

THE MESSENGER

2019

Worship Schedule Sunday: 8 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Church School for all ages: 9:15 AM

A Shepherd in Wolf's Clothing

As . Genesis 8:22 long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease

Mic! Camera! Forecast!

If you see a really good-looking guy in a Weather Channel winter squall parka strolling the streets of Dover, it's not Reynolds Wolf. Nor, is it Mike Bettes. (Though that might be a better guess considering he's from nearby Tallmadge.) Nope! Clean your glasses. It's none other than yours truly.

Most of you know by now that I am a Weather Channel aficionado. After the coffee pot, it's the first thing on in the morning and usually one of the last things off at night. As I've mentioned before, when I grow up, I want to be just like the dashing and debonair Reynolds Wolf. Often, I decide what I am going to wear, or tweak my wardrobe choice, based Reynolds' daily fashion statement. Now I have coat, a vibrant blue Land's End winter squall parka, just like his own. Next, an Indiana Jones hat to complete a tres chic outdoor outfit. I be stylin'!

It's more than a fashion choice. The coat is incredibly warm. It does a wonderful job warding off the harsh, winter cold. When the temperatures fall way below freezing with winter chill factors below zero, I'm ready! It's waterproof (snow-proof?), too.

Winter this year has been especially weird and unpredictable. I remember one recent week, when one day, I wore just a sportscoat over a sweater vest, shirt and tie (Reynolds often wears the same) to the office. The very next day, I'm all bundled up in my squall parka. This is "climate change" to the extreme. This is Ohio!

Still, many of us would have it no other way. We're hard-shelled Buckeyes who love the change of seasons and would want to live nowhere else. Appalachian springs. Cedar Point summers. Amish autumns. Winter wonderlands in neighborhood parks. Buckeye blessings abound!

Even in the most bitter of these bitterly cold winter days, we can thank God for the blessings of warm, cozy homes and snow-covered rooftops. Our family homes. Our hometowns. Our home states. Our homeland. Our home in God's wonderful creation. Wherever and whatever we call home, God is there to bless us with the warmth of his love and the comforts of His peace.

It is all part of God's wonderful and magnificent plan. God as a plan for everything and everyone. We see God's plan for our part of creation in the changing of the seasons; in seedtime, growth and harvest. We can also see God's plan can get "up close and personal" in His plan for our lives; each plan as unique, special and worthy as each person.

Apparently, it is not part of God's plan for my life to forecast for The Weather Channel. That's quite fine by me. I can still watch. I can still wear the coat. I can still praise the Lord for sunshine, rain and even snow. I can join with you and all creation in anthem of thanksgiving, "Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; break into joyful song, O mountains!" (Isaiah 49:13) God is good! God's beauty surrounds

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 216 North Wooster Ave

Dover Ohio 44622-2948 Phone: 330-343-6915 Fax: 330-602-0263 Church E-Mail:

gracehappens@gracedover.org

Pastor's E-Mail: pastor@gracedover.org Website: www.gracedover.org

Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr.

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Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL

Next Meeting March 12th, 2019 @ 6:30 PM



Facts and Figures

Attendance December 2018

Weekly Average: 158
Difference: +14 (+10%)
Christmas Eve: 321

Offerings December 2018

Total Offerings: \$32,387.60 Difference: +14,014.60 Weekly Average: \$6477.52 Difference: +2759.92 (+74%) **Attendance December 2017**

Weekly Average: 144

Christmas Eve: 334

Offerings December 2017

Total Offerings: \$18,588.00

Weekly Average: \$3717.60

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Jim Heller - President Ron Stahl - Vice President Christine Sergent - Secretary Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

Congregational Life

Ron Stahl - Director

Susie Erickson
Elaine Margo
Liz Miller
Melody Rader

Property

John Nelson- Director

Jeff Hootman Audra Miceli Nathan Vaughan Larry Wallick Brad Wharmby

Christian Faith and Life

Faith Bambeck- Director

Julie Brothers
Karla Burrier
Ashley Eick
Debbie Flood
Tiffany Shepherd

(Rhonda Fisher, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

Sarah Wolfe - Director Marcie Castricone Melissa Engstrom Cindy Jerles Traci Smith

Stewardship Development

Tom Margo - Director Charles Castricone Jill Hootman Keith Lands Craig Rader Nancy Wharmby

Outreach

Joe Penrod-Director

Joe Erickson
Tanna Loveday
Judy Martin
Paul McFadden
John Wolfe

Scott Ebert (church sign)
David Elliott (church website)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Donald L. Rice Jr.

Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Rhonda Fisher

Organist: Linda Hanna Choir: Linda Hanna Secretary: Lisa Morris Treasurer: Beverly Frantz Custodian: Glenn Mitchell Page 3 THE MESSENGER

Since You Asked

Since You Asked ...

I really enjoy our Favorite Hymn Sundays! One of my favorite hymns is "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go." I've loved that hymn for years, but it is no longer in our hymnal. Is there any chance we can still sing it? What's the story behind this hymn?

If I recall correctly, we have learned about and sung this hymn on one of "Our Favorite Hymns" Sundays either sometime last year or the year before. We were able to print it in the day's bulletin. It's a great hymn and "Since You Ask" we will sing it again soon. Why they did not include this great, favorite hymn in the "new cranberry hymnal" is beyond me. If it's any consolation, they also deleted my all-time favorite, "He Leadeth Me."

"O Love that Will Not Let Me Go" was written by the esteemed Scottish preacher and evangelist Rev. George Matheson in 1882. He wrote this hymn on the eve of his sister's wedding in Glasgow. He was totally blind when he composed it.

When Matheson was a teenager, he discovered his poor eyesight was deteriorating and one day would be blind. He was determined to get an education in preparation of answering God's call to the preaching ministry. Matheson enrolled at Glasgow University and graduated at age nineteen. During his graduate studies, he became fully blind, yet still completed his advanced degree.

During his years at university, he fell in love and became engaged. As his fiancée became increasingly discomfited by his quickly deteriorating eyesight, she broke off the engagement. She told him, "I do not wish to be the wife of a blind preacher."

On the eve of his sister's wedding, he remembered the day of his broken heart and lost love. Reminded of that rejection, he found great comfort in the eternal love of God in Christ Jesus that will never be broken. God's love is a love that would never let him go.

CONVICTED!

A Lenten Series of Decision

Our 2019 Midweek Lenten series is CONVICTED! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, different Biblical person is put on trial each week for a 21st Century crime. The congregation steps into the courtroom and listens to the trial as reported by a reputed legal journalist and pundit. Guilty or Innocent? Can you decide? Can you forgive?

Midweek Lenten service begin Ash Wednesday, March 6 and continue through April 10. All services begin at 6:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Look for details and the court docket in upcoming bulletins and the March 2019 newsletter. Decide now to join us.



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Announcements



Page 5 THE MESSENGER

Announcements

A First Time for Everything

For the first time in it's 182-year history, Grace Lutheran Church cancelled its Sunday worship services and activities on January 20, 2019. Attempts were made to notify as many persons as possible. Of course, not every member and friend of the congregation was contacted personally.

Hopefully, this was not only the first time, but also the last for such an event. But you never know.

In the future, if you think church services are cancelled, listen to local radio station WJER. Pastor Rice will contact the station ASAP and add our name to the list of cancellations. Usually, the station plays two songs and then goes through the day's listings and then repeats the format.

Local radio station WTUZ will also be notified. They list cancellations on their website which are updated periodically throughout the morning.

Grace Lutheran Church, Dover will also be listed among the cancellations on WEWS, Channel 5. Look for the church among those being scrolled at the bottom of your television screen. Also, keep an eye on Facebook. Several members will post our cancellation there.



Atwood Youth Retreat February 22nd - 24th

Any youth in grades 7 - 12 interested in going to Atwood for the Youth Retreat please let Larry Wallick or Rhonda Fisher know by February 10th.



Grace Lutheran - Catechism Class

Thank you so much for your recent donation of the bags for the children, the quilts and the box of personal care items.

Your thoughtfulness and generosity is a great example of how Jesus loves!

All donations are an investment for change in the lives of these seeking shelter with us and are very much appreciated!

Blessings to you!

Harbor House

Announcements

New Year Blessings and Opportunities

The year 2019 offers us many opportunities for worship, fellowship and service. Here's what is happening the first six months at Grace.

February 10: Winter Pool Party

March 5: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 6: Ash Wednesday Service at 6:45 p.m.

March 13-April 10: Wednesday Evening Lenten

Services at 6:45 p.m.

April 14: Palm Sunday with Palm Sunday Breakfast

at 9:15 and Easter Egg Hunt

April 18: Maundy Thursday Service at 6:45 p.m.

April 19: Good Friday Service at 6:45 p.m.

April 21: Easter Sunday

April 28: Youth Mission Trip Chicken BBQ

Fundraiser

May 19: Confirmation Sunday, Confirmation &

Graduation Breakfast at 9:15 a.m.

June 16-21 Grace Youth Mission Trip to Savannah, GA



Announcements



Financial & Estate Planning

If you have reached the age of 70 1/2 and have to take mandatory distributions from your 401K consider donating to Grace Lutheran to get a tax advantage!

There is an informational flyer and sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can contact me. If there is interest, John Nelson and Doug Bambeck have volunteered to explain the benefits for you and our church.

Stewardship Committee Tom Margo 330-260-0150



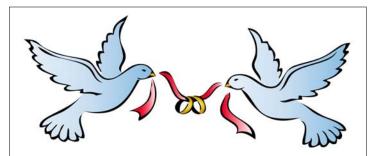
EVERYONE - Come to the FAMILY POOL PARTY at Ramada Inn, Strasburg on Sunday, February 10th, 2019! The fun begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring a 2 liter bottle of pop and a dessert (or bag of chips.) Pizza will be provided at 4 pm by the Christian Faith and Life Committee.

Adults, if you have the "winter blues," come join the fun. Bring a game or cards;

Watch the kids swim and enjoy an afternoon with



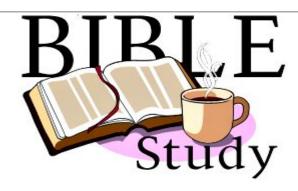
Announcements



Love & Happiness

Congratulations to Ryan and Stephanie (Kandel) Porter who were united in marriage here at Grace Lutheran on January 19. Ryan is the son of Janet (Ernie) Kleski and Glenn Porter. The bride is the daughter of Mary and Mark Rufener and Bruce Kandel.

We offer them our prayers and support and ask God to bless Ryan and Stephanie with many years of wedded love, joy and faithfulness.



Thursdays at Grace

Thursday Bible Study meets each week at noon in Luther Hall. Pastor Rice leads the participants in a examination of the Gospel Lesson for the upcoming Sunday worship

service. The Gospel lesson is usually the text Pastor Rice uses for the basis for that day's sermon.

The study explores the text's historical setting, nuances of language and vocabulary, an understanding of the inspired author's perspectives and its significance as part of the Gospel testimony of Jesus Christ. The study is highly interactive with provocative questions and lively

All are invited to attend and join in. Study guides are given in class a week ahead. Or, you make pick one up at the church

discussions.

office.



We are in need of volunteers to help out in the office on Mon., March 25th through Fri., March 29th while the secretary is on vacation. The hours are 9 am to 3 pm.

Please let Pastor or Lisa know in the office if you would be available to help out. Your help would be greatly

A Bundle of Blessings

Congratulations to Natalie (Miller) and Auggie Promersberger on the birth of their daughter Evelyn Jean on January 22, 2019 in Cleveland. Evelyn came into the world weighing 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 20 inches. She is the granddaughter of members Brett and Peggy Miller of Dover.

We celebrate Evelyn's birth and pray she will be blessed with the fullest measures of God's love and grace. Congratulations, again!



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Women ELCA

Lutheran World Relief Final Project Numbers for 2018



Quilts: 38

Personal Care Kits: 29

Soap: 59

School Kits: 3





Tues., Feb. 12th, 2019





Cost of stocking the food pantry for one month.

This is the amount needed to stock the food pantry for 1 month. We thank the congregation for donating food items and cash to keep the pantry stocked. Soap and toilet tissue are purchased and paid by cash donations.

Product	Pric	e / piece	Bags per month*	Total
Peanut Butter	\$	2.29	X 120	\$ 274.80
Fruit	\$	0.89	X 120	\$ 106.80
Cereal	\$	1.59	X 120	\$ 190.80
Meat	\$	1.30	X 120	\$ 156.00
Chicken Soup	\$	1.00	X 60	\$ 60.00
Tomato Soup	\$	1.00	X 60	\$ 60.00
Potatoes	\$	0.65	X 120	\$ 78.00
Corn	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Green Beans	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Pork/Beans	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Peas	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Mac-N-Cheese	\$	0.69	X 120	\$ 82.80
Spaghetti	\$	1.00	X 120	\$ 120.00
Spaghetti Sauce	\$	1.00	X 120	\$ 120.00
				\$ 1369.20

*Average

ALDI	Buehlers	Wal Mart	Big Lots
Peanut Butter	Vegetables (1)	Spaghetti Sauce	Soup (1)
Mac-N-Cheese	Corn		Chicken
Potatoes	Green Beans	Dollar General	Tomato
Fruit Cocktail	Peas	Spaghetti	
Cereal	Pork/Beans	Luncheon Meat	

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Outreach

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be packers for the Grocery Bag Ministry this year.

Donations to the Food Pantry have increased in response to a greater need for our food bags. In December, we distributed 118 bags, and have already distributed 100 in January. We are seeing a greater demand for this outreach program. Monetary and food donations are very much appreciated.

What goes into a bag to feed the hungry? The basic food items are: peanut butter, canned meat, vegetables, fruit, cereal, soup, macaroni & cheese, canned white potatoes, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles. We also pack a roll of toilet paper and a bar of soap when available.

We welcome all packaged/canned donations. We will pack any kind of soup, fruit, vegetable, soap or toilet paper that is donated, as well as extra items not on the list. **Grocery size** paper bags are also needed.

Thank you to all who bring food in for the grocery bags that are filled each month. Look in the Sunday

to see items



bulletins which are most urgently needed.



All those serving in the armed forces, especially Christopher Smith, Seth Erickson, Gerald Case.

Ella DeVore William Page Glenn Siber **Elaine Lile** Mildred Schauer Dale Kreisher Frances Moser **Helen Sherman** JoAnn Hammond Art Keener JoAnn Miller Jim Rosenberry Mary Marino **Violet Tomcho** Norma Grywalski **Wayne Page Dorothy Hanna Barb Eft Shirley Johnson Mary Boyer Molly Bauer** Nada Georgier Jane Buehler **Karen Page Buffy Gray Judy Arrington Carol Betche** Louise Harris Holly Hillen Clarence Harris **Barb Roudebush**

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Please take a moment to review the names on our church prayer list. If you know the current recovery status, condition, or needs of any person listed, please advise Pastor Rice or the church office. We rejoice in God's healing and grace when someone is well enough to come off the list and we promise our prayers to all who are added. Thank You.



Our deep and heartfelt sympathies are with the family and friends of Clyde "Bill" Hawk (father of Sarah Wolfe)

May the Lord embrace this family with His love

Outreach

OUTREACH NEWS... HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

We at Grace have volunteered to provide one meal per month — the 4th Sunday of each month need volunteers and to provide the meal and to deliver it to the Friends of the Homeless of County which is a group of



concerned citizens from various churches and social service agencies in the county who have recognized the need to assist persons experiencing homelessness. The residents eat dinner at 6:00 each evening. All tableware is provided by the shelter, and they ask that if we are just dropping the food off to bring it in disposable pans.

If you are unable to deliver your portion of the meal, please contact someone else who has signed up to deliver food.

Let's continue to work together as the body of Christ and serve our brothers and sisters in need.

New sign up sheets are posted for the March meal to the homeless shelter.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

The power of a small package

Personal Care Kits especially help cleanliness and prevent disease outbreaks that can so frequently happen in foreign countries or right here in the United States after natural disasters. LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF is asking congregation participation to help restock their supply of personal care kits. Consider making a kit or dropping off one or more of the items listed below to the church office. Thanks for helping!

Personal care items that go into each kit are:

Personal Care Kits

1 light weight bath towel 20" X 40" to 52" X 27" (dark color)

2 bath size bars of soap

1 wide tooth comb

1 adult size toothbrush

1 nail clipper with file

Thank you to the volunteers who prepared and delivered food to the **Homeless Shelter on January 27th, 2019.**

February's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, Feb. 24th, at 6:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. We have cut down on the expense of the items needed (less meat, more casseroles) or have divided the donations into smaller units to make it financially easier for you to donate. Please check to see how you can help.

Worship

OPEN ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to provide altar flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones, please either sign up on the list in the Narthex or call the church office at 330-343-6915.

The cost for one vase is \$18. You will be billed by Blossom's Florist.

Altar Flowers are available for the following dates.



Feb. 10th - 1 vase Feb. 24th - 2 vases Mar. 3rd - 1 vase

Mar. 10th - 1 vase

Mar. 17th - 1 vase

Mar. 24th - 2 vases



Feb 3rd - Karla & Evan Burrier
Feb. 10th - Jen & Taylor Vaughan
Feb. 17th - Deb & Jacob Flood
Feb. 24th - Deb & Katelyn Foust

Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tuesday, February 27th, 2019 9:00 am

Sunday, Feb. 3rd

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

Sunday, Feb. 17th

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Sunday, Feb. 10th

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, Feb. 24th

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

Replenishing the Children's Worship Bags

Our worship bag continues to be a blessing to children and parents in our worship each week! Most of the 10 bags are used every Sunday. The bags serve as a way for parents to have their young children in worship with them while they get a chance to worship. We will be purchasing new books, toys and crayons for the bags soon. If you would be interested in providing



money for the purchase of these items you may make a donation by placing it in a special offering envelope with worship bags written on it. If paying by check please remember to write Children's Worship Bags in the memo line. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry.

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Worship Assistants

USHERS

SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP

			Tim Keplinger	
ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.	Richard Elliott	
2/3 2/10 2/17 2/24	2/3 Lynn Foust 2/10 Liz Miller 2/17 Gale Limron 2/24 Nancy Wilson	2/3 2/10 Terry Miller 2/17 2/24	Steve Zimmerman Jim Heller Scott Ebert Edward Harper	

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

Jan. 6 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl
Jan. 13 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Brody Morris
Jan. 20 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden
Jan. 27 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.		
2/2	20 11 11	2/2		
2/3	2/3 Jimm Morris	2/3		
2/10	2/10 Rick Homrighausen	2/10		
2/17	2/17 Sandy Gibb	2/17 Jim Gibb		
2/24	2/24 John Stahl	2/24		

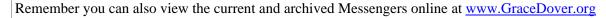


ALTAR GUILD

February: Sue Case, Holly Vesco, Susan Zimmerman, Chris Randles, Bonnie Beem **March:** Melody Rader, Wendy Mady, Betsy Morris, Becky Lands

Get the Messenger By Email

If you'd like to receive the Messenger by email please send an email to GraceHappens@GraceDover.org with the words "Email Messenger" in the subject heading.





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gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

216 North Wooster Ave

Dover OH 44622-2948

330-343-6915

February 2019

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SAVE THE DATES April 28th - Youth Mission Trip Chicken BBQ June 24th - 28th — Vacation Bible School				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8 am Worship Communion 9:30 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	2:30 pm Communion Park Village - S 6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir		8 am Men's Breakfast
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion Church Pool Party	10:30 am Communion Park Village - N 6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir Haffyy		
8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	18 6 pm LT Youth - FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	19 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	20 6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 7 pm Boy Scouts	21 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir	Messenger Deadline Youth Atwood	23 Retreat ——-
24	25	26	27	28		
8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter Youth Atwood Retreat	6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	6 pm Little Theatre Youth - FH 7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir Messenger Assembly		