



# THE MESSENGER

2011

**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

## It's "Angelo" not "Angela"!

*...the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."*

Luke 1:26-28

I really would like to place an angel on the top of my Christmas tree. But, I won't. I can't.

I've looked everywhere to find a fitting angelic tree topper but cannot find one that is "biblically correct." You see, I'm looking for a *male angel* and he is nowhere to be found, except in Scripture.

All the angels offered to trim the Christmas tree either look like Cinderella dressed for the ball, Little Bo Peep adorned with frill and lace or some rendition of Molly the Milkmaid. Not a dude among them. Not at Bronner's, not at 'Tis the Season nor anywhere on the internet. Nowhere! Nada! Nope! Nothing!

The Bible is filled with wonderful angel stories. Those angels who are named are all have distinctly male nomenclature. Here we find Gabriel, Michael and Raphael.

"Angel" comes from the Greek word "angelos" meaning messenger. Gabriel exemplifies this fully. It was he who brought messages from God to Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist and to Mary about her being chosen to be the virgin mother of Jesus.

Michael is said to be the angel in charge of the protection of earth and the defense of heaven. It is often inferred he is "captain of the guardian angels."

Raphael might be said to be heaven's "worship director" and coordinator of the angelic choirs. He is referenced as such in Jewish scriptures and literature.

So then, why no male angels for our Christmas trees? You'd think there would be at least a Gabriel available somewhere. He's the ultimate Christmas angel in my book. Who knows? It's altogether possible he was the angel who announced Christ's birth to the shepherds in Bethlehem's fields. It could be.

During this Advent season we will be celebrating God's special messengers and their tidings of great joy. Our Sunday services will feature **Angel Visits**, beginning with an angel's amazing encounter with Abraham. Gabriel's Good News for Zechariah and then Mary follows. Our series concludes with an angel's appearance to Joseph. This all prepares us for the Christmas angels and their heavenly song of "Glory to God in the highest and peace, goodwill to all people on earth."

In the meantime, if you happen to find a male angel during your many seasonal shopping excursions, let me know. I've got just the place for him.  
 Merry Christmas! May your holidays be happy, holy and bright. Amen.


### Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr.

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# Planning Council

**PLANNING COUNCIL**  
**Next Meeting**  
**January 3rd, 2012**  
**@ 6:45 PM**

**MINISTRY NIGHT**  
**Next Meeting**  
**December 13th, 2011**  
**@ 6:45 PM**  
**At boards discretion.**



## Facts and Figures

**Worship Attendance and Offerings**

<p><b>Attendance October 2011</b>                  Weekly Average: 161                  Weekly Difference: +3 (+2%)  <b>2011 YTD Average: 168</b>                  Difference: +11 (+7%)</p> <p><b>Offerings October 2011(5 Sundays)</b>                  Total: \$16,998.42                  Difference: -2,479.31                  Weekly Average: \$3399.68                  Weekly Difference: -495.86 (-12%)*                  *Only month in 2011 to show a decrease  <b>2011 YTD: \$166,846.32</b>                  Difference: +5,151.69 (+4%)</p>	<p><b>Attendance August 2010 (5 Sundays)</b>                  Weekly Average: 158</p> <p><b>2010 YTD Average: 157</b></p> <p><b>Offerings October 2010 (5 Sundays)</b>                  Total: \$19,477.73                  Weekly Average: \$3895.55</p> <p><b>2010 YTD: \$161,694.63</b></p>
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## 2010-2011 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Dave Haverfield - President   Robert Viereck - Vice President  
 Antonette Ferritto - Secretary  
 Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

### Evangelism

Wendy Mady - Director  
 Liz Miller  
 Dorothy Morrison  
 Janice Weber  
 Holly Vesco

### Fellowship

Audra Miceli-Director  
 Cindy Jerles- Co-Director  
 Carol Betche  
 Shirley Grafe  
 Frances Moser  
 Bonnie Richardson

### Property

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

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Liz Nelson - Director  
 Carolyn Delphia  
 Michelle Haverfield  
 Elaine Margo

### Personnel

Robert Viereck- Director  
 Bob Sclater  
 Mike Sergent  
 Darlene Bonta  
 Ron Stahl  
 Jeff Hootman

### Christian Education

Esther Philabaum- Director  
 Betsy Morris  
 Dorothy Huff  
 Susan Seifert  
 Sarah Wolfe  
 Ashley Jerles  
 Linda McFadden

### Public Relations

Tracey Viereck - Director  
 Keith Lands  
 Sue Hartz  
 David Elliott  
 Scott Ebert

### Stewardship

Nathan Vaughan - Director  
 Tom Hardin  
 Tom Margo  
 John Wolfe

### Young People's

Jimm Morris - Director  
 Chris Sergent  
 Bobbie Cox  
 Charles Castricone  
 Susan Herman  
 Molly Bauer

Since You Asked...

## Since You Asked...

### Did Martin Luther invent the Christmas Tree?

The evergreen fir tree has a long association with Christianity. It began in Germany almost 1,000 years ago when St. Boniface, who converted the German people to Christianity, was said to have come across a group of pagans worshipping an oak tree. According to German folklore, St Boniface is said to have cut down the oak tree in anger and to his amazement a young fir tree sprung up from the roots of the oak tree. St. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith.

Late in the Middle Ages, Germans and Scandinavians placed evergreen trees inside their homes or just outside their doors to show their hope in the forthcoming spring. Our modern Christmas tree evolved from these early traditions.

**Legend has it that Martin Luther began the tradition of decorating trees to celebrate Christmas.** One crisp Christmas Eve, about the year 1500, he was walking through snow-covered woods and was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. When he got home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, which he lighted in honor of Christ's birth. He then told his children that Christ is the Light of the World and had lit up the sky that Christmas Eve.

The Christmas tree tradition most likely came to the United States with Hessian troops during the American Revolution, or with German Lutheran immigrants to Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Some information for this answer comes from an article from the *Christmas Tree Farm Network* written by horticulturist David Robson.

## Your Feedback Requested

Do you have a question you would like to see Pastor Rice answer in the next newsletter? (What's your favorite color does not count.) Please write out your question and place it in the *Since You Asked...* box located on the table in the narthex.

Questions about the Bible, church policy and practice, theology and more are welcome. Pastor Rice promises to research your question and provide a helpful answer. *Since You Asked...* is a new monthly feature in **The Messenger**.

*Also...* Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to sing during an upcoming service? It does not have to be in the current ELW hymnal, it just has to be a hymn that is special to you. Jot it down and place it in the **Since You Asked...** box. Thank you.



## Holiday Worship Services



### 2011 Holiday Worship Services

**November 27: First Sunday in Advent** (ELW Setting 4 Liturgy begins.)  
**An Angel Visits Abraham: 8 and 10:30 a.m.**

**December 4: Second Sunday in Advent**  
**An Angel Visits Zechariah: 8 and 10:30 a.m.**  
 (2nd Annual Rigatoni Dinner and Advent Craft Workshop)

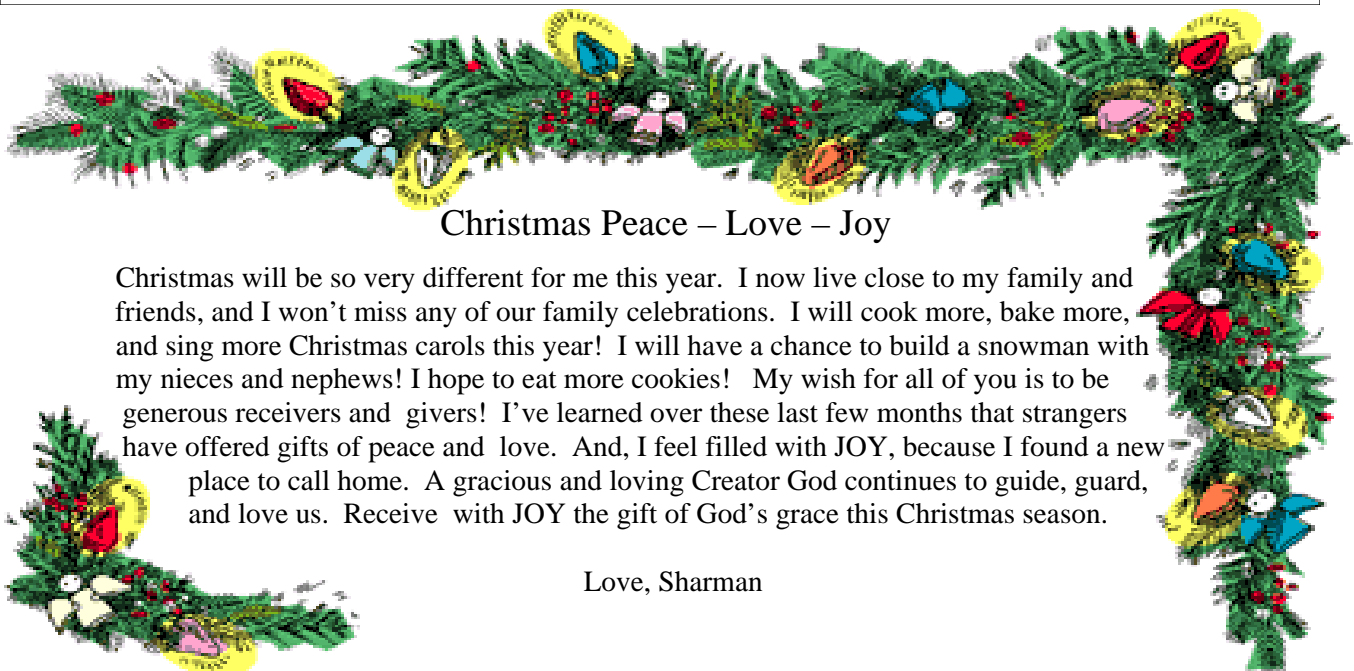
**December 11: Third Sunday in Advent**  
**An Angel Visits Mary: 8 and 10:30 a.m.**

**December 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**An Angel Visits Joseph: 9:30 a.m. service only with Holy Communion**  
**The Fumbly Bumbly Angels—Children's Christmas Pageant**

**December 24: Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion: 7 and 10:00 p.m.**

**December 25: Christmas Day Service: 9:30 a.m. only**

**January 1: New Year's Day Service: 9:30 a.m. only**



### Christmas Peace – Love – Joy

Christmas will be so very different for me this year. I now live close to my family and friends, and I won't miss any of our family celebrations. I will cook more, bake more, and sing more Christmas carols this year! I will have a chance to build a snowman with my nieces and nephews! I hope to eat more cookies! My wish for all of you is to be generous receivers and givers! I've learned over these last few months that strangers have offered gifts of peace and love. And, I feel filled with JOY, because I found a new place to call home. A gracious and loving Creator God continues to guide, guard, and love us. Receive with JOY the gift of God's grace this Christmas season.

Love, Sharman

## Announcements

## Mitten & Gift Tree

The donation trees for the Salvation Army will be displayed in the Narthex and in the connecting room of Luther Hall.

All donations will be removed from the tree on Friday, December 16th by 9:00 am.



*Thanks*  
for your  
**Help!**



The Lay Ministry Board and Sharman Harston our new Youth Director would like to thank the following young people for their help in our Library Cleanout...

Anthony Miceli and his friend Mitch, Kristin Miceli, Ethan Nelson, and Aaronn Sergent!

Stop by and take a look!



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your \$1000.00 gift to Bread for the World, which we received on October 27, 2011. The financial support of faith communities like yours is very encouraging.

Your active involvement is helping change history for hungry people. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
David Beckmann  
President

*Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Our work is supported by all major church bodies and sustained by generous contributions from individuals, families, and congregations.*

# Announcements



Poinsettias may be ordered in honor or in memory of loved ones. **The cost will be \$9.50 each.** Please complete and return this form along with your payment to the church office by **December 5th.** (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 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24th or following the Dec. 25th service or beginning Tuesday, December 27th.

# Don't Forget



Altar Guild Luncheon  
 Tuesday,  
 December 6th  
 12:00 noon  
 at the  
 Pro's Table



**Altar Guild**  
 Come  
 Decorate for  
 Christmas

Altar Guild will  
 be decorating for  
 Christmas  
 Thursday,  
 December 22nd  
 at 8:30 am.



## Chicken BBQ

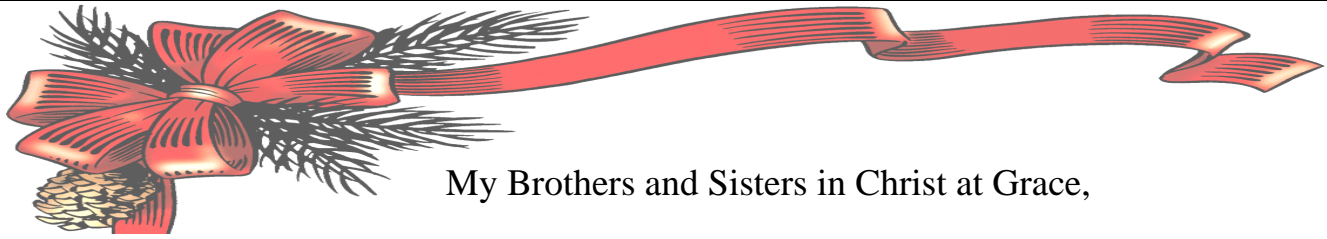


The Chicken BBQ was a great success! THANK YOU FOR YOUR generous support of our YOUTH and their 2012 trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Over 450 dinners were sold on Sunday, Nov. 6, which raised over \$2,000 for the group. The entire Youth Mission Group helped serve the chicken dinners to “eat-in” and “take-out” diners. Under the direction of Audra Miceli, the Grace Lutheran team was ready to serve from the Outreach Center at 11:00 a.m. to a long line of cars.

Adult leaders and supporters who helped with the dinner were: Larry Wallick, Bobbie Cox, Susan Herman, Cindy Jerles, Liz Nelson, Toni Ferritto, Chris Sergent, Lisa Morris, Jeff Cameron. Thank you to everyone who donated bottled water.



## Announcements



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Grace,

Well with great relief I write to you that mid-term exams and 10 page exegetical papers are over and the second half of this term is up ahead. This past Monday I met with our synod Candidacy committee to consider my eligibility for "entrance" into the ELCA Master of Divinity program. Their decision is required for all candidates to proceed in the MDiv program. They use criteria from a number of psychological examinations and a 3 day evaluation with a psychologist. The committee considers three options "positive", "postponed", or "denied" for entrance to ministry in the ELCA. I am pleased to say I was given a "positive" decision. The candidacy process has changed dramatically through the years and I am proud to say that it is comprehensive to say the least as our synod searches for the best candidates who are answering a call to ministry, I hope to share more with you about this process and my journey through seminary in the months and years ahead. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation for the support you have shown me from the Grace Lutheran Seminary Fund. I appreciate the foresight of our past leaders to establish such a fund to help support ones call to ministry. So thank you for first listening to that still small voice within and sending this deeply needed \$1,000 for my seminary education to Trinity. I continue to work fulltime and go to school 3/4 time which provides little time for much else but sleep and study. Esther visits me on Sunday's to replenish me with fresh food, clean cloths, and gas money for the week. Oh the life of a college boy, huh? Your consistent prayers and emails of news and good humor are very welcome support through the day. I miss you all and spending time hearing about your week's and those you love, but I hope to get home over the holidays to see you all and join together giving thanks in worship to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Your Brother in Christ, Ron Philabaum [rphilabaum@tlsohio.edu](mailto:rphilabaum@tlsohio.edu)

## 2012 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!





# Announcements

## Congregational Meeting Results

Grace members gave near unanimous approval to the proposed 2012 church budget during its November 20<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting. The vote was 75 to 1.

Voters also gave overwhelming support to those nominated to serve on congregational committees. Jim Gibb and Helen Rosenberry were re-elected to serve second terms on the Grace Endowment Board.

Janie Huffman and Tom Margo were approved as new members of the Hammerstrom Scholarship Board.

The Grace Planning Council wishes to thank all those who participated in the meeting. Your commitment to the future mission and ministry of Grace Lutheran church is greatly appreciated.



Thank you to all of the thoughtful and compassionate members of Grace Lutheran for all of their cards, phone calls & prayers as I recover from knee surgery.

Dianne Heller



## NEW ADDRESSES

FOR COLLEGIANS & MILITARY PERSONNEL

Young Peoples Ministry Board is requesting information on all College Students or Military Personnel. We would like to keep these members in touch with what is going on at Grace and send them greeting cards for special events.

Please complete as much of the following information as possible and return it to the church office or YPMB mail box.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_

If Married Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Break date \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Break date \_\_\_\_\_

Final day of classes for year \_\_\_\_\_

College Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

## Young People's Ministry


**COME SING**



**WITH  
THE ANGELS**


**Sunday, December 18 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Christmas is the time of year to offer a gift of music to our family and friends. On Sunday afternoon, December 18, join the children and youth as we deliver warm musical gifts to some of your home-bound members. We will meet in Luther Hall at 4:00pm, visit our church friends, and return for some warm hot chocolate and cookies. Contact Sharman Hartson, coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries, if you know someone who would like a special visit from the *Grace Singing Angels!!***



*Christmas Pageant*

**THE FUMBLY BUMBLY ANGELS**



Kids, it's time to find the angel hallows, the pageant costumes, and manger scene! The "Fumbly, Bumbly Angels" will be coming down from heaven to tell us how they found their way through the streets of Bethlehem to arrive at the stable. Along the way, we will sing familiar Christmas carols with the children and congregation. The program will be presented as part of Sunday worship on December 18.

Rehearsals will continue on Dec. 4th, & 11th at 4 pm in the church.

Please contact Program Director, Betsy Morris (330)-343-7381, or Sharman Hartson (330)-440-8587 with any questions!

## Young People's Ministry



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering  
citizens with the saints  
Ephesians 2:14-20

Please come and check out my table in  
Fellowship Hall at **Grace's Advent Workshop**  
Sunday, December 4th from 11-2 PM



### Scentsy Wickless Candles

Joyce McComb (independent Scentsy Consultant)

[www.joycemccomb.scentsy.com](http://www.joycemccomb.scentsy.com)

Scentsy products consist of: 3 different size warmers, over 90 different scents, car tins, scent circles, Scentsy buddies, scent packs, perfume, hand sanitizer and room sprays.

25% of the sales amount from this fund raiser will be donated back to the ELCA Youth Gathering Mission trip fund for Grace Evangelical Lutheran church. If sales reach \$2,000 or more 30% will be donated back to the Youth Gathering fund. Purchases can also be made through my website(above). A link for Grace/Youth Gathering will be posted on the left side of my website starting December 1st for people who may not be able to attend the December 4th

Advent Workshop or who want to still purchase items a few days after that date. For each person who books a party(house or book) from this fund raiser an additional 10% of each party sales will be donated back to this fund raiser.

## Parish Fellowship

### 2nd Annual Rigatoni Dinner & Advent Workshop!

We will be having lunch on Dec. 4th after 10:30 church that will include rigatoni, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Following lunch will be the reading of the Christmas Story and decorating of the tree in the Sanctuary! Then off to the 15+ craft tables throughout the church! Come and plan on spending the day with all of your extra special church family! We had a whopping attendance of 225 people last year so lets break that record!!! It is an exciting season filled with much to be thankful for. Come and eat and see who you meet!! Free will donation to go toward the mission trip.

## *Christmas Bags*

Our Lay Ministry Board will be sponsoring a craft table at the Advent Workshop! We will be assembling and decorating gift bags for our shut-in members. All visitation ministry team members should stop by the church office anytime after the Advent Workshop and pick up the gift bag for delivery!





# Women of the ELCA

For Lutheran World Relief

Final Count:

Quilts: 34                      Soap: 117  
 Health Kits: 46                Layettes: 26  
 School Kits: 28



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



## KNOTTERS

Tuesday, Jan. 10th, 2012

9:00 AM



Starting in January 2012. The two circles: Swingles and Dr. Mary Baer will combine. In honor of both missionary families, our new name will be Ladies of Grace. We will have a luncheon on Dec. 13th at Sunnyside for all members at noon.

Starting in January our meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to come join us, January 17th at 1:00 pm in Luther Hall.

Dorothy Morrison & Donna Fox

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 contributions to keep the pantry stocked. These are the best prices in the area thanks to a lot of comparison shopping. The stores listed are the ones that usually have the best prices on these items. The bottom line is that it costs approximately \$12.00 to fill one bag.

Product	Price / piece	Days in a month	Total
Peanut Butter	\$ 1.39	X 30	\$ 41.70
Fruit	\$ 0.85	X 30	\$ 25.50
Cereal	\$ 1.19	X 30	\$ 35.70
Meat	\$ 1.15	X 30	\$ 34.50
Chicken Soup	\$ 1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Tomato Soup	\$ 1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Potatoes	\$ 0.65	X 30	\$ 19.50
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	\$ 0.35	X 30	\$ 10.50
Spaghetti	\$ 0.90	X 30	\$ 27.00
Spaghetti Sauce	\$ 0.98	X 30	\$ 29.40
			<b>\$ 403.80</b>

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

## Evangelism Board

### GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

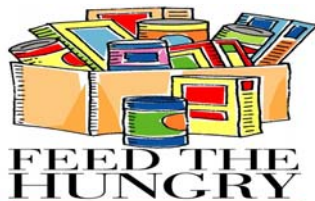
Thanks to all who have volunteered to be packers for the Grocery Bag Ministry this year.

Donations to the Food Pantry have increased in response to a greater need for our food bags. In October, we distributed 112 bags, and have already distributed 93 in November. 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.

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 bulletins to see which items are most urgently needed.



*Please be Praying for...*

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

Ella DeVore  
Linda Domer  
Helen Blackson  
William Page  
Mark Mathias  
Jim Horn  
Tom Patton  
Dan Urfer  
Bonnie Ravine  
Christina Minor  
Carol Davidson  
Jane Lanz

Rosann Patterson  
Pastor Drake  
Pauline Mazzy  
Ann Burrier  
Mary Ann Gray  
Liz Barbero  
Vic Gessner  
Trent Marty  
Cheri Vance  
Tom Hardin  
Len Powers

#### 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.

Thanks You.

### A Prayer For You

We are resuming our Healing Prayers at the Altar rail during Holy Communion.

They are offered at 8 am on the 3rd Sunday of the month and at 10:30 am on the 4th Sunday of the month. We thank all those who provide this invaluable and much appreciated service.



## 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



**HOMELESS SHELTER**

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 November meal to the homeless shelter. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

### HEALTH KITS AND LAYETTES

Two of our Lutheran World Relief Projects are making Health Kits and School Kits. These kits provide much needed supplies to many people around the world. Items that go into each kit are:

#### Health Kits

- 1 hand towel (dark color)
- 1 wash cloth (dark color), 1 bath size bar of soap
- 1 adult size toothbrush, 1 nail clipper with file
- 1 wide tooth comb, 6 band-aids

#### School Kits

- Padded or spiral notebooks of ruled paper approx. 8 1/2" X 11" totaling 150-200 sheets; do not include loose leaf paper
- 1 blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 1 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 pencil sharpener, 1 eraser approx. 2 1/2 " long
- 6 new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

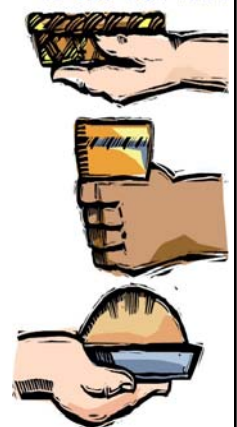
If you would like to provide any of the items used in these kits please drop them off at the church office and we will assemble them.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

We have a special opportunity this holiday season to help those in need in our community. As you know, this year Christmas Day falls on the fourth Sunday in December. We have been asked to provide Christmas dinner for the residents of the Homeless Shelter on that day. The Evangelism Board has come up with a traditional menu, including turkey, ham, and all the trimmings.

Time, logistics, and other factors may make it difficult for those who are interested in contributing to this meal. At the moment, we're assuming that dinner will be delivered at the usual Sunday time by 5:45, with food ready to serve. We're making plans and working with the Shelter to make it easier for all of us during this busy time. Look in the Sunday bulletins or on the bulletin board in the Narthex for any updates.

The menu is posted in the narthex. Perhaps a group at the church, such as a Sunday school class, Board, or a circle would be able to provide one of the larger items, such as ham or turkey. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.



## 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.



- Dec. 4th - 1 vase
- Jan. 8th - 2 vases
- Jan. 15th - 2 vases
- Jan. 22nd - 2 vases
- Jan. 29th - 2 vases

### NURSERY

- 12/4 - Joann Bower & Katie Hootman
- 12/11 - Persephone McCreery & Brittany Domer
- 12/18 - No Nursery
- 12/25 - No Nursery



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH



- 12/4 - Marcie Castricone
- 12/11 - Esther Philabaum
- 12/18 - Children's Program
- 12/25 - No Children's Church

## Worship Readings

### Order of St. Luke

**Tuesday,  
December 27th, 2011  
1:00 pm**

### Sunday, Dec. 4th

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Luke 1:5-24

### Sunday, Dec. 11th

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Luke 1:26-38

### Altar Guild

**Tuesday,  
December 22nd, 2011  
8:30 am**

### Sunday, Dec. 18th

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16  
Luke 1:47-55  
Roman 16:25-27  
Matthew 1:18-25

### Saturday, Dec. 24th

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 145:13-21  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:1-20

### **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.





# Worship Assistants

## SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP

**USHERS**  
 Michael Thomas-Moore  
 Tim Keplinger  
 Richard Elliott  
 Steve Zimmerman  
 Jim Heller  
 Scott Ebert  
 Edward Harper  
 David Elliott

**ACOLYTES**  
 Dec. 4  
 Dec. 11

**LAY READERS**  
 Dec. 4 Lynn Foust  
 Dec. 11 Steve Zimmerman

**DEACONS**  
 Dec. 4  
 Dec. 11

## SUNDAY 9:30 AM WORSHIP

**ACOLYTES**  
 Dec. 18  
 Dec. 25

**LAY READERS**  
 Dec. 18 Jim Gibb  
 Dec. 25

**COMMUNION ASST.**  
 Dec. 18 Deborah Horn  
 Dec. 24 Deborah Horn  
 7 pm

## Christmas Eve Worship

**LAY READERS**  
 Dec. 24 - 7:00 pm Tony Lecce  
 Dec. 24 - 10:00 pm Rick Homrighausen

**USHERS**  
 Dec. 4 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Art Siber  
 Dec. 11 Mike Sergent, Jim Gibb  
 Dec. 18 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Howard Stein  
 Dec. 25 Art Keener, William Page, Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, Joe Vanfossen

## SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

**ACOLYTES**  
 Dec. 4 Shauna Cox  
 Dec. 11

**LAY READERS**  
 Dec. 4 Pastor Grosse  
 Dec. 11 John Stahl

**DEACONS**  
 Dec. 4  
 Dec. 11

## ALTAR GUILD

**December:** Donna Fox, Katherine Stahl, Jill Hootman, Dorothy Morrison, Shirley Grafe  
**January:** Jean Geyer, Sue Case, Holly Vesco, Susan Zimmerman



## Get the Messenger By Email

If you'd like to receive the Messenger by email please send an email to [GraceHappens@GraceDover.org](mailto: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](http://www.GraceDover.org)



gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 216 North Wooster Ave  
 Dover OH 44622-2948

# December 2011

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion Rigatoni Dinner & Advent Workshop	<b>5</b> 2:30 pm Communion Park Village South 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-YH 6:30 pm Property Board 7 pm Valley Voices	<b>6</b> 12 pm Altar Guild Luncheon 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>7</b> 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	<b>9</b> Youth Retreat Atwood	<b>10</b> 8 am Men's Breakfast Youth Retreat Atwood
<b>11</b> 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion Youth Retreat Atwood	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Communion Park Village North 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-YH 7 pm Valley Voices	<b>13</b> 12-4 pm Rejoice Women 12 pm Ladies of Grace Christmas Party 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>14</b> 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 am Worship Communion 4 pm Grace Singing Angels Children's Christmas Pageant	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-YH 7 pm Valley Voices 	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>21</b> 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 8:30 am Altar Guild 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir 	<b>23</b> Church Office Closed	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 
<b>25</b> 9:30 am Worship 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter 	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts-YH 7 pm Valley Voices Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> 1 pm Order of St. Luke 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>28</b> 7 pm Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	<b>30</b> 9 am Messenger Assembly	<b>31</b> 
Pastor on Vacation						