

THE MESSENGER



2008

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

One Child - One Life - One World

One night long ago in the little town of Bethlehem a child was born to a teenage mother and a simple carpenter. That child born in utter obscurity visited by outcast Shepherds and foreign mystics would change the world forever. That child would open they eyes of the blind, unstop the ears of the deaf, heal the untouchable leper, give value to lives that had been deemed worthless by society, and call to task the leaders of his time to serve the needs of the common people not just the desires of the elite. That child has changed the course of millions of lives from then until now and that child is the reason we continue to pursue the values he lived, truth, love, joy, justice, hope, peace, compassion, kindness, generosity, and patience. Hard to believe one child could change things that much, but then this is of course no ordinary child, this is Jesus, the son of God. He came to save the world, he came to save you.

Now that one child that changed the world lives in you. You bear his name. You live according to his will, have hope because of his life, and serve because he served you first. So the question that remains for all of us that know this child, this savior, is simply how will we use our one life to continue to change the world for the better. What passion has he placed in your life that must be answered for your life to be complete? What truth will we tell, not only with our words but with the way we live our lives? What hope will we bring to others? How will we change the world? Or do you think that is too much to ask of an ordinary person like yourself? Well, maybe today is the day to remind yourself that you are no ordinary person, you are a child of God, you are filled with the Holy Spirit, and you were born to make a difference. Let's start living like children of God and discover together what Joy we can bring to the World. All because of one little child in a little town called Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas and Peace and

Prayers for All,

Pastor Jim Lewis

Pastor Jim Lewis, Senior Pastor

Pastor Marlin Drake, Visitation Pastor

Inside this issue:

Worship series	Page 2
Hymns & Carols	
Stewardship	Page 3
Prayer List info	Page 4
Thank you	
Meeting times and dates	
Poinsettias	
WELCA	Page 5
Moser Update	
Evangelism Board	Page 6-7
Young Peoples Ministry	Page 8
Christian Ed	Page 9
Worship info	Page 10-11
Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 12
Calendar	Page 13

Upcoming Worship Series

Here with Us :: Advent 2008

The great news of Advent is the Incarnation; God becomes flesh and dwells among us in Jesus Christ. This series will bring the comfort and reassurance of this season as we hear that God is near; with us. In our brokenness, God comes to us as the light of the world. Ever-increasing light is a metaphor for this season. This ever-increasing light points us beyond Christmas to Easter morning and we see that this baby Jesus is the resurrected Christ. Advent points to the resurrection and brings us back to our theme: Here with Us.

November 30, 2008

Title: **Here with Us...to Give Us Hope**

Texts: Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 7, 2008

Title: **Here with Us...to Call Us Back**

Texts: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 14, 2008

Title: **Here with Us...to Bring Us Joy**

Texts: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21, 2008 - **Children's Program - unified service at 9:30 AM**

Title: **Here With Us...Now**

Texts: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38



Advent & Christmas Hymn Singing

Advent & Christmas Hymns will be sung by request before each service in December. Come fifteen minutes before the service and join in the celebration.

The rich tradition of music that we enjoy during this season just never seems to fit into the shortness of the season. We hope that this time will offer you the opportunity to sing your favorite Christmas songs and still maintain an Advent worship service with its call to watch and pray for the coming of Christ in our lives.



Lessons and Carols Worship December 28

On December 28 our worship service itself will include many Christmas songs both old and new as they combine with words of prophecy and the gospel to tell the story of Jesus birth in an enjoyable and meaningful way. We will include communion at both services on this Sunday as well .

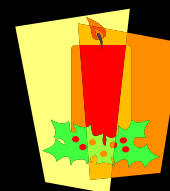
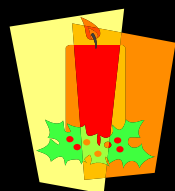
Come and worship, Come and worship,
Worship Christ the Newborn King!

Christmas Eve Worship

Family Candlelight @ 7:00 P.M.

Candlelight Service @ 11:00 P.M.

Both services include Holy Communion



Fall Stewardship Drive

As we approach the end of this calendar year and are about to begin a new year of ministry together we ask you to prayerfully consider your giving to the congregation and to turn in a pledge card to the church office so that we can responsibly and successfully plan the financial aspects of the ministry we share together. So far this year we have had 76 pledges turned in for the 2009 year representing a total amount of \$119,762. There are 8 new pledges included in that amount and 40 pledges that were turned in last year and have not been turned in this year. The average amount pledged for 2009 is \$1576 as compared to \$1339 in 2008. This represents an increase of 15% over last year's pledged amount.

Although that is good news and we are thankful for your faithfulness in these difficult financial times, we also realize that even with the 40 additional pledges from last year added in to this year's total amount it still comes up \$48,000 below the minimum we need in plate offerings to sustain the ministries we offer currently. There are many who are not in the habit of pledging but continue to give to the church and that will help to close this gap, however it does put us in a difficult place as we plan for our future in ministry when we do not have commitments from all of our members. If you have pledged in the past and have not yet turned in your pledge this year, please make every effort to do so, and if you have not been in the habit of pledging please prayerfully consider beginning this helpful practice of stewardship this year. Pledge cards are available on the table in the narthex and can be turned in to the church office or placed in the offering plate during our worship services.

Consider enrolling in our new *Simply Giving*® Program

Through *Simply Giving*®, your offerings are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic donation – weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly – the option is yours. Your donation is deposited into the congregation's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

Benefits to you and...Your Congregation

Simply Giving® is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your donations through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your donation is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten checkbooks or missed Sunday offerings.

But you're not the only one that benefits. Your congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping, and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.



A simple registration form is available in the narthex and in the church office for you to enroll in the program. Your completed registration form and a voided check from the account you want to make payments from is all it takes to get started. Do yourself a favor and help our congregation in the process, pick up a form today and start *Simply Giving*.

Can GRACE GO GREEN?

As we consider ways to care for our congregation, community, nation and world in more effective ways, the call to GO GREEN has become very prevalent. The amount of materials we waste each year in paper products, styrofoam containers, plastic, aluminum and other recyclable products continues to grow. We have placed recycling containers throughout the building for glass, plastic, and aluminum as well as containers for paper products. But how about limiting the amount of these materials we use in the first place. Think of the savings for the church and the environment offered by not printing 350 newsletters but instead emailing 200 and printing 150. How about not using paper and plastic-ware for our fellowship times and meals but instead taking the time to wash and reuse the dishes we already have. Going Green makes Good Sense for us and for the world we live in.

**PLANNING COUNCIL
NO MEETING**

**MINISTRY NIGHT
NO MEETING**

**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**
Sunday, December 14
10:10 AM
**This meeting will focus
primarily on the 2009
budget proposal.**

 **Thank you to the following people who helped assemble the November Messenger: Dorothy Morrison, Ruth Halter, Donna Fox and Marie Lorson, Norma Grywalski & Helen Sherman.**

Placing people on the Prayer List

Our weekly prayer list in the bulletin announcements provides a great way to support each other in prayer throughout the week. However, there have been several times when a person has been placed on the list with little information about who s/he is or what her/his needs are. This makes it difficult for us to know how long to keep a person on the prayer list and where or if they would like a visit, card, phone call, etc. In order to improve our ability to support one another we have developed a simple form for putting people on the prayer list. Blank forms will be available on the narthex table, at the office, and soon will be on the website. You can still call the secretary with names as well, but she will ask for the information on the form to keep on file here. Only the names will be printed in the bulletin as we have been doing, the additional information is simply for office use as we seek to serve you better. Forms are available on the narthex table.

Order your Poinsettia for Christmas

It's time to order Poinsettias for our Christmas Services. If you would like to purchase one they are \$11. Checks or cash donations can be given to Grace Lutheran Church by December 9th! Please use the form below to place your order.



POINSETTIAS

This poinsettia is dedicated to the Glory of God

Please circle and 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 services. You may pick up your poinsettia after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Mon., December 24th or during the week following Christmas beginning Weds., December 26th.

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 January's & February's free lunch and meals to the homeless shelter. We also need volunteers to serve lunches the third Wed. of each month for 2009. Please sign up in the narthex.



Thank you to the following volunteers who will prepare and deliver food for the **Homeless Shelter on December 28th by 6:00 PM.**

Ham 20 #: Jen McCulloch

Scalloped Potatoes for 20:
2 still needed

Corn to serve 20: Still needed

Green beans to serve 20: Still needed

Jell-o Salad 9x12: Janice Weber,
Wendy Mady, Glenda Sclater

Dinner Rolls 6 doz./ 4# soft butter:
Still needed

Christmas Cookies 4 doz.: Dana
Lewis, Sue Gafe, Holly Vesco

2- 2 lb 2.5 oz Can of Regular Coffee:
Andrea Lloyd

2 Gallons of Milk:Gale Limron

2-24 cans of Pop: Frances Moser,
Shirley Gafe, Kelly Fishley



Grocery Bag Ministry 2009



FEED THE HUNGRY

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with the Grocery Bag Ministry this year. We need new volunteer packers for 2009! We have made this job easier for you. The Food Pantry is now in Luther Hall, close to the church office. Please sign the list in the narthex if you are willing to pack the grocery bags for a month. One or two volunteers a month would be great.

What goes into a bag to feed the hungry? The food items are peanut butter, canned meat, vegetables, fruit cereal, soup, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, and spaghetti. Look in the Sunday bulletins to see which items are most urgently needed.

EVANGELISM BOARD

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with the Grocery Bag Ministry for this year. We have the year filled!

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

We are in need of meat, fruit, peanut butter pasta noodles, soup, and cereal.



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

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

New sign up sheets are posted for January's & February's free lunch and meals to the homeless shelter. We also need volunteers to serve lunches the third Wed. of each month for 2009. Please sign up in the narthex.

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.



Thank you to the following volunteers who will help serve our free lunch on **Wednesday, December 17th**

Leader: Liz Nelson

Volunteers: Jim & Diane Heller, Bob McCulloch, Tom Patton.

Volunteers for the Free Lunch should deliver their food donations to the church to the Luther Hall kitchen on **Tuesday, December 16th.**

Thank you to the following volunteers:

1- 9x13 pan of Marzetti: Frances Moser, Janice Weber, Liz Nelson **1 still needed**

5 loaves of Italian bread: Reba Snyder

Bagged Salad to serve 15: Bobbie Myers, Linda Bertle, Wendy Mady

2 Doz. Christmas Cutout cookies: Dorothy Morrison, Shirley Grafe, Kelly Fishley



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Share Your Ideas for Children's Ministry!

Young People's Ministry Board would like input from parents of Preschool through Fifth grade youth regarding church activities they would like to see sponsored by the church. We will be meeting on ministry night, January 13th @ 7:30. If you would be unable to attend please feel free to leave a note in our mailbox outside of the church office or you may send an e-mail to Chris Sergent at amerilandins@verizon.net.



College Care Packages

We will be sending care packages out in Feb. or Mar. of 2009 to college students and military personnel that are members of our church. Please put names and addresses in our mailbox outside the church office. You may also call the church office and the information will be forwarded to our board.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Young People's Ministry Board would like to thank the congregation for their support of the Thanksgiving Dinner. From donations of food, decorating, preparation, attending and cleaning up, you are all wonderful. Thank you!! \$680 was raised to help support our youth going to ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2009. Matching funds have been applied for from Thrivent Financial.



***ELCA National Youth Gathering
New Orleans, LA July 22-26, 2009***

Fundraisers

We will be having a number of fundraisers coming up for the National Youth Gathering. All of our fundraisers are being done in cooperation with the youth and adults from all five churches traveling to the gathering from our area. Please help us reach our goal by supporting the youth that have committed themselves to learning, growing and serving at this great gathering of our national church.

Stock Sales - \$25 per share partners you/your family with a youth going on the trip and gets you a postcard from the trip and free invitation to the stockholders dinner after the trip. Shares are available now at the church office.

Pizza Sales - We are selling Walnut Creek pizzas again this January. Pizzas will be available for pick up at church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3. \$8 for Cheese and \$10 for Pepperoni

Snow Shoveling - The winter months always seem to give us plenty of snow. Why not help us with the trip while we help you with the snow. For \$10 youth from the trip group will shovel your walks and drives for you. Call Pastor Jim to request help.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Offerings for Share-A-Christmas

We will continue to collect offerings each week during Sunday School to support Share-A-Christmas. Track our progress in the connecting room by following the stocking growth each week. Cash offerings will be used to purchase food baskets for families in need during the Christmas season.

We are also collecting socks & underwear, hats & mittens, and new books for children and youth that will also be give to the Share-A-Christmas charity to support families within our community. You may bring in any of these in-kind gifts and place them in the three gift wrapped boxes in the connecting room. They will be available beginning November 2 and donations can be collected through December 14.

A Clear View of Jesus' Birth

Luther Hall Lounge, 9:15 AM, December 7, 14, 28 & January 4

Dr. Kenneth Bailey strips away the mythology reflected in secular Christmas observances. He presents the "real story" of Jesus' nativity in light of the Gospel narratives and Middle East cultural patterns, which have changed little since New Testament times.

Was Jesus really born in a stable?

What special message does Jesus' birth have for women?

Where did the wise men come from?



Cooperative Confirmation

Cooperative Confirmation gets back in the swing of things in January. We will travel to St. Paul, Bolivar for our January gathering from 3:30-5:00 PM on the 18th.

We will be learning about the Lord's Prayer during this session. Each gathering begins with some hang-out time with great food and your sparkling personalities. After that we'll get you moving, thinking, and interacting with an activity, game, or challenge that gives you a memorable way of engaging the topic for the day. Then we finish things off with the learning lab where you will think, discuss, question, and pray with one another as we learn about the foundations of our faith together. WOW! Talk about a great way to spend 90 minutes!



Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Cooperative Confirmation events listed below.

January 18 - 3:30-5:00 PM The Lord's Prayer St. Paul, Bolivar

Save the Date - July 13-17
Vacation Bible School 2009

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 on the following dates: Dec. 14



ALTAR FLOWER NOTICE!!!!

Blossom's will be raising the price of Altar flower vases from \$15 to \$18 as of September 1st.

Nursery

Dec. 7 Cindy & Ashley Jerles
 Dec. 14 Pam Keller, Julie VanFossen
 Dec. 21 Star Jones, Jennifer Vaughan
 Dec. 28 Barbara Thompson, Audra Miceli

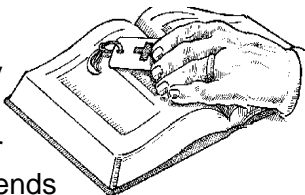
Order of St. Luke NONE	Altar Guild Tuesday, December 30th 9:00 a.m.
---	---

Children's Church

Dec. 7 Lisa Morris, Jaclyn Sergent
 Dec. 14 Karen & Hanna Marlowe
 Dec. 21 none
 Dec. 28 none

Pack Your Lunch With Grace Bible STUDY

You are invited to join Pastor Jim for a weekly time of fellowship and Bible Study. Pack your lunch and meet with friends at Luther Hall where you can eat together, share stories, and then spend a half-hour in Bible study as we look together at one of the lessons for the upcoming week. I hope you will join me for this excellent opportunity to be fed with the Word of God each week.



The group will meet on Thursdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Luther Hall.

We will not be meeting on December 25 or January 1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Worship Readings

Sunday, Dec. 7

Isaiah 40:1-11
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, Dec. 14

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, Dec. 21

2 Samuel 7:1-11
 16; Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec. 28

Lessons and Carols
 Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18
 Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:26-35, 38
 Matthew 1:18-25
 Luke 2:8-20
 Matthew 2:1-11
 John 1:1-14

October

SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP



ACOLYTES

Dec. 7 Hunter Stein
 Dec. 14 Andrew Yeager
 Dec. 21 Madeline & Olivia Bauer
 Dec. 28 Hannah Marlowe

LAY READERS

Dec. 7 Lynn Foust
 Dec. 14 Dale Weaver
 Dec. 21 Gale Limron
 Dec. 28 John Stahl

DEACONS

Dec. 7 Sue Grafe
 Dec. 14 none
 Dec. 21 Steve Zimmerman
 Dec. 28 none

USHERS

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

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

USHERS

Dec. 7 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Art Siber
 Dec. 14 Jerry Nelson, Jack Marshall, Ron Philabaum, Jim Gibb, Kent Philabaum, Mike Sergeant, Aaronn Sergent
 Dec. 21 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Phil Hammerstrom
 Dec. 28 Art Keener, William Page, Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, Joe Van Fossen

ACOLYTES

Dec. 7 Ashley Jerles
 Dec. 14 Anthony Miceli & Ethan Nelson
 Dec. 21 See above
 Dec. 28 Katie Cameron

LAY READERS

Dec. 7 R. Homrighausen
 Dec. 14 Nathan Vaughan
 Dec. 21 Sue Hartz
 Dec. 28 John Stahl

DEACONS

Dec. 7 none
 Dec. 14 John Stahl
 Dec. 21 none
 Dec 28 Jim Gibb



ALTAR GUILD

Rosann Patterson, Barbara Marshall, Louise Keplinger, Polly Bergquist, Joan Davis, Linda Bertle

gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

216 North Wooster Ave

Dover OH 44622-2948

330-343-6915

December 2008

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3 pm Communion Park Village 6 pm NIB setup 630 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Valley Voices	2 930 am Staff Meeting 6 pm NIB setup 630 pm Cub Scouts	3 6 pm NIB setup	4 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible study 6 pm NIB setup 6 pm Handbell Chior 7 pm Gallery Choir	5 6 pm NIB setup	6 3 pm Night in Bethlehem
7 8 am Worship Communion 915 am SCS 10:30 am Worship	8 10:30a Communion Park Village 630 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Valley Voices	9 9 am Knotters 12-4 pm Rejoice Women ORC 630 pm Cub Scouts	10 WELCA QUARTERLY 11:30 ORC	11 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible study 5:30-7 pm H.S. ORC 6 pm Handbell Chior 7 pm Gallery Choir	12 7 pm Scrapbookers	13 8 am Men's Breakfast
14 8 am Worship 9:15 am SCS 10:10 am Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Worship Communion 1 pm Jen Vaughan ORC	15 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Valley Voices	16 9:30 am Full Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Christmas Dinner	17 11-1 pm Free Lunch ORC	18 12 pm Sr. Fun Day 12-1 pm Bible study 530 pm Modern Homemakers 6 pm Handbell Chior 7 pm Gallery Choir	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship with Children's Christmas Peogram 3 pm Open House at Lewis'	22 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Valley Voices	23 6:30 Cub Scouts 7 pm Swingles	24 7 pm Family Candlelight Worship 11 pm Candle- light Worship	25 CHRISTMAS CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 4 pm Steve Wott ORC	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 8 am Worship 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion 6:00 pm Meal to home- less	29 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Valley Voices	30 9 am Altar Guild 6:30 Cub Scouts	31 730 pm Dr Mary Baer Circle 9:00a newslet- ter assembly— Luther Hall			