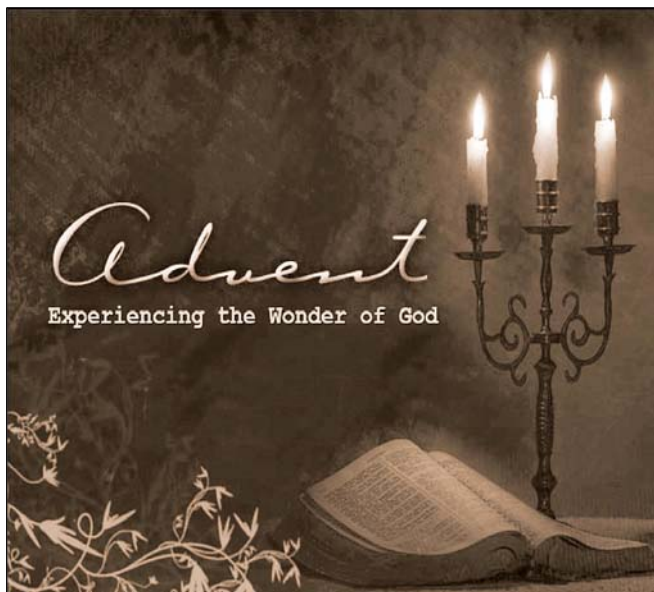


# THE MESSENGER



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

## 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

**Pastor Jim Lewis, Senior Pastor**

**Pastor Marlin Drake, Visitation Pastor**

## The Adventure of Stillness

What a strange time of the year this is for the faithful. We enter the season of Advent and are called upon by the scriptures to do some self-reflection, to repent, to prepare, to listen, to watch and pray for the coming of the Messiah. At the same time, our calendars fill up with Christmas parties, concerts, and the constant reminders of the media that the remaining shopping days are quickly disappearing and we will soon run out of time to buy all the things our friends and family just have to have. The call of our culture rings clear - Christmas is upon us and it will soon be nothing but discarded boxes, torn wrapping paper, and several more opportunities to return all those unwanted gifts for after Christmas deals on the things you really wanted. How do we faithfully listen to the call of the scripture during this time? How do we practice watchful faith, look for and celebrate simple truth, and anticipate the coming of Christ into the fullness of our lives, not just the celebration of the holidays but the reality of the ordinary moments of our lives that are equally filled with God's presence for those who learn the watchful, centered discipline of Advent?

I am quite certain my family and yours will find plenty of time for all the cultural observances of Christmas we look forward to every year during the holiday season. We'll enjoy time to reconnect with family and friends in Christmas letters, gatherings, feasts, and worship. We'll make our annual pilgrimages to the shopping mall Santa and the sales that simply can't be beat at any other time of year. We'll fill our ears with Christmas music, fill our homes with decorations, deck out our yards with lights, and please our stomachs with all the goodies that are simply to decadent for any other time of year. But if after all of this is done we have not made time for Advent watchfulness, not taken time to quietly listen to the voice of promise that rings throughout the Gospel, "Prepare the way, make ready for Christ to enter in to our lives," we will not be ready to live with Christ each day after Christmas. We'll have the box without the true gift it contains. We'll have the gift without the directions for its use.

Eric Hurtgen offers this thought in his devotion "Heard Above the Din" (Deeper Walk Vol. 2).

To listen for the voice of wisdom, we must put ourselves in a place to hear Him. To do this, we must turn away from the competing voices. WE must be silent before Him and wait. It is no accident that Jesus instructs us to go to our closets to speak to the Father. It is no accident that we are instructed to speak few words. He knows how much we need to hear His voice over the din. Let us learn to be still and how to be in the quiet. There, we can make a place to hear His voice.

May your advent be filled with ADVENTure and stillness in the presence of a God who longs to enter into your life completely.

Peace and prayers,

*Pastor Jim*

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**“MINISTRY NIGHT”**  
**FOR ALL OFFICERS, BOARD DIRECTORS & BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Next meeting scheduled for  
 Tuesday, **December 4th**—6:30 p.m.

**PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**FOR ALL OFFICERS & BOARD DIRECTORS**  
 Next meeting scheduled for  
 Tuesday, **January 15th**—6:30 p.m.  
 Luther Hall



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 9TH**

All are encouraged to come to a congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 9th at 10:10 a.m.** in the sanctuary so that our Ministry Budget for 2008 can be discussed and approved.

The Budget Committee and Planning Council have worked hard at establishing a responsible and faithful plan that addresses the challenges and opportunities we have before us in ministry as we seek to grow in our mission by God’s grace.

Do not miss this important and exciting opportunity for us to begin together in ministry.



**ANNUAL MEETING & MINISTRY BOARD REPORTS**

We will have a congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 20th** at 10:10 a.m. in the sanctuary to celebrate the ministry that has been accomplished in 2007. If you are a board chairperson, be sure to turn in your report to Elsa before **Sunday, January 6th** so that all reports can be compiled and distributed by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE WITH PASTOR JIM & FAMILY**

You are invited to stop in at Dana, Hannah, Isaac and Pastor Jim’s house at **120 Iron Avenue, Dover** for an afternoon of fellowship, music, laughter, and Christmas goodies on **Sunday, December 16th**

between **2 & 5 PM.** Each year you continue to make us feel a part of your families, this is our way to return the favor.

We hope to see all of you there.

*Pastor Jim, Dana, Hannah and Isaac*



<b>Dec. 16th</b>	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday School Children’s Program</b>
<b>Dec. 23rd</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship (one service and Sunday school following the Children’s Message)</b>
<b>Dec. 24th</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Worship Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Worship Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Dec. 30th</b>	<b>8:00 am.</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>



Dear fellow members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

As you know, on **December 9 at 10:10 AM**, we will be holding a Congregational Meeting to consider the budget proposal approved by the Budget Committee and the Planning Council. This is an important time for us as a congregation to come together and embrace the mission that we have before us with our hearts and with our actions. The income amounts reflected below represent the figures we will be dealing with if there is no change in the giving habits from the past year to the next year and we do not make the efforts needed to add more individuals and families to our faith community in the upcoming year. That situation would mean that approximately \$33,500 requested by our ministry boards to fund programs and

events, purchase necessary supplies for worship, cleaning, maintenance, and other items would not be available. In order to meet all of board requests, we would need to see an increase in plate offering from \$200,000 to \$240,000. But do not fear little flock, the truth of the matter is this is a very attainable goal provided we are faithful in living according to Christ's call. Consider the reality that the entire \$40,000 can be actualized if 150 families give \$5 more per week and may be far exceeded if all of us would actively seek to reach out and bring in at least 2 families each to share in the mission we live together in faith. We are in the process of assembling a special task force to look at the gifts we have as a congregation, the needs we see in our community, and the ways those gifts and needs can combine to provide great opportunity for us to connect people to the promise of the Gospel found in Jesus Christ our Lord. If you have an idea you would like to have considered by this task force or by the Planning Council as we seek to reach out to others and to promote growth within our congregation, please tell us about it. If you'd like to be a part of the task force, please contact Pastor Jim, Ron Philabaum, Council President or Nathan Vaughan, Council Vice-President.

The purpose of the church is to reach all people with the Good News that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil so that as we are united with him we can live with the assurance of our salvation. We have the most precious gift the world will ever know and it has come to us without our own merit. Jesus last words to his disciples were, "go therefore into all the world baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, until the close of the age." This is our only real challenge. This is our only real mission. For when we embrace this challenge with an active faith that trusts in God's wisdom and strength to help us accomplish the task he has given us, all other challenges take care of themselves.

Go in peace; share the Good News! Thanks be to God!

**Income Sources**

Plate Offering	\$200,000.00
Tuscarawas County Community Fund	\$25,000.00
Headstart Rent	\$15,680.00
15% of Endowment interest for General Fund	\$2,100.00

**Total Income** \$242,780.00

**Synod Mission Support** \$20,000.00

**Local Mission Support** \$2,000.00

**Personnel Budget** \$156,700.00

**Property Budget (Hard Costs)** \$42,950.00

**Available Income for Ministry** \$21,130.00

Total amount requested by Ministry boards
\$54, 670

**Ministry Board Expenses**

**Proposed Budget %**

**Proposed Budget Dollars**

Christian Ed	10%	\$2,113.00
Evangelism	3%	\$633.90
Fellowship	3%	\$633.90
Lay Ministry	30%	\$6,339.00
Property (soft costs)	38%	\$8,029.40
Public Relations	3%	\$633.90
Stewardship	3%	\$633.90
Young People's	10%	\$2,113.00

## Sermon Series

### The Wonder of God

The season of Advent has for the majority of our culture been completely forgotten as we begin to rush toward the celebration of Christmas that is in many ways devoid of anything Christian. The story of a holy child born into a world of conflict, power-struggles, and greed to a simple family who no one would otherwise have reason to know and worshipped first by dirty and distrusted shepherds that were at best tolerated because they would do the work no one else wanted to do stands in direct contrast to our culture's celebration that celebrates greater consumerism and the myth of idealistic families that can somehow put aside the real conflicts, fears, and personality clashes that exist between their members for a few days of blissful and winsome happiness with sugarplums, turkey, and presents galore.

There is more to the story than this. We have something much more wonder-full than the latest edition of Sony Playstation to celebrate. During Advent (beginning Sunday, December 2), you are invited to come and experience the Wonder of God as we prepare for the celebration of the Savior's birth, the coming of Christ more fully in our day-to-day lives, and the return of Christ that one day will bring all creation to bend the knee and declare Jesus is Lord. Experience the Wonder of God as we *Wake Up to Christ's Coming*, as we *Listen to the Prophets and Claim the Promise*, as we wonder not only about what gifts will be under the tree but *What Gifts Do Others See In Us?*, and as we experience the wonder of following a God who enters into our daily lives so that we are left to wonder about *When God Changes Your Plans*.

Invite your neighbors to join us in celebrating Advent by looking for, listening to, and following again the true wonder of the season - Jesus Christ our Lord - The Wonder of God.

### Sharing Tree

Sharing Trees will be located in the Narthex and the Connecting Room beginning Sunday, November 25th. **Donations of hats, mittens, scarves, small toys and games, etc. will be collected through Sunday, December 16th.** All donations will be delivered to The Salvation Army in time for Christmas. Thank you for your continued support of this project.



### Christmas in Dover Parade—Saturday, December 1st—5:30 p.m.

The city of Dover will be hosting its annual Christmas in Dover parade on Saturday, December 1st. Line up will be at 7th Street and Crater Stadium at 3:30 p.m.

**Young Peoples Ministry Board** will be providing **free hot chocolate and popcorn** on the front steps of Grace Church prior to the Christmas parade between the hours of **4:30 and 6:00 p.m.** **We will need a volunteer who knows how to operate the popcorn machine.** Youth and adults (a minimum of four) will also be needed to help pass the cups of hot chocolate and bags of popcorn. **We ask that you be at the church by 4:00 p.m.** If you are able to help on December 1st, please call Esther Philabaum at 330-878-5179 (work) or 330-364-9995 (home).



### Help spread some Christmas Spirit—Sunday, December 9th at 4 PM

Join us as we visit the local nursing homes to carol through the halls and bring some Christmas joy to our nursing home residents. We will meet at the church at 4, carpool together to the nursing homes and return to the church for some fellowship with cookies and drinks at the end of the time.



# EVANGELISM BOARD

May we continue to bring in our food items each Sunday. **If every family attending church would bring 1 or 2 items weekly, the pantry would be overflowing.** May God's blessing be with each and everyone of you.



**A Great Big Thanks to all of you** who have offered to help with the free lunches, held on the third Wednesday of each month in the Outreach Center. Your response has been overwhelming. May God continue to bless our church and you who serve him.

People are still needed to help so feel free to volunteer. Anyone is welcome to help serve at the Free Lunch even if they have not signed up. Your help is always needed and appreciated.

Those who have served this past year are still on the list to help and are very much needed so that each volunteer need only serve twice a year. Thanks for all your help.

There is still room for more people to volunteer and to provide food for the Homeless Shelter and Free Lunches. The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. **May the living water of God fill you and may it overflow into others as you serve them!**



## FREE LUNCH FOR THE NEEDY

We will be sponsoring a free lunch for those in need on Wednesday, December 19th from 11:00 to 1:00 in our Outreach Center.

**How can YOU help?** Donate food, drinks or money. Help serve/cook/clean up on that day (9:30 to 1:30). Questions? Call Jen McCulloch at 330-364-5426.

**GROCERY BAGS REPORT** We have given 323 bags of groceries since January to November. Thanks to all who have provided to the outreach to those in our community who are in great need for us to serve.

**FOOD PANTRY** Thank you to all who bring food in for the grocery bags that are filled each month. We are seeing a great increase in the number of people benefiting from this ministry.

What goes into a bag to feed the hungry? The food items are peanut butter, canned meat, vegetables, fruit, cereal, soup, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti. **We are in great need of 1 lb. boxes of pasta, peanut butter, meat, and fruit.**

Thank you to the following volunteers who will help serve our free lunch on:

**Wednesday,**

**December 19th**

**Liz Nelson, Leader**

**Jim & Dianne Heller**

**Shirley Grafe**

**Tom Patton**



**Volunteers providing Marzetti, Italian Bread, Salad & Mixed Fruit for the Free Lunch** should deliver their food donations to the church to the Luther Hall kitchen on **Tuesday, December 18th.**

Thank you to the following volunteers:

Jen McCulloch, Lori Scriven, Tracy Hochstetler, Liz Nelson, Reba Snyder, Linda McFadden, Linda Bertle, Marcie Tinlin, Louise Keplinger, Dorothy Morrison, Jan Porter & Shirley Grafe.

**GRACE CHURCH POSTCARDS**—Are you missing someone who has not been here for awhile? There are now postcards available on the narthex table for you to send to someone you have missed. Stop by and take a few home to send.

**EVANGELISM 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 — and need volunteers to provide the meal and to deliver it to the *Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas 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, your family or your group or board would like to participate, please call **Jen McCulloch** at **330-364-5426** for more information. Also, there is an opportunity for anyone interested in leading a Bible study at the shelter.



Thank you to the following volunteers who will prepare and deliver a meal of **Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Corn, Green Beans, Jello Salad, Dinner Rolls, Christmas Cookies, Coffee, Milk and Pop** on December 23rd:

- |                         |                      |                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Jane Lanz</b>        | <b>Helen Sherman</b> | <b>Mike &amp; Jen Gigax</b>    |
| <b>Jen McCulloch</b>    | <b>Fran Filkins</b>  | <b>Bonnie Richardson</b>       |
| <b>Shirley Johnson</b>  | <b>Sandy Gibb</b>    | <b>John &amp; Becky Lorenz</b> |
| <b>Louise Keplinger</b> | <b>Holly Vesco</b>   | <b>Juanita Page</b>            |
| <b>Linda Bertle</b>     | <b>Frances Moser</b> | <b>Janie Huffman</b>           |
| <b>Linda McFadden</b>   | <b>Gale Limron</b>   |                                |

**PARISH FELLOWSHIP BOARD**



Thanks to all who attended the Parish Fellowship's "Brown Bag Lunch" on November 4th. Fun and fellowship was had by all!! Most amazing is we raised almost \$200.00 for our youth who ventured out to Atwood Lake for their retreat November 9-11. There will be many more Parish Fellowship events coming up so pay attention to the bulletin and Messenger in the months to come! Blessings to all!

diapers          diapers          diapers



Pastor Jim and Dana are going to be going through plenty of diapers in the upcoming years! Therefore, Parish Fellowship presents a Diaper and Gift Card Shower for the new Baby Lewis on **Sunday, January 6th** after the 10:30 service.



This will be a covered dish (salad and main course only). Cake will be provided. Marcie Tinlin is also planning to provide freezer meals for the family after the baby is born. If you are interested in signing up for this, please contact Marcie 330-364-1158. Look for more info as we get closer to Epiphany.

Come and share in this exciting time of welcoming a new member to our church family!

*Come and eat and see who you meet!*



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Harsha Abeyarahtne, Professor of Music, Mount Union College, will be giving a piano recital in our Sanctuary Sunday afternoon, **January 13, 2008.**

More information will follow in the January Messenger.



### The Little Lutheran

Thank you to the six families that have already signed up to send or receive "The Little Lutheran." We've met the bulk order requirement and will place an order on December 17 so that you may begin receiving the magazine in January. Any others who wish to join in on this order and have 10 issues of the

Little Lutheran with stories, prayers, activities, songs and art just for children under the age of six delivered to your child(ren), grandchild(ren), godchild(ren), etc. may do so by contacting the church office before December 16. The cost is only \$12.95 per year when you order through the church. Checks may be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church and should be turned in to the office by December 16.

### Family Friendly Worship

As we continue to strive to make our weekly worship service family friendly, two new options are available to parents with young children.

- Nursery care is now available during the 10:30 worship service as well as during the Sunday School hour.
- Worship bags for young children including a book, coloring sheet and crayons, a toy, and snack are available for all worship services. You can pick up a bag in the narthex and return it to the same location following worship. All reusable items should be returned with the bag.
- Children of the Church, following the Children's Message, is for **ages 3 through 2nd Grade.**

### Youth Quake for 6th-8th Graders Jan. 11-13

Registration Form & \$135 due by ~~November 25th~~ extended to December 2

Youth Quake is a Christian weekend retreat for youth groups and their adult leaders. There are over forty different Quakes held at hotels across the country for more than 15,000 people annually! Registration at Quakes is from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with the first activity beginning on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. and the last activity finishing around 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. At these Quakes, God builds caring Christian community among youth and adults, personal faith in Jesus Christ, and positive relationships among peers through great music, motivational speakers, small group activities, lessons on life and exciting interaction between youth groups.

Youth Quake is open to anyone in 6th-8th grade, so feel free to invite friends who do not attend our church to come with you.

### Youth Zone for 9th-12th Graders March 7-9

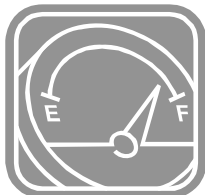
Registration Form & \$155 due by ~~January 12~~ extended to January 21

High School Youth mark your calendars now for an awesome weekend adventure of faith called Youth Zone to be held in Cincinnati. A Zone is a weekend designed for High School Youth to deepen their faith and grow in their walk with Jesus, learning what it means to be his disciples. Being a disciple is about understanding who God wants to be in our lives, who God has created us to be as members of the body of Christ, the value God gives us, the gifts we have, and learning how to listen to the call of God in our lives. These topics will be explored in depth throughout the weekend, during each of the four worship times and during the electives or "Pathways" on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

# YOUNG PEOPLES' MINISTRY

## FILLED

**Youth Lock-in Dec. 7th 8 PM—8 AM**



All 6th-12th Grade youth are invited to join in the fun as we play, laugh, pray, worship and discover the ways Christ longs to fill our lives completely with blessings that truly make us whole.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be **filled**.

Mark 1:41

**Filled** with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand...

Ephesians 3:19

...**filled** to the measure of all the fullness of God.

1 Peter 1:8

...**filled** with an inexpressible and glorious joy

**Cost is \$5/person. Invite your friends.**

**Thank you to everyone** who donated food, who purchased tickets, who helped in the kitchen both before and after the Thanksgiving dinner on November 18th, and who donated decorations for the tables. Total donations amounted to \$742.75. After expenses, \$699.03 will go towards church camp scholarships. Thrivent will provide matching funds.

Young Peoples Ministry Board



### Summer Mission Trip Location Selected

We had twenty votes cast on [graceyouthandfamily.org](http://graceyouthandfamily.org) for the location of next summer's website and two choices got 8 votes each: the Adirondack Mountains of New York and Cortez, Colorado. However, when we checked with YouthWorks about the dates you selected for the trip **only the Adirondack Mountains had spots available that week**. So that settles it. Now we can begin preparing for another great week of ministry serving the people of Chester-town, NY and the surrounding areas.

Check out all the info online about the trip at [graceyouthandfamily.org/missiontrip.htm](http://graceyouthandfamily.org/missiontrip.htm). You can register for the trip online, call the church office, or sign up on the bulletin board in youth hall. 12 spots are available to youth currently in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and the cost of the trip is \$100 plus the cost of souvenirs, snacks, and 8 meals while traveling. **We've extended the registration until January 20.**

### Support the Mission Trip, become a Youth Missions Investor!

Many of you enjoyed the meal and presentation of last year's Coastal Carolina Mission Trip. Several of you were so moved by the stories, pictures, and examples of work accomplished by Grace's youth in the name of Christ that you became a **Y**outh **M**issions **I**nvestor that night. For \$50 (less than \$1 per week) you can partner with the youth on the trip, receive updates on our planning, a postcard from a youth during the trip, and free admission to two dinner events this year that will support and report about the trip. 70 **Y**outh **M**issions **I**nvestors would fully fund the trip for 12 youth and 3 adults, so the question to ask is **Y M I** waiting – become a **Y**outh **M**issions **I**nvestor today. If you can't afford \$50, you can still become a Youth Missions Partner for as little as \$10. You'll still receive updates about our planning and a postcard, but the dinners will not be included. Thank you in advance for your support and prayers for another successful mission trip.

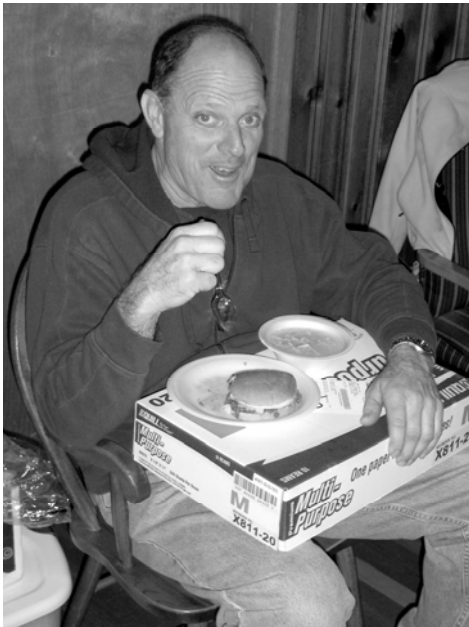
**For the most up-to-date info on Grace's Youth & Family Ministry, on-line forms, polls, weekly e-mail updates, devotions and more, go to:**

**[graceyouthandfamily.org](http://graceyouthandfamily.org)**



## Confirmation Retreat a Big Success!

This year's Confirmation Retreat at Atwood was a ton of fun for everyone as we learned about the things that matter most in relationships, the expectations we have for one another, the expectations God has for us, and the amazing love God has given us in Jesus Christ who truly does unite us all as brothers and sisters in Christ. We Are Family! Check out some of the photos from this year's retreat. There are more photos available online at [graceyouthandfamily.org](http://graceyouthandfamily.org) click on photos and choose Confirmation Retreat.



## The Moser family

News from Argentina



# End of the year

### Bible Clubs ending for the summer

This coming weekend will be the last meeting of the Bible Clubs until next fall. Remember, here in Argentina it is nearly summer, and school is almost over. The Bible Institute students have their exams this week, and next week is the big end of the year mission conference. *(I'm sure I will write more about that later.)* So, today was one of the last chances for Tina and I to go visiting the kids. Here we are with a group of chicas from the *barrio* (neighborhood) *Unidad* (it means unity). We went out Saturday morning around 11am to remind the kids about club that afternoon. Some of them actually recognized us and remembered us from when we had visited there two weeks ago. We are sad that club is ending for the summer, but that doesn't mean children's ministry is ending. It means it's time for summer camp!



Week ending November 17, 2007

### How you can pray for us

- *We have to decide this week whether or not we will spend the month of December working at **Pichi Traful***
- *Strength to keep working hard at our language studies, plus everything else that needs to be done; ministry opportunities, kid's schooling, housekeeping, etc.*
- *For Tina as she works in the guarderia (nursery) three mornings per week, and Steve as he works in the departamento carpenteria: that we can be a help, and more importantly, that we can use this time to practice communicating in Spanish.*

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please email us your prayer requests. We count it a privilege to be able to pray along with you for your needs.

You can even ask us that thing you have been dying to know about Argentina.

stevemoser@wol.org



The Bible club leaders work in teams, and each team is assigned a certain *barrio*. They visit the kids in that neighborhood on Saturday, and usually, at least, one other time during the week. On Saturday afternoon, they rent a bus to pick up most of the kids, and others are brought by leaders who have cars. *Why don't their parents bring them?* The simple answer is; most of their parents don't have cars. And most of them do not belong to this church, or any other church. Bible clubs are not just an activity for the kids of the church, it is a ministry reach-ing out to families, and to entire neighborhoods!

All contributions will be acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes. Please make checks payable to Word of Life Fellowship and write "Steve & Tina Moser (09011)" in the memo section. Mail your contribution to: Word of Life International Ministries, PO Box 600, Schroon Lake, NY 12870





# Thank Offering **THANKOFFERING SUNDAY**



Thank you to everyone for donations which totaled \$1,005 as of November 25th.

The Thankoffering will be divided among the Friends of the Homeless shelter, WELCA and our food pantry.

## **KNOTTERS**

Knotters will not be meeting in December. Knotters will next meet on the **third Tuesday, January 15th** at 9:00 a.m. in Luther Hall. Come join us for fellowship and help us once again more than reach our goal of **three quilts a month.**

## **GIFTS FOR HEADSTART**

### **CHILDREN**

Thank you to everyone who provided the items for the gift bags for the 16 girls and 19 boys attending Headstart. These gift bags will be given to the children the week prior to Christmas.

**DR. MARY BAER CIRCLE**

Christmas Party  
 Wednesday, **December 5th**  
 12:00 p.m.—Luther Hall  
*Remember... bring a \$5 gift (wrapped) for our gift exchange!*

**WELCA QUARTERLY**

Wednesday, **December 12th**—11:30 a.m.  
 Outreach Center  
 Join us for a sing-a-long!

**KNOTTERS**

Tuesday, **January 15th** — 9:00 a.m.—Luther Hall

**SWINGLES**

Tuesday, **January 15th**—7:00 p.m.—Luther Hall



## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the families of Tim and Denise Carpenter and Michael and Jennifer Gigax who joined our church family on November 4, 2007.

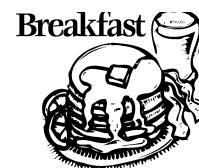
I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



## PROPERTY BOARD

The Property Board is planning to replace both of the steel doors in the connecting room with doors that match the doors that we have replaced recently. We are awaiting estimates and will probably be asking for a little assistance after the first of the year. We are also going to install a new hot water system for the sinks in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. It'll be nice to have hot water there for a change! The Property Board has installed new paper towel dispensers in the Luther Hall restrooms. Let us know what you think. We believe that these will save us money on paper costs. If they work out, all of our dispensers will be changed to this new style.

PROPERTY BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday, December 4th—6:30 p.m.



Saturday, December 8th

8:00 a.m.

Luther Hall

Come join us for some good food and fellowship!



### CALLING ALL SCRAP BOOKERS, STAMPERS, AND CRAFTERS!!

Come join us **once a month from 7:00 p.m. to midnight** to get together to work on your scrapbooks, stamping, or whatever your craft may be. Come when you are able, stay as long as you like, but take advantage of this chance to get together, get to know each other better, and enjoy crafting with one another.

We will meet in the Outreach Center on **Friday, December 21st**. Don't forget to bring one or two canned food items for Grace's Food Pantry.

Please call Gretchen Grosse if you have questions at 330-364-1089. Thank you!

And happy crafting!

### END OF YEAR OFFERINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations to the church for 2007 must be received by December 31st. Thank you for all your generosity throughout the year. Grace wouldn't work without you!



**THANK YOU** to Norma Grywalski, Ruth Halter, Dorothy Morrison, Shirley Grafe, Donna Fox, Phil Hammerstrom and Viola Teglo for their help in folding Sunday bulletins and/or bulk mailings of newsletters.

**The January newsletter will be assembled on the morning of December 21st. All are welcome to come help!**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to answer the church office phones on **Monday, December 24th, Wednesday, December 26th and Thursday, December 27th** from **9:00 to 12:00** while Elsa is away. *The office will not be open in the afternoon.* If you can help for three hours on any of these days, please let Pastor Jim or the church office know. Thank you!



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL - Hands-on Bible Curriculum

**Nursery (Birth—4 years old)**

**Jesus' Birth**—Jesus is God's gift.

**Kindergarten to 2nd Grade**

**Jesus' Birth**—Jesus' birth is good news.

**3rd Grade**

**Jesus' Birth**—All things are possible with God.

**4th to 5th Grade**

**Growing Up**—People change, but God never changes.

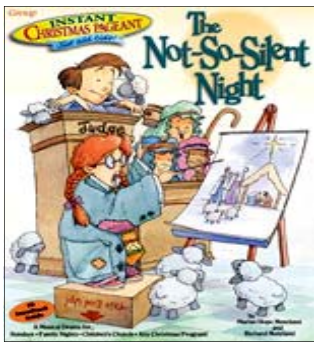
**6th to 8th Grade (Confirmation Class)**

**Christmas**—The Rest of the Story.

**9th to 12th Grade**

Continue looking at **Beliefs to Beware Of**.

**JC Miller Class**



### Christmas Program

#### December 16, 2007 at 10:30 Worship Service

The Christmas Program this year is a play about "The Not-So-Silent Night."

The story is about Josiah, Abel and Seth, the shepherd brothers. They are on trial charged with disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace.

Rehearsals for all non-speaking and speaking parts during Sunday school will be on Sunday, December 2, 9 & 16. Also, we will still be practicing from

5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 2 and from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 9.

On December 8 and 15, we will have a full rehearsal with all grades K-12. The rehearsal will be 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We will run through the singing parts from 3:00 to 4:00 on both days.

### CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH—AGES 3 YEARS OLD TO 2ND GRADE

Children of the Church meet following the Children's Message at the 10:30 service. The curriculum for the month of December will be:

**Children of the Church (Ages 3—2nd Grade) Jesus' Birth**—We are happy that Jesus came to save us.

Children of the Church will not meet on December 16, 23 or 30. See you all next year and Happy Holidays.



### ELCA WORLD HUNGER: GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

Goats and other animals, part of God's global barnyard, provide families with food, funds, and fertilizer, breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty. Gifts to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal for God's global barnyard go beyond livestock to provide training, access to safe water sources, help securing markets, and much more.

**God's Global Barnyard will be our mission for Sunday school (October 28th, 2007 through May 25th, 2008).** The goals of the classes are as follows:

Nursery (4 years old) to Birth: Turkey (2 at \$25 each)

4th to 5th Grade—Pig (\$30)

Kindergarten to 2nd Grade—Goat (\$50)

Confirmation—Water Buffalo (\$250)

3rd Grade—Chicks (2 at \$10 each)

High School—Goat (\$30)





Poinsettias may be ordered in honor or in memory of loved ones. **The cost will be \$11 each.** Poinsettias will be supplied by Blossom's Florist. Please complete and return this form along with your payment (if check, payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church) to the church office by **December 9th.**

<i>This poinsettia is dedicated to the Glory of God</i>		
<i>Please circle and</i>	<i>In memory of</i>	<i>or</i>
	<i>In honor of</i>	
<i>Print Names:</i>		
<i>Ordered by:</i>		

Thank you for purchasing a poinsettia which will decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Mon., December 24<sup>th</sup> or following Christmas beginning Weds., December 26th.

**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 \$15. You will be billed by Blossom's Florist.

Altar Flowers are available on the following date: **January 13th**

Altar Guild  
Christmas Party  
**Tuesday,**  
**December 4th**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**Union Country Club**

**Order of St. Luke**  
**will not be meeting in December.**



<b><u>Sunday, December 2nd</u></b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 <b>Matthew 24:36-44</b>	<b><u>Sunday, December 9th</u></b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7,18-19 <b>Matthew 3:1-12</b>	<b><u>Sunday, December 16th</u></b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 <b>Matthew 11:1-11</b>
<b><u>Sunday, December 23rd</u></b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Isaiah 11:1-9 Luke 1:26-38 Luke 1:39-47 <b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>	<b><u>Sunday, December 24th</u></b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-7 <b>Luke 2:8-20</b> John 1:1-14	<b><u>Sunday, December 30th</u></b> <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:26-38 Matthew 1:18-25 Matthew 2:1-11




**Pack Your Lunch With Grace**  
You are invited to join Pastor Jim for a weekly time of fellowship and Bible Study. Pack your lunch and meet with friends at Luther Hall where you can eat together, share stories, and then spend a half-hour in Bible study as we look together at one of the lessons for the upcoming week. I hope you will join me for this excellent opportunity to be fed with the Word of God each week. **The group meets each Thursday from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. No Bible study on December 27th.**

\* **Bold scriptures represent the main preaching text for the day.**

gracehappens@gracedover.org  
 pastor@gracedover.org



December 2007  
 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">                     Sat., Dec. 1—Dover Christmas Parade                      4:30-6:00p YPMB give out free hot chocolate &amp; popcorn on the front steps of GLC                 </div>						1 4:00-9:00 Barb White—ORC
2 1st Sunday of Advent	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:00a Worship/Communion 9:15a SCS 10:30a Worship 5:00-6:00p Christmas program rehearsal	9:30a Staff mtg 3:00p Communion at Park Village 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Valley Voices—Lounge	12:00p Altar Guild Christmas Party—Union Country Club 6:30p Ministry Night 6:30p Property Bd 6:30p Cub Scout 87	12:00p Dr. Mary Baer Circle Christmas Party—Luther Hall	12:00p Bible Study—LH 12:30p Sr. Fun Day—ORC 6:00p Handbell Choir 7:00p Gallery Choir	8:00p-8:00a Lock-in 6th—12th Grades	8:00a Men's Breakfast—LH 3:00-5:00p Christmas program rehearsal Grades K-12
9 2nd Sunday of Advent	10 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Poinsettia orders due</span>	11	12	13	14	15
8:00a Worship 9:15a SCS 10:30a Worship, Communion & Baptism 10:10a Congregation Mtg. 4:00-6:00p Christmas carol 6:00-7:00 Program rehearse	10:00a Communion at Park Village North Building 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Valley Voices—Lounge	12:00-4:00p Rejoice Women—ORC <u>No</u> Planning Council 6:30p Cub Scout 87	11:30a WELCA Quarterly—ORC	12:00p Bible Study—LH 12:30p Sr. Fun Day—ORC 6:00p Handbell Choir 7:00p Gallery Choir		3:00-5:00p Christmas program rehearsal Grades K-12
16 3rd Sunday of Advent	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00a Worship/Communion 9:15a SCS 10:30a Children's Christmas Program 2:00-5:00p Open House at Pastor Jim's	9:30a Full Staff meeting—LH 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p Valley Voices—Lounge	<u>No</u> Knotters 6:30p Cub Scout 87 6:30p Cub Scout Christmas dinner—Fellowship Hall 7:00p Swingles	11:00a-1:00p Free Lunch for the Needy—ORC	12:00p Bible Study—LH 12:30p Sr. Fun Day—ORC 5:30p Modern Homemakers—ORC 6:00p Handbell Choir 7:00p Gallery Choir	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">January newsletter assembled</span> 7:00p-12:00a Scrapbookers, Stampers & Crafter—Outreach Center 	
23 4th Sunday of Advent	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:00a Worship, Communion & Sunday School 6:00p Deliver meal to Friends of the Homeless	7:00p Christmas Eve Worship/Communion 11:00p Christmas Eve Worship/Communion	 Christmas <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">church office closed</span>	Outreach Center reserved	<u>No</u> Bible Study—LH 12:30p Sr. Fun Day—ORC 6:00p Handbell Choir 7:00p Gallery Choir	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">church office closed</span>	10:00-3:00 Louise Keplinger decorate for baby shower—ORC
30 1st Sunday of Christmas	31	January 1, 2008 10:00a—3:00p Beverly Arnold—Outreach Center  <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">church office closed</span>		Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 216 North Wooster Ave Dover OH 44622-2948 330-343-6915 Tuesday, January 8th—6:30 pm Ministry Night Tuesday, January 15th—6:30 pm Planning Council		



## SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP

**ACOLYTES**  
 Dec 2 Katie Cameron  
 Dec 9 Elizabeth Herman  
 Dec 16 Taylor Marsh  
 Dec 30 Kristin Miceli

**LAY READERS**  
 Dec 2 Lynn Foust  
 Dec 9 **Volunteer needed**  
 Dec 16 Gale Limron  
 Dec 30 Larry Lloyd

**DEACONS**  
 Dec 2 Sue Grafe  
 Dec 9 *None needed*  
 Dec 16 Steve Zimmerman  
 Dec 30 *No Deacon needed*

**USHERS**  
 Michael Thomas-Moore  
 Tom Patton  
 Tim Keplinger  
 Richard Elliott  
 Steve Zimmerman  
 Jim Heller  
 Scott Ebert

## SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

**ACOLYTES**  
 Dec 2 Hannah Marlowe  
 Dec 9 Aaronn Sergent  
 Dec 16 Andrew Yeager  
 Dec 30 Ashley Jerles

**USHERS**  
 Dec 2 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Landon Wallick, Tom Margo, Logan Wallick, Art Siber  
 Dec 9 Jerry Nelson, Jack Marshall, Ron Philabaum, Jim Gibb, Kent Philabaum, Mike Sergent, Aaronn Sergent  
 Dec 16 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Phil Hammerstrom  
 Dec 30 Women of the ELCA

**LAY READERS**  
 Dec 2 R. Homrighausen  
 Dec 9 R. Homrighausen  
 Dec 16 Ron Philabaum  
 Dec 23 *No 10:30 service*  
 Dec 30 Gale Limron

**DEACONS**  
 Dec 2 Jim Gibb  
 Dec 9 John Stahl  
 Dec 16 *None needed*  
 Dec 23 *No 10:30*  
 Dec 30 *No Deacon needed*

**NURSERY CARE (10:30)**  
 Dec 2 Elizabeth Mady & Star Jones  
 Dec 9 Kelsie Baker, Kyla Burrier & Andrea Schlegel  
 Dec 16 Elaine Margo & Tracy Hochstetler  
 Dec 23 9:00 a.m. Marcie Castricone  
 Dec 30 Esther Philabaum & Aaron Philabaum

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
 Dec 2 Marcie Tinlin & Kristin Miceli  
 Dec 9 Karen Marlowe & Hannah Marlowe  
 Dec 16 *No Children's Church*  
 Dec 23 *No Children's Church*  
 Dec 30 *No Children's Church*

## SUNDAY 9:00 AM DECEMBER 23 WORSHIP

**ACOLYTE**  
 Dec 23 Ty Miller

**LAY READER**  
 Dec 23 John Stahl

**DEACON**  
 Dec 23 *None needed*

**8:00 AM USHERS**  
 (as listed above)


## MONDAY CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 & 11:00 PM WOR-

**ACOLYTES**  
 7:00 pm Hunter Stein & Alexis Stein  
 11:00 pm Shelby Seifert & Olivia Bauer

**LAY READERS**  
 7:00 pm Ron Philabaum  
 11:00 pm R. Homrighausen

**DEACONS**  
 7:00 pm Jim Gibb  
 11:00 pm John Stahl

**USHERS**  
 7:00 pm—8:00 a.m. Ushers  
 11:00 pm—**Ushers needed**



**ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER**  
 Reba Snyder, Barbara Thompson, Glenda Sclater,  
 Wendy Mady, Debbie Smith, Betsy Morris