



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

May 2019

FROM THE PASTOR:

A Trip down memory lane, a big deer story, a key element of scripture known as hyperbole, and some random ramblings.

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

So, on my first day off with good weather in April, I took a ride on my smallest bike. It's a Honda Grom; it has a whopping 9.8 horsepower and it gets more than an honest 100 miles to the gallon. It cruises at about 45 mph, less up hills and even less against a head wind. I mention this because when a person is riding such a bike, one has much time to think and ponder.

On this ride, I was feeling nostalgic and I was riding through and around Athens and Hocking counties, passing through and around Zaleski State Forest. Many years ago I learned the fine art of shooting at, and even sometimes hitting squirrel, grouse, and deer in that area. My dad was my coach/instructor, and his friend Mr. Mulbay often joined in with what I thought was sage advice.

My dad and his friend, Mr. Mulbay, met in the mid 1950s. The story is that Mr. Mulbay was running a big masonry job in Columbus and put my dad through a few tests to see if he could use a level. Evidently my dad passed the test as he and Mr. Mulbay worked together off and on for the next 40 years or so. They were seriously skilled in the mechanics of masonry. They were both passionate outdoorsmen. And they were also the two best storytellers I have known.

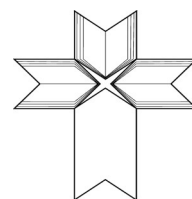
Now then, on my bike ride I took a detour down Mulby Rd (yes the township misspelled the name. It's in Knox Township, Vinton county by the way) to check out the Mulbay cabin and the area we used to hunt. The road was a little worse for the wear, but it was passable. I am not sure if the property is still in the Mulbay family, so I stopped to eat an apple and ponder. I stopped at a spot in the road where we used to camp when we hunted.

I remembered a time... I was no more than ten. By that time I could find my way around in the woods. (I had a foolproof navigation system, if I did not know where I was I just walked downhill and ended up in the road to camp.) I remember it was a warm fall day and squirrels were in season. I headed up the main ridge and to the south towards an area they called the funnel. When I arrived, I scratched leaves out of the way, sat down in the clearing, and waited for a very unlucky squirrel to go looking for his dinner. I do not remember if I saw a squirrel,

Continued on p. 2

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Church News	2,3, &4
Birthdays, Youth News, & Stewards' Corner	5
Worship Assistants	6
Calendar	7



OUR MISSION

STATEMENT:

The mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share God's good news with others with an emphasis on youth and families.

Continued from p.1

or brought one back that day. I do remember heading back to camp a little before dark.

When I arrived in camp, my dad and Mr. Mulbay had campfire and a Coleman stove going. In between giving each other advice on how to cook, they were both describing having seen a very large deer. They decided that they had seen the same large deer in different places and at different times. I can't really share Mr. Mulbay's description of the deer in a church newsletter. Just think of a guy describing a big deer in John Wayne's voice using an enormous amount of profanity; that would be Mr. Mulbay's style.

My dad's version of the big deer was what caught my attention. My dad said he saw two deer. One was small; one was enormous. According to my dad, if the smaller deer was a regular size deer, then the larger deer was as big as a horse. Remember, I was ten years old. I heard about a deer as big as a horse. I was not sure if I could believe that or not; but a deer as big as a horse was a big deer. I remember asking Dad if my trusty 20 gauge shotgun could bring down that big deer. Dad said my shotgun was as good as an elephant rifle on a deer. The reader can probably figure out what I was thinking when deer season rolled around in late November of that year, I was looking for a big deer. A deer as big as a horse.

In those years a hunter was only allowed to shoot bucks, the male deer, with antlers. So when deer season came around, I saw a few does, but no deer as big as a horse. I hunted with my dad for three days, (let's hope the statute of limitations for truancy due to deer hunting has expired on that one) and I did not see that big deer. I think my dad did harvest a buck that year. We went to the check station with that deer and I asked if anyone had checked in a deer as big as a horse. The check in person smiled and said no....

On the drive from the check station back to camp, my dad asked me if I was looking for a deer as big as a horse. I said that of course I

was. If he and Mr. Mulbay saw the thing, it might come back around. Dad hesitated. I am not sure of his exact words, but he explained to me that sometimes people made things a little bigger than they were, to make a story better. I asked him if that was like the time he said the ice was thick enough to park a train on so Mr. Mueller would go ice fishing, and he said yes. I asked him if that was like the time he said the bear in Alaska weighed at least a ton and yet one person loaded it in the truck. I asked him if that was like the time he said we caught dozens of fish and I had only counted four.... he said something like "you get the picture." His point was... there was a big deer, he exaggerated the size of it to make that point...but it was a seriously big deer.

In our world, stretching the truth for effect is called storytelling. Exaggerating details within a story to make a specific point is called hyperbole. Humans have been using hyperbole for a very long time. Hyperbole was an accepted tool of the story tellers trade in Jesus' time. We can easily find hyperbole in many of Jesus' own teachings and stories. The best example might be when Jesus replied that it would be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven... The idea of a camel passing through the eye of a needle is about as realistic as a seeing a deer as big as a horse.... neither of these descriptions are meant to be taken literally. Both are meant to emphasize something in the story.

And here is what I hope to share with you: when you read scripture, try not to get hung up on hyperbole. Look for the big picture and look for the main points. When you find something that roadblocks you, go around it. Take in the rest of the scripture story or lesson. Then go back and see if the part which was holding you up supports the main points of the story by exaggerating them.

Quick for instance: in the Old Testament there are several folks who lived to be really, really old. Every time I read their ages I wonder how that was possible... maybe the scriptural persons really did live to those ages;



Grace Garage Sale

***Proceeds will Benefit Our Church

Electric bill***

Friday August 23rd 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday August 27th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- ◇ Power Hours Saturday 12 noon to 1 p.m.
1/2 off sales except Furniture
- ◇ Clean out your garages, houses, closets, whatever and bring your treasures to Grace. Starting April 28th boxes will be available for your treasures. Judi Layman has graciously said we could store our goodies in her storage unit. Thank you Judi!
- ◇ We will price your treasures.
- ◇ Please do not bring old "big box" TV's or computer monitors, or VHS tapes. We do not sell these items and no one will pick up these items. But please bring your flat screen TV's and computer monitors.
- ◇ We will be setting up for the garage sale the week of August 18th. Volunteers are GREATLY appreciated.
- ◇ Volunteers are GREATLY appreciated during our sale Friday & Saturday also.
- ◇ Refreshments & Light Lunch available for purchase inside. Our visitors love to eat!

Thank you in advance Grace Family for everything each of you do! This is a money maker for our church, gives each of us a chance to clean out our homes and meet our community. Our prices are a gift to our community.

~The Grace Garage Sale committee

May's Hymn Sing will be May 19th at 10:45am!



Special Music

Women's Tea



Mark your calendars for May 18th, 2pm-4pm and join us for our Women's Spring Tea! Any questions?

Contact Linda Styers 614-566-9474

May's council meeting will be the 21st at 2pm.



Clean up day at Grace (inside and outside) will be Saturday May 4th, 9am until noon! We will be planting flowers and doing mulch outside and cleaning up anything that needs to be done inside. Hope to see everyone, if you can make it!

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive at Grace will be on May 23rd from 2pm-7pm. Please consider donating blood to help save a life.



Due to the recent storms and flooding, we are going to start collecting Health Kits for our circle and church project! So many places have had floods and storms that they desperately need these kits. Jan Dixon saw some of the kits in South Carolina when they went there to help last fall. Please bring in towels, soap, combs, toothbrushes, and fingernail clippers. You can make your own kits at home and bring them in, or bring in any of these items and we can assemble kits here. It is easy to find towels one sale; please stick to dark towels (red, blue, green or brown) because white shows dirt so quickly. Feel free to bring in items as you buy them, there is a collection bin by the kiosk. Items will be collected until July 1st! If you have questions, please talk to Bonnie.

Office hours will be changing, beginning May 28th! Elaine will now be in the office Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30am-1:30pm, and Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30pm-5:00pm. This



schedule will be for until the school year begins again. As always, thank you for your flexibility and understand!

Kroger will donate a percentage of all purchases to Grace Church! All you need to do is call 1-800-576-4377, or go to Kroger.com and click the community rewards link. To register you will need our account number: QS108. Last year, we earned \$1200 through this program and we can earn up to \$4000. Register yourself, friends and family!

In the last three months, we have earned \$205.17 from just 21 households who have linked their Kroger Rewards card to Grace! Thank you to those who have helped! If you have not yet linked your Rewards card to Grace, please do so ASAP, our account number is QS108. Let's see how much we can earn in the next three months.

Continued from p.2

maybe the ages are hyperbole. Either

way, living to old age meant the persons had found favor with God. So is the point that they actually lived to a specific incredible age, or is the point that they found favor with God? Recognizing the ages as hyperbole lets us get the jist of the story (somebody found favor with God) and move on. Spotting hyperbole will up your spiritual savvy.

So back to my bike ride. After I finished my apple and allowed myself a few more memories of times past, I started the bike and headed back. I decided to detour through Nelsonville and get fuel. At the gas station, a gentleman and his wife in their forties walked up as I was hanging up the nozzle. The gentleman asked how many miles to the gallon the bike gets. I showed him the odometer which read around 70 miles. I pointed to the fuel pump, which showed I pumped around .7 gallons (or 7 tenths of a gallon.) The gentleman looked at his wife and said "See, I told you those things get like 200 miles to the gallon."

Joy Dunlap	05/05
Kristen Clay	05/10
Varnie Jusu	05/16
Brayden Clay	05/18
Mildred Sater	05/18
Taylor Huelsman	05/22
Lucille Ables	05/23



Important Dates

The Youth Sunday School class will be on Sunday, May 26th at 9:45 am.

Please review the "Prayer Concerns" list in the Grace Notes. If you have placed someone on the list that no longer needs prayers, please contact the office.

Financial Stewardship Through March 2019

Giving:

March 3	\$2,552.00
March 10	\$1,955.93
March 17	\$1,625.00
March 24	\$1,840.00
March 31	\$1,831.00
Total	\$9,803.93






Year-to-Date

YTD Income	\$23,824.40
Total Expenses	\$8,292.41
Total Expenses YTD	\$26,674.31
Capital Exp & Misc	\$00.00

May Worship Assistants

Page 6



Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
May 5	Rod DuMond	Gary Bohrer	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Rose Kendrick & Linda Styers	Chuck & Coletta Sneddon
May 12	Rod DuMond	Ed Thomas	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Rose Kendrick & Linda Styers	Chuck & Coletta Sneddon
May 19	Rod DuMond	Tom Siddle	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Rose Kendrick & Linda Styers	Chuck & Coletta Sneddon
May 26	Rod DuMond	Debbi Dunlap	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Rose Kendrick & Linda Styers	Chuck & Coletta Sneddon

****If any of the assistants or readers have a conflict with the dates they have been asked to participate, please contact Doug Jackson.**

Did you know that you can receive your monthly newsletter by e-mail? This way you don't have more clutter on your kitchen counter. Help Grace save the additional costs of paper and stamps by signing up to receive your newsletter online. Just email Elaine (office@gracecolumbus.com) and let her know!

