

THE MESSENGER



2009

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

WATCHING & WAITING

Watching and Waiting – Those two words come close to summing up what Advent is all about. However, there is still the question: Watching and Waiting for What?? For Whom?? And that is where the Advent watching and waiting is far different from many other times that we find ourselves watching and waiting.

There is the watching and waiting for grandchildren to arrive on Christmas Eve, or Christmas day. It will be watching and waiting with eagerness and expectations of a joy filled celebration. The watching and waiting will include trips to the window where one can see cars pulling into the driveway and listening for a door bell, or the familiar voices saying as the door opens, “Hi Gram! Hi Papa!” There is the watching and waiting, sometimes with little joy, for the mailing of the income tax booklet that reminds us April 14th will be here sooner than we expected. There is the watching and waiting that happens while we anticipate a loved one coming home from the hospital. But Advent is different.

Advent is watching and waiting for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Christ, the one who lived, died, and rose from the dead – the one whose second coming into the world and into our lives is truly a life changing event for us personally, but also for all people and all creation. And at the end of that Advent waiting time, we get a glimpse, a peek, a hint of what God is up to when we celebrate that event that theologians have labeled, the “incarnation”. A baby is born in Bethlehem, and the baby is God coming to us in the flesh of a tiny baby named Jesus.

But Advent is also watching and waiting for those times and places where we gather around the Lord’s table; share bread and wine and are filled with a sense of being one with Christ and one with each other as the living body of Christ called Church, right here and right now. Those are times and places that remind us of the living hope who comes to us and is with us every day, no matter how dark and heavy the day may look or feel.

But there is more. We watch and wait for the already present, but not yet fully present kingdom of God where there is “Shalom” is all of its fullness. This is the kingdom we look forward to and anticipate. This is the kingdom where Christ is King and death is gone. It is in the future, but no one knows the day or time when the King will return. We live in the “meantime”. That means we watch and wait. But the watching and waiting can be hard when we see and possibly even experience personally the pain, suffering and injustices of life. A hymn in the ELW comes from the Taize Community. I think it expresses very well what we need to remember, to sing, and to say often to one another as we reflect upon Advent and its meaning:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Be strong! Take heart! Do not fear. Do not give up hope. The Lord has conquered all that would seem so overwhelming. And he comes “soon and very soon” to usher in God’s Kingdom in all of its fullness.

Pastor Eilert.

Pastor Lee Eilert, Interim Pastor
Pastor Marlin Drake, Visitation Pastor

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Planning Council

Dear Congregation,

Planning Council had a busy November meeting. We spent quite a bit of time discussing and approving the budget. The financial outlook for 2010 is promising due to our employing a part time pastor for most of the year. However, 2011 could be challenging since we anticipate having a full time pastor the entire year. In the upcoming year please review your stewardship commitments in anticipation of welcoming our next pastor.

Planning Council also appointed Esther Philabaum to serve as the Christian Education Director. Esther will be serving as the director for the remainder of the term. Also, a big thanks to Linda McFadden who stepped in and served as the interim director.

Merry Christmas!

Nathan D. Vaughan

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee met with Judy Hoschek, Assistant to the Synod Bishop who thoroughly explained the call process and answered any initial questions we had. Since that first meeting we have been hard at work as a group to develop our "Ministry Site Profile," which is a very important step in the call process. This lengthy form describes all aspects of our congregation including where we are and where we want to go as a congregation, as well as descriptions of what we as a congregation feel are important characteristics our new pastor should have. After approval by the Planning Council and a review of the document by the Bishop's office, the Ministry Site Profile will be uploaded into a database and the information contained in the document will be used to match our congregation with several ELCA pastors who meets our attributes and has announced his or her openness to be called to a new congregation. Our next meeting will be with Judy Hoschek on December 9 at 6 PM to discuss our finalized site profile and for her to make any recommendations of possible changes. Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers as we continue working to call our new pastor to Grace.

Submitted by: John Wolfe

Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL
Next Meeting
January 5th, 2010
@ 6:45 PM

MINISTRY NIGHT
Next Meeting
January 12th, 2010
@ 6:45 PM



**Grace Lutheran Church
 Call Committee**

- Tracey Viereck 330-343-8024
- James Gibb 330-343-8437
- Robert Sclater 330-343-3120
- James Morris 330-364-3683
- Cynthia Jerles 330-364-2313
- David Haverfield 330-364-4632
- Lizabeth Nelson 330-364-3730
- John Wolfe 330-364-1761
- Christine Sergent 330-364-3037

2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Nathan Vaughan - President Dave Haverfield - Vice President

Pam Keller - Secretary

Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

Evangelism

Wendy Mady - Director
 Liz Miller
 Dorothy Morrison
 Janice Weber
 Melody Rader

Fellowship

Denise Carpenter
 Deb Foust
 Marcie Tinlin
 Frances Moser

Property

Howard Stein - Director
 Richard Elliott
 Ruth Stein
 John Stahl
 Tim Keplinger

Lay Ministry

Larry Lloyd - Director
 Carolyn Delphia
 Jim Gibb
 Evan Cameron
 Dale Weaver
 Glenda Sclater
 Michelle Haverfield

Personnel

Dave Haverfield - Director
 Mike Sergent
 Bob Sclater
 Darlene Bonta
 Ron Stahl
 Jeff Hootman

Christian Education

Esther Philabaum- Director
 Betsy Morris
 Dorothy Huff
 Susan Seifert

Public Relations

Keith Lands - Director
 Sue Hartz
 David Elliott
 Scott Ebert

Stewardship

Michael Thomas-Moore - Director
 Tom Hardin
 Richard Homrighausen

Young People's

Jaclyn Sergent - Director
 Chris Sergent
 Ashley Eick
 John Wolfe
 Brendan Hardin
 Shane Porter

Holiday Concerts

Trumpet In The Land

Presents



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Music Revue

The Trumpet Singers will entertain you with some of the season's most memorable carols and hymns.

SUNDAY-DECEMBER 6, 2009

2:00 P.M.

Tuscarawas County Center for the Arts

\$7.00 per person

For tickets and information call:

330-364-5111

Selections include:

White Christmas Medley

Best Time of the Year Medley

Happy Birthday Jesus

Joseph's Song

A 40's Christmas

And many, many more!



Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series

Presents:

A Renaissance Christmas Concert

By:

Rosewood Consort

Saturday, December 12th, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
702 Raff Rd. SW, Canton, Ohio 44710



Zion Lutheran Church Concert Series

Presents:

Christmas Festival Concert

By:

Stark Community Chorus

Sunday, December 13th, 2009

7:00 P.M.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
702 Raff Rd. SW, Canton, Ohio 44710

Announcements & Thank You's

Nativity Display

Sunday, December 6th, 2009



Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 6th from 2:00-5:00 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 202 East High Ave., New Philadelphia. Over 100 nativities from many countries will be on display. This event will make a great family outing, Sunday School activity, or youth group event.

There will be no admission charge, but you will have an opportunity to make a donation to Friends of the Homeless Shelter of Tuscarawas County. As we are reminded of the need for Mary and Joseph to find shelter on the night that Jesus was born, we can help those who are homeless and in need in our immediate area through the work of Friends of the Homeless Shelter.

The Nativity Display is sponsored by the Tuscarawas County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Your donations and funds will benefit the homeless shelter.

All are welcome as Emmanuel Lutheran Church is handicap accessible. If you want more information, please contact Emmanuel at 330-364-7571.



It does not appear that our Tim will make it home for Thanksgiving or the Christmas Holidays this year to be with family. For anyone who may want to drop him a card or letter of encouragement this season, here is his address:

Case, Timothy A.
Alpha Co. 2-5 IN, 3/1AD
Fort Bliss, TX 79916

Thanks and Blessings, Randy & Sue

MORNING

ARISE

January 23-30



WANTED

A work team from Tuscarawas County is planning to travel to New Orleans to participate in the St. Bernard Project, a volunteer effort to rebuild homes in the St. Bernard Parish which sustained damage to over 20,000 homes. We plan to leave Emmanuel parking lot on Saturday morning, January 23rd, and return to New Philadelphia on Saturday afternoon, January 30th. We will be staying at churches in the

Thank You

TO....

Linda McFadden who has served as the temporary chairperson of the Christian Education Board over the past few months.

Also, **Esther Philabaum** who has been appointed to replace Linda until the next time we have elections in 2010.

Also, **Linda McFadden** and **Cork Loader** who have been serving on the Endowment Board. Their term ends at the end of 2009. They will be replaced on the board by **Ron Stahl & Ron Philabaum** beginning January 1, 2010 for a three year term. Thank you to those who have served and to those who will be taking their place.

In August I was asked to fill the Interim Director of Christian Education position by the Planning Council, which I agreed to do. At this time I would like to thank the members of Planning Council for the opportunity and privilege of fulfilling this assignment. However, this was not done alone. Thank you to the members of the Christian Education Board members, Betsy Morris, Sue Seifert, and Dottie Huff for their continued work, support, and concern for our Sunday School and congregation. Also, Thank you to all of our dedicated and hardworking teachers Sue Seifert, Betsy Elliott, Becky Tedesco, Esther Philabaum, Beckie Grafe, Pastor Eilert, and Larry Wallick. They have joined the board in their efforts to serve our congregation and are working hard to provide solid Christian Education for not only our Sunday School classes but also the congregation. Esther Philabaum will be taking over the Directorship of our Christian Education Board. My final request to our congregation, please help support her by volunteering and working with her to continue this vital program. Continue to pray for the Holy Spirit 's guidance for her and all members of this board. Thank you again for the

Christmas Eve Service

“O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL...”

If someone were to ask us about our favorite memory of Christmas Eve, there would be a great variety of answers. Some would involve travel. But there would also be the memories of Christmas Eve worship. I especially remember the Christmas programs and having to memorize songs and “Pieces” (bible passages) that include words from Isaiah as well as the Gospels. And at the end of the service came the distribution of brown paper bags filled with an orange, an apple, nuts, and some candy.

Those are very special memories. And it is my hope that we will add some new memories in 2009 to cherish in the years to come as we gather around Word and Sacrament to celebrate our Lord’s birth.

Looking forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve.

Pastor Eilert

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Thursday, December 24th, 2009

7:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Holy Communion will be
celebrated at both services



Word of Life Fellowship



Word of Life Fellowship, Inc. Giving to Missionaries

Many of you include missionaries in your giving practices at Christmastime, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Sometimes questions arise as to how to send cards, letters, packages and personal monetary gifts. We would like to make the following suggestions.

1. Cards and letters should be sent directly to the missionaries. If mailing to overseas missionaries during the Christmas holiday season, you should send at least 4-6 weeks prior to the desired date of arrival. If you need to know the field address of a missionary, please contact Word of Life Fellowship in Schroon Lake.

If you plan to send a parcel to an overseas missionary and are not familiar with customs policies of the country involved, we suggest you contact the missionary first to inquire concerning such policies. The missionary could be subject to customs fees for receiving the package.

2. Money sent to missionaries fall into two categories for tax purposes-donations for ministry support and personal gifts. The intention of the donor is important to distinguish between the two.
 - a. A tax-deductible donation for ministry support purposes should be made payable to Word of Life Fellowship, Inc. This will be applied to the designated missionary's support account and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt.
 - b. You may send your personal monetary gift to Word of Fellowship in Schroon Lake with a note indicating this is a personal gift and we will notify then of your gift. You will not receive a tax-deductible receipt for a personal gift.

Thanks so much for your care and support. Please call us at 518-494-6212 any time you have questions.

Updates & Announcements

H1N1 UPDATE....

While there have been more school age children who have been affected by the H1N1 flu virus, those who are older do not seem to have not suffered as much in our area. Here at Grace we now have hand sanitizer dispensers outside of the sacristy; on the wall in Luther Hall near the pastor’s office, and in the narthex of the sanctuary. We will be distributing communion using the small glasses for the coming weeks (either at the communion rail, or continuously at the front of the pews) rather than using intinction. The pastor and those who distribute communion will be using a hand sanitizer before distribution of communion.

During the “Passing of the Peace”, if you are uncomfortable shaking hands, simply greet the person with “God’s Peace be with you.”



Common sense precautions such as: frequent washing of hands and staying home when experiencing the flu or flu like symptoms are the most important precautions to keep ourselves and others from “catching the bug” be it H1N1, or any other kind of flu.

2010 Wall Calendars Needed



Norma Grywalski donates these wall calendars to the residents of Amber House Nursing Home. Lets help Norma out and donate a wall calendar today. Please drop them off in the office. Thank you for your help!



THE REALITY OF HUNGER.....



A study was released by the federal government this month that showed the numbers of families in the United States who lack adequate access to food has climbed to **49 million**. This is the largest number since the government has been tracking this statistic. Perhaps even more disturbing, 17 million of that number are children. Another way the report described what is happening: among people of all ages, nearly 15% last year did not consistently have adequate food, compared with about 11% in 2007.

So how is that reflected in what we are experiencing here at Grace? It certainly is not a scientific measurement, but the following are the numbers of bags of groceries we have distributed over the past two and one half months:

Sept. -**49** Oct.-**32** Nov.-**39** (this is only 1/2 of the month!)

Hunger is real, not only far away but also in our own backyard. Needed: 1. A large increase in food donations, and money donations for the grocery bag ministry. 2. A large increase in our support of the ELCA Hunger Appeal and Lutheran World Relief.

NEEDED COOKIES!



On Sunday, December 20, there will be one worship service with children from Grace being the “Guest Preachers” for the day. Following the service we will be having a time to gather in the Fellowship Hall for some refreshments. Can you provide some cookies??

Announcements



ANGEL TREE

2009 Memorial Service



You are cordially invited to attend Hospice of Tuscarawas, Stark & Carroll Counties' Annual Angel Tree Memorial Service. Come and rejoice in remembering and honoring those lives you have had the privilege to share.

*Angel Tree
Memorial Services*

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

Thursday, December 17, 2009 –6:00 PM
Otterbein United Methodist Church
New Philadelphia

Trees will be located at New Towne Mall
from Nov. 20– Dec. 20



*WE WISH
YOU PEACE*

this holiday season & sincerely thank you for your contribution to the 2009 Angel Tree.



MITTEN & GIFT TREE

The tree for donations for the Salvation Army will be located inside the youth door.

All donations will be removed from the tree on Friday, December 18th by 9:00 am.

Note: This will be the only tree set up for donations this year.



Christian Education

A Baptist preacher named Will Campbell wrote a little book several years back titled SOUL AMONG LIONS. It has several brief stories (a page or two) describing some of Will Campbell's encounters with people and what he has learned from them, or through them.

One of the stories talks about an African American woman named Fannye Booker who lived in Mississippi. She was ninety years old when she died. She wasn't famous. She wasn't rich. She didn't have degrees from famous schools. But she was an important educator. Here is Will Campbell's description of what made her such a remarkable teacher.

“she ran a little camp school for rural black children during the Depression, when the state wouldn't educate them. They brought butter, eggs, peas, and cornmeal as tuition. She was never president, but while running a quilting bee she taught black people how to register to vote. She was never a CEO, but she gave hope to hundreds of children...”

How much do we value education? Probably a great deal because we see education as being the door to getting a good job, and having a decent income. But how much do we value education that happens because of the way someone lives and shares and gives of her or himself? Do we recognize how each of us are teachers everyday? Do we recognize that we are being observed and are giving an example of how God would have us live out our lives? Do we recognize how closely we are being observed by children and how much children learn from our words and deeds every day?

Someone, somewhere a long time ago said that faith is not so much taught as it is caught. This is what I understand that saying to mean: Fannye Booker did a lot of teaching, but what had an even more profound effect upon her students and her community was her persistence and sharing of herself for the sake of others.

*“Few came to her funeral. The papers didn't mention her passing. So let's speak her name with awe, for she was the stuff of authentic history, the essence of true greatness. Fannye Thomas Booker. And be grateful.”**

As disciples of Jesus, the Christ, we are teachers, regardless of our wanting or not wanting to be teachers. As disciples of Jesus, the Christ, there have been many over the years that have also been our teachers – our role models – people whose lives have helped shape and mold ours. May we be grateful for all that they have given us.

*From SOUL AMONG LIONS, Musings of a Bookleg Preacher, by Will Campbell, Westminster John Knox Press

Young People's Ministries



St Paul's senior high youth group would like to invite their friends at Grace to Laser Quest in

Canton on Sunday, December 6th.

They will be leaving St. Paul at 12:15 pm. Bring money for tickets and lunch at Steak and Shake.

Service Project

SATURDAY DECEMBER

12TH FROM 8:45 AM

TO 11:00 AM ST PAUL'S

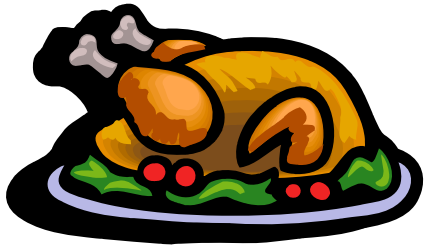
YOUTH GROUP WILL

BE WRAPPING PRE-

SENTS AT ST. PAUL



Thank You



Young Peoples Ministry Board would like to thank everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner. It's great that everyone pitches in every year to make this event come together. We hope everyone enjoyed this time of fellowship. Monies raised will go towards the 2010 YouthWorks Mission trip with matching funds from Thrivent. More information on those numbers will be provided in the January Messenger.

YouthWorks Mission trip to Eastern Shore Virginia July 4-9th 2010. We will be leaving early Sunday morning and returning Saturday evening.

\$60 deposit with registration form needs turned into Christine Sergent ASAP to reserve your spot. Next meeting is January 10 at 1PM in Luther Hall. First Fundraiser will be Walnut Creek Pizza and Subs. Sales will start January 10th and pick up date will be Feb 7th for those Super Bowl Parties. Do you need flowers & chocolates for Valentines' day? Look for more information in

January.





**Final Count
Lutheran World Relief**

Quilts: 51 Soap: 134
Health Kits: 39 Layette: 8
School Kits: 16

We are continuing to collect bath size bars of soap in its original wrapping. Place in basket in the Narthex.



Blankets+ Program shipping report January - September 2009

The following represent some of the many ways Church World Service is creating a rainbow of help and hope through the Blankets+ Program. This shipping report does not reflect the transfers of funds in support of international Blankets+ Program projects and purchases.

International Shipments

Ghana- 1,250 lightweight blankets for distribution through partner agency Concerned Christian Community.

Honduras- 300 lightweight blankets to ESBIR School for distribution through partner African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church to those affected by the earthquake.

Moldova- 1,550 lightweight blankets for distribution through partner agency Hope & Mercy Charity.

Nicaragua- 100 lightweight blankets for distribution through partner agency World Missions Outreach.

Domestic Shipments

Arkansas- 200 heavyweight blankets to Seventh Day Adventist Church in Hot Springs following storms and tornado..

Colorado- 60 heavyweight blankets to Ecumenical Refugee Services in Denver for distribution to newly resettled refugee families.

Florida- 100 lightweight blankets to Central Brevard Sharing Center in Cocoa for distribution to homeless and economically disadvantaged in the area.

Georgia-200 lightweight blankets, 1500 face masks, and 4,600 latex gloves to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome in response to area flooding.

Illinois- 200 lightweight blankets to Pay it Forward Ministry in Monmouth in response to 2008 spring storms.

Iowa -100 lightweight blankets to Des Moines Catholic Worker for distribution to homeless in the area.

Kentucky- 300 lightweight blankets to Wayside Christian Mission in Louisville following winter ice storm. 100 lightweight blankets to the Baptist Church in Garrett in response to flooding.

Maine- 100 heavyweight blankets to Seventh Day Adventist Church in Portland for prepositioning of material aid.

Michigan-100 heavyweight blankets to Neighbor to Neighbor Community Service Center in Berrien Springs for distribution to economically disadvantaged families and homeless in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.

Minnesota -2,000 lightweight blankets to Maryville Armory for prepositioning of material aid.

Mississippi-200 lightweight blankets and 100 heavyweight blankets to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi to support those vulnerable following Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav, and Ike.

New Mexico-1,000 heavyweight blankets to Monte Sinai UMC to support border ministry.

New York-210 heavyweight blankets to Saint's Place in Pittsford for distribution to refugees resettling in the area.

New York- 250 heavyweight blankets to Chenango Fenton Project Concern in Binghamton for distribution to homeless and economically disadvantaged in the area. 120 heavyweight blankets to Good Shepherd Catholic Community for distribution through parish ministry to migrant farm workers.

Pennsylvania-200 lightweight blankets to Outreach Coordination Center in Philadelphia for distribution to homeless.

Texas- 50 lightweight blankets to Encounter Community Outreach in Victoria for distribution to homeless and economically disadvantaged, particularly children and the elderly.

Announcements

THE REALITY OF HUNGER.....



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Lutheran World Relief is requesting the need for Health Kits this year. Please watch for more information in the weekly bulletin inserts and the January Messenger.



Dr. Mary Baer Circle

**Christmas Party
December 2nd
1:00 pm
Luther Hall**

SWINGLES

**Tuesday, December 15th
6:30 pm**



Poinsettias may be ordered in honor or in memory of loved ones. **The cost will be \$9.25 each.** Please complete and return this form along with your payment to the church office by **December 8th.** (if paying by check, please make payable to Grace Lutheran Church)

This Poinsettia is dedicated to the Glory of God

Please circle:

In Memory of

or

In Honor of

Print Names:

Ordered By:

Thank you for purchasing a poinsettia which will decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve Service. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th or following Christmas beginning Monday, December 28th.

Evangelism Board

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

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

On a very positive note, donations to the Food Pantry have increased in response to a greater need for our food bags. In October, we distributed 32 bags, and have already distributed 57 in November. We are seeing a greater demand for this outreach program. Monetary and food donations are very much appreciated.

So, what goes into a bag to feed the hungry? The food items are: peanut butter, canned meat, vegetables, fruit, cereal, soup, macaroni & cheese, ***canned white potatoes**, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles.

***New item added.**

Thank you to all who bring food in for the grocery bags that are filled each month. Look in the Sunday bulletins to see which items are most urgently needed.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Thank you to the following volunteers who will help serve our free lunch on **Wednesday, December 16th.**

Leader: Liz Nelson

Volunteers: Jim Heller, Dianne Heller, Bob McCulloch, Tom Patton

Volunteers for the Free Lunch should deliver their food donations to the church to Luther Hall kitchen on **Tuesday, December 15th.**

The Free Lunch program at Grace will continue on the third Wednesday of every month. The Evangelism board decided to provide a lunch for our neighbors in Dover (many who walk to our free lunch) as opposed to joining the meal program at the Salvation Army. Attendance has increased to almost 25 at October's & November's lunches, so the need still exists for our free lunch program. As always, we depend upon our members to prepare the food and serve it. The lunch menu for December 16th is posted in the Narthex. Check it out and see how you can help!



GRACE CHURCH POSTCARDS

Are you missing someone who has not been here for awhile? Postcards are available on the narthex table for you to send to someone you have missed. Stop by and take a few home to send.

Evangelism Board

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.

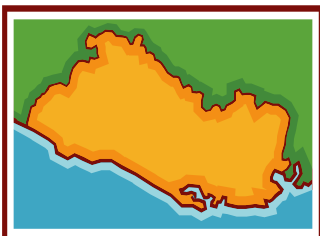
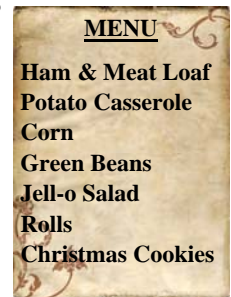
If you are unable to deliver your portion of the meal, please contact someone else who has signed up to deliver food.

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 November's meals to the homeless shelter. Please sign up in the narthex.

Thank you to the volunteers who will prepare and deliver food for the **Homeless Shelter on December 27th.**

December's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, December 27th at 6:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. In recent months, response to this outreach program has declined. Members of the Evangelism Board are aware that some members of the congregation don't fully support this service for a variety of reasons. If you have concerns, positive or negative, please contact a member of the Evangelism Board or leave a message in the church office. We need congregational support if this program is to continue. 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.



MOSER FAMILY

Please continue to support the Moser Family Mission. Envelopes are located in the pews. Steve, Tina, and daughter Kearstin arrived in El Salvador in early January. Please pray for them as they share God's word with the children of Latin America.

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.



- December 27 - One Available**
- January 3 - Two Available**
- January 10 - Two Available**
- January 17 - Two Available**
- January 24 - Two Available**

Nursery

- December 6 Pam Keller & Julie VanFossen**
- December 13 Betsy Morris & Barb Thompson**
- December 20 Elaine Margo & Carol Betche**
- December 27 Marcie Tinlin & Beckie Grafe**

CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH PROGRAM

Anyone wishing to volunteer to teach or help during Children of the Church are asked to contact the church office. If we have enough volunteers we will hold an instructional class, orienting everyone to the curriculum which is to be used. The curriculum is not difficult to prepare or teach. So, please help us in our endeavor to keep this program and continue to instruct our children in Christian living. (This could be a family affair, with mom and dad teaching and assisting and their children attending!-GREAT THOUGHT!)



Welca Quarterly

**Wed., December 9th
at 11:30 am
Outreach Center**

Order of St. Luke

**Tuesday,
December 22
1:00 pm**

Altar Guild

**Tuesday,
December 29
9:00 am**

Worship Readings

Sunday, Nov. 29

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, Dec. 6

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, Dec. 13

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, Dec. 20

Micah 5:2-5
Luke 1:46-55

Thursday, Dec. 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, Dec. 27

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18
Micah 5:2-5
Luke 1:26-35,48
Matthew 1:18-25
Luke 2:8-20
Matthew 2:1-11
John 1:1-14

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, crayons and snacks 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 snacks 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.



Worship Assistants

SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP

ACOLYTES
Dec. 6
Dec. 13 Ashley Jerles
Dec. 27

LAY READERS
Dec. 6 Gale Limron
Dec. 13 Terry Miller
Dec. 27 Steve Zimmerman

DEACONS
Dec. 6 none
Dec. 13 none
Dec. 27 none

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

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

USHERS

December 6 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Art Siber

December 13 Mike Sergent, Jack Marshall, Ron Philabaum, Jim Gibb, Kent Philabaum

December 20 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Howard Stein

December 27 Art Keener, William Page, Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, Joe VanFossen

ACOLYTES
Dec. 6 Anthony Miceli
Dec. 13 Kristin Miceli
Dec. 27

LAY READERS
Dec. 6 R. Homrighausen
Dec. 13 John Stahl
Dec. 27 Fred Grosse

DEACONS
Dec. 6 none
Dec. 13 none
Dec. 27 John Stahl



ALTAR GUILD

December: JoAnn Hammond, Norma Buehler, Jean Geyer, Sue Case, Holly Vesco

January: Barbara Thompson, Glenda Sclater, Wendy Mady, Debbie Smith, Betsy Morris

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.

Remember you can also view the current and archived Messengers online at www.GraceDover.org



gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

216 North Wooster Ave

Dover OH 44622-2948

330-343-6915

December 2009

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12:00 pm Altar Guild Luncheon 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	2 1:00 pm Dr. Mary Baer Circle Christmas Party 	3 12-1 pm Bible study 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	4	5
6 <i>Second Sunday Of Advent</i> 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	7 3:00 pm Communion Park Village 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Valley Voices 7:00 pm Property Board Meeting	8 9 am Knotters 12:00 – 4:00 pm Rejoice Women 6:30 pm Cub Scouts POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE 	9 11:30 am WELCA Quarterly—ORC 6:00 pm - Call Committee Meeting	10 12-1 pm Bible study 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir 	11	12 8 am Men's Breakfast 
13 <i>Third Sunday Of Advent</i> 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	14 10:00 am Communion Park Village 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Valley Voices	15 9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Swingles	16 11-1 pm Free Lunch ORC	17 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible study 5:30 pm Modern Homemakers	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Messenger Newsletter Deadline</div> 	19
20 <i>Fourth Sunday Of Advent</i> 8:30 am Gallery Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Children's Worship Service	21 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Valley Voices	22 1:00 Order of St. Luke 6:30 Cub Scouts	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 	25  Church Office Closed	26
27 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Meal to Homeless Shelter	28 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Valley Voices	29 9:00 Altar Guild 6:30 Cub Scouts	30  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">9 am Newsletter Assembly</div>	31		