



THE MESSENGER

2025

Worship Schedule
Sunday: 10 am

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:
pastorphil@gracedover.org
Website: www.gracedover.org

Dear Grace Lutheran Family,

We are well into the “interim” process here at Grace Lutheran. In the past month we have met in three class sessions revisiting our heritage and assessing our congregation’s strengths and weaknesses. Two values that are very important to this congregation are Tradition and Caring. This is where God has planted us; how will we continue to bloom? While working on a more precise mission statement we know that several areas that need attention are: Welcoming, Volunteer Development and Communication. If you have some ideas about that it would be great if you shared them. Email gracehappens@gracedover.org or pastorphil@gracedove.org.

With thanks,
Pastor Phil Shuart

Prayer of the Day for the first Sunday in September

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

That is the prayer for the first Sunday of September. I have often used this prayer to begin committee meetings and other congregational gatherings. I have always been struck with the words in the third phrase, *that all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you...* For congregations in transition, like Grace, this is a great prayer to remember. All that we do is begun, continued and ended while God holds us close for ever.

Interim Pastor
Rev. Phil Shuart

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Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL

**Next Meeting
Tuesday,
Sept. 16, 2025
@ 6:30 PM**

board meeting

Congregational Life - Sept. 10th
3 pm - LH

Property Board - Sept. 10th
6:30 pm - LH

2024-2026 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Julie Brothers - President Gale Limron - Vice President
Michelle Durben - Secretary John Wolfe - Treasurer

Congregational Life

Gale Limron - Director
Susie Erickson
Elaine Margo
Betsy Morris
Melody Rader
Jim Heller
Jenna Limron

Property

Jim Gibb - Director
Nathan Vaughan
Jeff Hootman
Larry Wallick
Richard Elliott

Christian Faith and Life

Ashley Eick - Director
Karla Burrier
Tiffany Shepherd
Deb Foust
(Cody Jerles, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

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

Stewardship Development

Ron Stahl - Director
Charles Castricone
Keith Lands
Sarah Kneuss

Outreach

Pam Beller - Director
Tim Durben
Joe Erickson
Irene McCoy
Judy Martin
Pam Keller
David Elliott (church website)

Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Cody Jerles
Director of Music/Organist : Jeff Beshore
Secretary: Lisa Morris
Treasurer: John Wolfe
Custodian: John Williamson

To Know Christ, To Live Christ, To Share Christ, and To Be One in Christ



Grace Learns New Liturgy

Jeff Behsore and Pastor Phil will lead the congregation in learning a new liturgy. During the month of September on each Sunday following the Prayer of the Day Pastor, Phil and Jeff will introduce a portion of a liturgical setting entitled Light of Christ.



Lay Ministry Training

Pastor Phil continues offering training for visitation ministry by which you can share Holy Communion with those who aren't able to be in church. All are welcome to explore this ministry opportunity. To learn more about this ministry email Pastor Phil at pastorphil@gracedover.org.



Hammerstrom Scholarship Committee,
I feel so blessed to be a recipient of this scholarship because it will support my studies at the University of Akron and will aid in helping me achieve my goal of becoming an RN. I am very excited to see where my studies and future career take me, and I am excited to serve my community as a nurse.

Thank you,
Ava Penrod



The Christian Faith and Life Committee would like to cordially invite the entire congregation to attend our Rally Day Breakfast Potluck on September 7, 2025 at 9 AM in Luther Hall.

Bring your favorite breakfast food to share. The church will provide table service and drinks. We hope to see you there for a time of fellowship and fun.

Announcements



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization

August 21, 2025

Dear Sisters in Christ,

You are cordially invited to attend the "Special Convention" Biennial Convention of the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA on September 27.

The primary purpose of this convention is to conduct the business of the organization. As most of you are aware, the organization is struggling. We're getting older and we need all of you to find ways to encourage younger women to participate. We know this is not easy since activities, etc. are so much different at this time.

You've received the forms in the not distant past. And these forms are included in this email.

1. Triennial Convention voting member nomination form. We're entitled to 3 voting members (we believe) and the **business meeting of the Triennial will be held via Zoom so no travel is required except to a central location to view the Zoom. Of course, that will not be mandatory and voting members can view it from their own church or home.**
2. The Triennial Gathering is a separate activity (vendors, speakers, etc.) and will require travel at your own expense. The Triennial Grant Application is also attached if you wish to request some funds to assist your travel.
3. Nomination Form for Coordinating Committee – this is an opportunity to help shape the organization for the future. We welcome your ideas and thoughts as we attempt to keep moving forward.

This is an opportunity for you to be a blessing to our great organization and can be a wonderful experience in meeting many fine Christian women who dedicate their work and love in serving Jesus to carry out our mission and purpose at churchwide. Please prayerfully consider serving our Savior in this way.

Please share this letter and all the enclosures with the women in your unit. Please help to make sure that your congregation unit sends a voting member to this convention.

In His Peace,

The Coordinating Committee
 Martha Bishop
 Mollie Broadnax
 Cathy Byers
 Beth Haas
 Janet Hartman

Information about the meeting on September 27 at Zion Lutheran, 3300 Canfield Rd, Youngstown OH will follow shortly. Registration will be by RSVP and there's no registration fee.

Announcements



Pastor Phil's usual office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. He is always happy to speak with you by phone or in person. You are encouraged to make an appointment by phone or email, pastorphil@gracedover.org.



Grace Power of Prayer Group
Did you know that we have a Prayer Group?

Prayer requests are shared via the weekly bulletin insert, text messages or our private Facebook Group.

You can share a prayer request using the text group, Facebook group or by contacting Lisa in the office or Becky Lands at 330-340-9542.

To join the text group, please contact Becky. To join the Facebook group, send a Facebook request to Power of Prayer - Grace Lutheran.



**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**



Christian Education for 2025-2026

Christian Education Classes will begin on September 14, 2025.

Adult Class: Led by Keith & Becky Lands in Luther Hall from 9-9:45.

High School / Young Adult Class: Led by Nicole Willey in Youth Hall from 9-9:45.

Middle School / Catechism Class: Led by Cody Jerles in Youth Hall from 9-9:45.

Preschool / Elementary Class: Led by Ashley Eick in Luther Hall during Worship at 10 AM.

Anyone interested in helping to lead any of the Christian Education classes, should contact Ashley at 330-407-0823 by August 31st.

Announcements

As the Jamies sang:

It's summertime summertime sum sum summertime
 Summertime summertime sum sum summertime
 Summertime summertime sum sum summertime
 Summertime summertime sum sum summertime
 summertime...

Well shut them books and throw em away
 Say goodbye to dull school days
 So come on and change your ways
 It's summertime...

Unfortunately, we are approaching the end of Summer.

Fall is coming fast, and the gallery choir will once again resume practicing on Thursdays and singing most Sundays. I am currently expecting 3 new members to the choir and looking for more. The more the merrier. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining the choir for the upcoming year. Please let me know that you will be joining, so that I can have music and a folder ready to go for you. I am currently putting things together to begin the season, Thursday, Sept 4th.

Jeff



FROM THE TREASURER

	July 2025 YTD	July 2024 YTD	Increase (+) / Decrease (-)
Regular Offering	\$ 112,573	\$ 120,687	\$ (8,114)
Seasonal Offering	\$ 3,457	\$ 2,340	\$ 1,117
Total			
Unrestricted Offering	\$ 116,030	\$ 123,027	\$ (6,997) 5.7%

****Offering year to date is down 5.7% from the prior year****



The grocery bag ministry is in need of baggers. If you would be interested in bagging groceries for our outreach program please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you to all volunteers already serving.

Outreach



Our support of the Tuscarawas County Friends of the Homeless continues. We still offer meals one Sunday a month. Unfortunately during COVID-19 we were forced to help in a different manner. We are taking monetary donations to support the ministry rather than provide homecooked meals. Your financial support is always appreciated.

GROCERY BAG MINISTRY

Grace Outreach Board continues their Drive-Thru Grocery Bag Ministry the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10 am until supply runs out. The Outreach Board is looking for both monetary gifts and gifts of kind to support this vital ministry.

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.

Grocery size paper bags are also needed.



*Please be
Praying for...*

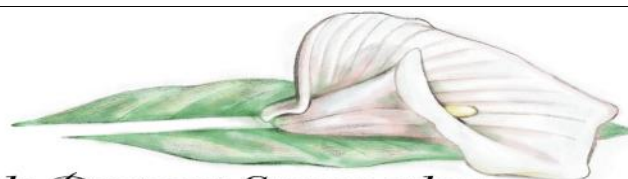
All those serving in the armed forces, especially
Christopher Smith, Seth Erickson, Connor Gwynne.

Rita Young
Paula Wolfe
Glenn Siber
Kay Bambeck
Theodore St. Clair
Dan Hine

Evelyn Ralston
Ruth Patrick
Bruce Siber
William Cerett
Steve Strohl
Ashley Luthy

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 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 Heather Herbert (daughter of Patricia Bailey), Robert Jerles Sr. (father of Scott Jerles), Richard Belininger (brother of Donna Fox and Betty Kaser) and Bob Eick (uncle of Jason and Ashley Eick).

May the Lord embrace these families 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 \$19.
You will be billed by Blossom's Florist.

Altar Flowers are available for the following dates.



Aug. 3rd - 2 vases

Aug. 10th - 1 vase

Aug. 17th - 1 vase

Aug. 24th - 2 vases

Aug. 31st - 2 vases



Ladies of Grace Knotters

Our Grace knotters are in need of flat bed sheets (any size) to make quilts.

If you have any you wish to donate, you may drop them off at the church office. Thank You!

Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tues., Sept. 30th
9 am

Sunday, Sept. 7th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, Sept. 14th

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, Sept. 21st

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, Sept. 28th

Amos 6:1a,4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

online

Yes, on-line services are here to stay!

Now that the pandemic is over we are continuing to record our 10 am service each Sunday. Weekly on-line services are part of our on-going ministry here at Grace.

Worship Assistants

SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP

<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>LAY READERS</u>	<u>DEACON/COMM. ASST.</u>
9/7	9/7 John Stahl	9/7
9/14	9/14 Gale Limron	9/14
9/21	9/21 Lynn Foust	9/21
9/28	9/28 Kim Gray	9/28

USHERS

Sept. 7 John Lorenz, Jim Heller, Ed Harper, Tim Keplinger
Sept. 14 Mike Sargent, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott
Sept. 21 John Stahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper
Sept. 28 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

SOUND

Sept. 7 Tim Durben
Sept. 14 Richard Elliott
Sept. 21 Keith Lands
Sept. 28 Richard Elliott

ALTAR GUILD

September: Glenda Sclater, Marcie Castricone, Paula Wolfe
October: Donna Fox, Betty Kaser, Judy Martin

**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
pastorphil@gracedover.org

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September 2025

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 7 pm Valley Voices  LABOR DAY <u>Church Office Closed</u>	2 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC	3 7 pm Boy Scouts	4 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Gallery Choir	5 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru	6
7 10 am Worship Communion  Pot Luck Grandparent's Day	8 9 am Knotters 7 pm Valley Voices	9 9 am Knotters 6 pm Altrusa - ORC 6:30 Cub Scouts	10 3 pm Congregational Life Mtg. - LH 6:30 pm Propoerty Mtg. - LH 7 pm Boy Scouts	11 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Gallery Choir 7 pm Beekeepers - ORC	12	13
14 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	15 7 pm Valley Voices	16 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Planning Council	17 7 pm Boy Scouts	18 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Gallery Choir	19 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru <u>Messenger Deadline</u>	20 8:30 am Women's Group - LH
21 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	22 7 pm Valley Voices 	23 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 Cub Scouts	24 7 pm Boy Scouts	25 6 pm Handbells 7 pm Gallery Choir	26 <u>Messenger Assembly</u>	27
28 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	29 7 pm Valley Voices	30 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 6:30 Cub Scouts				