

# march

# 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

The season of Lent has been around for a long time, since the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE when a 40-day preparation period before Easter was established. The 40-day timeframe was further solidified in the year 601 CE by Pope Gregory the great.

The 40 days is not unusual as the Biblical period of 40 days is well known. Noah and his family were saved in the ark as it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses was on the mountain receiving the law for 40 days. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Immediately following Jesus' baptism, he was driven out into the wilderness to be tested for 40 days.

There is nothing magical about the number 40, it is a symbol of time where God is at work. On the first Sunday of Lent the Gospel lesson depicted Jesus being *tested* or *tempted* in the wilderness (a place of danger, risk and revelation). I mention *tested* or *tempted*, because it could be either depending on how you translate the Greek word *Peirazō* (πειράζω). It could be translated "entice" as well.

What was Jesus enticed or tempted to do? The answer is he was enticed to take the quick and easy way to success in the ministry. The tempter invites Jesus to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple. Being uninjured Jesus will create a spectacle that will be sure to get lots of followers right away. However, Jesus chooses a different way.

Rather than *go big* with great displays of power, Jesus uses his power, always, in the service of others, never to benefit himself. Jesus calls simple folks to serve. He calls Peter, James and John, simple fisherman. Eventually, Jesus calls a tax collector, to follow him, not the high and mighty, the powerful and rich. Rather, Jesus calls the simple and seemingly unimportant ones. In the same way Jesus calls us, simple folks like us to spread the message of God' love though Jesus. Jesus did not strive for "relevance or glitz or glamour" in beginning his ministry. Neither do we.

Blessings at Lent,  
Pastor Phil Shuart

**Interim Pastor**  
**Rev. Phil Shuart**

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# Planning Council

PLANNING  
COUNCIL

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



## 2024-2026 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

JulieBrothers - President      GaleLimron - VicePresident  
Michelle Durben - Secretary      John Wolfe - Treasurer

### Congregational Life

**Gale Limron** - Director  
SusieErickson  
ElaineMargo  
BetsyMorris  
MelodyRader  
JimHeller  
JennaLimron

### Property

**Jim Gibb**-Director  
NathanVaughan  
JeffHootman  
LarryWallick  
RichardElliott

### Christian Faith and Life

**Ashley Eick** - Director  
KarlaBurrier  
TiffanyShepherd  
DebFoust  
(Cody Jerles, Coordinator YFM)

### Hospitality

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

### Stewardship Development

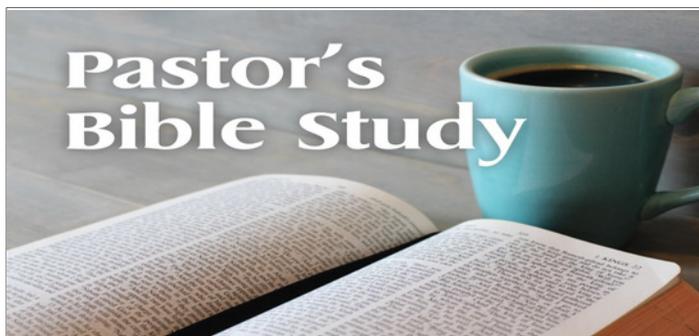
**Ron Stahl** -Director  
Charles Castricone  
KeithLands  
SarahKneuss

### Outreach

**Pam Beller**– Director  
Tim Durben  
JoeErickson  
IreneMcCoy  
JudyMartin  
PamKeller

**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



# Pastor's Bible Study

## Bible Study with Pastor Phil

Thursdays in March at 11:00am.  
 Join Pastor Phil for a time of Bible Study and inquiry. Various topics will be addressed. For example,  
 Is the Bible the word of God and if so, what does that mean?  
 How did we get the Bible we now have?  
 How do you know when to interpret the Bible literally or symbolically.  
 What was it like to go to church on a Sunday with St. Peter or St. Paul in 55 CE? What did that look like?



**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 LutherHallfor 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

# Phillip Jr. and Marceil Hammerstrom Scholarship Fund Application

This scholarship was setup by Phillip Jr. in memory of his wife, Marceil, who was in the medical field. Also, in memory of his father, Phillip Sr, who was a machinist. If your field of study is in the **MEDICAL/HEALTH** area, or the **TRADE/INDUSTRY/ENGINEERING** area, you will be considered for this scholarship. Preference is given to active, participating members of Grace Lutheran Church, Dover. Please complete this application and return to the church office no later than April 30th. If awarded a scholarship, the check will be sent directly to your school. Also, the scholarship can be applied for in subsequent years. Any age may apply.

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN DOVER \_\_\_\_\_

INTENDED COURSE OF STUDY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CAREER OR PROFESSIONAL GOALS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE OF SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HAVE YOU BEEN ACCEPTED \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED DEGREE AND COMPLETION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, COMPOSE A BRIEF 250-WORD ESSAY THAT DESCRIBES HOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL PLAN AND CAREER/ PROFESSIONAL GOALS SERVE GOD AND BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY.

(Revised June 2018)



**Are you looking for an opportunity to serve God? If so, the Altar Guild is looking for you!**

The Altar Guild is currently looking for new members to serve God by preparing the church for Sunday services. There are 6 groups of three who are in charge of getting the church ready for weekly services two months out of the year.

If interested, please contact Pam Keller at 330-401-8343.



The Grace General Scholarship is available to Grace graduates for their **first year of study** at a college, university or trade school. Consideration will be given only to active, participating members of the congregation. Applicants eligible for the Hammerstrom scholarship will not be considered. This scholarship is non renewable.

Applications are available in the office and need to be returned to the office no later than **April 30th**.

**EASTER LILIES FOR EASTER SUNDAY**

The flowers this year will be at a **cost of \$13.00 each**. Your order form and payment may be mailed, or given to the church office.

Orders and payment are **due by Monday, Mar. 16th, 2026**

Your flowers may be taken home following the 10 a.m. Easter worship service on April 5th, 2026



**THE EASTER FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF PERSONS NOTED BELOW.**

PLEASE CIRCLE:	INDICATE MESSAGE BELOW:
IN HONOR OF:	
IN MEMORY OF:	
FLOWERS GIVEN BY:	

*Please make all checks payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and write Easter Flowers in the memo line.*



Athena Catherine Marchant was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit on February 15th, 2026.

She is the daughter of Kyle & Elizabeth (Wharmby) Marchant of Canton, OH. She was born March, 15th, 2025 in Canton.

Athena Catherine is the granddaughter of members Brad and Nancy Wharmby and Mike Marchant. Her sponsors are Emily Wharmby and Dominic Gemma.

We welcome Athena Catherine into the family of God and pray she will know God's love and grow in God's grace. Congratulations!

### Welcome to the Lord's Table

Three Grace youth will celebrate their **First Communion** March 15th, during the 10 a.m. service. Family and friends are invited to join these young people as they take their next big step in their journey of the faith and life.

Instruction was offered February 22nd by Pastor Shuart and Ashley Eick. Learning time included an introduction to basic Lutheran teachings and Grace Lutheran practices. This was followed by a pizza lunch provided by the congregation.

This year's First Communicants are: **Alexander Marchant**, son of Elizabeth (Wharmby) and Kyle Marchant of Canton.

**Jack Swihart and Kellen Swihart**, sons of Emily and Jory Swihart of Dover.

Congratulations! May God bless you and forever keep you in His grace.



On January 21, SFC Seth Erickson retired from the 101st Division Artillery.

Seth served his country doing two tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and a short tour in Europe.

Seth and his family will be moving to Vermillion, South Dakota sometime this summer.

Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church and Patti Stull for the prayers and support for Seth over the past twenty years.

Sincerely,  
Joe & Susie Erickson

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Outreach committee is looking for volunteers to help hand out grocerybags on the first and third Fridays of every month. We hand them out from 10am-1pm and many hands make light work.

Please contact Pam Beller if interested.  
Thank you.



## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Call Committee Update

Greetings from the Call Committee. Last month we completed the Ministry Site Profile and it was officially uploaded to the Synod website. Our next step is to conduct interviewing training for pastors with the Synod representative. That training will likely occur in February or early March. We hope to conduct interviews in March or April. However, the speed of our interviews will depend upon the number of candidates interested in being called to Grace. Information on the current stage of the call process for our congregation, as well as the entire synod, can be found here: <https://www.neos-elca.org/congregation-vacancies.html>

Nathan D. Vaughan

Mobile 330-447-3637



## Easter Breakfast on Palm Sunday & Egg Hunt March 29th starting @ 9:00 AM

We will celebrate the Easter season with breakfast together on Palm Sunday. Enjoy delicious breakfast hosted by our youth for a free will offering that will support their Mission Trip to Wilmington, North Carolina.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend on the sign up sheet in the Narthex by Sunday, March 22nd.

We are also looking for donations for breakfast. Please sign up for donations on the sheet in the Narthex and have them at church by 7 am on 3/29/26.

Following breakfast, all are welcome to attend Church at 10 AM. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow the service around 11 AM.

## Hope to see you there!



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, Connor Gwynne.

Rita Young  
Glenn Siber  
Steve Strohl  
Richard Siber  
Jeff Beshore

Ruth Patrick  
Bruce Siber  
Pastor Blanch Tyree  
Bob Shalosky

#### 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*

# 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. 22nd-2vases

Mar. 29th-1vase

Apr. 5th-2vases

April 12th-2vases

April 19th-2vases



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

Quilts: 37  
 Health Kits: 10  
 Backpacks: 5



## Worship Readings

### Altar Guild

Tuesday,  
Mar. 31st, 2026

9 am

### Sunday, Mar. 1st

Gensis 125:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

### Sunday, Mar. 8th

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

### Sunday, Mar. 15th

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

### Sunday, Mar. 22nd

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

### Sunday, Mar. 29th

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14—27:66



**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**

**Mar. 1** Ava Eick  
**Mar. 8** AlexaShepherd  
**Mar. 15** JameyWolfe  
**Mar. 22** Olivia Eick  
**Mar. 29** Ryder Vanfossen

**LAY READERS**

**Mar. 1** Gale Limron  
**Mar. 8** Gale Limron  
**Mar. 15** Jimm Morris  
**Mar. 22** Kim Gray  
**Mar. 29** Lynn Foust

**COMMUNION ASST.**

**Mar. 1**  
**Mar. 8**  
**Mar. 15**  
**Mar. 22**  
**Mar. 29**

**USHERS**

**Mar. 1** JohnLorenz, Ed Harper  
**Mar. 8** MikeSergent, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott  
**Mar. 15** JohnStahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper  
**Mar. 22** JeffKeller, JeffHootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen  
**Mar. 29** -WELCA

**SOUND**

**Mar. 1** Keith Lands  
**Mar. 8** Richard Elliott  
**Mar. 15** Tim Durben  
**Mar. 22** Richard Elliott  
**Mar. 29** Keith Lands



**ALTAR GUILD**

**March:** Betsy Morris, Becky Lands, Ashley Eick  
**April:** Sue Case, Janie Huffman, Melody Rader

**Get the Messenger By Email**

If you'd like to receive the Messenger by email please send an email to [Gracehappens@gracedover.org](mailto: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](http://www.GraceDover.org)



gracehappens@gracedover.org  
 pastorphil@gracedover.org

March 2026

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 216 North Wooster Ave  
 Dover OH 44622-2948  
 330-343-6915

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7 pm Valley Voices</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>7 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>11 am Bible Study - LH</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9 am Knotters 7 pm Valley Voices</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9am Knotters 6pm Altrusa - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>11 am Bible Study - LH 7pm Beekeepers - ORC</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>8am Men's Breakfast - LH</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7pm Valley Voices</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Planning Council - LH</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>11 am Bible Study - LH</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>10am Grocery Bag Drive Thru</p>  <p><b>Messenger Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:30am Women's Group - LH</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion 6pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7pm Valley Voices</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>11 am Bible Study - LH</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Messenger Assembly</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion</p> <p><u>Easter Breakfast</u> <u>Egg Hunt</u></p> 	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7pm Valley Voices</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts</p>				