



THE MESSENGER

2026

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

(Excerpt from the sermon for February 1)

We hear the term *blessed* used often. It generally denotes a situation of well-being. I feel blessed. What blessing. Have a blessed day. We are blessed with plenty. God bless you! (after a sneeze).

Jesus begins his sermon on the mount in Matthew's gospel with statements that begin with the word *blessed*. As with many of Jesus sayings you might be surprised at the end of the sentence. For example, Blessed are the *poor* in spirit.... Blessed are those who *mourn*. The first people to hear these words might have been confused because they know that the word *blessed* means something good. What's good about being poor either in spirit or in pocketbook? What's so blessed about mourning having lost a loved one?

If you look various translations of the Bible, you will notice that the word is translated differently. Some translations read: *Happy* are the poor. *Happy* are those who mourn. Others read, How *Fortunate* are the poor, How *Content* are the poor... All of those are attempts to translate the Greek word *makarios*. It is a word that has long history in the Greek classics that indicated what it was like in the abode of the gods...eventually it became applied to those who were very well off. Then, as time passed, it became applied to those who had died.

What seems to be clear is that the beatitudes are not situations of life to seek. Martin Luther commented on this by saying that as human beings we are not going to do this.

Mourning is not what I'm looking for.
Being poor is not what I'm looking for.
Being persecuted is not what I'm going after.

Rather those are situations that come to us through living. And the reason the word *blessed* makes sense is that it indicates that God is with us in those situations. That is why we are blessed. Because of God's presence in every second of our earthly life, in our sorrows and joys we are blessed.

During Epiphany may we all know that we are *Blessed*.

Peace to all,
Pastor Phil Stuart

Interim Pastor
Rev. Phil Stuart

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Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL

Next Meeting
Tuesday,
Mar. 17, 2026
@ 6:30 PM



Feb. 17th - Congregational Life Mtg.
6:30 pm

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

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



ATTENTION BOARD DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

It's that time of year again for annual reports. Please prepare your board or committee's report and turn them in to the office or email them to Lisa by Feb. 13th.

gracehappens@gracedover.org

Thank you.



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.



The Grace Endowment Board is a board developed to help organizations that need assistance. The board sends funding to help our congregation, local community and the world. The board members meet four times per year to gift earnings from the Endowment Fund. The gifts are to help benefit Christian and charity work from missionary work, disaster relief and social programs.

- To request a gift: endowment forms are available in the church office. The forms must be in good order and turned into the church office at least 2 weeks prior to Endowment Board meetings.

The Endowment Board members for this year's term are: Jimm Morris, Jenna Limron, Faith Bambeck, Toni Ferritto, Susan Seifert and Joe Vanfossen.

**Join us in 2026 on the 3rd
Saturday of each month in
Luther Hall for
Coffee & Conversation**

8:30-9:30



am

This time of fellowship is open to women of all ages.

Our time together will include coffee, conversation, prayer, devotion and discussion. We will also do a free will offering to benefit our church programs and our community.


Bring your coffee mug and a friend!

Announcements



Greetings from the Call Committee!


We met at the church on Tuesday December 30th to discuss the five main areas we would like our new pastor to focus on in the first year of service. This was the final section of our Ministry Site Profile that we needed to complete. We used the information supplied by the congregational surveys to guide us in our response. The Ministry Site Profile is in draft form and will be submitted to the Synod for feedback. The Call Committee will not be meeting next week as we allow time for the Synod to give us feedback on our draft profile. After we receive feedback from the Synod we hope to finalize our profile for approval by Planning Council.



To my church family,

Just a short thank you for the Christmas goodie bag brought to Hennis for me. Special thanks for these note cards and the big tube of toothpaste. I am blessed to belong to a church who cares for their shut-ins and which tries to take care of our town's community concerns.

Blessings to those who help.
Patti Stull



Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for thinking of me this Christmas with the very thoughtful gift bag! It was filled with such nice surprises. And thank you all for the nice cards throughout the year.

Sincerely, Judy Plunk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Outreach committee is looking for volunteers to help hand out grocery bags on the first and third Fridays of every month. We hand them out from 10am-2pm and many hands make light work.

Please contact Pam Beller if interested.

Thank you.

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
Sande Stickel
Glenn Siber
Steve Strohl
Ashley Luthy
Mary Ella Light**

**Ruth Patrick
Ella Devore
Bruce Siber
Nancy Mizer
Jeanne Pudloski**

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 Evelyn Ralston (mother of Sue Case), Reba Snyder, Molly Bauer, Kay Bambeck.

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.



Mar. 1st - 1 vase
Mar. 8th - 2 vases
Mar. 15th - 1 vase
Mar. 22nd - 2 vases
Mar. 29th - 2 vases



Ladies of Grace Knotters
Lutheran World Relief
Final Project Numbers
for 2025

Quilts: 37
Health Kits: 10
Backpacks: 5



Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tuesday,
Feb. 24th, 2026
9 am

Sunday, Feb. 1st

Micha 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, Feb. 8th

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, Feb. 15th

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday, Feb. 22nd

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

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**ACOLYTES**

2/1 Alexa Shepherd
2/8 Jamey Wolfe
2/15 Olivia Eick
2/22 Ryder Vanfossen

LAY READERS

2/1 Betsy Morris
2/8 Lynn Foust
2/15 David Johns
2/22 Gale Limron

DEACON/COMM. ASST.

2/1 Deborah Horn
2/8
2/15
2/22

USHERS

Feb. 1 John Lorenz, Ed Harper
Feb. 8 Mike Sergeant, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott
Feb. 15 John Stahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper
Feb. 22 Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

SOUND

Feb. 1 Keith Lands
Feb. 8 Richard Elliott
Feb. 15 Tim Durben
Feb. 22 Richard Elliott

**ALTAR GUILD**

February: Holly Vesco, Susan Zimmerman, Chris Randles

March: Betsy Morris, Becky Lands, Ashley Eick

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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Dover OH 44622-2948
330-343-6915

February 2026

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	2 7 pm Valley Voices 	3 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	4 7 pm Boy Scouts	5 11 am Bible Study - LH	6 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru	7
8 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion 	9 7 pm Valley Voices	10 6 pm Altrusa - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	11 7 pm Boy Scouts	12 11 am Bible Study - LH 7 pm Beekeepers - ORC	13	14 8 am Men's Breakfast - LH 
15 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	16 7 pm Valley Voices 	17 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Christian Faith & Life Mtg. - LH	18 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm Boy Scouts 	19 11 am Bible Study - LH	20 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru <u>Messenger Deadline</u>	21 8:30 am Women's Group - LH
22 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	23 7 pm Valley Voices	24 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	25 7 pm Boy Scouts	26	27 <u>Messenger Assembly</u>	28