



THE MESSENGER

2020

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

Take It Easy, Levi!

I am confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

In anticipation of this article, I did a Biblical word search for “retirement.” I also looked for its derivatives, such as retire, retiring, retired and even retiree. After a diligent and exhaustive search from Genesis through Revelation, I found only one citation.

In the book of Numbers, God speaks to Moses who writes:

"This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the tent of meeting, **but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer.** They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the tent of meeting, but they themselves must not do the work. This, then, is how you are to assign the responsibilities of the Levites." (Numbers 8:23-26).

Say what? **50?** You mean to say I coulda, shoulda done this retirement thing a long time ago? If I had retired at 50, I'd have never made it to Dover except on an excursion through Amish Country. So glad, so blessed that I didn't do it.

Here's the thing, the Levites were well cared for upon retirement as they were during their years of active service. Levitical priests were not permitted to own property, so there was no chance to build up home equity. They were not allowed to engage in commerce. Thus, they had no pension, annuities, IRA's, or 401K's. They were completely dependent of the caring support and goodwill of God's people of Israel. Through them, God faithfully provided.

Notice, however, that though retired, the Levitical priests were not to be idle. They still served God. They assisted the younger priests and were available for counsel, offering their wisdom to God's people. Like most retirees, they remained busy.

I am often asked what I plan to do once I retire. My immediate response is “Nothing! I plan to do absolutely nothing.”

Of course, that's not realistic or true. That's not who I am. It's not in my DNA to do nothing.

My immediate plans are to move into my new home in my old hometown of Louisville. I found the most ideal place and sold my home in Dover before it even hit the market! God is surely watching over me and “working all things together for good.” (Romans 8:28)

After that, who knows?

God does! I am confident God continues to have a plan for me. I am certain God will lead me, help me, reassure and strengthen me. My transition and future are in His loving and capable hands.

I'm sure I will continue to serve God and His people in some way or other as the need or opportunity arises. After a well-deserved respite, I may make myself available for pulpit supply. Maybe I'll lead a Bible Study. Who knows, I may even put on a bathrobe for a Bible character-inspired monolog. With God the possibilities are many—even endless.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

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Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr.

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Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL

**Next Meeting
Sept. 8th, 2020
@ 6:30 PM**



Facts and Figures

Attendance July 2020

Weekly Average: 70
Difference: -74 (-51%)

Attendance July 2019

Weekly Average: 144

Offerings July 2020*

Total Offerings: \$14,645.00
Difference: +\$347.00
Weekly Average: \$3661.25

Offerings July 2019

Total Offerings: \$14,448.00
Weekly Average: \$3612.00

2020-2021 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Ron Stahl - President

Richard Elliott - Vice President

Becky Lands - Secretary

Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

Congregational Life

Richard Elliott - Director

Susie Erickson

Elaine Margo

Liz Miller

Melody Rader

Property

- Director

Audra Miceli

Nathan Vaughan

Larry Wallick

Brad Wharmby

Christian Faith and Life

- Director

Julie Brothers

Karla Burrier

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

Nancy Wharmby - Director

Charles Castricone

Keith Lands

Craig Rader

Sarah Kneuss

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: Ed Robinson

Since You Asked

Since You Asked...

I really miss our congregational and choral singing. I also miss our “Favorite Hymns Sundays.” If you had to pick a favorite hymn for these trying and difficult days, which one would it be?

There are several great hymns that reassure of God’s loving presence, His tender care, and His enduring peace. One that quickly comes to mind and stays there is the Gospel classic, **Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**. Indeed, it is one of my all-time favorites.

The hymn is one of great comfort and reminds us that God faithfully holds us fast in his loving and protective arms. The third verse is especially meaningful and consoling during this ongoing health crisis.

*What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my LORD so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Many of us when we hear or sing this song (myself included) picture the rural congregation of Mayberry singing with religious gusto and country harmony as Clara accompanies them on the All Souls Church organ. It’s a great hymn; a very comforting hymn for any and all times. I’m sure Andy, Aunt Bea, Opie and even Barney would all agree.

Congregation Holds Elections

Our biennial Election of Officers and Ministry Board Directors and members was held during Congregational Meetings on **August 16, 2020**. Sessions immediately followed the 8:00 a.m. worship service and preceded the 10:30a.m. worship service at 10:10 a.m. The usual June meeting had been delayed due to the current health crisis.

Congregation Vice President Ron Stahl presided over the sessions and presented the 2020-2022 slate of officers, board directors and board members. The congregation gave **unanimous** approval (68-0) to the proposal sent to the congregation by Planning Council.

May God continue to bless our congregation as these duly elected servants of the Church advance God’s mission and our ministries among us and throughout the community. Our prayers are with you!



Still Growing in God's Grace



Two young people will be confirmed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 13. These students have successfully completed two years of instruction covering a survey of the Holy Scriptures and basic Christian doctrine as set forth in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Pastor Rice and Mrs. Linda McFadden teach the classes.

This year's **Confirmation Graduates** include:

Isaac Roman-Willey, son of Chris Roman and Nicole Willey of New Philadelphia; and

Taylor Vaughan, daughter of Nathan and Jennifer Vaughan of Dover.

Congratulations Confirmation Graduates! May God continue to bless you as you live and grow in His love and grace.

Announcements

A Bundle of Blessings

Congratulations to Nathan and Kristy Miller on the birth of their daughter, Presley Marie Miller on July 30. She entered the world in Norman, Oklahoma weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. Brett and Peggy Miller are the proud, excited, and happy grandparents.

We pray this family is fully blessed with God's goodness as Presley Marie grows in God's love and lives in God's grace. Congratulations, again!



New Baby, New Blessings

Congratulations to RJ and Ashely (Jerles) Graziul on the birth of their son, Tatum John Graziul on August 13. He entered the world in Louisville, Kentucky weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. Tatum is the grandson of members Scott and Cindy Jerles and the great-grandson of Dewey and Sue Gafe. His proud uncle is Cody Jerles and his happy, excited aunt is Lindsey Jerles.

We pray this family is fully blessed with God's goodness as Tatum grows in God's love and lives in God's grace. Congratulations, again!



Dear Hammerstrom Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for the scholarship that will help me to reach my full potential. I am appreciative to have grown up in such a supporting and loving church. Without the church, I would not be where I am today. I could not be more grateful.

Thanks,
Grace Castricone

Thank you for awarding me the scholarship this year. The education I have received because of the scholarship has been beneficial in my career path. I am grateful for it all.

Thank you Again!
Kristin Miceli



Chaplain Partnership

FOR PATIENTS • FOR CAREGIVERS • FOR ALL

On behalf of the chaplains, administrative staff and Board of Directors of Chaplain Partnership, please accept our sincere thanks for the generosity of Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, The funding provided by Grace Lutheran will underwrite the annual daylong retreat for our chaplains, as well as books/educational resources.

We value your friendship and support that will enable us to provide our chaplains with their chance to renew, refresh and recharge their respective ministries. This is particularly welcome during the unprecedented events of this year.

We are so grateful for your continued kindness in support of our ministry.

It's deeply appreciated
Sincerely,
Gina Svat
Project Manager

Announcements

Event Cancellations

Summer 2020 Suspensions & Cancelations

Sunday School is suspended until further notice. (Teens are meeting via TEAM or outdoors.)

Children's Messages and Children's Church are suspended until further notice.

Thursday Noon Bible Study is suspended until further notice.

Summer Pool Party is canceled.
(Dover City Pools closed for the summer.)

Annual Church Picnic canceled.

Summer Is Almost Gone

Fall Is Almost Here!

Weekly offering needed \$4326.92
Total offerings needed by the end of August \$151,442.20

Total 4-wk August offerings \$13,165.00
Year To Date Difference +\$3858.72

Thank You For Your Summertime Giving!!

Cleaner! Safer!

Grace Lutheran has installed **ActiveAir Cold Plasma Bi-Polar Ionization Technology** for a cleaner and healthier air supply and ventilation. It was installed by a local distributor, installation and maintenance company, Henry Heating and Cooling. Units were attached to existing heating and cooling equipment and uses our current duct work.

The ionization technology removes up to 99.5% of active pathogens from the air and surfaces, including viruses, bacteria, and mold. It also works to eliminate dust, allergens, pollutants, odors, and other contaminants. Studies indicate the technology is effective in removing corona viruses, with a promising study of covid-19 still in progress.

A total of seven units were installed. These include three units for the sanctuary, narthex, and youth hall; two units for Lutheran Hall; and two units for the Grace Outreach Center. Each unit retails for \$1200.00 for a total of \$8400.00. Henry's gave us a 10% discount as a contracted customer for a savings of \$840.00. The projected was paid for through the Lewis Memorial Fund as a capital improvement.

With the installation of this new technology, we can be even more confident our "new normal" gathering for Sunday worship services. The new technology in no way curbs our need for:

- * Social distancing
- * Wearing a mask or facial covering (with "medical exceptions" understood)
- * Hand sanitizing and personal hygiene, and
- * No contact offering collection, Holy Communion, bulletins, etc.



Together Again in God's Grace

We began worshipping together again on Sunday, June 7 with services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Everything is going smoothly and safely. The guidelines will remain in practice for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your care and cooperation.

Below you will find the *annotated* version of the poster displayed at all entrances. Please limit your entry to the doors on W. 3rd Street and near the corner green space. This will include the "limited accessibility entrance."

So that we may worship safely and comfortably together:

Please observe 6-feet "social distancing."

Facial coverings are **Required**. (*Love your neighbor as yourself. Protect them as you would want to be protected. If you forgot yours, there are some disposable facial coverings available. Exception is made for medical reasons only.*)

Hand sanitizer is available. Please retain for future use. (*Hand sanitizer is provided for all worshippers 12 years old and older. You may bring your own or use the one provided.*)

Please in designated pews only. (*If you see a sign that says, "Please do not Sit Here," please comply. Seats available are marked with blue tape at the end of the pew.*)

Hymnals, Bibles, and other materials have been removed from the pews.

(If you wish to follow the Scripture readings, BYOB—Bring your own Bible.)

We will observe "no contact" offering collection. (*If needed, pew envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. Collection plates are located near the sanctuary entrances.*)

Discard bulletins in recyclables baskets after use. (*Our worship service has been adapted for safety reasons. There will be no congregational singing. Spoken responses are kept to a minimum. The service will be significantly shorter.*)

Dispose of used "Communion Sets" in black trash bins. (*Each worshipper wishing to take Communion is supplied with a "No contact" Communion set. It contains a wafer and grape juice. We will partake of Holy Communion as a congregation following the Words of Institution.*)

Avoid "mingling" after the worship service and at all times maintain "social distancing."

If you have a fever or you are not feeling well, please return home.
(Take care. Be safe. God bless you.)

Thank you.

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.



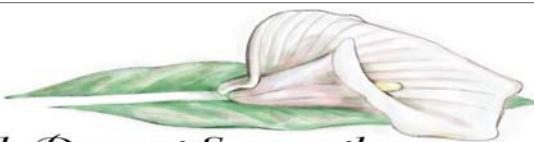
Please be Praying for...

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	Lisa Myers
Mark Donahoe	Buffy Gray
Jason Phillips	Norma Grywalski
Wayne Page	Carol Betche
Shirley Johnson	Edward King Sr.
Ethel King	Doris Metzger
Molly Bauer	Louise Harris
Jane Buehler	Karen Page
Judy Arrington	Steve Strohl
Rob Strohl	Helen Rosenberry
Bob Sclater	Jim Lands
Brian Reidenbach	Jane Rice
Jesse & Maryann Brothers	Kay Weibel

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

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.



Altar Flowers

- Sept. 6th - 1 vase**
- Sept. 20th - 1 vase**
- Oct. 4th - 2 vases**
- Oct. 11th - 1 vase**
- Oct. 18th - 2 vases**
- Oct. 25th - 2 vases**



Altar Guild

No meetings until further notice.

Sunday, Sept. 6th

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, Sept. 13th

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, Sept. 20th

Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, Sept. 27th

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

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

9/6
9/13
9/20
9/27

LAY READERS

9/6 Terry Miller
9/13 Nancy Wilson
9/20 Gale Limron
9/27 Lynn Foust

DEACON/COMM. ASST.

9/6
9/13
9/20
9/27

USHERS

Tim Keplinger
Richard Elliott
Steve Zimmerman
Jim Heller
Scott Ebert
Edward Harper

SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

Sept. 6 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl

Sept. 13 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Karl Vitovic

Sept. 20 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden

Sept. 27 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

ACOLYTES

9/6
9/13
9/20
9/27

LAY READERS

9/6 Betsy Morris
9/13 John Stahl
9/20 Jimm Morris
9/27 Jim Gibb

DEACON/COMM. ASST.

9/6
9/13
9/20
9/27



ALTAR SERVERS

ALTAR GUILD

September: Donna Fox, Katherine Stahl, Ashley Eick, Shirley Grafe, Jan Ochsenbine

October: Sue Case, Holly Vesco, Susan Zimmerman, Chris Randles

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

September 2020

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 	2	3	4	5
6 8 am Worship Communion 10:30 am Worship Communion	7 7 pm Valley Voices 	8 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 8 am Worship Communion 10:30 am Worship Communion	14 7 pm Valley Voices	15 9 am Knotters	16	17	18	19 <u>Messenger Deadline</u>
20 8 am Worship Communion 10:30 am Worship Communion	21 7 pm Valley Voices	22 	23	24	25	26 <u>Messenger Assembly</u>
27 8 am Worship Communion 10:30 am Worship Communion 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	28 7 pm Valley Voices	29	30			