



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

October 2019

Heat, Perspiration, and Showers in the Andes, (and in life) Pastor (Padre) Heinz D. Raidel

I'll admit to being a bit challenged by heat. That makes little sense to me, as in my past I worked outside, I ran outside, I raced outside, and I did well, as others faded in the heat. But then life came along and I have spent some time in an ER, on two occasions, for heat issues. So now I am careful.

I exercised some of that care last week on the fifth and last day of a recent hike in Peru which was to and from the ancient village of Choquequirao. The last day of the Choquequirao hike was a reverse of the first day. The first day was a short 4.5 mile walk, which went downhill, around 3200 feet. Inversely, (or is that conversely?) the final day would be 4.5 miles and we would go up 3200 feet. And that entire distance would be in the open without shade. So, I prayed for overcast. I prayed for cloud cover. Lots of both if possible, most merciful God, kyrie eleison.

And my prayers were answered. (Okay, the skeptic might say that was the weather God had planned all along; but when I am four days into a hot hike at 10,000ft, cloud cover is prayers answered, ye of little faith!) Actually, my prayers were more than just answered. One might say the Creator deluged us with blessing. Yeah, it rained.

So we put on rain gear. Not the high performance Gore Tex rain gear which fashionable hikers use. Instead, Anna and I were using Frogg Togg brand rain gear. It's made out of Tyvek, the material newly built houses are wrapped with. The Frogg Togg gear works very well to keep water (and wind) out. That is good. They also work very well to keep water (and body heat) in. That's not so good.

It's what one might call the Turkish bath syndrome. The better rain gear is at keeping water out, the better it is at keeping body heat and water in and making the wearer feel as if they are in a Turkish sweat bath.

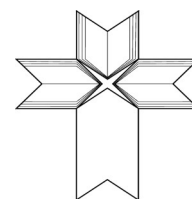
Now... here's where we go into a quick theological parallel. The sweat I mentioned... imagine that as sin. And as we all sweat, (you may substitute the term "perspire" for sweat if you wish) we also all sin. It seems as if the more we try and resist sin that comes from outside, (denying it as a raincoat denies water entry) the more we realize that just as much sin comes from within us.

It's when we take off the metaphorical rain gear we use to deny our sin, that we realize and confess that we are soaked with

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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.



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sin. That's when our walk with God becomes much easier. One more time; it's when we stop trying to deny our soaked sinfulness and instead expose it and confess it, that our faith is strengthened and we can go on.

Back to the Choquequirao hike. The rain slowed and quit after two hours and we were able to shed the rain gear. Just as life is easier without the pretense that we can block sin, hiking and climbing is much easier without rain gear. We did make it out of the canyon eventually; it was hour after hour of switchback after switchback, and always going up. And I should share this: it took every ounce of energy I had to make that climb to the saddle of the ridges and through the pass. That was a confession, and here is a proclamation: I will never walk that distance in that heat again. Never. (To which my wife commented that I would walk maybe more, maybe less, but never that exact same distance in that heat again...)

So after we walked through the pass, and out to where the starting/stopping area was, we ate a quick meal, and we loaded in the van for the three hour drive/terror experience back to Cuzco. In the van I noticed something: there was a peculiar strong merciless odor to the air, and it was not just the odor of terror responses to the driver's driving style. We all smelled very bad. We had the stink of days and days on the trail that only a hard shower at the hostel would erase. And that shower did erase the trail stink well. Anna (my wife) claimed it was the best shower ever.

Theological point: You know that life takes everything we have at times. You know that a faith life takes everything we have at times; and to be faithful, sometimes, takes every last ounce of energy, and devotion, and discipline, we can summon. And even then, the result is that we still carry with us the stink of our sin.

We know that only the waters of our baptism can wash away that sin. And we know the willing death of Jesus on the cross, his three days with the dead, and his resurrection to life

again, washed away the stink of our sin. I would like to most respectfully disagree with my wife here; I think Jesus' washing away of our sin is the best shower ever.

After what Anna falsely claimed was her best shower ever, I showered and we put on clean clothes for the first time in about a week. We then walked through Cusco, found a place to eat, and we started to think about what we would do next. Annapurna? Iceland? The Alps?

About this time, I realized something of a theological nature: after we realize we are washed of sin by Jesus, maybe we should be asking that same question... What can we do next, as cleaned up and loved and forgiven people of faith, and followers of Jesus. What can we do for our world next?

WE WANT YOU!

...to attend Grace's first Oktoberfest!

Come October 12th at 5:30pm for family, friends and YOU! Please sign up on the kiosk if you plan to attend. If you don't let us know you are coming, we will ask you. Rides available!



We are going to update our church directory! If you are in church, please stop by the large table (by the windows) and check your entry in the directory. If your name/address/phone number/ email are correct, please mark an "OK" next to it. If it needs correcting, please do so. If you cannot make it to church, and your contact information has changed in the past 2 years, please send an email (office@gracecolumbus.com) or call the office (614-868-3397) and let Elaine know the changes. This project will take several weeks to complete so please do your part in updating the directory to help speed it along. Thank you!

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Grace on November 19th, 2pm-7pm. Come out and help save a life. You can schedule an appointment and skip the wait by visiting the website: red-cross.org and searching for drives near 43147.



The next youth Sunday School class will be October 27th at 9:45am! Hope to see you there!



THANK YOU TO GRACE!

Thank you to everyone at Grace who made our Garage Sale 2019 a success!

It seems like the entire church was helping in ALL different kinds of ways.

Grace could not of had this garage sale, or added to our bottom line, without ALL of you!

Thank You Thank You Thank You!

Garage Sale 2019

Total Sales \$3,784.76

(2018 total sales were \$3508.90)

Kitchen Sales \$413.75

(up \$146.50 / 2018 sales were \$267.25)

Garage Sale Church \$3,371.01

(up \$129.46 / 2018 sales were \$3241.65)

Again, Thank You all for all time and talents in helping set up and deliver our garage sale.

The Church money is going to the electric and gas bills of our church.

We Thank YOU ALL!

Judi and Debbi

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.



Office Hours:

Elaine's hours are Mondays, and Wednesdays 11:30am-3:30pm and Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays 9:30am-1:30pm.

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.



Jeff DuMond	10/02
Elizabeth Klopfer	10/07
Robert Heinlein	10/10
Faye Volkmar	10/10
Linda Frazee	10/12
Joseph Schmauch	10/15
Debbie Kelley	10/20
Johnathan Wagner	10/22

Financial Stewardship Through August 2019

Giving:

August 4	\$1,854.46
August 11	\$1,472.00
August 18	\$2,164.67
August 25	\$1,488.75
Total	\$6,979.88






Year-to-Date

YTD Income	\$55,837.00
Total Expenses	\$6,574.00
Total Expenses YTD	\$73,994.00
Capital Exp & Misc	\$00.00

October Worship Assistants

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Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
Oct. 6	Tina Siddle	Gary Bohrer	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Wanda Lynn, Kim Norman, & Bernie Cantrell	Linda Styers & Angie Bias
Oct. 13	Tina Siddle	Tom Siddle	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Wanda Lynn, Kim Norman, & Bernie Cantrell	Linda Styers & Angie Bias
Oct. 20	Tina Siddle	Linda Frazee	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Wanda Lynn, Kim Norman, & Bernie Cantrell	Linda Styers & Angie Bias
Oct. 27	Tina Siddle	Rod DuMond	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Wanda Lynn, Kim Norman, & Bernie Cantrell	Linda Styers & Angie Bias

****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!

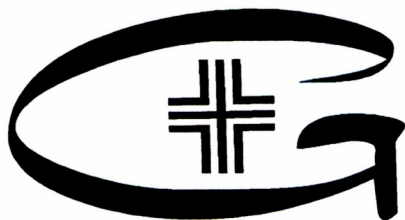


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
8950 Refugee Road
Pickerington, OH 43147

“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!