



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

There is an interesting story in Matthew's gospel that I didn't get to share with you on August 9. It is a familiar story with much to teach us. The story is found in Matthew 14:22-33. Jesus walks on the water. Here are the main ideas.

The disciples are in a boat that gets caught in a storm. In the middle of the night Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. They respond with fear as though Jesus is a ghost. Peter, who often goes a bit overboard (no pun intended) with responses to Jesus. The lesson in part reads:

Peter says, *"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."*²⁹ He said, *"Come."* So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, *"Lord, save me!"*³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, *"You of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

Among the many lessons we learn from this there are two highlighted here. One is that Jesus walks on the water and then stills the storm after they got into the boat. This miracle is to let the reader know who Jesus is and what Jesus has control over. In another gospel the disciples marvel, "Who is this that even the wind and waves obey him"? Well, that's the point the gospel writer is shining a light on. Who is this? The image of someone controlling wind and waves is to let the reader know that Jesus is indeed the Messiah from God.

The second lesson I like in this story is Peter's experience. He walks on the water and then started to sink *after* he took his eyes off Jesus and only considered the circumstances around. It's as if Jesus could have been pointing to his own eyes with two fingers and saying to Peter, *"Peter, it's here, keep looking here!"* Keep our eyes on Jesus is the lesson.

Peace,

Pastor Phil Shuart

Interim Pastor
Rev. Phil Shuart

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Planning Council

PLANNING COUNCIL

Next Meeting
Tuesday,
Sept. 15th, 2026
@ 6:30 PM

board meeting

Congregational Life Mtg.
Wed., Sept. 9th
3pm LH

2026-2028 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Gale Limron - President -VicePresident
Michelle Durben - Secretary John Wolfe - Treasurer

Congregational Life

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

Property

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

Christian Faith and Life

Lindsey Jerles - Director
Karla Burrier
Tiffany Shepherd
(Cody Jerles, Coordinator YFM)

Hospitality

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

Stewardship Development

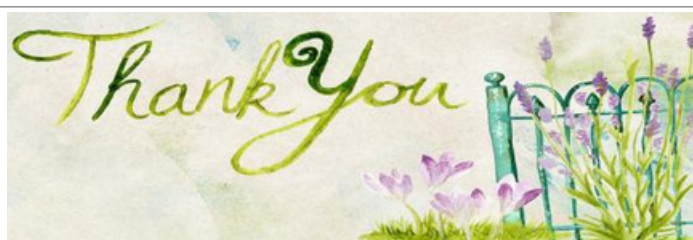
David Johns - Director
Charles Castricone
Sarah Kneuss

Outreach

Ron Stahl - Director
Tim Durben
Pam Beller
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



Dear Hammerstrom Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me with this generous scholarship. It will help tremendously as I begin my graduate studies at the Ohio State University in speech-language pathology.

Thanks again,
Reagan Brothers



To Our Church Family,

Words cannot fully express the gratitude we feel for the many years of kinship new have shared with you. We hope to visit and stay connected over the years.

**In Love,
Nicole Willey, Christopher Roman,
Jacob & Issac**



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.

Thank You

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship! I am very excited to continue my education and medical career with hopes to become a surgeon one day! My faith is a huge part of my life and I am so thankful that the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church supports me! Thank you again for the generous scholarship.

**Sincerely,
Isaac Roman-Willey**



**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.

Thank You!

Grace Lutheran Church Family,

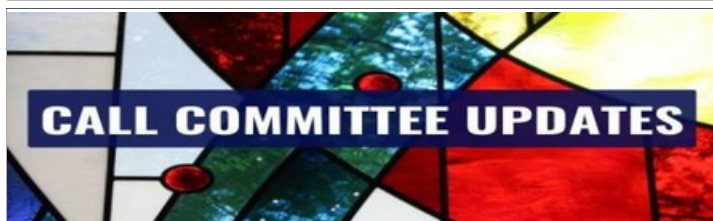
I cannot thank you enough for all the emotional, social & spiritual support you've given my late mother Judy Plunk

She looked forward to her Holy Communion visits, the cards, the gift bags, and the love and support shown to her by your parishioners.

Once again,

Thank you for being such an important part of my mom's life.

Steven Plunk



Greetings from the Call Committee.

We had a wonderful dinner and breakfast with a candidate on August 13th and 14th. The third interview went very well. We are awaiting additional information from the candidate at this time. We hope to be in a position to keep moving forward in the next 4-6 weeks.



The Christian Faith and Life Committee would like to cordially invite the entire congregation to attend our Rally Day Potluck on September 13th, 2026 following the church service.

Bring your favorite food to share. The church will provide chicken and drinks. We hope to see you there for a time of fellowship and fun as we recognize our teachers and get a take home bingo game.

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
Maryann Brothers

Glenn Siber
Steve Strohl
Richard Siber
Cheryl Willey

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 Judy Plunk.

May the Lord embrace this family 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.



Sept. 13th - 1 vase

Sept. 20th - 1 vase

Oct. 4th - 2 vases

Oct 11th - 1 vase

Oct. 18th - 1 vase



Ladies of Grace Knotters

**Lutheran World Relief
Final Project Numbers
for 2025**

Quilts: 37
Health Kits: 10
Backpacks: 5



Worship Readings

Altar Guild

Tuesday,
Sept. 29th
9 am

Sunday, Sept. 6th

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, Sept. 20th

~~Jonah 3:10-4:11~~

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, Sept. 13th

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, Sept. 27th

~~Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32~~

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

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.

Worship Assistants

SUNDAY 10:00 AM WORSHIP**LAY READERS****Sept. 6** Elaine Margo**Sept. 13** Gale Limron**Sept. 20** Lynn Foust**Sept. 27** Kim Gray**COMMUNION ASST.****Sept. 6** Elaine Margo**Sept. 13** Gale Limron**Sept. 20** Lynn Foust**Sept. 27** Kim Gray**USHERS****Sept. 6** John Lorenz, Ed Harper**Sept. 13** MikeSergent, Jim Gibb, Richard Elliott**Sept. 20** JohnStahl, Keith Lands, Edward Harper**Sept. 27** JeffKeller,Jeff Hootman, John Wolfe, Joe Vanfossen**SOUND****Sept.6** Keith Lands**Sept. 13** Richard Elliott**Sept. 20** Tim Durben**Sept. 27** Richard Elliott**ALTAR GUILD****September:** Becky Lands, Betsy Morris, Ashley Eick**October:** 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 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

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

216 North Wooster Ave

Dover OH 44622-2948

330-343-6915

September 2026

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	2	3 6pm Bell Choir	4 10 am Grocery Bag Drive Thru	5
6 10 am Worship Communion	7  LABOR DAY <u>Church Office Closed</u>	8 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	9 3 pm Cong. Life Mtg. - LH 7 pm Boy Scouts	10 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Beekeepers - ORC	11	12 8am Men's Breakfast - LH
13 10 am Worship Communion  PotLuck	14 7pm Valley Voices	15 12pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	16 7pm Boy Scouts	17 6pm Bell Choir	18 10am Grocery Bag Drive Thru <u>Messenger Deadline</u>	19 8:30am Women's Group - LH
20 10am Worship Communion	21 7pm Valley Voices	22 12pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 	23 7pm Boy Scouts	24 6pm Bell Choir	25 <u>Messenger Assembly</u>	26
27 10am Worship Communion 6pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	28 7pm Valley Voices	29 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	30 7pm Boy Scouts	 Oktoberfest October 18th - FH		