

THE MESSENGER

2018

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

Old Lang's Sign

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for He is gracious and song of praise is fitting. Psalm 147:1

We've probably all heard of the little boy who happily sang from his pew about *Gladly, the cross-eyed bear* (Gladly the cross I'd bear). But it's not just little tykes who sing the darndest things, adults do it, too.

Can you imagine? Someone actually sang *A maze of grapes, How sweet and round...* (Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...) I wonder if that person ever found his way out of that fruity labyrinth. At least he won't go hungry.

Christmas season is particularly vulnerable to musical malapropisms. As the children's choir sang "Away in a Manger," one young singer was sure *The cattle are glowing...* In another instance, a child was confidently positive *The cattle are loaded...* (The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes...) Either the cows were radioactive or they had indulged in a bit too much Christmas cheer. Whatever the case, it sure makes for an interesting manger scene. Maybe the wise men should be bringing a Geiger counter, iodide and aspirin.

One of my favorite gaffes comes from "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" Though some youngsters may sing of Harold the Angel, it was an adult who insisted the carol's lyrics included *Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners rest a while (God and sinners reconcile).* This rendering surely invites a yuletide theological discussion.

And there are more; many, many more. I'm sure you, dear reader, could certainly add a few of your own to the list.

Though we try to honor the lyricist's artfully chosen words and best intentions, sometimes we just don't get it exactly right. What's far more important, though, is what's in our hearts. We when we sing hymns or intone a carol, we joyfully resound, filled and overflowing with praise, thanksgiving and holy reverence to our ever good and always gracious God.

As we enter 2018, may we remember the words of St. Paul and his encouragement to "Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say, Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4) Taken to heart, this gladsome guidance will make for an especially happy New Year in the Lord.

By the way, I knew Old Lang. He was an old acquaintance of mine. He lived with Mrs. Lang in a beautiful house he built himself along the Ohio River just west of Hanging Rock. Old Lang's sign was in his front yard. But for the life of me, what it said I can never bring to mind.

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.

Planning Council	Pg. 2
Since You Asked	Pg. 3
Announcements	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

Page 2 THE MESSENGER

Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL

Next Meeting
January 9th
@ 6:30 PM



Facts and Figures

Attendance November 2017

Weekly Average: 168 Difference: -2 (-1%) Weekly Average 170

Offerings November 2017

Total Offerings: \$14,614.00 Difference: +\$838.75 (+6%) Weekly Average: \$3443.81 Difference: +\$209.69 (+6%) **Offerings November 2016**

Attendance November 2016

Total Offerings: \$13,775.25 Weekly Average: \$3653.50

2016-2017 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Lynn Foust - President Jim Heller - Vice President Christine Sergent - Secretary Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

Congregational Life

Jim Heller - Director

Susie Erickson
Elaine Margo
Liz Miller
Liz Nelson
Melody Rader

Property

John Nelson- Director

Ed Harper
Jeff Hootman
Audra Miceli
Betsy Morris
Nathan Vaughan
Larry Wallick

Christian Faith and Life

Faith Bambeck- Director

Julie Brothers
Karla Burrier
Ashley Eick
Debbie Flood
Tiffany Shepherd

(Rhonda Fisher, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

Deb Foust-Director

Bobbie Cox Melissa Engstrom Cindy Jerles

Traci Smith Sarah Wolfe

Tom Margo - Director

Stewardship Development

Jill Hootman Keith Lands Craig Rader

Ron Stahl

Outreach

Joe Penrod- Director

Joe Erickson

Tanna Loveday

Judy Martin

Paul McFadden

John Wolfe

Scott Ebert (church sign)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Donald L. Rice Jr.

Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Rhonda Fisher

Organist: Linda Hanna

Choir:

Secretary: Lisa Morris Treasurer: Beverly Frantz Custodian: Glenn Mitchell Page 3 THE MESSENGER

Since You Asked

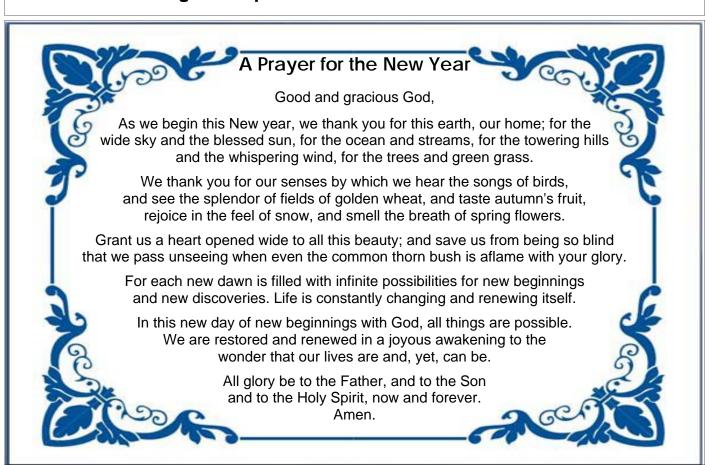
Since You Asked...

I've enjoyed your columns about Bible verses. I know the shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35, "Jesus wept." So, I'm wondering what is the longest verse?

The **longest verse** in the Bible is Esther 8:9. It contains 78 words. Rather than print them here, I invite you to look them up. The verse is part of the passage detailing Esther's rescue of the Jews from the deceitful and wrathful plotting of Mordecai.

What would you guess is the **longest book** in the Bible? Psalms has the most chapters with 150, but it is not the longest book. That distinction goes to Jeremiah with 33,002 words. Genesis' 32,046 words take second place. Psalms comes in third with 30,147. Remember some of the Psalms are short, some with only a few verses. Psalm 118 has only 2 verses, which makes it the shortest chapter in the Bible.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. It has 176 verses and includes



Page 4 THE MESSENGER

Endowment Annual Report

GRACE LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Grace Endowment trustees are pleased to announce that the 2017 donations exceeded \$69,000. Please see the attached treasurer's report for details of donations. Rebecca Eberle and Mark Wilhelm, trust officers from Huntington Bank, will meet with our trustees for an annual review at the January 2018 meeting. The Trustees voted to have the 2017 investment strategy and review performed in January instead of July.

The Grace Endowment fund was established to fund Christian endeavors within our congregation, community and the world. The trustees meet four times per year to gift most of the earnings from the Endowment. The trustees are approved by the congregation and can serve two consecutive terms for three years each.

The following trustees serve on the board, Liz Nelson-Treasurer, Mike Sergent-Secretary, Andrea Samsa, Nicole Willey and myself Dwayne Shepherd-Chair. The Pastor, church treasurer, and council president may attend the trustee's meeting as ex-officio.

To request a gift, contact the church office to pick up a requisition form. The requisition must be in good order and submitted back to the church office no later than two weeks prior to the next trustee meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July and October at 7:00 pm. Requests are reviewed and discussed at each meeting to determine if it meets the criteria set forth in the founding documents of the fund.

The trustees look forward to carrying out this valuable mission throughout 2018 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwayne Shepherd

Chair

Page 5 THE MESSENGER

Endowment Grants

GRANTS PAID 2017	1/24/2017	1/25/2017	7/24/2017	10/24/2017	Year-to-date
GLC Building Fund	\$ 2,844.75	\$ 2,830.79	5 2,830 79	\$ 2,830.79	\$ 11,337.12
GLC General Fund	2,844.75	2,830.79	2,830.79	2,830.79	11,337.12
GLC Vacation Bible School	3,000.00				3,000.00
GLC Mission Trip Fund	3,289.00			6,075.00	9,364.00
GLC Grocery Bag Ministry			3,000.00		3,000.00
GLC Hospitality Ministry				4,500.00	4,500.00
GLC General Scholarship Fund		4,000.00			4,000.00
Leadership Tuscarawas	1,000.00			2,000.00	3,000.00
First Evang Lutheran Church Mission Trip		3,000.00			3,000.00
Concordia Theological Seminary		1,500.00			1,500.00
Ignite Life Pacific College		500.00			500.00
Luscarawas County Literacy Coalition		750.00			750.00
WELCA: School Kit Fund			955.20		955.20
Oasis Outreach: Safe House Ministry			3,000.00		3,000.00
Chaplaincy Partnership: Retreat			1,600.00		1,600.00
Leaders of Tomorrow				1,000.00	1,000.00
The Compass Center				3,500.00	3,500.00
Boyscout Troup #87				1,763.00	1,763.00
ELCA Disaster Response				2.500.00	2,500.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,978.50	\$ 15,411.58	\$ 14,216.78	\$ 26,999.58	5 69,606.44



Page 6 THE MESSENGER

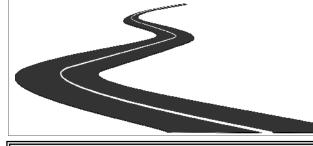
Announcements

Holiday Road

Following the Christmas holidays, Pastor Rice will enjoy some rest, relaxation and recharging by taking vacation time January 2 through January 8, 2018. He will return to the office the morning of January 9.

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

Pastor Robert Sander of Canton will preside and preach during the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services on January 7, 2018. We look forward to his visit and his sharing God's Good News with



Christmas Thanks

Dear Friends in Christ,
Thank you for the many lovely
Christmas cards and expressions of
Christmas kindness. Your
thoughtfulness and goodwill is truly
appreciated.

May the New Year bring you blessings of health and happiness as we continue our journey in God's grace.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Rice



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you Grace Lutheran!

Your most generous response to the gospel makes a life-changing difference to all God's children, all around the globe!

Robin Brown, Congregation Support, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal



Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for supporting our annual Chaplain's Retreat!

It was a wonderful day.

Thanks again & may God bless you this Christmas & in the New Year!

Your friends, Chaplain Partnership

Announcements

A New Year With The Lord

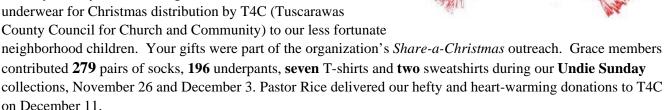
A new year is about to unfold With new opportunities to explore Doors will open for new experiences New adventures with the Lord Dwell not on the former things The things of this past year The Lord will do new things in us Much more than we are aware For He will make a way for us As we put our trust in Him And He will guide our every step By His presence we have within What God has placed within our hearts We find we'll be able to do If we look for the opportunities We'll see the door to go through We mustn't let anything hold us back But rise up and take our place And be all that God wants us to be With a fresh touch of His grace!

Page 8 THE MESSENGER

Announcements

Warming Hearts and So Much More

Thank you for your kind and generous donations of children's underwear for Christmas distribution by T4C (Tuscarawas



The total of 484 items is a new record for this holiday giving project. THANK YOU helping our children in need!

Our congregation's generosity was also extended to the Salvation Army's efforts to keep our neighborhood children warm during these cold winter months. A very large collection of mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and other gifts adorned Christmas trees in the narthex and Luther Hall and were donated to this worthy cause on December 11.

Our youth offer their deep appreciation for those who so amiably contributed to the 2018 Youth Mission Trip

Winter Dinner

Celebrate the New Year with hot, home-cooked meal!

Grace Hospitality Ministries is hosting a Winter covered-dish dinner on Sunday, January 14 after the 10:30 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to bring a favorite casserole, side dish, dessert or any combination of these to the feast. Hospitality Ministries will provide meat, rolls, beverages and dinnerware.

Deb Foust is the board director. She is ably and cheerfully assisted by Bobbi Cox, Melissa Engstrom, Cindy Jerles, Traci Smith and Sarah Wolfe. Thank you, ladies!

Start off 2018 with an excellent opportunity for great food and

Page 9 THE MESSENGER

Women ELCA

Lutheran World Relief Final Project Numbers for 2017



Quilts: 32

Personal Care Kits: 8

Soap: 21

School Kits: 3



KNOTTERS

Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 2018

DAILY GRACE

Life is short, and we have only a small window of time to explore the amazing world God has created—the tastes and textures of good food, the astounding beauty of nature, the wonder of human life in all its diversity.

Life is short, and we all hope to live lives that matter, that make the world a better place. It requires zeal to act for justice, to make peace. It takes passion to give ourselves to the common good, to do our small bit for others, to make a fabulous meal. Nothing is accomplished without passion and zeal.

We acknowledge the overwhelming love of God when we share that same love and generosity of spirit for all that God has created. Passion and zeal are responses to the grace and love of God.



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 contributions to keep the pantry stocked.

Product	Price / p	iece	Days in a month	Total
Peanut Butter	\$	2.29	X 30	\$ 68.70
Fruit	\$	0.89	X 30	\$ 26.70
Cereal	\$	1.59	X 30	\$ 47.70
Meat	\$	1.30	X 30	\$ 39.00
Chicken Soup	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Tomato Soup	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Potatoes	\$	0.65	X 30	\$ 19.50
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	\$	0.45	X 30	\$ 13.50
Spaghetti	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
Spaghetti Sauce	\$	1.00	X 30	\$ 30.00
				\$ 455.10

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

Page 10 THE MESSENGER

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 November, we distributed 128 bags, and have already distributed 120 in December. 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.





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

Ella DeVore **Carol Davidson** William Page Glenn Siber Mildred Schauer **Dale Kreisher** Joe Palmer Francis Moser JoAnn Hammond Walter Heck Jim Gipson **Jerrod Martin** John Page **Mary Marino Rachelle Coulter Sensel** Jim Horn Norma Grywalski **Wayne Page** Cathy Nardecchia **Dorothy Hanna** Richard Panzoff **Holly Young Karen Page** Phyllis Espenschied Rebecca Cahill-Smith Joe Stein Robert Veireck **Molly Bauer** Robert Ryan Karen Hodge **Carol McGinnis** Art Keener

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.



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 February 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 December 22nd, 2017.**

January's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, Jan. 28th, 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.

Page 12 THE MESSENGER

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.



Jan. 7th - 1 vase

Jan. 14th - 2 vases

Jan. 21st - 2 vases

Jan. 28th - 2 vases

Feb. 4th - 2 vases



Jan. 7th - Ashley Eick & Melissa Engstrom
Jan. 14th - Marcie & Grace Castricone
Jan. 21st - Deb & Jacob Flood
Jan. 28th - Andrea & Lauren Samsa

Worship Readings

Sunday, Jan. 7th

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, Jan. 21st

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, Jan. 14th

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Sunday, Jan. 28th

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Altar Guild

Tuesday, January 31st, 2018 9:00 am

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.

Page 13 THE MESSENGER

Worship Assistants

USHERS

SUNDAY 8:00 AM WORSHIP

201,2121 000012			Tim Keplinger
ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.	Richard Elliott
			Steve Zimmerman
1/7	1/7 Terry Miller	1/7	Jim Heller
1/14	1/14 Lynn Foust	1/14	Scott Ebert
1/21	1/21 Nancy Wilson	1/21	Edward Harper
1/28	1/28 Gale Limron	1/28	David Elliott
	H		

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

USHERS

Jan. 7 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl
Jan. 14 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Brody Morris
Jan. 21 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden
Jan. 28 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.
1/7	1/7 John Ctohl	1/7
	1/7 John Stahl	1/7
1/14	1/14 Betsy Morris	1/14 Deborah Horn
1/21	1/21 Jim Gibb	1/21
1/28	1/28 Rick Homrighausen	1/28

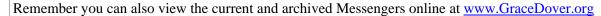


ALTAR GUILD

January: Glenda Sclater, Marcie Castricone, Joan Davis, Liz Miller February: Judy Martin, Bonnie Richardson, Pam Keller, 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.





Page 14 THE MESSENGER

gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

216 North Wooster Ave

Dover OH 44622-2948

330-343-6915

January 2018

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 (*: + appy *) (iew *) lear *	2 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	3 7 pm Boy Scouts	4	5	6
7 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	8 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	Pastor On Vacation 9 9 am Knotters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Planning Council	10 7 pm Boy Scouts	11 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir	12	13 8 am Men's Breakfast
Pastor On Vacation 14 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion Winter Dinner	15 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Valley Voices	16 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	17 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm Women's Bible Study - ORC	18 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir	19	20
21 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	22 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices	23 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7 pm Endowment Board	24 7 pm Boy Scouts	25 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Gallery Choir	26 Messenger Deadline	27
28 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	29 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Valley Voices	30 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	31 7 pm Boy Scouts Messenger Assembly			