



THE MESSENGER

2025

Worship Schedule
Sunday: 10 am
Sunday Church School for all ages
at 9 am
Second Saturday of the month at 5:00 PM

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

Dear Congregation,

After careful consideration, I would like to announce my retirement. My last Sunday on staff will be June 1, 2025 and my last day will be Thursday June 5, 2025. Dave, Chris and I are feeling the call to be with our Texas family. My time as Pastor has been richly blessed with rewarding Christ-centered connections with our children, families, congregation, and staff. One highlight is our first VBS after COVID where I had so much fun being Top Chef Bonnie with my sidekick puppet, the very popular DJ Cupcake, played by my husband, Dave, with lots of little and big chefs, adult and youth leaders. Another is our youth mission trip to Nashville where I as an adult leader bonded with lots of our youth and other adult leaders as we stretched ourselves beyond our comfort zones. One other highlight is when we compassionately brought our greater community together at our Grace Happens Contemporary Service to honor Doug and Sonji Gregory for their grief counseling work they did at Grace with the Tusky Valley Community after the bus tragedy.

But as I retire from my role, I will miss all these connections plus all those with staff (secretary, treasurer, custodian, organist/choir director, youth and family coordinator), planning council, boards (hospitality, congregational life, Christian faith and life, outreach, property, stewardship, executive, endowment), baptisms, funerals, weddings, WJER morning devotions, Dover city council invocations, new YMCA playground funding, Lutheran World Relief/Lutheran Disaster Relief funding, altar guild, ushers, counters, financial secretary, lectionary bible study, women's bible study, women's coffee and conversation, men's breakfast, power of prayer group, gallery choir, children's choir, adult bells, children's bells, block party, chocolate walk, community pool party, children's Sunday school, confirmation class, high school Sunday school, adult Sunday school, confirmation class mission projects, photography ministry, Knotters (Lutheran World Relief quilt and health kits ministry, harvest home ministry, Head Start Christmas ministry), food pantry, grocery bag ministry, monthly meals to the homeless shelter, community partners (Friends of the Homeless Shelter, T4C, Harbor House, Salvation Army), senior crafters greeting card ministry, adult mission trips to North Carolina, annual youth mission trips, ELCA youth gatherings, youth lock-in, youth retreat, youth chicken BBQ, youth Valentine cookie sale, Easter egg hunt, Easter breakfast, rally day, grandparents day, first communion class, first communion Sunday, graduate/confirmation Sunday, teacher recognition dinner, Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, Lenten Ash Wednesday/midweek services, holy week services, Easter service, advent family wreath lighting services, Christmas Eve service, Sunday worship, Grace Happens contemporary worship, monthly Park Village communion service, children's Christmas program, Thanksgiving dinner/Advent dinner/monthly Grace church Sunday dinners, family game night, sound ministry, camera ministry, lights ministry, website ministry, VBS ministry, scholarship committee, computer/internet/phones/monitors/security system ministry, acolytes, readers, communion assistants, shut-in card ministry, advent shut-in gift ministry, contemporary music ministry, legal ministry, snow removal ministry, Head Start preschool, Boy Scouts, Outreach Center ministry and more. And I will truly miss our many weekly interactions and my Sunday morning chances to greet all of you.

Peace and Grace to you all,

Pastor Bonnie Grimaldi

Pastor
Rev. Bonnie L. Grimaldi

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Planning Council

**PLANNING
COUNCIL**

Next Meeting
Tuesday,
May 20th, 2025
@ 6:30 PM



2024-2026 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Julie Brothers - President Gale Limron - Vice President
Michelle Durben - Secretary John Wolfe - Treasurer

Congregational Life

Gale Limron - Director
Susie Erickson
Elaine Margo
Betsy Morris
Melody Rader
Jim Heller
Jenna Limron

Property

Jim Gibb- Director
Nathan Vaughan
Jeff Hootman
Larry Wallick
Richard Elliott

Christian Faith and Life

Ashley Eick - Director
Karla Burrier
Tiffany Shepherd
Deb Foust
(Cody Jerles, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

Sarah Wolfe - Director
Marcie Castricone
Melissa Engstrom
Cindy Jerles
Traci Smith
Bobbie Cox
Julie Vanfossen

Stewardship Development

Ron Stahl - Director
Charles Castricone
Keith Lands
Sarah Kneuss

Outreach

Pam Beller– Director
Tim Durben
Joe Erickson
Irene McCoy
Judy Martin
Pam Keller
David Elliott (church website)

Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Cody Jerles
Director of Music/Organist : Jeff Beshore
Secretary: Lisa Morris
Treasurer: John Wolfe
Custodian: John Williamson

To Know Christ, To Live Christ, To Share Christ, and To Be One in Christ



Tithe.ly

Tithe.ly is now fully operational! We have added Tithe.ly just as another way for people to give to the church, if you desire to give electronically. This option is NOT replacing regular giving via cash or check.

There is now a link on the church website in the upper right hand corner that says "Online Giving" and clicking on this link will take you directly to our church's Tithe.ly giving site. The church's website is www.gracedover.org

Additionally there is a Tithe.ly app available for both Android and iOS if you wish to download the app to your smartphone and give that way. See the information provided below from Tithe.ly about different ways to give.

As Tithe.ly is a business there are fees associated with this type of giving. When you give you have an option to "Cover Fees." This gives you the option to pay the associated fee for the transaction; otherwise the church will pay the fee.

Give on Your Church Website

The recommended way to give is to go through your church's website. They likely have a section titled "Giving" or "Online Giving" where you can give using the Tithe.ly platform. If they do not have that, you can use one of the methods listed below.

Give Online

If you're on a computer (or any device with an internet connection), you can easily give to your church by locating your churches giving link. This is typically located on your churches website. (www.gracedover.org) Or you can go to <https://give.tithe.ly/> and search for your church there!

Give in App

Want to give to your church using the convenience of your smartphone? No problem! Download the Tithe.ly App from the **App Store** (iPhone) or **Google Play Store** (Android). Once you've downloaded the app, create an account or log in, locate your church and tap "Give Now" to complete your gift!

If you have any questions about Tithe.ly please reach out to me.
John Wolfe, Treasurer

Announcements

Phillip Jr. and Marceil Hammerstrom Scholarship Fund Application

This scholarship was setup by Phillip Jr. in memory of his wife, Marceil, who was in the medical field. Also, in memory of his father, Phillip Sr, who was a machinist. If your field of study is in the **MEDICAL/HEALTH** area, or the **TRADE/INDUSTRY/ENGINEERING** area, you will be considered for this scholarship. Preference is given to active, participating members of Grace Lutheran Church, Dover. Please complete this application and return to the church office no later than April 30th. If awarded a scholarship, the check will be sent directly to your school. Also, the scholarship can be applied for in subsequent years. Any age may apply.

STUDENT NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN DOVER _____

INTENDED COURSE OF STUDY _____

CAREER OR PROFESSIONAL GOALS _____

NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE OF SCHOOL _____

HAVE YOU BEEN ACCEPTED _____

EXPECTED DEGREE AND COMPLETION DATE _____







ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, COMPOSE A BRIEF 250-WORD ESSAY THAT DESCRIBES HOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL PLAN AND CAREER/ PROFESSIONAL GOALS SERVE GOD AND BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY.

Announcements

LENT 2025 MIDWEEK SERVICES

“Lent in Plain Sight”

This year’s Lenten theme comes from Jill J. Duffield’s book, “Lent in Plain Sight.” Her devotional book challenges us to focus on regular, everyday objects to help us see how God is present and speaking to us in plain sight when we are attuned to the holy in mundane things. As we focus on a different object each week, we’ll be revisiting Bible stories where these items are present and be invited to contemplate how the kingdom of God is close at hand and present in our midst, inviting us to enter into a deeper relationship with God. As we see God anew, we will be challenged to consider how we are called to participate in bringing the presence of the kingdom of God to the attention of those around us.

					
Ashes/Dust	Bread	Cross	Coins	Shoes	Oil
March 5th 6:30 pm	March 12th 6:30 pm	March 19th 6:30 pm	March 26th 6:30 pm	April 2nd 6:30 pm	April 9th 6:30 pm



Church Photo Directory



2025 Family Photo/ Church Directory Fund Raiser for Jack’s House of Hope

Our Grace Lutheran Confirmation Class is having a Family Photo/Church Directory Fund Raiser for Jack’s House of Hope, the new Friends of the Homeless Shelter on Sunday May 4 from 11:00 am – 3 pm and on Saturday May 10 from 4 pm – 7 pm in Luther Hall. Our own Julie VanFossen is our photographer for this event. There will be digital options and print options for both family photos and church directory. The confirmation class will be scheduling photos during the month of April. It would be great if everyone at Grace participated! The greater community is also invited.



Thank
You!

To my Grace Church family,

Thank you all for the Christmas gifts, flowers, blessings and prayers.

They all mean so much.

Blessings,
Norma Grywalski

Announcements



As always, the Gallery choir is looking to add members to the choir. If you like to sing, we would love to have you join us in praise and worship to our God. If you have questions, please let me know.

Jeff



The Grace General Scholarship is available to Grace graduates for their **first year of study** at a college, university or trade school. Consideration will be given only to active, participating members of the congregation. Applicants eligible for the Hammerstrom scholarship will not be considered. This scholarship is non renewable.

Applications are available in the office and need to be returned to the office no later than **April 30th**.



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 2025 graduates and their families are invited to a special breakfast for them on Sunday, May 18 at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The graduates will be honored during our worship service. 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 journey and forever keep you in His grace.

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 \$4000 for the school year. For information, go to www.Pierstorf.org. Complete the 2025-2026 application by visiting the website starting April 15th, 2025. The deadline for all applications is Monday, June 30th, 2025.

Outreach



Our support of the Tuscarawas County Friends of the Homeless continues. We still offer meals one Sunday a month. Unfortunately during COVID-19 we were forced to help in a different manner. We are taking monetary donations to support the ministry rather than provide homecooked meals. Your financial support is always appreciated.

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

Grace Outreach Board continues their Drive-Thru Grocery Bag Ministry the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10 am until supply runs out. The Outreach Board is looking for both monetary gifts and gifts of kind to support this vital ministry.

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.

Grocery size paper bags are also needed.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Please be Praying for...

All those serving in the armed forces, especially Christopher Smith, Seth Erickson, Connor Gwynne.

Rita Young
Paula Wolfe
Glenn Siber
Kay Bambeck
Nicole Willey
Shelly Stahl

Evelyn Ralston
Ruth Patrick
Bruce Siber
Darin Gibb
John Nelson

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 Bonnie 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

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 \$19.
You will be billed by Blossom's Florist.

Altar Flowers are available for the following dates.



- April 6th - 2 vases
- April 13th - 1 vase
- April 20th - 1 vase



Ladies of Grace Knotters

Our Grace knotters are in need of flat bed sheets (any size) to make quilts. If you have any you wish to donate, you may drop them off at the church office. Thank You!

Altar Guild

Tuesday,
Apr. 29th
9 am

Worship Readings

Sunday, Apr. 6th

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, Apr. 13th

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 19:28-40

Sunday, Apr. 20th

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, Apr. 27th

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31



Yes, on-line services are here to stay!

Now that the pandemic is over we are continuing to record our 10:30 service each Sunday and our 5 pm Contemporary service the second Saturday of the month. Weekly on-line services are part of our on-going ministry here at Grace.

Worship Assistants

SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP

<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>LAY READERS</u>	<u>DEACON/COMM. ASST.</u>
4/6	4/6 Sandy Gibb	4/6 Jim Gibb
4/13	4/13 Lynn Foust	4/13
4/20	4/20 Gale Limron	4/20
4/27	4/27 Jim Gibb	4/27

USHERS

Apr. 6 John Lorenz, Jim Heller, Ed Harper, Tim Keplinger
Apr. 13 Mike Sergent, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott
Apr. 20 John Stahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper
Apr. 27 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

SOUND

Apr. 6 Keith Lands
Apr. 13 Richard Elliott
Apr. 20 Tim Durben
Apr. 27 Richard Elliott



ALTAR GUILD

April: Donna Fox, Betty Kaser, Judy Martin
May: Holy Vesco, Susan Zimmerman, Chris Randles

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

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April 2025

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 Cub Scouts	2 2 pm Park Village - Communion	3 12pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	4 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru	5
6 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	7 9 am Knotters 7 pm Valley Voices	8 9 am Knotters 6:30 Cub Scouts	9 7 pm Boy Scouts	10 12pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir 7 pm Beekeepers - ORC	11	12 8 am Men's Breakfast 5 pm Grace Happens Contemporary Service
13 9 am Easter breakfast 10 am Worship Communion <u>Easter Egg Hunt</u> 	14 7 pm Valley Voices	15 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	16 7 pm Boy Scouts	17 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service 	18 6:30 Good Friday Service  <u>Church Office Closed</u>	19 9 am Altar Guild Decorate
20 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion 	21 7 pm Valley Voices	22 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 Cub Scouts	23 7 pm Boy Scouts	24 12pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir	25 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru <u>Messenger Deadline</u>	26
27 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	28 7 pm Valley Voices	29 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 Cub Scouts	30 7 pm Boy Scouts <u>Messenger Assembly</u>	<u>Family Photos Fundraiser</u> Sunday, May 4th, 2025 4 pm– 7 pm Saturday, May 10th, 2025 11 am - 3 pm 