



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

November 2020

FROM THE PASTOR:

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

“Captivity and God’s promises”

I have been calling our pandemic situation the “COVID Captivity” recently. I think that’s because it feels like we’re being held captive, and because I have been reading much from prophets who were active during the Babylonian captivity of the Israelites in the Old Testament. There are some powerful faith and hope lessons for us in the words of those prophets.

You probably don’t need any explanation in regards to why I call the present a bit of a “COVID Captivity.” In short, our lives have been severely affected and controlled by the effects of the pandemic. Maybe I can give you a leg up on the Babylonian captivity and what it means from a faith and scriptural perspective.

Around 605 BC, the Babylonians set siege to Jerusalem. The Israelites paid ransom for three years, then they stopped, then around 601 BC the Babylonians attacked and ransacked Jerusalem and the Temple. At this point, the Babylonians started deporting the Israelites to other regions. Several “waves” of deportations followed. From this time until the Babylonians were themselves overthrown in 539, (by the Persians) the Israelites lived in small groups in foreign lands. They were unable to worship, they were persecuted and oppressed, and their lives were abject poverty. This was the Babylonian captivity.

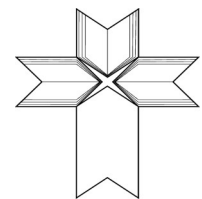
The first ten years of the captivity were especially devastating to the faithful. In the space of that ten years, the Israelites’ succession of kings (dating back 400 years to David) was broken, and they no longer had their own rulers. Their temple (built by Solomon) was completely and utterly destroyed. And maybe most devastating to their faith was their realization that they were not invincible. Since the time of King David they had lived as a nation undefeated... and now they were crushed by the Babylonians.

Jeremiah (the prophet, not the bulldog) wrote and prophesied during the captivity. His messages from God were mostly dark and convicting. He explained that the Israelites were not faithful to the covenant brought down by Moses. They had been living the life- knowing they were God’s chosen, but they were not responding 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.

Greetings and so much love.

As I read my emails and messages upon the suns rising today, my heart became heavy with sadness. And the words flowed from my mind... I wanted to share them: So many of our church family are in need of our thoughts and prayers. When we pray for our families, it isn't just those immediate blood related persons we hold dear, it is every single person who has touched our lives and created a lasting hand print on our hearts. Faith Lutheran and even our sister church Grace are among those handprints. Even though we are not together, we are still connected. The hugs we got every Sunday from people, the smiling faces greeting us. They are still there.....just close your eyes and imagine each person from our church., from our lives. You will see their faces, know their joy and instantly be connected to their heart. This my friends is how Faith works. This is the Magic Jesus gave us. As we connect we lift each other in strength and love during this most difficult of times. Today I ask you to place in thought every person who has touched your life, and by doing so ,we will raise in the universe so much of Gods love , and we will light the world with His Divine and healing power.

Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

We think of this verse when two are joined as one during a wedding. At this time and at this moment God is using this verse to remind us , whenever two hearts are joined through not only marriage, but that in family, friendship , teachers, care providers and our church families, we are connected forever. Not anyone or anything can break the bond between us. I hold you all so close to my heart. May today your reminded you are so important to someone and loved so dearly. Peace , health and joy to you,
Dawn Grube, Faith Lutheran Church, Baltimore

If you are attending worship virtually, you can still get a copy of the bulletin! The bulletin is emailed out to our member list every Thursday, or it can be accessed through our website: gracecolumbus.com, and then visit the "info" tab. You can print the bulletin from either of these access points. If you are attending church and no longer need/want the message notes mailed to you through USPS, please let Elaine know this! Thank you.

*O give thanks
unto the LORD;
for he is good.*



PSALM 136:1, KJV



The Pickerington Food Pantry is in desperate need of volunteers. The number of families they are serving has drastically increased, and their volunteer base has decreased because they are in the “high risk” group for COVID-19. Currently, they are using Sign Up Genius to schedule and recruit volunteers. Please visit the website pickerington-foodpantry.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Thanksgiving and Christmas meal kits will be passed out on November 15th.

Also, the food pantry has need of someone to pick up “End of Day Donations” from the Panera on Rt. 256 between 8am and 9am, Thursday and/or Saturday mornings. This food would then need to be to the food pantry by 9:30am. This pick up/delivery could be done twice a week or once a month. Whatever works best for you!

Other volunteers needed are shopping assistants, registration desk, stockers, delivery shoppers, and donation in-takers.

Anyone interested in helping with the Pickerington Food Pantry should contact Renee Roberts 61-834-0079.

Offering envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex. Please make arrangements to pick up your envelopes if you are attending virtually! Thank you!

****Please note that your envelope number may have changed.**

As a board member, I would like to address the members of Grace:

We are all going through trying times. WE miss the communion of saints as we worship each Sunday. We miss our fellowship. What we can NOT do is allow our individual prejudices to allow ourselves to leave this congregation in search of a better/more responsive pastor. Finding a different church on means you will be happy UNTIL! Then you will be searching again. We are called to be members of THE church, not members of A church. As Wanda said, I REFUSE to run away because I am not happy. Please search your hearts and your conscience. Are you a true MEMBER of Grace or are you a member of your own feelings? We will have differences, but leaving because of hurt feelings, or lack of communication, only means you will keep leaving wherever you decide to go.

~ Ed Thomas

My apologies for making changes to the newsletter deadline. I am trying to get things back on track! Please anything for the December newsletter into the office by November 17th at noon. Thank you!

Thank you for your contributions!

We still have bills to pay coming in monthly. We are controlling our expenses but we do have some major work on the parking lot coming; we need to seal the parking lot and do some repair work on the underground containment system. So please keep those contributions coming! Thank you Grace Family.

A note on Kroger Community Rewards

Just a note to all of you that Kroger is NOT putting Grace's name on the bottom of your receipt. If you signed up for Kroger Community Rewards, you ARE still donating 5% to Grace, you are just not seeing our church name on your receipt. If you are not sure that you signed up, just visit Kroger.com and check out Community Rewards, or call 1-800-576-4377. Our account number is **QS108**. This is free money for Grace!

PRAYER CONCERNS: Coletta Sneddon; Ann Biri; Paul Klopfer; Peggy Holtzberger; Bernie Cantrell; Alfreda Havens; Lucille Ables; Barbara Heinlein; Rev. Siggy Benedict-Shields; Michael Styers, Jr.; Seth Bower & Heather White (son and daughter-in-law of the Bowers); Cancer Support Groups at Zangmeister; Armand Auclair; and members of our military.~~

If you have specific prayer requests, please feel free to email them to the office, or leave them on the office voicemail. They will be publicized to the congregation.

**Office Hours:**

Beginning November 17th, Elaine will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30pm-2:45pm. You are welcome to stop in or call the office at this time.

Also, please know that unless you mention to me otherwise, your newsletters will continue to be sent in the form they have been since July (electronic or print). Thanks!

*From the
Church
Secretary* 



Continued from p.1

their faith, nor their behavior. And God allowed their sin and corruption to run its course, culminating in their destruction by the Babylonians.

Now here is where we check in: Jeremiah speaks of a "New Covenant" in 32:31-34. (Sounds like Communion terminology? This is where it comes from.) Through Jeremiah God promises the Israelites that they will be restored. Only the God who allowed their destruction could and would forgive their inequities and restore them as a faithful people. The promise was there, the pattern continued, God would and did rescue God's people. In the midst of the worst, God promises the best.

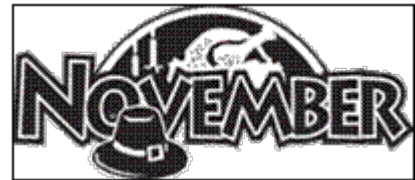
This is where our faith is rooted: In these ancient scripts, shared with a people in captivity and fear, God's promise of a new covenant which we know to be his son Jesus Christ. Our faith tells us the same thing Jeremiah told the Israelites: God would rescue, redeem and restore them. In a new way, in a new life. The new covenant is Jesus, living, teaching, being crucified, being resurrected from the dead, to take our sins and make us worthy to stand before God. The new covenant, on our part, calls only for repentance, faith, and trust in the promise and hope of Jesus Christ.

The Israelites were rescued from their Babylonian captivity. According to the OT, (and history) the Persians (who did not worship God) overthrew and destroyed the Babylonian empire, and the Israelites were free to return. Faith tells us God worked through the Persians. And faith tells us God works through people of all kinds to rescue his people.

This COVID captivity has us in it's grip. No question. As I write this, COVID cases, hospi-

talizations, and deaths are setting records and toppling the previous days records. Our lifestyles, work places, and worship are severely impacted. We realize we are not invincible just because God loves us. Many of our traditions seem crushed.

But remember the pattern and the promise: God always rescues God's people. It is not God's will that we should suffer. God promises us new and better life, and asks only for our faithfulness and trust. COVID will be broken; so it's okay to pray and trust that God will rescue us through people- scientists, medical experts, doctors nurses, epidemiologists and medical technicians... God is faithful to God's people.



Bonnie DuMond	11/01
Kim Norman	11/07
Deborah Klopfer	11/14
Rev. Marti Fisher	11/17
Kaylin Bias	11/18
Ellen Triplet	11/22
James Esswein	11/25
Angela Bias	11/30

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!

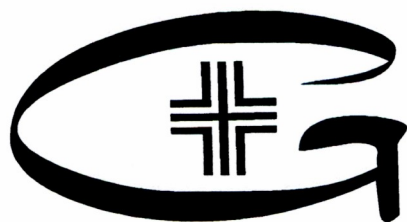


Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
8950 Refugee Road
Pickerington, OH 43147

“Return Service Requested”

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.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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!