



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

November 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

Prophetic Problem Perspectives

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

First, simmer down, this article is not as technical as the title suggests!

A week before my vacation, (yes I am writing this on my vacation in front of a campfire) I took a motorcycle with a “salvage title” to the Highway Patrol Inspection station in Bucyrus. It’s a non-typical bike (Honda PC800 for the gearheads in the congregation) and it has plastic pieces covering everything. Well, as soon as the official inspector saw the bike, she began making excuses for not passing the inspection, and she started telling me over and over that I would have to make a new appointment and bring the bike back. She said I would have to “do this and do that” so she could see the VIN and the federal frame ID numbers. The thought of bringing the bike back, for what would have been a third time, was straining my good Christian disposition.

But then a second inspector came out with a flashlight and a wiping rag, and asked if I could remove a cover here and a cover there. In very short time, (due to his tenacity with the flashlight and his cell phone cam) he found what he was looking for and he noted the needed numbers.

I was telling this story to my son; he manages sub-contractors for a large home builder. He looked at me and said, “Problem pointer outer, or problem solver, which one gets the job done?” You can see the relevance of that to my inspection situation.

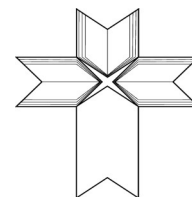
And that made me think of the Pharisees, Priests, and Sadducees who were constantly straining Jesus’ good Christian disposition. (I am not sure that’s possible but work with me please.) It seems like a person from one of those groups was always trying to call Jesus to task; “You can’t heal people on the Sabbath,” “you can’t sit with sinners,” “you can’t feed all these people.” And how about this one from the crucifixion scene: “If you’re really the Son Of God, then you could save yourself!” These folks were serious problem pointer outers.

But Jesus healed on the Sabbath, and explained it was what he was there for. Jesus fed the 5,000 with a few fish and loaves of bread because they were hungry. Jesus got down and dirty, and healed and saved sinners because they needed healing and saving. And Jesus went to the tomb with our sin because that’s how God’s

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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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love saved us. Jesus was a serious problem solver.

And as followers of Jesus in the world today, there is no shortage of those who would point out our problems. Church and non-church people alike, call us out for how we work as Jesus' hands and voice in this world. We hear criticism after criticism. Nope, no shortage of problem pointer outers in our world; just know, and maybe rejoice though, because as followers of Jesus, we get to be the problem solvers.



Thanksgiving is just around the corner and like every year, many of our neighbors will struggle to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for their families. The

Pickerington food pantry supplies everything for a good Thanksgiving dinner to many in our community. The items they are asking for this year is slightly different. Please see the list below for what you can help provide:

- * \$15 gift card (food only cards at a grocery store, to buy turkeys)
- * Box of instant potatoes
- * Stuffing mix (1 bag or 2 boxes)
- * Gravy (2 mix packets or 2 jars/cans)
- * 1 can cranberries
- * 4 cans vegetables
- * 1 large can sweet potatoes or yams.

(Items can be placed in the box outside the sanctuary.)

THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT!



PSALM 136:1, KJV

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.

We are starting a nursery! We need volunteers to be in a rotation to help with staffing the nursery, and cleaning. Any amount of time is appreciated and helpful. If you are interested in helping out, contact Dana Bower 614-286-5459.





Pickerington Food Pantry & Lancaster Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry

Here is an update on both food pantries:

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the piggy banks for both food pantries, and also your food contributions.

Each month we alternate our the recipient of our piggy bank collections. The food pantries can double the money we send when they purchase food from the mid- Ohio food bank. So if you give \$10 to the food pantries, they can purchase \$20 in food.

What these food pantries cannot purchase is health and beauty items. Things such as shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, tooth brushes, feminine pads, diapers, and deodorant.

We strongly recommend that we continue to donate money to the food pantries so they can double their food buying power; and that we contribute health and beauty items to the baskets. You can still donate the food, but keep in mind that health and beauty items are desperately needed. A visit to a local dollar store can fill these baskets with all kinds of health and beauty items.

Thank you ALL Grace! You are contributing to feeding and taking care of our friends and neighbors within our community.

The November council meeting will be the 19th at 2pm.



- ◆ Advent services this year will be December 3, 10, and 17 at 11:30am.
- ◆ Congregational meeting is December 8th.
- ◆ Grace Christmas Party is December 15th.
- ◆ Our Christmas Eve service will be Tuesday, December 24th at 4:44pm.

All women are invited to join the choir for Women's Thankoffering Sunday, Nov. 17th. We will practice *briefly* after church, every Sunday, beginning October 27th, up until the 17th. Then, on the 17th, we will practice a final time at 10:30am. Please join us!



Youth Sunday School will meet again at 9:45am on November 17th. This is also Women's Thank Offering Sunday! We hope to see you there!



Also, please note that we will begin practicing weekly, for the Christmas program on December 3rd. The program is December 22nd.



St. John's Congregational Church (on Mound street, downtown) serves a large homeless population in various capacities. They are gathering outdoor tents, sleeping bags, warm clothing, and blankets to provide the homeless with a little more protection in the cold winter months. If you have any of these items you no longer need, please bring them to church! Also, Ed Thomas is also willing to pick up anything that is too cumbersome to bring to church, and Ed and Donna will ensure these things get down to St. John's. Please spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors. You can pass on Ed's number too (614-390-6314) should they need something to be picked up. Thank you for your help!

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.

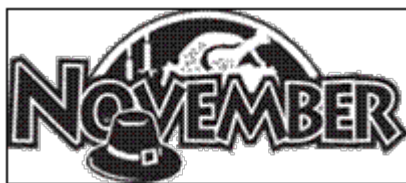


Office Hours:

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

****Please note, the office will be closed on November 28th & 29th for Thanksgiving! ****

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.



Bonnie DuMond	11/01
Ben Dorion	11/01
Pam MacRae	11/04
Kim Norman	11/07
Deborah Klopfer	11/14
Tara Stout	11/16
Rev. Martha Fisher	11/17
Kaylin Bias	11/18
Ellen Triplet	11/22
James Esswein	11/25
Angela Bias	11/30

If you want to participate in the "Toys for Tots" toy drive this year. Please take your unwrapped toys to our neighboring fire department down the street from Grace, on Refugee Road.



Financial Stewardship Through September 2019

Giving:






September 1	\$2,740.00
September 8	\$2,549.00
September 15	\$2,044.59
September 22	\$1,395.00
September 29	\$2,004.00
Total	\$10,732.59

Year-to-Date

YTD Income	\$81,631.65
Total Expenses	\$9,169.83
Total Expenses YTD	\$82,780.46
Capital Exp & Misc	\$00.00

November Worship Assistants



Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
Nov. 3	Debbie Kelley	Bonnie DuMond	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Richard & Wanda Lynn
Nov. 10	Debbie Kelley	Ed Thomas	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Richard & Wanda Lynn
Nov. 17	Debbie Kelley	Kim Norman	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Richard & Wanda Lynn
Nov. 24	Debbie Kelley	Doug Jackson	Joe Biri & Craig Norman	Ann Biri, Mary Lapham, & Cathy Dorion	Richard & Wanda Lynn

****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!

