



# 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

Dear Members and Friends of Grace,

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.*

We are well into the Easter season during which we highlight the main reason we meet on Sundays for worship: the resurrection of Jesus took place on the first day of the week. We call it Sunday and in the early church it became known as The Lord's Day. The faithful followers who made up the church of the first century met often during the week, but they especially met on Sundays (The Lord's Day) for worship and sharing in a feast. That same feast is represented by today's congregations by celebrating the Lord's supper every Sunday (Holy Communion, Sacrament of the Altar or Eucharist). We continue a practice that the church has been doing since the first disciples of Jesus were meeting regularly

Many recall the days when we celebrated communion only once a month and, in some churches only four times per year. Why did we move to celebrate the Holy Communion every week? One of the reasons we had communion so infrequently was a holdover from days in the past when pastors (on horseback) could only get to a congregation four times a year. Most rural and semi-rural parishes did not have their own pastor. Pastors were shared among numerous congregations often several days away by horseback.

Many church leaders in Lutheran and other protestant denominations realized that a main reason for gathering to worship is to celebrate the Lord's Supper among ourselves. Consider that on any Sunday morning throughout the entire world, about 2 billion people are gathering to celebrate Holy communion with an understanding that in some way our Lord Jesus is present among us in our prayers, songs, worship and especially in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

Holy Communion is a gift from God for us in which we are encouraged, strengthened in faith, and then sent forth in the world to share the love of God.

Blessings at Easter,

Pastor Phil Stuart


**Interim Pastor**  
Rev. Phil Stuart

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

# Planning Council

PLANNING  
COUNCIL

Next Meeting  
Tuesday,  
May 19, 2026  
@ 6:30PM



Congregational Life Meeting  
May 13th at 3 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

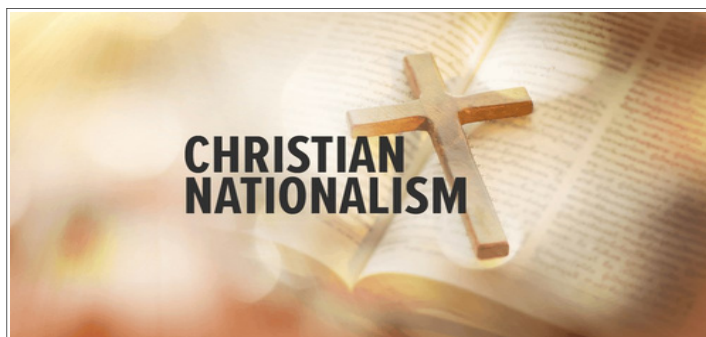
**Ron Stahl** - Director  
Charles Castricone  
Keith Lands  
Sarah Kneuss

### 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



## CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

What is Christian Nationalism?

The ELCA teaches that Christian nationalism is a distortion of the Christian faith, as it wrongly fuses selected Christian beliefs with U.S. civic life and confuses earthly governments with God's kingdom. Jesus clearly states, "My kingdom does not belong to this world" (John 18:36), and Lutherans affirm that God's kingdom is not a nation, culture, race, or government. For theological reasons, the ELCA rejects Christian nationalism as idolatry and calls for healthy patriotism that seeks justice, kindness, and the well-being of all people.



## ENDOWMENT FUND

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.

# POWER of PRAYER

**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.**

  
**Coffee & Conversation**

Join us the 3rd Saturday of each month in Luther Hall.  
 8:30 - 9:30 am  
 This time of fellowship is open to women off all ages. Our time together will include coffee, conversation, prayer, devotion and a short program. We will also do a free will offering.  
**Bring your coffee mug and a friend!**

# Announcements



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

### Final numbers for 2025

More than 315,000 quilts were distributed across 15 countries and 485,000 kits were made and sent to those 15 countries.

These efforts helped Helene and Milton hurricane families. Also, camps in Mali.

Our world is hurting, LWR appreciates our talents and generosity to help show the love of Christ. In others darkest hours, the love of Christ is near.

In upcoming newsletters and bulletins information about how you can help will be posted.

## PIERSTORF MEMORIAL LOAN FUND

Did you know Ohio Lutheran students have access to interest-free college loans?

**The Pierstorf College Fund provides up to \$4,000 per year for Lutheran students enrolled full-time at accredited four-year colleges or universities. Since 1994, this unique ministry has awarded over \$14 million to support students pursuing higher education. Applications for 2026–2027 open March 1 and close June 30. Learn more or apply at: [Pierstorf.org](http://Pierstorf.org)**

### GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

**Please make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and note “geranium” in the memo area of your check. The cost for one 8” pot geranium is \$13.00. This order form is due to the church office by Monday, May 4th.**



QUANTITY (\$13.00 EACH)	NAME & PHONE NUMBER
CIRCLE: YES / NO	I will take the geraniums home after the 10 am worship service on May 24th.
CIRCLE: YES / NO	I plan to leave the geraniums to be planted on the church grounds.



**Please join us to celebrate Isaac's high school graduation right here at the Grace Lutheran Outreach Center. Sunday, May 24, 2 to 5 pm.**



**Join us in celebrating all our church family successes on May 10th!**

**We will be honoring Confirmands, Graduates and Sunday School participants and their families with breakfast on May 10th at 9 am followed by church at 10 am.**

**Please RSVP on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the church office with the number of people planning to attend breakfast by May 3rd.**



**Please plan to attend and help us decorate for Pentecost. Saturday, May 23rd at 9 am. All help is greatly appreciated.**



The Call Committee checked in with the Synod last week on the status of potential applicants. The Synod indicated they had recently spoken with a pastor who was interested in reviewing our Congregational profile. The Synod provided the profile to the pastor. We are awaiting to see if the pastor would like to be interviewed.

Nathan Vaughan Cell (330) 447-3637



**We are so proud of our 2025/2026 Grace Lutheran graduates!**

Our college graduates:

**Reagan Brothers**, daughter of Mike and Julie Brothers graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences & Disorders in December, 2025. She will attend The Ohio State University this fall to start working on her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology.

**Naomi Hallman**, daughter of James and Michelle Hallman is graduating from Bowling Green University this spring with a Bachelor of Science degree in Resort and Attraction Management.

**Brody Morris**, son of Jimm and Lisa Morris graduated from Miami of Ohio with a Master's degree in Chemistry in December, 2025. He has accepted a position with Thermo Fisher Scientific in Cincinnati.

Our high school graduates:

**Issac Roman-Willey**, son of Chris Roman and Nicole Willey is graduating from New Philadelphia High School and continuing his education at Kent State University and will be studying Biological Sciences-Pre-Med.

**Taylor Vaughan**, daughter of Nathan and Jennifer Vaughan is graduating from Dover High School this year and planning to attend Ohio State University and major in Occupational Therapy focusing on pediatrics.

**Congratulations, Reagan, Naomi, Brody, Issac and Taylor!  
We wish you many blessings in your studies and vocations.**

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Our biennial Election of Officers and Ministry Boards will be held during our Congregational Meeting on June 7, 2026. The meeting will be held at 9:50 am prior to the 10:00 a.m. worship service.**

**Congregation President Julie Brothers will preside over the meeting and present the 2026-2028 slate of officers, board directors and board members.**

**The full slate will be available on the table in the narthex beginning Sunday, May 24.**

**We will also be voting as a congregation on the removal or retention of the American Flag from the sanctuary.**

**As a reminder, you must be present to vote. Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot is not permitted in accordance to section C10.05 of our church constitution.**



We have several vacancies that need filled within our congregation. We desperately need some new faces & fresh ideas - consider this your invitation!

Planning Council Vacancies: we need 2 committee chairs - one for Christian Faith & Life Board and one for Congregational Life Board (this is also VP of planning council) .

Board member vacancies: the following committees are in need of additional members to help lighten the load on our chair people - Christian Faith & Life Board & Outreach Board.

Other volunteer opportunities: the annual Dover Chocolate Walk - a coordinator & a few volunteers to pass out the chocolate; communion assistants & lay readers to assist at Sunday morning services; grocery bag distributors for the Friday grocery bag drive-thru; a high school Sunday School teacher; & finally any musicians who would like to play or sing along with Jeff &/or the gallery choir during church.

Remember the old English proverb "Many hands make light work" . We need some more hands!! If you can help in any way, please contact Lisa in the church office or council president Julie Brothers (cell 419-618-2200) and we will point you in the right direction! Please prayerfully consider what you can do for your church.

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  
Maryann Brothers

Henry Arthur Porter  
Bruce Siber  
Pastor Blanch Tyree  
Bob Shalosky  
Brooke Lester

**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.




- May 3rd - 2 vases
- May 24th - 2 vases
- May 31st - 2 vases
- June 28th - 2 vases
- July 5th - 2 vases
- July 12th - 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**  
 Saturday,  
 May 23rd 9 am

Tuesday,  
 May 26th 9 am

**Sunday, May 3rd**  
 Acts 7:55-60  
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
 1 Peter 2:2-10  
 John 14:1-14

**Sunday, May 10th**  
 Acts 17:22-31  
 Psalm 66:8-20  
 1 Peter 3:13-22  
 John 14:15-21

**Sunday, May 17th**  
 Acts 1:6-14  
 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
 John 17:1-11

**Sunday, May 24th**  
 Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
 John 20:19-23

**Sunday, May 31st**  
 Genesis 1:1—2:4a  
 Psalm 8  
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
 Matthew 28:16-20



**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>	
May 3	RyderVanfossen
May 10	Ava Eick
May 17	AlexaShepherd
May 24	JameyWolfe
May 31	Olivia Eick

<u>LAY READERS</u>	
May 3	Jimm Morris
May 10	Gale Limron
May 17	Reagan Brothers
May 24	David Johns
May 31	Kim Gray

<u>COMMUNION ASST.</u>	
May 3	
May 10	
May 17	
May 24	
May 31	

<u>USHERS</u>	
May 3	JohnLorenz, Ed Harper
May 10	MikeSergent, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott
May 17	JohnStahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper
May 24	JeffKeller, JeffHootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen
May 31	WELCA

<u>SOUND</u>	
May 3	Keith Lands
May 10	Richard Elliott
May 17	Tim Durben
May 24	Richard Elliott
May 31	WELCA



**ALTAR GUILD**

**May:** Pam Keller, Elaine Margo, Toni Ferritto  
**June:** Glenda Sclater, Marcie Castricone

**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

May 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.
					<b>1</b> 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	<b>4</b> 7pm Valley Voices	<b>5</b> 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>6</b> 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> 10 am Homemaker's - ORC  	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8am Men's Breakfast - LH
<b>10</b> 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion   <b>Confirmation Celebration Sunday</b>	<b>11</b> 7pm Valley Voices	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Cub Scouts	<b>13</b> 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>14</b> 7pm Beekeepers - ORC	<b>15</b> 10am Grocery Bag Drive Thru	<b>16</b> 8:30am Women's Group - LH
<b>17</b> 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion	<b>18</b> 7pm Valley Voices	<b>19</b> 12pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>20</b> 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Messenger Deadline</b>	<b>23</b> 9am Altar Guild-Decorate
<b>24</b> 9am SCS 10am Worship Communion 6pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter  <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<b>27</b> 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>Messenger Assembly</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9 am SCS 10 am Worship Communion						