



# 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

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

For most American congregations the month of October contains celebrations of agriculture like Harvest Home during which we give thanks to God for daily sustenance of food and all else that we need for meaningful living. We also have the church's unique celebration of Reformation Sunday during which we highlight certain reforms that took place in the church's history over many centuries. Our Lutheran understanding of this reform movement is tied, of course, to Martin Luther and his preaching and teaching about some practices of the church with which Luther took issue.

The most well-known of these events occurred on All Hallows Eve (October 31) in the year 1517 when The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther tacked up (nailed) a large piece of parchment on which was printed 95 statements (or, theses) regarding the church's Sacrament of Penance (one of 7 sacraments recognized by the Roman Catholic Church). Part of the Sacrament of Penance was buying Indulgences from the church. (For a deeper dive into the notion of Indulgences and what that is I'll be offering a class or 2 two on

*How the Reformation changed the way we worship. We'll ask questions like, What is an Indulgence and Why did they sell so well. (BTW to our Roman Catholic siblings and former Catholics, my intention in studying this is in no way desiring to be dismissive of the idea an Indulgence or make fun of it.)*

What is most important about the era of the Reformation is the idea that the church must always be reforming. The reformers often used the Latin

phrase, ***ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda. It means, the church reformed, always reforming.***

We believe that the Holy Spirit guides the church into reform over the centuries. It is the church's responsibility to always be reforming. Just as one example, we worship in English not German. Many immigrants who came here and grew congregations worshipped in their native tongue. When English became more prevalent over the decades in their community the switch to worshipping on Sunday in English was not embraced fully by all. There were complaints...big time.

With congregations in transition, there are often changes that are made which are hard for some to embrace. Yet, we can trust that God is still leading and guiding our own Grace Lutheran along with all our neighboring churches.

Peace,

Pr. Phil Shuart

**Interim Pastor  
Rev. Phil Shuart**

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

# Planning Council

## PLANNING COUNCIL

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

# board meeting

Oct. 20th - ChristianFaith & Life Mtg.  
6:30 pmLH

## 2026-2028 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

GaleLimron - President      -VicePresident  
Michelle Durben - Secretary      JohnWolfe - Treasurer

### Congregational Life

- Director  
SusieErickson  
ElaineMargo  
BetsyMorris  
MelodyRader  
JimHeller

### Property

Jeff Hootman - Director  
JimGibb  
LarryWallick  
RichardElliott  
MikeSergent  
NathanVaughan

### Christian Faith and Life

Lindsey Jerles - Director  
KarlaBurrier  
TiffanyShepherd  
(Cody Jerles, Coordinator YFM)

### Hospitality

Deb Foust- Director  
Marcie Castricone  
Cindy Jerles  
Bobbie Cox  
Julie Vanfossen

### Stewardship Development

David Johns - Director  
CharlesCastricone  
SarahKneuss

### Outreach

Ron Stahl-Director  
TimDurben  
Pam Beller  
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



We will hold our Oktoberfest celebration Sunday, October 18 following the 10 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall. Hospitality Ministries will offer brats, sauerkraut, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, desserts, & beverages.



**Saturday Morning  
October 12th, 2026**

**Northeast Ohio Synodical  
Women's Organization**

Cleveland West Cluster  
Fall Gathering

**New Horizons Lutheran Church  
8439 River Corners Rd.  
Homerville, Ohio 44235  
Watch for further details.**

### **Blanket Sunday is October 4th**



The Grace Knotters and Grace Women of the ELCA have made several quilts for Lutheran World Relief which will be shipped this October. Some will comfort our neighbors in Christ here in the United States. Others will be travel where needed across the globe.

Grace Women of the ELCA will also be sending off health kits. All the above items will be shipped from Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville, OH

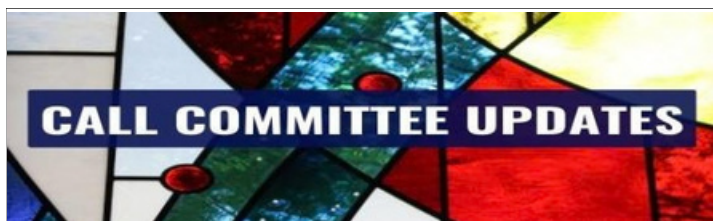
A display of our Quilts of Grace will be on display in the sanctuary and narthex on Sunday, October 4. A "Blanket Sunday" envelope will be included in the day's bulletin to help support this worthy cause. If writing a check, **please make out the check to Grace Lutheran Church** and note **"Blankets"** on the memo line. Thank you.

## "Showing Jesus" to Our Harbor House Neighbors

**Grace Outreach Ministries** is sponsoring a collection of personal care items for the women and children of Harbor House in New Philadelphia on the Sundays of October 18 and October 25. Collection baskets are in the narthex for your donations.

Harbor House is a safe refuge for women and their children seeking to escape an abusive environment. Many have fled from their homes and threatening situations with little more than the clothes on their backs. To help these women and children in their time of need with a gift of hope, we are seeking contributions of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, facial tissues and other personal care items.

Thank you all for your Christian care and compassion.



Greetings from the call committee.

The call committee met the evening of Sept. 2, to review the results of our first interview with the candidate. Following our discussion, the committee has decided to move forward with a second interview.

We are currently coordinating with the candidate to establish a date and time for this next conversation, and we will share further updates as they become available.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support throughout this process.

Best regards,  
Nathan Vaughan



Dear Grace Family,  
Just a short note to thank you for all the cards. I really enjoy getting them.

Blessings,  
Glenn Bosler

## 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  
Bruce Siber  
Jeff Beshore  
Brooke Lester  
Boston Crowell  
Jean Geyer

Glenn Siber  
Steve Strohl  
Richard Siber  
Cheryl Willey  
Maryann Brothers  
Alex Marchant

### 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 Janet Loader, Donnas Coulter (mother of Larry Coulter) & Sally Hagey (niece of Donna Fox and Betty Kaser).

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.



Oct 11th - 1 vase  
Oct. 18th - 1 vase  
Nov. 22nd - 2 vases  
Nov. 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,  
Oct. 27th  
9 am

#### Sunday, Oct. 4th

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-15  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46

#### Sunday, Oct. 18th

~~Isaiah 45:1-7~~  
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

#### Sunday, Oct. 11th

Isaiah 25:1-9  
Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 22:1-14

#### Sunday, Oct. 25th

~~Jeremiah 31:31-34~~  
Psalm 46  
Romans 3:19-28  
John 8:31-36

# online

**Yes, on-line services are here to stay!**

Worship with us online each Sunday at 10am. Our worship is live streamed and can be found on our YouTube channel which is found on

[gracedover.org](http://gracedover.org).

## Worship Assistants

**SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP****LAY READERS**

**Oct. 4** David Johns  
**Oct. 11** Betsy Morris  
**Oct. 18** Sophia Cronebaugh  
**Oct. 25** Jimm Morris

**COMMUNION ASST.**

**Oct. 4** David Johns  
**Oct. 11** Elaine Margo  
**Oct. 18** Sophia Cronebaugh  
**Oct. 25** Jimm Morris

**USHERS**

**Oct. 4** John Lorenz, Ed Harper  
**Oct. 11** MikeSergent, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott  
**Oct. 18** JohnStahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper  
**Oct. 25** JeffKeller, Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen

**SOUND**

**Oct. 4** Keith Lands  
**Oct. 11** Richard Elliott  
**Oct. 18** Tim Durben  
**Oct. 25** Richard Elliott

**ALTAR GUILD**

**October:** Sue Case, Janie Huffman

**November:** Pam Keller, Elaine Margo, Toni Ferritto

**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

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

# October 2026

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

| Sun.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Mon.                           | Tue.                                                                                                   | Wed.                                                        | Thu.                                                    | Fri.                                           | Sat.                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                       |                                |                                                                                                        |                                                             | <b>1</b><br>6pm Bell Choir                              | <b>2</b><br>10 am Grocery Bag<br>Drive Thru    | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>4</b><br>9 am SCS<br>10 am Worship<br>Communion<br><br>                                                                           | <b>5</b><br>7pm Valley Voices  | <b>6</b><br>12 pm Senior Crafters<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts                                                | <b>7</b><br>3 pm Cong. Life Mtg.<br>- LH<br>7 pm Boy Scouts | <b>8</b><br>6 pm Bell Choir<br>7 pm Beekeepers -<br>ORC | <b>9</b>                                       | <b>10</b><br>8am Men's<br>Breakfast - LH<br><br> |
| <b>11</b><br>9 am SCS<br>10 am Worship<br>Communion                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>12</b><br>7pm Valley Voices | <b>13</b><br>6:30pm Cub Scouts                                                                         | <b>14</b><br>7pm Boy Scouts                                 | <b>15</b><br>6pm Bell Choir                             | <b>16</b><br>10am Grocery Bag<br>Drive Thru    | <b>17</b><br>8:30am<br>Women's Group - LH                                                                                            |
| <b>18</b><br>9 am SCS<br>10 am Worship<br>Communion<br><br><u>Harbor House Collection</u>                                                                                                                             | <b>19</b><br>7pm Valley Voices | <b>20</b><br>12pm Senior Crafters<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts<br>6:30 pm Christian Faith &<br>Life Mtg. - LH | <b>21</b><br>7pm Boy Scouts                                 | <b>22</b><br>6pm Bell Choir                             | <b>23</b><br><br><u>Messenger<br/>Deadline</u> | <b>24</b>                                                                                                                            |
| <b>25</b><br>9am SCS<br>10am Worship<br>Communion<br>6pm Meal to the<br>Homeless Shelter<br><br><br><u>Harbor House Collection</u> | <b>26</b><br>7pm Valley Voices | <b>27</b><br>9 am Altar Guild<br>12 pm Senior Crafters<br>6:30 pm Cub Scouts                           | <b>28</b><br>7pm Boy Scouts                                 | <b>29</b><br>6pm Bell Choir                             | <b>30</b><br><br><u>Messenger<br/>Assembly</u> | <b>31</b>                                                                                                                            |