



THE MESSENGER

2019

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

A Geranium by Any Other Name...

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Isaiah 40:8

A flowering phenomenon? An impossible posy? A blooming miracle?

As the gray winter slowly gave way to the more verdant days of spring, I noticed a green leaf pushing its way through last year's leaves, blown by cold winds and gathered near my front porch. The green leaf was growing where I planted last year's Confirmation Day geraniums. As I looked at the leaf, it sure looked like it could be a geranium reborn from the deadly frost, snow and freezing cold. I decided to keep a close eye on it and watch its progress.

Soon, more leaves joined the first. They all looked like geraniums leaves to me. I wondered how this could be. I'd never had this happen before—at least not with a geranium. I've had begonias somehow sprout back after a harsh winter, but never a geranium.

Every morning, as I collected my newspaper, I checked on it. It grew greener and bigger. I looked in wonder at its increase. I marveled at this springtime surprise. I excitedly told family, friends and coworkers about it. With joyful eagerness, I anticipated its first deep red bloom.

Then, one day while I was at the office, my lawn service arrived for my lawn's first mowing and my annual spring clean-up. In the course of their work, they blew away the leaves covering my little stunner.

When I arrived home, I was well-pleased with the work and took notice of the greenery standing in all its glory next to my porch. The thing is, it wasn't a geranium after all. It was an imposter! It was just another weed!

The flower fades. My 2018 geraniums are all gone and gone forever. They are but memories that soon, too, will fade. *Sigh!*

A geranium by any other name might be a weed. But the Word of God is always truth. It is a truth that never changes or fades away. God's Word endures forever.

As Jesus reminds us, "Heaven and earth may all pass away, but my words will never pass away." (Matthew 24:35) Our Savior's word is consistently present and available to renew, refresh and restore us by His grace.

Jesus also teaches us, "I am the way, the truth and the life..." Again, we are assured of God's wonderful day to day constancy and forever love in Christ Jesus. Jesus is and always will be God's way of salvation. He is and always will be God's revealed truth. Christ is and always will be God's assurance of eternal life.


I'll be planting "Confirmation Geraniums" again this year. When I pick up my potted gems from the chancel, you can be sure I'll look closely to be sure they really are geraniums and not some fancy weeds. As for the weed growing next to my porch, I think I'll keep it. It's become a daily lesson; a morning reminder of God's enduring

Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr.

Planning Council	Pg. 2
Since You Asked...	Pg. 3
Hammerstrom Scholarship Application	Pg. 4
Announcements	Pg. 5
Announcements	Pg. 6
Announcements	Pg. 7
Announcements	Pg. 8
WELCA	Pg. 9
Outreach	Pg. 10 & 11
Worship & Worship Assistance	Pg. 12 & 13
Member Celebrations	Pg. 14
Calendar	Pg. 15

Planning Council

**PLANNING
COUNCIL**
Next Meeting
May 14th, 2019
@ 6:30 PM



Facts and Figures

<p>Attendance March 2019 Weekly Average: 138 Difference: - 18 (-12%)</p> <p>Offerings March 2019 Total Offerings: \$21,838.50 Difference: +1,876.50 Weekly Average: \$4267.70</p>	<p>Attendance March 2018 Weekly Average: 156</p> <p>Offerings March 2018 Total Offerings: \$19,962.00 Weekly Average: \$4,990.50</p>
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Weekly Difference: -\$622.80 (-12%)
*March 2019 includes 5 Sundays. March 2018 had four Sundays.

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

Congregational Life

Ron Stahl - Director
Susie Erickson
Elaine Margo
Liz Miller
Melody Rader

Property

John Nelson- Director
Jeff Hootman
Audra Miceli
Nathan Vaughan
Larry Wallick
Brad Wharmby

Christian Faith and Life

Faith Bambeck- Director
Julie Brothers
Karla Burrier
Ashley Eick
Debbie Flood
Tiffany Shepherd
(Rhonda Fisher, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

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

Stewardship Development

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

Outreach

Joe Penrod– Director
Joe Erickson
Tanna Loveday
Judy Martin
Paul McFadden
John Wolfe
Scott Ebert (church sign)
David Elliott (church website)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Donald L. Rice Jr.
Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Rhonda Fisher
Director of Music/Organist: Linda Hanna
Secretary: Lisa Morris
Treasurer: Beverly Frantz
Custodian: Glenn Mitchell

Since You Asked

Since You Asked...

During Lent, we've all seen many pictures of Jesus' crucifixion. In many of these pictures there is a sign at the top of the cross with the letters I.N.R.I. What do those letters stand for?

John 19:19 gives us the answer to this question. When Jesus was crucified, "Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'"

The I.N.R.I stands for the Latin phrase "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum." There is no "J" in Latin. An "I" is used in its place and pronounced as a "Y." The Latin word for king is "rex."

The sign charged Jesus with the political crime of representing himself as a messiah and thus an insurrectionist. His claim to kingship would be in direct opposition to Caesar's power and authority. For unbelieving Jews, it was a religious crime and blasphemy. To them, the King of the Jews is a title attributed only to the messianic Son of David, Son of Man and Son of God. Of course, Jesus

Confirmation 2019: Celebrating God's Grace

Four Grace young people will be confirmed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 19. These students have successfully completed two years of instruction covering a survey of the Holy Scriptures and basic Lutheran doctrine in Luther's Small Catechism. Pastor Rice and Mrs. Linda McFadden teach the classes.

A celebration breakfast for confirmation students and our 2019 graduates and their families will be held during the 9:15 a.m. Sunday School hour that day. "Photo opportunities" will be provided for our confirmands and their families after the May 19 worship service by Solid Rock Photography.

This year's Confirmation Graduates include:

Peyton Brothers, daughter of Mike and Julie Brothers of Zoarville;
Max Bambeck, son of Doug and Faith Bambeck of Dover;
Evan Burrier, son of Brett and Karla Burrier of Dover; and
Ava Penrod, daughter of Joe and Jenna Penrod of Dover.

Confirmands continuing their studies include Isaac Roman-Willey and Taylor Vaughan.

Congratulations Confirmation Graduates!

May God continue to bless you as you live and grow in His grace.



Women's Bible Study



2019 Women's Bible Study

Begins Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00pm

We are going to be studying Nehemiah and continuing our search to . . .

Find Joy In Our
Life's *Journey!*

All Meetings Are Held in the Outreach Center



*"It's
Never
Too Late
For
A New
Beginning"*



From His Heart . . .
To Our Heart . . .
To The Hearts Of Others!



Announcements

Attention 2019 Graduates!

If you are graduating this year from high school, college, technical school or receiving an advanced degree, please inform the church office. Please include your name, your school and, if appropriate, your earned degree (BS, MA, PhD, etc.).

Our 2019 graduates and their families are invited to a special breakfast for them and this year's confirmands on Sunday, May 19 at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The graduates themselves will be honored during our worship services on Sunday, June 2. High school graduates will receive a gift from the congregation.

May God bless all our graduates as they begin a new chapter in their lives. God be with you on your jour-



Grace Lutheran is sponsoring a team in the Dover City Parks and Recreation slow-pitch softball Church League again this year. We are former league champions and look to field an excellent team. All guys 16 years and older who wish to play for the church may contact team captain and coordinator Cody Jerles by calling or texting him at (330) 418-0393.

PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND

Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund– provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$3000 for the school year.

For information, go to www.Pierstorf.org. Complete the 2019-2020 application by visiting the website starting April 15th, 2019. The deadline for all applications is Sunday,

Protecting Our Children

For pressing security reasons, the back two doors in Luther Hall will be locked during the hours Head Start children are in the building for classes. Head Start classes are in session Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This protection is what is mandated and expected in our public schools. This safety precaution went into effect Tuesday, February 19.

If you need entrance to Luther Hall during those hours, you may enter through the door nearest the office facing North Wooster Avenue. There is parking at the side of the building for your convenience. Those of you who have keys to Luther Hall may use them as needed with no restriction.

Thank you for your understanding. This is just another sign of the times we live in. We sincerely apologize for any



I would like to send a special thank you to our volunteers that helped out in the office while I was on vacation.

Deborah Horn, Paul McFadden,
Shirley Grafe & Susie Erickson.
Your help was greatly appreciated.
Thanks again,



VBS

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands He's Got You and Me, Neighbor, in His Hands

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands is this year's Vacation Bible School theme. Bible Stories, crafts, music, recreational activities, snacks and more are designed to develop our children's understanding and appreciation of God's wonderful love for us and all the world around us.

VBS 2019 will be held June 24-28. Opening exercises begin at 6:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Registration begins at the backdoor to Luther Hall at 6:00. Parents or other responsible adults may pick-up their children at the same door at 8:15.

A volunteer sign-up sheet seeking teachers, teaching assistants, activity directors and helpers is posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please note, we will not be offering an early supper this year. Snacks will be provided following recreational activities.

The registration form for participating children is printed in this newsletter and will be in the June newsletter, too. Forms are also available on the church website and at the church office.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Monday: God Created Me (Genesis 1:26-31)

Tuesday: God Provides for Me (Matthew 6:25-33)

Wednesday: God Protects Me (Luke 8:22-25)

Thursday: God Loves Me (Mark 2:1-12)



2019 Canal Days Worship Service

Grace Lutheran Church will offer the Canal Days worship service on Sunday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m. It will be held on the town square (3rd & N. Wooster). Bleacher seating will be provided or you can bring your lawn chairs.

This year, our service will celebrate "God Gifts of Peace: Peace in Our Hearts, Peace in Our community and Peace throughout Our Land." The worship service hymns, Scripture readings and a brief homily will focus on this theme. Invite your friends and neighbors to worship with us as we praise and thank God for His peace that passes all human understanding.

We will also have our 8:00 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary. It will be similar to the

Announcements

Bundle of Blessings

Craig and Melody Rader are grandparents for the very first time. Graham Morse Rader was born in Cincinnati on March 13, 2019. He is the son of Chris and Lauren Rader. At birth, Graham weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces. We'll bet he's growing fast!

Congratulations to all! We pray Graham will be blessed with the fullness of God's love and



Financial & Estate Planning

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

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

Stewardship Committee
Tom Margo
330-260-0150



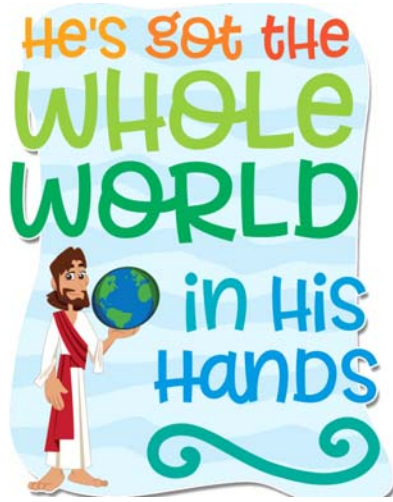
GERANIUMS FOR CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

Please make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and note "geranium" in the memo area of your check. The cost for one 6" pot geranium is \$8.50. This order form is due to the church



QUANTITY	NAME & PHONE NUMBER
CIRCLE: YES / NO	I will take the geraniums home after the 10:30 worship service on May 19.
CIRCLE: YES / NO	I plan to leave the geraniums to be planted on the church grounds.

VBS Registration



Vacation Bible School 2019

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Grace Lutheran Church

June 24th- 28th

Learning Activities 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm

Ages 3 thru 5th grade

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Home email address: _____

Child's Age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Home congregation (if any): _____

In case of Emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies the VBS staff should be aware of: _____

Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS Day:

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell phone: _____

(Please pick up all children at the back entrance of Luther Hall.)

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Date: _____



Lutheran World Relief
Final Project Numbers
for 2018



Quilts: 38
Personal Care Kits: 29
Soap: 59
School Kits: 3



KNOTTERS

**Wed., May 15th, 2019
9:00 am**

Cost of stocking the food pantry for one month.

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

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

*Average

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



Outreach

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

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

Donations to the Food Pantry have increased in response to a greater need for our food bags. In March, we distributed 103 bags, and have already distributed 85 in April. We are seeing a greater demand for this outreach program. Monetary and food donations are very much appreciated.

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

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

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

bulletins which are most urgently needed.



Please be Praying for...

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

Ella DeVore
Glenn Siber
Mildred Schauer
Frances Moser
JoAnn Hammond
Jim Rosenberry
Mary Marino
Norma Grywalski
Dorothy Hanna
Shirley Johnson
Molly Bauer
Jane Buehler
Buffy Gray
Carol Betche
Holly Hillen
Doris Metzger
Lisa Myers
Dwayne Mann

William Page
Elaine Lile
Dale Kreisher
Tim Clark
Art Keener
Ginnie Schaffer
Violet Tomcho
Wayne Page
Barb Eft
Mary Boyer
Nada Georgier
Karen Page
Judy Arrington
Louise Harris
Clarence Harris
Marianne Landis
Mona Ryan
Bonnie Beem

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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



With Deepest Sympathy

Our deep and heartfelt sympathies are with the family and friends of JoAnn Miller.

May the Lord embrace this family with His love and bless them with peace.

Outreach

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

We at Grace have volunteered to provide one meal per month — **the 4th Sunday of each month** — 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 the May's meal to the homeless shelter.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

The power of a small package

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

Personal care items that go into each kit are:

Personal Care Kits

- 1 light weight bath towel
- 20" X 40" to 52" X 27" (dark color)
- 2 bath size bars of soap
- 1 wide tooth comb
- 1 adult size toothbrush
- 1 nail clipper with file

Thank you to the volunteers who prepared and delivered food to the **Homeless Shelter on Apr. 28th, 2019.**

May's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, May 26th, at 6:00 pm.

The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. We have cut down on the expense of the items needed (less meat, more casseroles) or have divided the donations into smaller units to make it financially easier for you to donate. Please check to see how you can help.

Worship

OPEN ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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

Altar Flowers are available for the following dates.



- May 5th - 1 vase
- May 19th - 2 vases
- Jun. 2nd - 1 vase
- Jun. 16th - 1 vase



- May 5th - Faith & Natalie Bambeck
- May 12th - Jen & Taylor Vaughan
- May 19th - Deb & Jacob Flood
- May 26th - No Children's Church Outside Service

Worship Readings

Altar Guild

**Saturday,
May 18th, 2019
9:00 am**

**Tuesday,
May 28th, 2019
9:00 am**

Sunday, May 5th

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-13

Sunday, May 12th

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 19th

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

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

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.	USHERS
5/5	5/5 Kim Gray	5/5	Tim Keplinger
5/12	5/12 Terry Miller	5/12	Richard Elliott
5/19	5/19 Gale Limron	5/19	Steve Zimmerman
5/26	5/26 N/A	5/26	Jim Heller
			Scott Ebert
			Edward Harper

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

May 5 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl
May 12 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Brody Morris
May 19 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden
May 26 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.
5/5	5/5 John Stahl	5/5
5/12	5/12 Rick Homrighausen	5/12
5/19	5/19 Jimm Morris	5/19
5/26	5/26 N/A	5/26

ALTAR GUILD

May: Judy Martin, Bonnie Richardson, Pam Keller, Elaine Margo

June: Donna Fox, Katherine Stahl, Jill Hootman, Shirley Grafe, Jan Ochsenbine



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



