Handbell Choir: Men of Grace: Church Council President: Council Vice President: **Council Secretary** Director of Inreach: Director of Outreach: Director of Upreach: Financial Secretary: Treasurer: Bd of Women President: Safety/Security Team: Sacristan: Facilities:

Tom Jacobson 740-242-2192 Beth Gilgien 740-398-4502 Sue Ellen Simmons 740-605-1530 Diane Christensen 740-215-2396 Becky Winegardner 740-467-3164 John Ulmer 740-281-7672 Carl Lahman 614-329-8639 Matt Sheridan 740-405-6873 Diane Christensen 740-215-2396 Linda Keaser 740-403-4197 Vicki Jones 740-403-7311 Casey Sigler 740-279-5405 Jackie Combs 740-246-4751 Rick Rockwell 740-624-2241 Cherl Haggenjos 740-342-2276 Jim Lewis 740-503-0476 Meg O'Reilly 740-644-3504 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:

The Second Commandment "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain..." Exodus 20:7 ESV



We continue this month of April with the series on the Ten Commandments. The full form of the Second Commandment is lengthy:

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold guiltless those who take his name in vain.

The second part of this commandment indicates the seriousness with which we are meant to take this word from God. Martin Luther's explanation of this commandment in his Small Catechism explains it this way:

We should fear and love God so that we do not use his name superstitiously or to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call upon him in every time of need, and worship him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Controlling the tongue, what we say, can be a difficult thing. Think how easily gossip and rumors spread. That is a topic for later, when we get to the Eighth Commandment. But here with the Second Commandment, we are also commanded to mind our words. As God has declared us to be his people in the introduction to the Ten Commandments, it then follows that we honor and respect the name of God who has freed us from our sins and given us a new and forgiven life. The first three commandments have to do specifically with our relationship with God (the so-called "first table"), whereas commandments four through ten have to do with our relationship with other people (the so-called "second table").

How tempting it is to use God's name in a flippant manner! Everywhere we go, whenever we watch movies and television, we hear references to God made in the context of jokes or cursing. To express exasperation, people often say "Lord!" or "God!" In situations of anger, it's common to hear people say "Jesus Christ!" I heard a story once about a man who came from a non-religious background and who had joined the U.S. Army. He had never heard of Jesus before, and he came out of basic training with the impression that the name "Jesus Christ" was actually a swear word. In time, he came to realize how wrong he was.

Think of how backwards it is to take the name of God and reduce it to something trivial. We believe that God is the source of all existence, whose love for the world through His Son Jesus Christ saves us. The name of God deserves our respect and awe. And so one trick that the devil has managed to pull off quite well is getting people to treat the name of God as though it's "no big deal."

We could learn a lesson in our day and age from a group of ancient Jews called the Masorites. This group of Jewish people put together the Hebrew text of the Old Testament that we have today. When they looked at this Second Commandment, they were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they simply decided not to use the name of God at all. If they never spoke the name of God, they couldn't possibly misuse it, so they thought. They took this commandment very literally. Wherever the actual name of God appeared in the Old Testament (the Hebrew letters YHWH), they indicated in the vowel points in the word that they were supposed to say the word "Lord" instead. This is why when you read the Old Testament, you will very often see the word "Lord" in small capital letters. It is to indicate that the actual name of God (YHWH) is being used.

But misusing the name of God isn't just limited to using God's name superstitiously or to curse. The even more significant thing is using God's name in order to "swear, lie, or deceive." In other words, using God's name to lie in order to protect ourselves or to promote falsehood. Martin Luther summed it up in his Large Catechism:

Therefore what this commandment forbids is appealing to God's name falsely or taking his name upon our lips when our heart knows or should know that the facts are otherwise...God's name cannot be more grievously abused than for purposes of falsehood and deceit. Let this stand as the plain and simple meaning of this commandment.

Like all commandments, this one is meant to convict us of our sin and lead us to repent. For God not only desires that we not misuse His name, but that we use it in the proper way, the way He intended. God wants us to use His name to call upon Him in our time of need, to recognize Him as the source of our life, and praise Him for His gifts to us. God is pleased when we recognize our sin and our need for His forgiveness. We pray in the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught us, asking God that His name be "hallowed," or used in the proper way. As Paul writes in Philippians chapter two: "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow." That will come to pass in the life to come, but it begins with us now as we have been saved and redeemed by God, brought up out of our slavery to sin.

Thomas E. Jacobson

Pr. Tom Jacobson

Worship In April

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



Sunday, April 7 - 2 Easter

Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14 - 3 Easter

Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 21 - Good Shepherd Sunday

Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 Psalm 23 John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28 - 5 Easter

Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8



<u>February's Vital Signs</u> Average Worship Attendance - 139 8:00am - 35 10:30am - 104

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Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes March 12, 2024

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

Guest: Kendra Lawrence - LifeWise Academy

- 1. Call to Order: President Carl Lahman. Opening Devotion/Prayer: Linda Keaser
- 2. LifeWise Update Kendra Lawrence

Protect My Ministry

•Provides a safety check for all adults involved with program.

•Includes online training course as well as background checks.

•Things Coming up!

•Evening of Impact - May 20th at 6 pm. This will be held at Somerset Community Church. We are looking for table hosts. It's a great way to get others from the church involved. We will have a classroom set up and we will be reflecting on the great first year the Lord has given us.

•Follow LifeWise on Social Media

•Search for *LifeWiseNorthernLocalOh* on Facebook and Instagram

•Thank you so much for your continued support through this ministry!

•There are 144 Thornville students enrolled (344 students district wide)

•Grace has been wide open armed, and I am forever grateful that I've met some truly wonderful people who are active in our community.

3. Pastor's Report/Items for discussion - Pastor Tom Jacobson •Worship:

•Have resumed children's messages on some Sundays.

•Will be using LBW (Green book) Setting 1 through Lent and will switch to Setting 2 with Easter.

•Moving the announcements in worship to after the creed. •Will start trying this after Easter.

•Lenten Evening Prayer (Vespers) services going well.

•Musical setting in the hymnal is becoming more familiar.

• Holy Week worship:

•Palm/Passion Sunday (March 24)

•Maundy Thursday (March 28, 7:00 PM)

•Good Friday Community Service (held at Grace this year, March 29, 12:00 PM)

•Good Friday (March 29, 7:00 PM)

•Easter Vigil (March 30, 7:00 PM)

•Confirmation class continues to go well.

•Will be done with this year's unit sometime in April.

•Confirmation Sunday for those who have completed requirements will be last Sunday of October (Reformation Sunday)

• "My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns" devotional articles have begun and are available on my blog, usually one per week:

https://theelectronicconventicle.weebly.com/

•Fourteen have been completed.

•Continuing shut in and hospital visitation with Tom Rodgers.

•Lenten "March Madness Hymn Bracket"

•Now onto "Final Four".

•Champion hymn will be announced on Easter.

•Problem with water softener in parsonage...

•Courson's came and did factory reset on the machine; seems to have worked.

•This summer, will plan on a series "My Neighbor's Faith" during adult education hour on Sundays.

•Spiritual book discussion group

•Will pick another book after Easter.

•As mentioned last month, I will be gone on April 7 (Pr. Theresa will fill in) and April 28 (Intern Dale Stanley in our District will be here with Pr. Jeff Morlock).

•Summer youth trip

•I hadn't planned on doing another summer youth trip this year, but I was approached by some of the youth about it recently. Even after last year, we still have a large amount of money deposited with the Group Mission Trips organization that should cover the cost.

•Have three youth registered to go in addition to myself to Charleston, South Carolina July 21-26; possibly more will plan on coming.

•Transfer request for Jennifer Hamilton

•Desires to transfer membership from St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, Newark to Grace.

•Request for baptisms of Dyer grandchildren

4. Inreach Ministry Report - Linda Keaser (Inreach Ministry Team Coordinator)

•WNALC

Women's Bible study circles continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am and the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at Grace unless otherwise announced.
Soup Suppers continue on Wednesdays, 6 pm with Lenten worship service, 7 pm. During Holy Week the supper and service will be on Maundy Thursday.

•The "Irish Spud Luncheon" will follow the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 17th for the congregation (baked potatoes, fixings, and desserts).

Ladies "Spring Luncheon" will be Saturday, May 18th.Monday Bible Study

Wednesday, 4 pm before the "Soup Suppers" No studies on Maundy Thursday or Monday, April 1st they will then resume on Monday's beginning on April 8th at 4 pm and meet weekly.
Adventures in Faith (Sunday School)

•Classes Sundays 9:15 am - 10:15 am for 3 year olds – 12th grade. No classes on Easter, (youth are helping with the Easter breakfast).

•First Communion Class

•First Communion training will be held during the Sunday school hour 9:15-10:15, in a third floor classroom, April 7-May 12 for 3rd & 4th grade youth as well as older youth who may have missed training. Contact the church office to register.

•Tuesday's Table and Men's Monthly Breakfast

•Tuesday's Table will begin meeting again on Tuesday, April 23rd at Clay's Café in Hebron.

•Men's Monthly Breakfast meets on the third Saturday, 8 am at

Nana and Papa's in Thornport for fellowship, prayer, and lite Bible study.

Congregational Photo Directory

•Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 13 & 20 between 5:30-7 and on Sunday, March 17 & April 7, 9-10:30 and 11:45-12:30 (before & after church services) in the church Narthex located at back of the sanctuary, no appointment needed, just come and get your picture taken for the directory.

•Youth Report by Casey Sigler

•Superbowl Bake Sale held on Superbowl Sunday was a great success with the kids raising over \$450 in proceeds. From the donations the youth were able to donate 30 Easter Bags to the kids of the Thornville Food Pantry. Thank you again to Joanne Maxwell for donating 30 chocolate crosses. The youth also made crosses and sent Easter cards to our military recipients.

•The Youth will once again be having the Easter Breakfast on Easter morning from 8:00-10:00 in the fellowship hall. The cost is a donation.

Saturday April 13th the Youth will be going to the Hocking Hills for a day of hiking and exploring. More details to come.
Sunday May 5th the Youth will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service. Cost is donation and all proceeds will go towards purchasing a new outdoor nativity set for the church.

5. Outreach Ministry Report – Vicki Jones (Outreach Coordinator)
Thornville Food Pantry served 29 families in January and 23 families in February. Julia Cooperrider will distribute a flyer advertising the new Blessing Box to those visiting the food pantry.
Offered to provide a warm meal to the Thornville LifeWise group. Awaiting a response from Kendra Lawrence as to when this can be scheduled.

•The quilting group has seven active participants. Throughout the winter months, the group has been able to finish five quilts with two more nearing completion. The group is currently in need of backing for the quilts. Queen size flat sheets work perfectly for the backing. We would like to ask the congregation for donations of sheets. The sheets could be new or used as long as there are no stains. Any color would be great.

•Community Assistance phone line has been restored. The line rings in at the Thornville Food Pantry and had been down for a while.

•Hoping to get a date set in May for Adopt A Highway clean up.

6. Upreach Ministry Report - Casey Sigler (Upreach Coordinator) •TV in the gathering space is showing weekly/monthly updates and announcements during both services and the Sunday School hour. Thank you to Kris Lamphere and Carl Lahman for getting this organized.

Acolyte Training will be held after the 10:30 service on April 7th for those that need a refresher course or those that are wanting to volunteer for the 1st time. Contact Casey Sigler for questions.
Need volunteers for Lectors, Greeters, Acolytes and Communion Assistants

•Greeters have begun handing out the children's bulletins with the updated children's worship bags

•Two new sashes have been ordered for the Altar cross •Holy Week will consists of the following services:

•Palm Sunday-March 24th @ 8:00am and 10:30

•Maundy Thursday-March 28th Soup Supper 6:00pm, Service 7:00

•Good Friday-March 29th @ 7:00pm

•Easter Vigil-March 30th @ 7:00pm

•Easter Sunday-March 31st @ 8:00am and 10:30am with

•Easter Breakfast @ 8:00-10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

•Potential t-shirt/polo/long sleeve sweatshirt designs discussed.

•Two new banners are completed and are here. Special thanks to Matt Sheridan's student.

7. Treasurer's Report - Rick Rockwell, Treasurer •Reports submitted.

8. Facilities Report - Dave Rodenbaugh, Facilities Coordinator •Parsonage outside gate: Put a one-inch pipe into the ground for stabilizer rod.

•Replaced a condensate pump on one of the furnaces in the basement. The thermostat in the Fellowship Hall now works properly.

•All of the church basement restroom sinks now have foamy soap dispensers.

•Corrected the bell tower door latch so it locks properly.

•All rooms throughout the church have uniform new door numbers.

9. Old Business

•Abuse Safety Policy

•Discussed policy.

•Motion made by Matt and seconded by Linda to accept policy. Motion passed.

•Discussion to appoint Jim Lewis as Head of Safety & Security to be in charge of overseeing the policies and procedures, including record keeping of background checks. In addition, provide a monthly report, updating the council on all safety and security projects.

•Motion made by Vicki and seconded by Casey to appoint Jim Lewis as Head of Safety & Security. Motion passed.

•Weekly slideshow for TV in Gathering Space

•Will need support of the Worship Team to turn on slideshow before the 8:00 am service and turn off TV after the second service. Instructions on how to open and run the slideshow will be provided.

10. New Business

•Discussion - Where to donate this year's Lenten offerings (Last year offerings were given to support the earthquake victims in Turkey and to the Salvation Army)

•Motion to split the Lenten offerings between Friends of Madagascar and Esther's Place of Grace in Newark, Ohio made by Matt and seconded by Carl. Motion passed.

11. Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

12. Adjournment

Next Council Meeting: April 9, 2024 - 7 pm

Respectfully submitted, Diane Christensen (Council Secretary)

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

<u>The Sixth Petition</u> And lead us not into temptation.



What does this mean?

God indeed tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and protect us from this, that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or lead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, but pray that when we are tempted in these ways, we may final prevail and gain the victory.

The "March Madness" Hymn Tournament has now concluded!

Beginning with the season of Lent, members and regular attendees of Grace nominated up to 16 of their favorite hymns and songs that we sing in church. The top 64 vote-getters were placed in brackets like the NCAA college basketball tournament. With subsequent rounds of voting, that number was reduced to 32, 16, 8, 4, and finally 2.

The championship match came down to Martin Luther's most famous hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" versus the beloved yet anonymous German hymn "Beautiful Savior."

By a vote of 28 to 24, the winner is *** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."**

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this exercise! It was, of course, just for fun, but I hope it was something that led to greater reflection on the hymns we sing and why the words of such hymns are meaningful for us. - Pr. Tom Jacobson



First Communion Classes will be held on Sundays, 9:15-10:15 am (third floor classroom) beginning April 7th - May 12th for youth who are in the 3rd & 4th grade or older. Please call the church office (740-246-6576 or office@gracethornville.org) to register! Youth will receive their First Communion on May 12 at the 10:30 service.



New Baby on the Way!

Everyone please join us in celebrating this joyous occasion with Trisha Reynard on Saturday, May 4th, 2:00–5:00 pm in the fellowship hall.

A gift of books in lieu of cards would be greatly appreciated.

Snacks and refreshments served. Trisha is registered at Target and Amazon.



$\mathcal{U}_{pcoming Events:}$

- A day of hiking in the Hocking Hills down at Old Man's Cave is planned for Saturday, April 13th. Kfrogs, KFC and everyone else interested in some adventure is invited to join us for. More details to come.
- Acolyte Training will be held on Sunday April 7th following the 10:30 service in the sanctuary for all those interested in becoming a new acolyte or needing a refresher course. Please contact Casey Sigler 740-279-5405 with any questions.
- On Sunday, May 5th, the Youth will hold a spaghetti dinner to raise money to purchase a new outdoor nativity scene for the church.



Annual Spring Cleaning Day - April 13th,



9am-noon This is the time we come together to clean up the church. There is something for everyone to do, inside and outside. A volunteer sign-up sheet is in the Gathering space. Questions: contact Carl Lahman at carllahman@gmail.com or 614.329.8639 (cell).



Recently at Thornville we learned about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the promised Messiah, and the Last Supper. The kids practiced shouting Hosanna, and played a few different games. This week we learned that LOVE is choosing to support and care for others whether or not they deserve it. \heartsuit John 3:16 \heartsuit

We are going to serve hot lunch once a month for the LifeWise students. If your church, or small group is interested in serving in that way please contact us! Or, if you are a parent or business owner and want to help us with this let us know, and we can get you involved. Your support, prayers, encouraging words, and generous donations are what make this program possible. Thank you for partnering with us! Praising God for all He does through this program! lifewise.org/northernlocaloh



Thornville Community VBS Grace Lutheran Church (Gr 1-6) Thornville United Methodist Church (Ages 4-5, Pre-K) June 10-14, 2024 9am-12pm



Join us as we take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God!

All kids will begin each day at Grace, then Pre-K kiddos will travel to TUMC for their own, specially-designed VBS! Everyone will gather back at Grace for singing and fun before being dismissed at 12pm.

Pre-registration opens Friday, April 26 and closes Wednesday, May 29. A link will be provided before April 26. Paper forms will be available at Grace just outside the office. Pre-registration enables one friend request.

Rather not pre-register? That's okay! Adults may register children starting Monday, June 10, at 8:30am at Grace.

Adults and 7th-12th grade youth: We need many hands to serve during this fun week! Crew leaders, assistant crew leaders, teachers and assistants, kitchen helpers, security, registration helpers and more are needed.

Can't attend during VBS week? Perhaps you could help create scenery and organize items or decorate our space ahead of time. Get with Pr Theresa, Lillie Rockwell or Beth Raab to volunteer.

Program Director: Annabelle Currence, TUMC

月 My Fifty-Two Favorite Hymns 月

Pr. Tom is providing a weekly devotional reflection on his list of fifty-two of his favorite hymns, one for each week of the year, which is 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. You can access these weekly reflections at the following link, which is also 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
 - 9. Glory Be to Jesus
 - 10 Near the Cross
 - 11 Ah, Holy Jesus
 - 12 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
 - 13 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
 - 14 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
 - 15 Beautiful Savior
 - 16 My God, How Wonderful Thou Art



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Photos for Our Pictorial Church Directory Wanted!

If you didn't get your picture taken at church, you may submit a recent family photo.

Please include the info you would like printed in the directory. Email it to the church office (office@gracethornville.org).

We have one last photo session scheduled, no appointment necessary just go to the church Narthex (rear of the sanctuary)!

Sunday, April 7 ~ 9:00am - 10:30am and 11:45am - 12:30pm

Info to include with your photo:

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

First Name	Cell Phone	Email Address

Please save the dates for this year's:

North American Lutheran Church OHIO MISSION REGION ANNUAL CONVOCATION AND MISSION EVENT

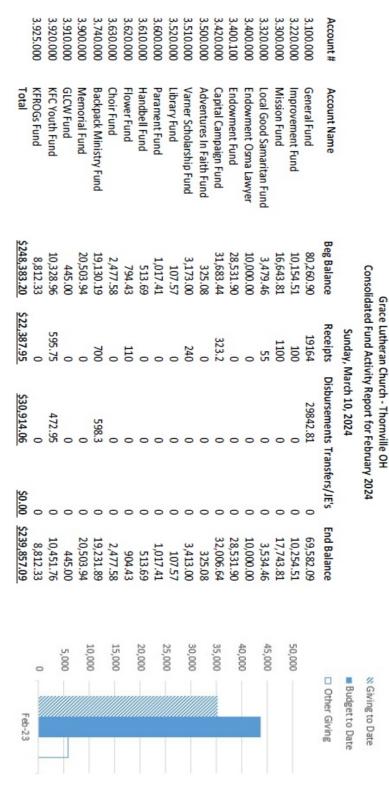
The dates are **May 3 and 4, 2024**. The place is **Saint John Lutheran Church in Grove City**. **Who's invited?** Every pastor and member of our North American Lutheran Church congregations in Ohio!

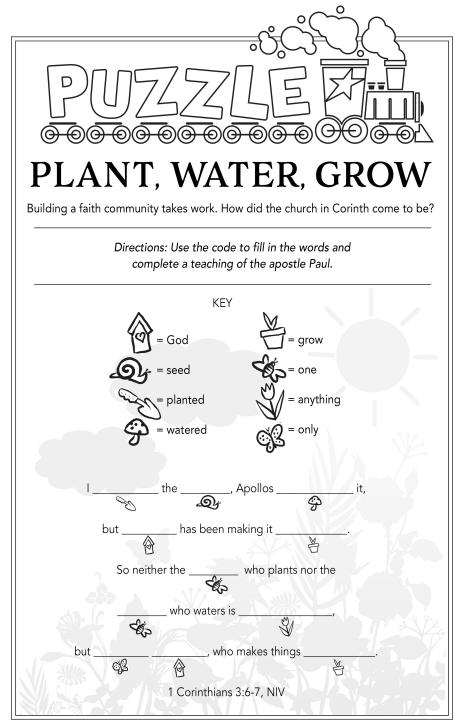
This annual gathering brings together members and pastors not just to transact the business we do together in our Region (the state of Ohio) and our five mission districts (Northwest, Northeast, Southeast. North Central, and Southwest Ohio), but also is a time to worship together, fellowship, learn, pray, and plan together.

This year the focus of mission event on Friday, May 4, will be on senior adult ministry, from ministering to seniors and their families to empowering senior adults to share the Gospel of Jesus with others.

On Saturday, May 5, we'll focus on evangelism and church planting, hear reports from the North American Lutheran Church, our region, and our districts, and elect members of our district and regional executive councils. We will also worship together. This event is always worth attending, an inspiring time. More detailed registration information will be provided in a few weeks.







Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

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.

"Phishing" Scams - In our sinful world, there is unfortunately no shortage of people who seek to deceive and take advantage of others. Often, such scammers will send emails or texts 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 or text, please inform the church office.

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

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