



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

August 2019

Some “Old Fashion mid-summer Bible Teaching” The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

Luther wrote that the purpose of the Gospel and the message of Jesus was summed up as “comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comforted.” Luther meant that while we’re comforted with Jesus’ words and promises and actions; at the same time we’re being informed that we’re so “messed up” that the only way for us to ever be right is through what Jesus does for us.

One of my favorite TV series was “Justified”. The lead character (Raylon Givens) was a seriously flawed but well intentioned Deputy US Marshal who had been reassigned from sunny Florida, to where he grew up in the Eastern District of Kentucky. His Appalachian background both helped and hindered him there, at times. (I liked that about him for some reason.) One of Raylon’s memorable quotes (and yes, I cleaned it up a little) was something to the effect of “If you wake up in the morning and meet one problem person, that person is a problem. If you meet problem persons all day long, then you are the problem.” Perhaps unintentionally, Raylon had almost paraphrased Luther, in that he both comforted and afflicted the listener in a more contemporary way.

Here’s the Old Fashion Biblical Part: My favorite Old Testament writer/prophet, was similar to both Luther and Raylon, in that he brought both the comfort and the affliction of God’s words to the people (and to a King). I am referring to Amos, who was on the scene around 750 BC. Amos (I know, what a name) brought the word of God primarily to King Jeroboam II, but Amos’s words from God were not limited to just the King. Amos repeated God’s words and reminders to the people of Israel as well. And, we could say that Amos did not mince words.

Back story: Centuries before Amos, God established a relationship with the Hebrews. The relationship was covenantal, an agreement that God proclaimed the Hebrews as his people, and it stipulated behavior on the part of the Hebrews, that would reflect on God’s proclamation.

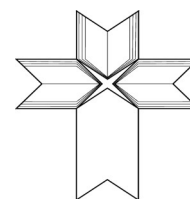
Except... by the time Amos came along, the Hebrews had been practicing some serious selective memory, in that they were following the Covenant when it benefited them and not so much when it did not. So God called Amos to go from Judah to Israel and bring God’s words to the Hebrews. Amos told (or reminded) them, (again, in rather harsh words) that they were to take care of the poor, take care of the widows, tend to the sick, and they were to return their attention to living faithfully according to the covenant.

To be precise, Amos was the first of the prophets to use the term “Day of the Lord,” a term which the Hebrews

Continued on p. 2

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Church News	2,3, &4
Birthdays, 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

interpreted as the day God would destroy God's enemies.

However, Amos included Israel as one of God's enemies, in that Israel was guilty of injustice towards the poor, the sick, the elderly, immigrants, and young women. So for folks hearing and reading Amos, "The Day of the Lord" is a day of doom.

This sure is cheerful summertime stuff isn't it?

So let's toss this in the lesson before we go on. Maybe most importantly, Amos also told them that while God intended to lay Israel low, God would indeed rebuild Israel in righteousness. That's a complicated way of saying God was going to clean house and then make things right.

So, obviously, the cleaning house part was rather pointedly "afflicting" and the restoration part was quite "comforting".

Now, back to 2019. I am pretty sure we can learn a thing or two from Amos. (As John Prine once said "Any similarities to the current situation are intentional.") It is pretty obvious that God is still speaking to us through the words of Amos. We're still called to take care of the poor, the sick, and the elderly. Jesus' words echo what God said through Amos, in that whatever we do for the least among us, we do for Jesus.

But maybe most importantly for our faith lives, the words of Amos are still telling us that while we fall short of God's expectations, we live in the comfort from the promise of God, that through his son Jesus Christ, we can be renewed, and we will be restored.

And I think that is worth repeating. The promise of God, from the first of the minor prophets Amos, to the son of God, Jesus Christ, is that through God's love and grace we can always be renewed, and we will be restored.

Amen!

Grace Garage Sale

***Proceeds will Benefit Our Church

Electric bill***

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

Saturday August 24th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- ◇ Power Hours Saturday 12 noon to 1 p.m. 1/2 off sales except Furniture
- ◇ 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!
- ◇ All donations must be at the church by July 31st.

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



In preparation for the joint service with Faith on August 8th, Chancel choir will be rehearsing August 4th at 10:30am.

We will also be meeting at 10am on the morning of August 11th, at the Grube Farm to prepare for the service.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO BENEFIT THE PICKERINGTON FOOD PANTRY

There are several great events coming up where you can volunteer and help the pantry.

Summer Meal Packs:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044ba5ad2fa4fe3-summer>

As you may know, the school district provides a summer lunch program at Tussing Elementary during the month of June, but does not offer any service for the remaining six weeks of the summer break. The Fairfield County Foundation has graciously provided the pantry a grant for this program. Help assemble meal packs that contain: Soup (2 cans), Pasta with Meat (2 cans), Macaroni and Cheese (2 boxes), Pork and Beans (2 cans), Vegetables (2 cans), Fruit (2 cans), and Snacks (8 items).

Labor Day Fundraiser:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B044BA5AD2FA4FE3-labor>

The pantry will be hosting a family fun event at Victory park to raise money for the pantry.

For more information, call Vanessa Niekamp at the Food Pantry (614-441-3377).

The August council meeting will be the 13th at 2pm.

During the month of August, we are collecting Ziploc-style gallon-sized bags and sandwich bags for the kitchen.

Joint Worship Service with Faith

August 11th we will join with Faith (Baltimore) for a joint worship service. The service and fellowship will be held at the Grube Farm, 1225 Canal Rd, Baltimore 43105. The service will begin at 10:30am, followed by a picnic lunch and swimming available. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share! Paper products and drinks will be provided. Come and enjoy the day with your friends from Faith.

Mark your calendars for September 8th! Join us for worship at 11am followed by the Sunday School and Congregational potluck picnic immediately following!



Announcements!



PLEASE NOTE:

The August Dorcas Circle meeting has been moved up one week. The Dorcas Circle meeting for August will be August 14th.

Thanks to all those who brought in food for the brown bag lunches to benefit hungry kids in Pickerington. Thanks to your generosity, we packed 139 bags this summer! The food pantry is working to bridge the gap between the end of the brown bag program and the start of school. To do this, they are assembling different packs of food. Please see the list on p.3 of the newsletter to see what is desired for those packages. Thank you!

ALSO, we will continue to collect items for Health Care Kits (dark towels, washcloths, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers). We have chosen to focus on these kits this year, however, if you wish to assemble school kits at home and bring them in completed, we will ensure they get shipped. School Kits include:

- 4- 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- 30 cm ruler (or at least cm on one side)
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils bound together with a rubber band
- 5 blue or black ball point pens bound together with a rubber band
- 1 box– 16 or 24 count crayons
- 1- 2.5 inch eraser

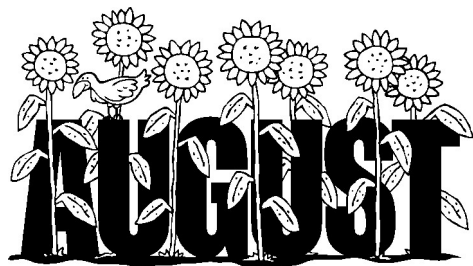
Kroger will donate a percentage of all purchases to Grace Church! All you need to do is call 1-800-576-4377, or go to Kroger.com and click the community rewards link. To register you will need our account number: QS108. Last year, we earned \$1200 through this program and we can earn up to \$4000. Register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

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.



NEW Office Hours:

School begins August 15th(!) which means Elaine's hours are changing again. The new hours will be Mondays, and Wednesdays 11:30am-3:30pm and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:30am-1:30pm. A new school year, a new schedule. Thanks for your flexibility!



Michael Lynn	8/01
Karl Groezinger, Sr.	8/10
Thomas Siddle	8/13
Rose Kendrick	8/15
Athena Kelley	8/17
Lucia Dunor	8/20
Logan Stout	8/21
Sophia Dunlap	8/29
Max Fisher	8/29
George Dunor	8/29



Birthday Blessings

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 June 2019

Giving:






June 2	\$2,061.00
June 9	\$2,626.00
June 16	\$1,394.00
June 23	\$1,982.00
June 30	\$2,168.00
Total	\$10,231.00

Year-to-Date

YTD Income	\$ 56,569.98
Total Expenses	\$ 10,356.72
Total Expenses YTD	\$ 58,147.08
Capital Exp & Misc	\$00.00

August Worship Assistants



Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
Aug 4	Tom Siddle	Linda Frazee	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Debbie Kelley, Athena Kelley, & Judi Layman	Debbie Kelley
Aug 11 (joint service)	NONE	Tom Siddle	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Debbie Kelley, Athena Kelley, & Judi Layman	Debbie Kelley
Aug 18	Tom Siddle	Bonnie DuMond	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Debbie Kelley, Athena Kelley, & Judi Layman	Debbie Kelley
Aug 25	Tom Siddle	Ed Thomas	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Debbie Kelley, Athena Kelley, & Judi Layman	Debbie Kelley

****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!

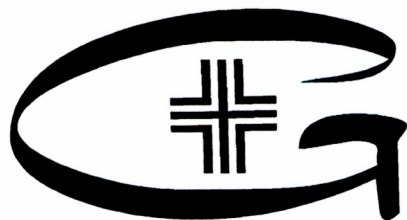


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
8950 Refugee Road
Pickerington, OH 43147

“Return Service Requested”

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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

8950 Refugee Road
Pickerington, OH 43147
(614) 868-3397

Pastor Heinz Raidel
Office: 614-868-3397

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Education Hour - 9:45 am

Worship - 11:00 am

Email for the Office:
office@gracecolumbus.com

We're on the Web!