

THE MESSENGER

2015

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

Big News and Bigfoot

And [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation." Mark 16:15

Sit down and hold on to your seat! I've got some big news! I CAN TEXT NOW!

After holding out, making excuses and just ignoring the matter, I finally gave in to peer pressure and technology. I got a Samsung Galaxy S5 for Christmas. I also received a book, *Galaxy S5 for Dummies*. You see, it's a smart phone, but its owner has a lot to learn.

So now you know how I spent much of my Christmas vacation. Chapter by chapter, page by page; I studied, practiced and reviewed until I got the hang of it. I'm now texting and wondering "What took me so long? What held me back?"

Family, friends, co-workers and board directors beware. Pastor Rice has a smart phone and he's not afraid to use it. Your text is on the way. Or, you may have already been hit.

I am totally amazed how fast this good news gets around. It seems even Bigfoot knows. I've got the text to prove it.

After mentioning him during a Sunday sermon, he texted me a "thanks for the shout out." When I responded with an invitation for a special appearance here, he declined. "Unfortunately, Pastor Rice, I do not make personal appearances," he remarked. "I need to maintain my elusiveness in order to keep my title of World Champion at Hide and Seek."

Big news sure gets around. It even reaches the wooded wildernesses of Tuscarawas County and beyond.

Good News gets around, too. The Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, is greater than any big news. It's the biggest news ever! It travels further, reaches deeper and embraces wider expanses of creation than any text or other mere human communication ever could. What's more, this Good News changes lives for good and forever. It is God's promise of mercy, covenant of love and assurance of eternal life.

Jesus calls each and every one of us to share his Good News with all creation. With such a variety of communication tools available to us, surely we can find one to use that readily expresses our love for Jesus and how much he's done and does for us. Word of mouth. Pen and paper. E-mail. Text. Smoke signals. The opportunities are limited only by our imaginations and our commitments to share Good News with others. There's nothing holding us back and every reason to move forward into all the world around us.


As for Bigfoot, I'm still working on him. Maybe he'll show up in disguise. I told him if he wears a bathrobe, people will think he's me. He said, "Lol! Might work!"

Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr.

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Planning Council

**PLANNING
COUNCIL**
Next Meeting
March 10th, 2015
@ 6:45 PM



Facts and Figures

<p>Attendance December 2014*</p> <p>Weekly Average: 176 Difference: +16 (+10%)!!! Christmas Eve: 348</p> <p>Offerings December 2014*</p> <p>Total: \$19,335.30 Difference + \$1,658.30 Weekly Average: \$4833.83 Weekly Difference: +1298.43 (+4%) *December 2014 had four Sundays. Christmas Eve 2014: \$2374.55 Christmas Offering 2014: \$6,618.00</p>	<p>Attendance December 2013</p> <p>Weekly Average: 160 Christmas Eve: 369</p> <p>Offerings December 2013</p> <p>Total: \$17,677.00 Weekly Average: \$3535.40</p> <p>December 2013 had five Sundays. Christmas Eve 2013: \$2066.00 Christmas Offering 2013: \$13,623.00</p>
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2014-2016 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Jimm Morris - President Lynn Foust - Vice President
 Susan Zimmerman - Secretary Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

Congregational Life

Lynn Foust - Director
 Liz Nelson
 Melody Rader
 Elaine Margo
 Deborah Horn
 Bonnie Richardson
 Jim Heller

Property

Vacant- Director
 Howard Stein
 Ed Harper
 John Stahl
 Richard Elliott
 Jeff Hootman
 Betsy Morris

Christian Faith and Life

Marcie Castricone - Director
 Linda McFadden
 Debbie Flood
 Karen Slovak
 Faith Bambeck
 Ashley Eick
 Kim Gray
 (Rhonda Fisher, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

Deb Foust-Director
 Cindy Jerles
 Bobbie Cox
 Sarah Wolfe
 JoAnn Bower

Stewardship Development

Nathan Vaughan
 Tom Margo
 Ron Stahl
 Jill Hootman
 Linda Osentoski

Outreach

Charles Castricone– Director
 Dorothy Morrison
 John Wolfe
 Scott Ebert
 David Elliott
 Holly Vesco

Senior Pastor: Rev. Donald L. Rice Jr.
Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Rhonda Fisher
Organist: Joseph W. Palmer
Interim Assistant Organist: Beverly Frantz
Director of Music/Gallery Choir: Roberta Myers
Secretary: Lisa Morris
Treasurer: Beverly Frantz
Custodian: Glenn Mitchell

Since You Asked...

Since You Asked...

I noticed baptized children receive quite a few gifts on this special occasion. I don't sit close enough to see what they all are. Could you enlighten me?

Grace Lutheran presents a baptized child with several gifts and mementos at baptism. It is a day of celebration and we pray these gifts enhance the significance of the day for the child, parents and sponsors (godparents). These gifts include:

An embossed baptismal napkin is used to dry the brow of the child. This memento is usually embroidered with a baptismal dove or scalloped shell.

A baptismal candle reminds us of Jesus' words "Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

A Dutch Cradle Cross is engraved with the Biblical citation Matthew 18:4. (I do not know the tradition behind this gift. If anyone does, I'd be happy to hear from you.)

A baptismal certificate is a keepsake record of the day's event. A Bible Storybook shares God Word as the child grows in God's grace.

Cross My Heart: Jesus Touches Our Lives with His Love

Our midweek evening Lenten worship services begin Ash Wednesday at 6:45 in the sanctuary. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. The Wednesday evening services continue through March 25. A Soup and Sandwich Supper precedes these services at 5:30 p.m. in Luther Hall.

Our Lenten theme this year is: *Cross My heart: Jesus Touches Our Lives with His Love*. Each Wednesday a guest presenter will relate how Jesus loved him and changed his life. Each guest travels here from Biblical times and gives eye witness testimony of Jesus' love for him. These personal accounts continue during Holy Week on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Lenten Schedule of Appearances

Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday: Lazarus
 Feb. 25: The Wine Steward of Cana
 Mar. 4: The Loud Leper
 Mar. 11: Boy with the Loaves and Fishes
 Mar. 18: The Pharisee's Lawyer
 Mar. 25: Child of Capernaum

Holy Week Guests

April 2: Maundy Thursday: John the Beloved
 April 3: Good Friday: Malchus, the High Priest's Slave



Announcements

And the Survey Says...



Grace Lutheran Planning Council will be conducting a survey on Sunday, February 15 concerning our summer worship schedule. Pastor Rice and Council have been approached with suggestions that we have one service during the summer months.

The one service would be held at 9:30 a.m. June through August. Two services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. would resume the first Sunday in September and continue through the last Sunday May.

Since this is a significant change and a major break from tradition, Planning Council has decided to poll the congregation for feedback. A survey will be placed in all bulletins at both services on February 15. It will ask whether you think this is a good idea or not. It will also provide space for comments.

Many congregations have adopted a summer month schedule and have seen no significant variable in attendance or giving. Some actually see a larger attendance and some see a bit less. Many invite the opportunity for people from both services to mix, mingle and worship together. It also provides a means to adapt to summer activity and vacation schedules.

Sunday School would go on hiatus June through August, giving Sunday School teachers, helpers and students a summer break. This can be seen as having both benefits and drawbacks. Sunday School would follow the two worship service schedule September through May.

Please take time to complete the February 15 survey and offer you thoughts on the matter. You may place your survey in the day's offering plate or turn it into the office that week.

Thank you for your careful and prayer consideration.

Fellowship Opportunities for All Ages

February 15: Sweetheart Covered Dish Dinner in Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Bring your favorite covered dish. Desserts, beverage and table service will be provided.

February 18-March 25: Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in Luther Hall. Lenten Worships follow at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary.

March 1: Family Swim at the Ramada Inn in Strasburg. Watch for updates and sign-up sheets.

April 5: Easter Breakfast at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Free-will offering to support 2015 Youth Mission Trip.

Youth Activities

February 22: Youth Planning Meeting at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School Hour) in Youth Room. Chicken BBQ tickets distributed and Atwood Retreat planning

February 27-28: Atwood Retreat. Contact Larry Wallick or Rhonda Fisher for sign-up sheets and other information.

March 29: Easter Egg Hunt following 10:30 a.m. service for children through 4th grade
Chicken BBQ fundraiser for 2015 Youth Mission Trip.

April 5: Easter Breakfast fundraiser for 2015 Youth Mission Trip



Lutheran World Relief
Projects for 2014

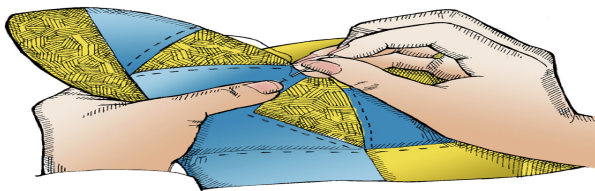


Quilts: 40 Personal Care Kits: 32
 Soap: 100 Baby Care Kits: 14
 School Kits: 8
 Check out the poster in Luther Hall to see where all our hard work is going!



Tuesday, February 17th
1:00 pm

Hostesses: Andrea Lloyd
 Topic: Lent: Penitence,
 Pilgrimage, Preparation
 (Resource for the
 Women of the ELCA)



KNOTTERS

**Tuesday,
 February 10th, 2015
 9:00 AM**

**LENTEN SOUP AND
 SANDWICH SUPPER
 SIGN-UP**

During the Lenten Season, our congregation offers a soup and sandwich supper on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. This followed by our midweek Lenten Worship Service at 6:45 p.m. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Midweek Wednesday suppers and services continue through March 25.

Please sign-up to provide soup and dessert for one of our Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers. Sandwiches will be coordinated with your soup of choice. Sandwich provisions will be made available each week for quick and easy assembly before the meal.

Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m. On average, 40 people attend each week. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you.



Soup
 & Sandwich
Lenten Meals

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 Dec., we distributed 124 bags, and have already distributed 126 in January. 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 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 & Richard Martineau.**

**Ella DeVore
William Page
Mary Ann Gray
Dan Urfer
Genny Peterson
Roberta Brokaw
Rosann Patterson
Marie Lorson
Sherri Weidman
Donald Roseblossom
Ashley Smith
Richard Bleininger
Kaye Bayani Keitch
Jody Bowman
Bill & Maxine Hawk**

**Carol Davidson
Joel Rice
Vic Gessner
Charlie Gwyer
Martha Bearducci
Mildred Schauer
Geraldine Kiehl
Dorothy Borland
Randy Case
Wendy Harrison
JoAnn Hammond
Walter Heck
Karol Lindow
Sherry Botkin
Howard Stein**

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 Caring Christian Condolences

Our deep and heartfelt sympathies are with the family and friends of Robert Phillips & Helen Frantz-Testa. (Mother of Rick Frantz)

May the Lord embrace these families 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 March 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 (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 will prepare and deliver food for the **Homeless Shelter on February 22nd**.

February's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, March 22nd 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.

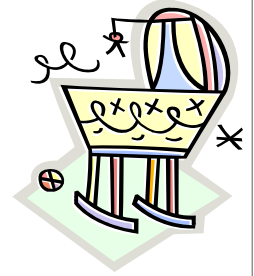
Altar Flowers are available for the following dates.



- February 8 - 2 vases
- February 22 - 2 vases
- March 1 - 2 vases
- March 15 - 1 vase
- March 22 - 2 vases
- March 29 - 2 vases

Nursery Care Available

Karla Burrier



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- Feb. 1 - JoAnn & Sydney Bower
- Feb. 8 - Marcie & Grace Castricone
- Feb. 15- Bobbie & Shauna Cox
- Feb. 22 - Jennifer Vaughan & Sarah Wolfe

Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tuesday,
February 24th
9:00 am

Sunday, Feb. 1st

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, Feb. 8th

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-12, 21c
1 Corinthians 1:29-39
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, Feb. 15th

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, Feb. 22nd

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

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
2/1	2/1 Sandy Gibb	2/1 Holly Vesco	Tim Keplinger
2/8	2/8 Gale Limron	2/8	Richard Elliott
2/15	2/15 Kim Gray	2/15	Steve Zimmerman
2/22	2/22 Terry Miller	2/22	Jim Heller
			Scott Ebert
			Edward Harper
			David Elliott

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

USHERS

Feb. 1 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl

Feb. 8 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Butch Morris, Maguire Morris

Feb. 15 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Howard Stein

Feb. 22 William Page, Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, Joe Vanfossen, John Wolfe

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.
2/1	2/1 John Stahl	2/1
2/8 Nick Castricone	2/8 Betsy Morris	2/8 Deborah Horn
2/15	2/15 Jim Gibb	2/15
2/22	2/22 Rick Homrighausen	2/22

ALTAR GUILD

February: Louise Keplinger, Joan Davis, Linda Bertle, Janice Weber, Marcie Castricone

March: Judy Martin, Bonnie Richardson, Pam Keller, Carol Betche, Elaine Margo



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



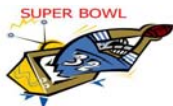






gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
 216 North Wooster Ave
 Dover OH 44622-2948
 330-343-6915

February 2015

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8 am Worship Communion</p> <p>9:15 am SCS</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Communion</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>2:30 pm Communion Park Village - South</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH</p> <p>7 pm Valley Voices</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC</p> <p>4 pm TOPS - ORC</p> <p>6 pm Girl Scouts - LH</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12-1 pm Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm Bell Choir</p> <p>7 pm Gallery Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8 am Men's Breakfast</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>8 am Worship Communion</p> <p>9:15 am SCS</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Communion</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 am Communion Park Village - North</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH</p> <p>6:30 pm Property Board Mtg.</p> <p>7 pm Valley Voices</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9 am Knotters</p> <p>10 am Rejoice Women</p> <p>4 pm TOPS - ORC</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12-1 pm Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm Bell Choir</p> <p>7 pm Gallery Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>8 am Worship Communion</p> <p>9:15 am SCS</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Communion</p> <p><u>Sweetheart Covered</u> <u>Dish Dinner</u></p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH</p> <p>7 pm Valley Voices</p>  <p>Presidents' Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC</p> <p>1 pm Ladies of Grace</p> <p>4 pm TOPS - ORC</p> <p>4:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</p> <p>6 pm Girl Scouts - LH</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 pm Lenten Supper</p> <p>6:45 pm Lenten Service</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>12-1 pm Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm Bell Choir</p> <p>7 pm Gallery Choir</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8 am Worship Communion</p> <p>9:15 am SCS</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Communion</p> <p>6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 pm Girl Scouts-LH</p> <p>7 pm Valley Voices</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 am Altar Guild</p> <p>12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC</p> <p>4 pm TOPS - ORC</p> <p>6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 pm Lenten Supper</p> <p>6:45 pm Lenten Service</p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12-1 pm Bible Study</p> <p>6 pm Bell Choir</p> <p>7 pm Gallery Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>9 am Messenger Assembly</p> </div>	<p>28</p> <p>YOUTH RETREAT AT ATWOOD</p>