

THE MESSENGER

2018

Worship Schedule Sunday: 8 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Church School for all ages: 9:15 AM

Have a Seat, Please

And [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

After months of searching and saving, I was ready to buy new living room furniture. I found just what I had been looking for and the price was right. Of course, if I'd had a coupon or they had given me a "clergy discount," it would have been even better.

With new furniture coming, I needed to get rid of the old. So, I asked our custodian Glenn if he knew anyone from his church who could use it. I told him I had two very gently used, high quality loveseats and a recliner available. After a few days, he said he knew of someone who could use the furniture. I was pleased it would have a new home with someone who truly needed it.

On the Thursday, a week before Thanksgiving, Glenn asked if he could pick up the recliner on Saturday. (At least that's what I thought I heard.), "Sure!" I said, "I can do without the recliner."

On Saturday morning a U-Haul van pulls up in front of my house and I think "That's a lot of truck for a recliner." Turns out, the family is picking up more than the recliner. They're expecting to pick up all the furniture. I explain to Glenn I'll need the furniture for Thanksgiving company and they can't have it yet.

As he's telling them the disappointing news, I quickly survey my house and notice all the furniture in other rooms including two more recliners, another loveseat and a parson's bench (Of course, I have a parson's bench. What pastor doesn't?) I decide I can do without it. My family will just have to sit around the table for the day. I have plenty of chairs, just no comfy loveseats or recliners in my great room. We'll make do for a year.

I quickly ventured outside to tell Glenn and the expectant family to go ahead and take it, take it all. The woman receiving the furniture thanked me and hugged me with tears in her eyes. Her deep, sincere gratitude made my day and added another happy blessing to my Thanksgiving holiday.

With the furniture gone, I took a picture and texted my sister, "I've been robbed!" When family guests arrived on Thanksgiving, they wondered what happened to my furniture. "I moved it to the basement, so we'd have more room," I told them. "You don't have a basement," they remarked. "Then, I don't know where it is," I said.

As I write this, I still do not have my new furniture! Maybe next week? If not, I'm sure I'll manage. I've got plenty of options.

Not so for Mary and Joseph. When Mary gave birth to her firstborn son Jesus, they didn't even have a place to stay. There was no room for them in the inn.

When they settled in for that first Christmas night, their only option was a stable with no furniture. A manger, or feeding trough, would be our Savior's first bed. Coarse hay would be His mattress. Yet, from such a humble and harsh beginning would come great comfort and joy for all the world.

A lowly, rustic manger. A rough-hewn cross. A cold, dark tomb. Jesus endured them all so that we might be saved and enjoy the eternal glory and grace of heaven in a place prepared just for us.

"Have a seat," Jesus may say. "Make yourself comfortable. Make yourself at home."

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

Senior Pastor Donald	L. Rice Jr.
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Planning Council

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PLANNING COUNCIL

Next Meeting Jan. 8th, 2019 @ 6:30 PM



Attendance October 2018* Weekly Average: 138 Difference: -8(-5%)

Offerings October 2018* Total Offerings: \$15,354.00 Difference: -\$789.00 Weekly Average: \$3386.60 Difference: -\$489.40 (-12%)

Facts and Figures

Attendance October 2017* Weekly Average 146

Offerings October 2017* Total Offerings: \$16,143.00

Weekly Average: \$3876.00

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

Congregational Life

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

Hospitality

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

Property

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

Stewardship Development

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

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

Christian Faith and Life

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

Outreach

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

Since You Asked

Since You Asked...

Merry Christmas! Our Children's Christmas pageant is one the year's highlights. I look forward to it every Christmas. Do you have any idea when these pageants first began?

St. Francis of Assisi is widely credited with having created the very first Nativity play in Italy around 1223. St. Francis was prompted to come up with the idea of bringing to life the entire nativity scene because of the harsh realities of his day. Widespread illiteracy prevented people from reading the Bible for themselves. Very few could read and even fewer could read Latin, usually the only translation available. Another problem was the fact that Latin was also the predominant language used for worship services in churches in those days. A language which most of them didn't understand.

Always the ingenious reformer, St Francis came up with a novel idea. For him, it wasn't enough to just tell or recite the story of the first Christmas to people. St. Francis wanted to show them what it must have been like on the actual night of Jesus' birth. To achieve this, he set up a nativity scene replicating a stable with a manger and some hay. He added live animals, including donkeys, oxen, cattle and sheep. St. Francis then looked to the local villagers, including children, to enact the key roles of Mary and Joseph and the angels and shepherds. Needless to say, the world's first ever Nativity play was an unqualified success and has been repeated year after year ever since.





If you have always wanted to sing in the choir and were unable to commit because of time limitations, please consider joining the **Gallery Choir** for a short time in December as we prepare music for the Christmas Eve services. Adults as well as high school students are welcome. Rehearsals for these services will take place on two Thursday evenings, December 13th and 20st at 7:00 pm. Music can be picked up as early as December 9th as well as the first rehearsal. We meet in the choir room downstairs where the door is always open. Hope to see you there!

Soli Deo Gloria,

New Year Intermission

Following the Christmas holidays, Pastor Rice will enjoy some rest, relaxation and recharging by taking vacation time December 31 through January 7, 2019. He will return to the office the morning of January 8 in time to prepare for the evening's Planning Council meeting.

In the event of a "pastoral emergency," you may contact Pastor Steve Patrick or the church office.

Pastor Lisa Arledge of Oasis Outreach Opportunity in Akron will preside and preach during the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services on January 6, 2019. We look forward to her visit and her sharing God's Good News and recent developments at Oasis Outreach. The Grace Endowment Board supports this ministry with an annual

gift. The Thursday Noon Bible

Study will be on hiatus December 27 and January 3. Sessions begin again on January 10.



Baptism Blessings

We welcome Nora Rose-Ellen Hoffman into the family of God and pray a lifetime filled with God's loving grace. Nora is the daughter of Derek and Angela (Tedesco). She was born on June 12, 2018 in Dover.

Nora's baptismal sponsors are Tori Tedesco and Kyle Mizer. Fred and Becky Tedesco and Robert and Arlene Hoffman are her grandparents.

May God bless this young girl with the fullest measures of His love, peace and joy as she grows



Looking and Moving Forward

The congregation overwhelmingly approved the 2019 budget as proposed by the Grace Budget Committee and Planning Council. The vote was 73-1. The budget for 2019 is \$290,520 which is only a \$90 increase over 2018. The annual meeting was conducted in two sessions on November 18.

The congregation unanimously returns Dr. Nicole Willey for a second three-year term on the Grace Endowment Board. Other members of the board include President Dwayne Shepherd, Secretary Mike Sergent,

congregational MEETING

First Day, First Communion

Seven Grace youth will celebrate their **First Communion** on the **First Sunday in Advent,** December 2, 2017 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. These young people were instructed in basic Lutheran doctrine and congregational practices by Pastor Rice on November 10 or November 13.

This year's First Communicants taking their next big step in their life-long in the church include:

Gavin Burrier, son of Brett and Karla Burrier of Dover; Emily Flood, daughter of Tom and Debbie Flood of Dover; Tommy Foust, son of Tom and Deb Foust of Dover; Alison Linkenhoker, daughter of Laura Hanna of Dover; Peyton Vanfossen, daughter of Joe and Julie Vanfossen of Dover; Jacob Vaughan, son of Nathan and Jennifer Vaughan of Dover; and Jack Wolfe, son of John and Sarah Wolfe of Dover.



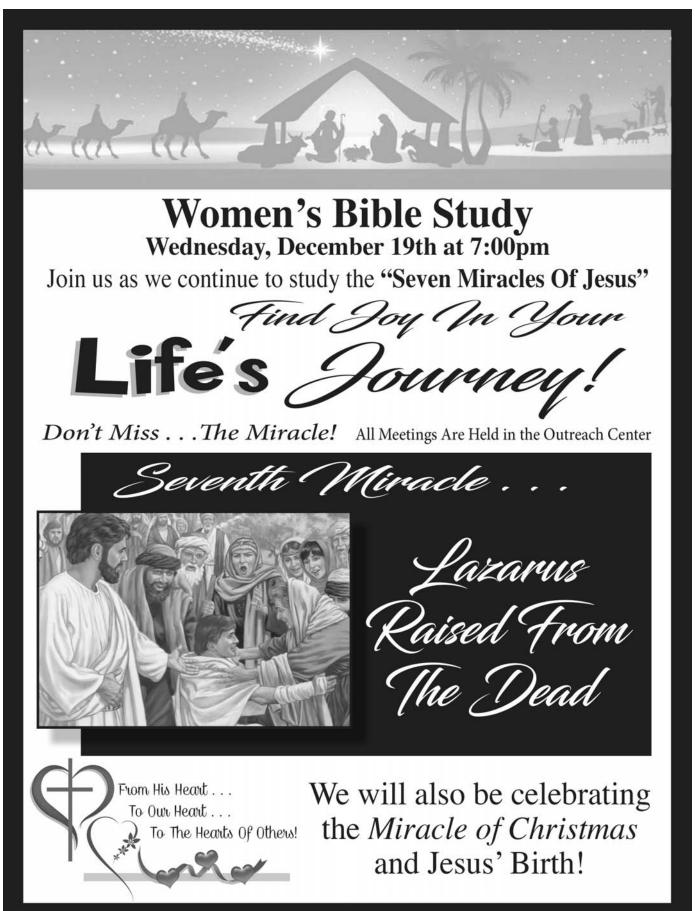
Having the youth prepared to take Holy Communion by the First Sunday in Advent allows them to fully participate in our worship with their families throughout the coming Holy Season. It could be considered an early Christmas gift from our Savior who offers himself to us all in this Blessed Sacrament.

We would like to thank the congregation for your spectacular support you gave us with the Park Street Pizza fund raiser. We are sincerely grateful to have a congregation who aids our youth group activities. We appreciate that you see how these trips benefit our youth. We raised over \$1500.00 for our trip to the 2019 Mission Trip to Savannah, GA. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness!





This month the youth group will have various activities that include Salvation Army Bell ringing at Dover Buehler's on Dec. 6th from 4pm– 8pm, Christmas Caroling on Dec. 4th from 2pm - 4pm and a lock-in over Christmas break on Fri. Dec. 28th.





END OF THE YEAR **NOTICE!!**

Time is running out . . . to contribute toward your 2018 Offerings.

Your 2018 Offerings and Financial Support <u>must be received by</u> 10:00am on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2018.

Thank You for your continued support through your weekly offerings and special project gifts. Any questions please contact

Beverly Frantz 330-343-0277 or the Church Office.

Your 2018 Giving Statements should be ready to mail by the end of January.

Beverly J. Frantz - Grace Lutheran Church Treasurer

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.

ncial Plan

Stewardship Committee Tom Margo 330-260-0150

Winter Choir Retreat Saturday, January 12, 2019 10:00 – 1:00 Fellowship Hall Grace Lutheran Church

We will meet in the Choir room/Fellowship Hall. Current members and anyone interested in singing in the Gallery Choir are welcome to attend. We will be reading music that will be presented in worship from January through May. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Bring your voice and a small salad or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!

Linda Hanna, Choir Director

Page 8 Announcements



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 trees on Monday, Dec. 10th by 9:00 am. Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of personal products to Harbor House. The items donated are things we are always in need of and a true blessing. All donations are an investment for change in the lives of the women and children seeking shelter with us and are very much appreciated!

Blessings to You! Harbor House Evy Steele Donation Coordinator

A special thank you to Joe Penrod for delivering the items to Harbor House!!!



Don't Forget



Altar Guild Dinner

Tuesday, December 4th, 2018 5:45 pm Outreach Center Current Altar Guild Member: \$12.00 Retired Altar Guild Member: FREE



To my many friends at church,

Thank you for my many inspirational cards - birthday and homebound too.

It is so nice to be remembered in this way.

Thanks again. Many Blessings, Norma Grywalski

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Women ELCA

Lutheran World Relief Final Project Numbers for 2018



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



KNOTTERS

No Knotting in December.





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

ALDI	Buehlers	<u>Wal Mart</u>	Big Lots
Peanut Butter	Vegetables (1)	Spaghetti Sauce	Soup (1)
Mac-N-Cheese	Corn		Chicken
Potatoes	Green Beans	Dollar General	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 October, we distributed 135 bags, and have already distributed 98 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 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. FEED



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

Ella DeVore **Glenn Siber** Mildred Schauer **Francis Moser** JoAnn Hammond Jim Gipson Mary Marino Norma Grywalski **Cathy Nardecchia Shirley Johnson Molly Bauer** Tom Cox **Buffy Gray Carol Betche** Karen Page **Mary Boyer**

William Page **Tracy Debord Dale Kreisher Janet Murphy** Art Keener **JoAnn Miller** Violet Tomcho Wayne Page **Dorothy Hanna** Louise Harris **Tom Grezlik Jane Buehler** Lexi Gray **Nada Georgier Noreen West**

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.



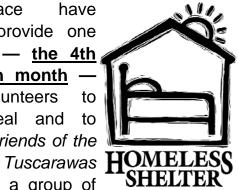
With Deepest Sympathy

Our deep and heartfelt sympathies are with the family and friends of Robert "Hank" Ryan. 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 need volunteers and to provide the meal and to deliver it to the Friends of the Homeless of 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 December 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

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

Thank you to the volunteers who prepared and delivered food to the **Homeless** Shelter on November 25th, 2018.

December's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, Dec. 23rd, 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.

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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. 30th - 1 vase



Dec. 2nd - Karla & Evan Burrier Dec. 9th - Faith & Natalie Bambeck Dec. 16th - Deb & Jacob Flood Dec. 23rd - No Children's Church Christmas Pageant

Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tues. Dec. 4th, 2018 5:45 pm Altar Guild Dinner Outreach Center

Sun. Dec. 23rd , 2018 1:00 pm Decorate for Sunday, Dec. 2nd Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Mark 12:35-37

Sunday, Dec. 16th Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec. 9th Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

<u>Sunday, Dec. 23rd</u>

Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-47

Monday, Dec. 24th

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

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 <u>every</u> 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.

E-mail →Me «

Worship Assistants

SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIPACOLYTESLAY READERSCOMMUNION ASST.Dec. 2Dec. 2Liz MillerDec. 2Dec. 9Dec. 9Lynn FoustDec. 9Dec. 16Nancy WilsonDec. 16				USHERS Tim Kepling Richard Ellio Steve Zimmer Jim Heller Scott Eber Edward Harp David Ellio	ger ott man t per				
SUNDAY 9:30 AM WORSHIP Christm					nas Eve Worship				
ACOLYTES LAY READERS CO			OMMUNION ASST. LAY READERS						
Dec. 23	Dec. 23	NA Dec. 23 G		ec. 23 Gale	e Limron Dec. 24 - 7:00 p		m Lynn Foust		
Dec. 30	Dec. 30	NA 7 pm Dec. 24 Deborah Horn		Dec.	Dec. 24 - 10:00 pm Rick Homrighausen		ausen		
					an Alaha Ia		USHERS	m Manag Dag Stahl	
	Dec. 2 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl Dec. 9 Mike Sergent, Jim Gibb, Jimm Morris, Brody Morris								
	Dec. 9 Mille Sergent, sin Glob, sinni Works, Dody Morks Dec. 16 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden					L			
SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP Dec. 23 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen Dec. 30 WELCA									
	COLYTH	25	D	LAY REA				EACONS	
Dec. 2 Dec. 9			Dec Dec				Dec. 2 Dec. 9		
Dec. 9 Dec. 16				c. 16 Jim Gibl			Dec. 9 Dec. 16		



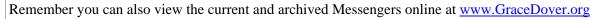
ALTAR GUILD

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

January: 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.



Grace Evangelical Luthera		racedover.org			Decem	ber			
216 North Wooster Ave Dover OH 44622-2948 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church									
Sun	Mon	Тие	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion <u>Advent Workshop</u>	2:30 pm Communion Park Village - S 5 pm Headstart - FH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 5:45 pm Altar Guild Dinner - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7 pm Boy Scouts	 12-1 pm Bible Study 4 pm Youth Bell Ringing - Buehler's 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir 	8 am Harcatus - LH	8 am Men's Breakfast			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
8 am Worship Communion	10:30 am Communion Park Village - N	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study					
9:30 am SCS	6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH			6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts					
10:30 am Worship Communion	6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH			7 pm Gallery Choir					
2 pm Youth Christmas Caroling	7 pm Valley Voices								
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
8 am Worship	5 pm Headstart - FH	6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study	6 pm Bell Choir				
Communion 9:15 am SCS	6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Valley Voices		7 pm Women's Bible Study - ORC	6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	7 pm Gallery Choir				
10:30 am Worship Communion				7 pm Gallery Choir	<u>Messenger</u> <u>Deadline</u>				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
9:30 am Worship Communion	7 pm Worship Communion	* marine		12-1 pm Bible Study					
1 pm Altar Guild	10 pm Worship	(CAL)		6:30 pm Girl Scouts					
5 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	CHRISTMAS	Christmas			<u>Youth Lock-In</u>				
<u>Children's Christmas</u>	EVE				<u>Messenger</u> <u>Assembly</u>				
30	31			+	<u> </u>				
9:30 am Worship	NEW YEAR'S EVE		22	SE	2				

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THE MESSENGER