



THE MESSENGER

2020

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

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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The "New Normal" Issue

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Matthew 24:35

Most all of you know I love to cook. In past issues of this newsletter I have shared some of my favorite and most requested recipes. My universally acclaimed corn casserole. My church lady specialty, baked chicken salad. And more.

Yes, I love to cook and exercise my culinary skill on the countertop, stovetop and oven. Yet even though I have a bit of a sweet tooth (Chocolate!), I am not too keen on baking. It's just not been a significant part of my kitchen repertoire.

Then, on Easter Sunday afternoon, when I would usually be taking a well-deserved nap, I was in my kitchen making peanut butter cookies. From scratch! I had never done that before. These were my first and they looked good and tasted great! I texted a picture to my sister, the retired home economics teacher, and she graded them A-. Not bad at all for my first try.

Now get this. About a week later, I was mixing up and eager to bake a new recipe, Banana Banana Bread. (No. That it not a typo. The recipe calls for twice the usual mashed bananas.) It proved to be quite the tasty treat. I really impressed myself.

Within the next few days, I'll be at it again. I plan to make chocolate chip cookies with EXTRA chocolate chips. My mouth is watering already.

Maybe, baking is part of my personal "New Normal." Whoda thunk?

These days, amid this life-altering pandemic, people are talking about the "New Normal." What life changes both temporary and permanent can we expect? Will the challenges we face today make us better persons tomorrow? What will be your "New Normal"?

Caught up in all the tumult and turmoil; encountering daily chaos, confusion and change; we may wonder, "What will be the "New Normal" for God? How will all this impact God's relationship with us and our relationship with God?"

Rest assured, there is and there will not be a "New Normal" with God! In and through all that we are going through, God goes with us. God is our one, sure and true constant. God is the same God who was, who is and who is to come. (Revelation 1:8) God is the same loving, merciful and saving God yesterday, today and forever. (Psalm 102:27, Hebrews 13:8)

As the hymnwriter declares, "Great is thy Faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; as Thou hast been, Thou forever will be." (Lamentations 3:23, Psalm 119:89-90) Amen to that!

We may have no idea what our "New Normal" may be tomorrow, but we do know God will be our unwavering standard and our constant guide. God forever remains our ever-generous provider and ever-strong protector. God is with us whatever, wherever, whenever, forever.

When we see each other again, hopefully sooner than later, we all will have changed in some way to some degree or another. We'll all be experiencing our own, unique "New Normal." I can hardly wait!

Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr.

Planning Council	Pg. 2
Since You Asked...	Pg. 3
Announcements	Pg. 4
Announcements	Pg. 5
Outreach	Pg. 6 & 7
Worship & Worship Assistance	Pg. 8 & 9
Member Celebrations	Pg. 10
Calendar	Pg. 11

Planning Council

**PLANNING
COUNCIL**

**Next Meeting
June 9th, 2020
@ 6:30 PM**



Grace Notes

Facts and Figures

**There is no Grace Notes report for the month of March.
We met for worship only twice in March 2020.
There were five Sundays in March 2020.
Such a difference does not permit a valid comparison,
especially since March 31, 2019 was Palm Sunday.**

**Please see the Stewardship Report on page 5
for the most recent financial update.**

2018-2019 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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

Congregational Life

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

Property

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

Christian Faith and Life

Faith Bambeck- Director
Julie Brothers
Karla Burrier
Ashley Eick
Debbie Flood
Tiffany Shepherd
(Cody Jerles, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

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

Stewardship Development

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

Outreach

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

Senior Pastor: Rev. Donald L. Rice Jr.
Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Cody Jerles
Director of Music/Organist: Linda Hanna
Secretary: Lisa Morris
Treasurer: Beverly Frantz
Custodian:

Since You Asked

*Since You Asked...***When do you expect worship services to resume? What is being done to assure we re-open safely?**

There is no definite date when churches will be safe to reopen and gather for worship and other religious activities. On Monday, April 27, our Governor announced the first phases of the state's slow and measured reopening plan. Our Bishop will follow with a recommendation based on the Governor's strategy. As I write this, my reliable sources in Columbus say congregational meetings and activities most likely will not happen until after Memorial Day or the first Sunday in June. At any rate, as of May 1, the Governor's order for public gatherings of no more than ten persons remains in effect for the immediate future.

Needless to say, it has been a long, unsettling ordeal. We are more than eager to resume worship and Christian fellowship. How we long to once again hear God's Word proclaimed and God's praises resound. Still, we must do it safely. We must do it at a time and in a manner that does not enhance our anxiety but allows us to partake fully in God's comfort and peace.

Here is what we are doing to prepare for that first Sunday together in Christ.

1. We are disinfecting and sanitizing the church "from top to bottom." Everything within reach is being cleaned and cleaned again. A special, heart-felt thanks to Jimm Morris for taking on this yeoman task.
2. We will seek to maintain **social distancing** in the narthex and worship space. Pews will be marked and staggered six feet apart. Look for pews with **blue tape on the end**. You may sit there. Please remain close to the aisle so that you do not get too close to those sitting close to the opposite aisle. Families may sit together. Social distancing in the narthex will be largely a personal responsibility. (Of course, this may mean you do not get to sit in your regular seat, but this cannot be helped.)
3. Personal hand sanitizer will be available for all worshippers 12 years old and older. (Or you can bring your own.)
4. It is most highly recommended that all worshippers equip themselves with a mask or other face covering. This protects you and everyone around you.
5. Offering plates will be stationed at the back entrances/exits of the sanctuary. They will not be passed during the service.
6. The "Passing of the Peace" will be suspended until further notice.
7. Holy Communion will not be offered for the time being. There is no way to do this and still maintain *social distancing* and other health precautions. This is going to be especially tough. Just remember, we are still being nourished by God's Word as a Means of Grace.
8. Pastor Rice will not recess at the end of the service to be available for a "receiving line." It is too tempting to linger, chat and still maintain personal space recommendations.
9. Any person who is not comfortable attending church at this time; anyone who is feeling anxious or nervous; and of course, anyone not feeling well should remain at home.
10. We will investigate ways we can broadcast services on Facebook or over the internet so that we will be prepared to offer some sort of worship experience in the event it becomes needed in the future.

These are difficult adjustments for difficult times. If you have any more suggestions, please contact the church office. We are very interested in any ideas that will serve to make us safer and enhance our worship experience. Thank you.

Announcements

Thank You!

Our sincere and heartfelt appreciating to our church family whose unwavering support was a great source of comfort over these past months. Every card, phone call, visit and kindness was a cherished blessing.

John 13:35

The Kreisher Family



Congratulations, Graduates!

We offer our hearty congratulations to our 2020 graduates. We celebrate with them and their loved ones this moment of achievement.

High School

Lexus and Lucas Marsh graduate this year from Dover High School. The twins are the children of Gregory and Rebecca Marsh.

Colleges and Universities

Joshuah Fisher is now a graduate of Akron University where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is the son of Rhonda Fisher and Paul Fisher.

Samantha Herman, daughter of Jonathan and Susan Herman, graduates from Kent State University. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing

Aaronn Sergent has earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from The Ohio State University. He is the son of Michael and Christine Sergent.

Congratulations, again! May God bless you with the fullness of His grace and keep you in His care as you venture into the future.



(If we have missed any 2020 graduate, please contact the church office. We will include them in future newsletter announcement. Thank you.)

Newborn News

Congratulations to Jana and Joshua Woodby on the birth of their baby daughter! **Scarlett Rae Woodby** was born April 6 at OSU Hospital in Columbus weighing 6 pounds and measuring 19 ½ inches long. She joins her older brothers Silas and Samson (Sammy) at their family home in Powell.

Scarlett is the granddaughter of Jeff and Pam Keller and the great granddaughter of Doris Keener. All are beaming with pride and joy.

May God keep Scarlett in His tender care and bless her each day with His love and grace.



Announcements

Women's Bible Study **UPDATE!!**

Because of continued Coronavirus Health Concerns we have decided to postpone the start of the Women's Bible Study until further notice.
Watch for Updated Info in the June Messenger

**We miss each and every one of you!!
Please Take Care! Hope to see you very soon!**

Finding Joy In Your
Life's Journey!
From His Heart . . .
To Our Heart . . .
To The Hearts Of Others!



PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND

Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund– provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$3000 for the school year. For information, go to www.Pierstorf.org. Complete the 2019-2020 application by visiting the website starting April 15th, 2019. The deadline for all applications is Sunday, June 30th, 2019.

Interest Free
0%

"Gifts to the Church"

Are you considering a gift to the church? Whether it be a gift today or a future gift as part of your will or estate planning, we appreciate your willingness to consider Grace Lutheran Church. A list of frequently asked questions regarding gifts and donations is available at the office.

If you wish to speak with someone about a gift, please contact Tom Margo.



THANK YOU SO MUCH *for mailing your weekly offering in to the Church Office.*



**We Miss
Each and Every
One of You!!**

**Looks like we will be closed
for another month!**

Weekly offering needed \$4326.92
*Total offerings needed by
the end of April \$73,557.64*

Total April offerings \$21,981.00
Year To Date Difference +\$9972.36

We can't do it without YOU!!

Grace Ministries Continue through Crisis

Grace Outreach Ministries continues its meal ministry to the Homeless Shelter in New Philadelphia on the fourth Sunday of the month. Though the residents may not be getting a taste of Grace home cooking, they are being fed.

Joe Penrod and his Outreach Ministries team supplied fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and rolls in April. The food was prepared and boxed at Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken in New Philadelphia.

On May 24, Towpath Tavern in Bolivar will offer a rigatoni dinner with salad and rolls for Outreach pick-up and delivery. These meals are being offered at a significantly discounted price to help us and our neighbors in need during these difficult times. We appreciate these merchants' generosity and the Outreach Ministries Board's ingenuity and care.

Grace High School Sunday School uses the internet option **TEAMS** when they meet on Sunday Mornings during the regular Sunday School hour. Class teacher Nicole Wiley reports that almost all of the youth are present online each Sunday. The classes include time for learning, lively discussion and prayer. Wiley reports student have been quite creative and innovative in developing their learning materials. She notes, "The kids are largely positive and resilient, though, like us all, have real disappointments."

The Grace Endowment Board also used the **TEAMS** internet option for their April 28 meeting. In addition to specifically designated monies for the church's general and building funds, the board allocated monies for the Grace VBS program and the Youth Mission Trip. Due to the pandemic, the youth have not had opportunity to raise funds through the Palm Sunday Breakfast and April 19 Chicken BBQ. The gift will help with these losses and give an impetus to their fundraising for next year's ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Others grants awarded included: Concordia Theological Seminary for its Greek textbook campaign; the Tuscarawas County Senior Center to purchase a heat-resistant board to protect its conference table as it is used for buffets and senior craft projects; and Kent State University—East Liverpool for ten physical activity monitors for an National Institutes of Health (NIH) research project studying rural populations.

RESCHEDULING and POSTPONEMENTS

Easter Sunday 2020 will be celebrated the first Sunday the congregation returns for worship.

Confirmation Sunday was originally scheduled for May 17. It is postponed to a later date.

Planning Council is tentatively rescheduled for June 9. The council will meet again as regularly scheduled July 14.

Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 15-19 is cancelled. An alternative event will be scheduled for a later date.

UPDATE: Our Bishop has sent a letter to all Northeast Ohio Synod ELCA congregations asking that they remain closed through the end of May and adhere to the Ohio Governor's orders and best practices.

Outreach

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

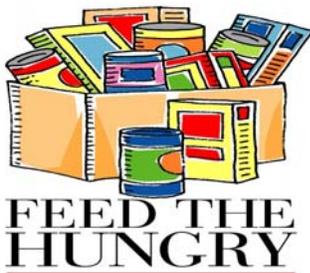
Thanks to all who have volunteered to be packers for the Grocery Bag Ministry this year.

Grocery bag distribution is temporarily suspended. We expect when it resumes, the need will be great. We are still accepting food and monetary donations.

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, Gerald Case, Gary Dean Morrison.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ella DeVore | Holly Hillen |
| Keith Lands | Fred Grosse |
| Mildred Schauer | Judy Wells |
| Tim Clark | JoAnn Hammond |
| Glenn Siber | Rachelle Sensel |
| Dwayne Mann | Donna Donahoe |
| Mark Donahoe | Jeff Wallick |
| Jason Phillips | Norma Grywalski |
| Wayne Page | Lisa Myers |
| Shirley Johnson | Edward King Sr. |
| Ethel King | Doris Metzger |
| Molly Bauer | Gail Danford |
| Jane Buehler | Karen Page |
| Buffy Gray | Judy Arrington |
| Carol Betche | Louise Harris |
| Steve Strohl | Rob Strohl |

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 Bonnie Beem.

May the Lord embrace this family with His love and bless them with peace.

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.



June 7th - 1 vase

June 14th - 1 vase

June 28th - 1 vase

July 5th - 1 vase

July 12th - 2 vases



June 7th - Ashley & Jordan Eick

June 14th - Karla & Evan Burrier

June 21st - Deb & Jacob Flood

June 28th - Jen & Taylor Vaughan

Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tues. May 26th 2020
9:00 am

Sunday, May 3rd

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Sunday, May 10th

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 17th

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 24th

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 1:10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

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
6/7	6/7 Nancy Wilson	6/7	Tim Keplinger
6/14	6/14 Lynn Foust	6/14	Richard Elliott
6/21	6/21 Gale Limron	6/21	Steve Zimmerman
6/28	6/28 Terry Miller	6/28	Jim Heller
			Scott Ebert
			Edward Harper

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

June 7 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl
June 14 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Karl Vitovic
June 21 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden
June 28 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.
6/7	6/7 Jim Gibb	6/7
6/14	6/14 Betsy Morris	6/14 Deborah Horn
6/21	6/21 Sandy Gibb	6/21 Jim Gibb
6/28	6/28 Rick Homrighausen	6/28

ALTAR GUILD

June: Melody Rader, Wendy Mady, Betsy Morris, Becky Lands
July: Glenda Sclater, Marcie Castricone, Liz Miller, Paula Wolfe



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

May 2020

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am 10:30 am Worship Communion 	4	5	6	7 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Gallery Choir 	8	9 8 am Men's Breakfast 
10 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am 10:30 am Worship Communion 	11	12	13	14 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Gallery Choir 	15	16
17 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am 10:30 am Worship Communion 	18	19	20	21 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Gallery Choir 	22	23
24 9:30 am 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter 	25 	26	27	28 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Gallery Choir 	29	30
31 8 am Worship 9:15 am 10:30 am 						

Messenger
Deadline

Messenger
Assembly

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
216 North Wooster Ave
Dover OH 44622-2948**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2020

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