



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

January 2021

FROM THE PASTOR:

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

I heated my former house primarily with wood for several years. I cut, loaded, unloaded, split, stacked, and carried a lot of wood into our house. This was never a problem. I had two teenagers who helped occasionally. My work schedule and my son's work/school schedule made it possible for us to feed the fire through the day. The only downside to the operation was when one of the children (who will remain nameless) would let the fire go out. I really disliked that.

Decades earlier my dad and mom were fortunate enough to find and buy (on the cheap) an old dilapidated miner's house they rebuilt (with the use of child labor- my older brother and myself) into a cozy cabin. My dad's bricklayer buddies helped him build an impressive fireplace with a huge firebox and several flues (with used brick cleaned/chiseled off by child labor - my brother and myself) and my dad found a pot bellied contraption of a wood burning stove (probably at someone's curb on trash day) and hooked it up. (This is because Germans like to have a show fireplace, but they don't want people to think they cut all the wood the big wasteful fireplace burns...). The cabin was heated entirely by wood.

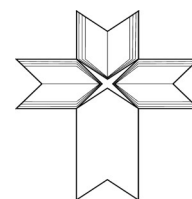
The actual firewood cutting procedure was deceptively simple. That property was surrounded by state forest, and often my dad would forget exactly where the property boundaries were and there may have been some wood scavenged from the floor of the state property to heat the cabin. Dad did the cutting. (with an old yellow McColluch saw with a push button oiler on top) My brother and I carried and loaded all the wood. This taught us about the concept of division of labor, as my dad did the cutting and we did all the labor.

It also taught us a bit about physics and gravity and load. In Athens county, there is always a hill of some sort. Dad would park the truck traversing the hill, and then cut wood on the downhill side. Every single time. If you're not aware of how this plays out, it seems like every piece of wood we carried had to go uphill. And as we discovered, wood is always heavier when it has to be carried up hill. (Once a friend who taught physics disagreed with me on this discovery. He produced a written formula which he claimed proved my discovery was not true. I suggested he help me carry wood uphill the next time I cut wood to resolve the matter. (As you might guess, the matter is still unresolved!) My point being my dad always cut wood on the downhill side

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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.



Pastor Heinz would like to organize Confirmation classes for the coming year. Due to the "COVID exile" we will be doing classes in a different way than in the past, but those 6th grade and older who are ready to take the next step on their Faith journey are invited to participate. If you are interested in Confirmation for yourself or someone else, please contact Pastor Heinz at pastorheinzraidel@gmail.com, or 740-815-9114.

We were able to get the stable figures out and lit, also the long strings of lights. Much thanks to Phil Dixon, Joe Biri and Rich Lynn for all their help. We do need all members to send in time and talent sheets; Debbi has to figure out the 2021 budget which is difficult without this information. We need everybody to support our church whether we are physically here or not. We are going to have a Christmas Eve service, Pastor Heinz will be online, but some of us will be in church for the service. Feel free to come!

~ Merry Christmas
Rod DuMond

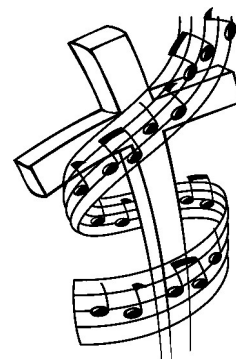
Offering envelopes are available on the Usher's table in the Narthex. Please make arrangements to pick up your envelopes if you are attending virtually! Thank you!
**Please note that your envelope number may have changed.

Articles for the February newsletter should be into the office by January 21st at noon. Thank you!

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 want to make adjustments in what you receive, either through email or USPS, please talk to Elaine. Thank you.

Karen Jackson is retiring after 50 wonderful, magnificent years at Grace! Karen has been Our Rock, Our Choir Director, Our Organist, Our Music Planner, and sent directly from God to all of us and our church. Karen, you WILL be missed at our Organ and our piano! And, we all can never say "Thank You" enough! We will all miss seeing you running between your Organ and your Piano during our services. We will miss your hymn sings and your beautiful musical skills. We will miss your love of the cranberry book! You are one of a kind; your talents and YOU can never be replaced! We will have a get together to celebrate Karen's Musical life at Grace when we open our church in 2021. Details to follow on this celebration.

Thank you Karen Jackson!





From your Treasure:

2020 has been one for the record books for Grace. But let's not forget the GREAT things Grace has achieved in 2020!

We are still worshipping! Thanks to Phil Dixon we are worshipping in person with a huge screen in the sanctuary, or at home on zoom or on face book.

The Boy Scouts have helped out our landscaping needs at Grace this year by weeding. A huge Thanks to the boy scouts.

We attended a 4th of July drive by Pickerington parade this year handing out treats to the community. Many Thanks to Judi Levernier, Larry & Linda Frazee, Wanda Lynn, Rod DuMond, & Cathy Dorian.

We have all learned new communication skills with one another. Face to face communication is the way to go that makes us all happy. But we have learned to adapt to a new communication style.

We have ALL learned to "love" those pesky face masks!

We have learned to elbow crunch instead of hugging each other!

We have all learned that there are always two sides to every story.

And, lately with a vaccine beginning to ship, we have also noted something that we have not seen in a while Smiles on our faces.

Our church is filled to the brim with Garage Sale offerings. Many Thanks to Donna & Ed Thomas for their organizational skills.

We still decorated our church for Christmas inside and outside, maybe not as much as in

the past, but Grace looks like we are celebrating Christmas 2020.

We are having a in person Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. at the church with face masks, and our huge screen in the Sanctuary on Facebook! If we feel comfortable to attend.

And, WOW, as Tina Siddle said so eloquently at our council meeting, we might of had a Shelter House pop out of the sky in 2020! Thank you Joe Biri. Your dream became a reality for Grace. Thank you Grace for all your contributions for the Shelter House.

We look forward to Karen Jackson's retirement party when we are able to open our church.

We look forward to our Easter Service when we open our doors! Even if it is in July or August or September. Pastor is committed to having it.

We look forward to having our Zoom sessions for Confirmation classes in 2021

We look forward to accepting our new members when the doors open

We look forward to once again working with Faith Lutheran our sister church.

And, remember Pastor Heinz is not the only one to make phone calls to us. We can also keep in touch with our Grace Family with a phone call.

And, so much more!

And, for all the good we have done in 2021, we want to collect all our accomplishments for the history books of Grace. We will have our annual report

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for 2020. Every committee and Council Member needs to submit their reports to Elaine by January 15th.

The new 2021 Budget will be emailed and mailed in 2021 and will be voted by negative consent! Unless you have an objection, the budget will be considered passed.

Also, Council will remain the same in 2021! We have two vacancies to fill for 2021. Stewardship and Music & Worship.

So take a moment and say a thank you prayer that WE made it through 2020 and we are ALL looking forward to 2021! Two Council Positions are open in 2021.

We are looking to fill our Stewardship and our Music & Worship Council seats in 2021

Please contact Rod DuMond if you are interested.

And, **please** contact Rod; **We need YOU!**

PRAYER CONCERNS: Mildred Sater; Geo & Gwen McConnel (Friends of Joe & Ann Biri); Coletta Sneddon; Ann Biri; Paul Klopfer; Lucille Ables; Barbara Heinlein; Rev. Siggy Benedict-Shields; Michael Styers, Jr.; Cancer Support Groups at Zangmeister; 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.



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!

The Pickerington Food Pantry is in desperate need of volunteers and cash donations. The food pantry is now serving more people than ever, many of whom are former volunteers or supporters. The pantry can purchase \$11 worth of food for every \$1 you donate. Donations are greatly appreciated, especially at the holidays.

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

We also continue to collect for the Lancaster Food Pantry!



Thank you for your contributions!

We still have bills to pay coming in monthly. We are controlling our expenses but we do still have expenses. So please keep those contributions coming! Thank you Grace Family.



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of the road and my brother and I always carried the cut wood uphill.

So once we were inside and a fire was started and the cabin was toasty warm, my dad would suggest that we appreciated the heat because of the work we put into the firewood operation. I thought that we would have appreciated the heat even without the work involved... I kept that to myself. A nice warm room/cabin/house is always appreciated.

What was NOT appreciated was if the fire was allowed to go out. This resulted in three things, none of which were desirable; First, the cabin gets cold, second, dad becomes grumpier than usual, and third, someone (me) has to restart the fire. Restarting is aggravating beyond words, because it is so avoidable!

Now then, back to my own house and wood heat. Letting the fire go out when my children were teens was also unappreciated. It also resulted in three undesirable things. Our house would get cold; the dad (me) would get grumpier (nuclear level grumpy;) and someone (not always me) would have to restart the fire. It's just so avoidable, and so very aggravating! So I dislike the idea of being so lazy as to let the fire go out- I hate letting the cold win for even a second.

The fire is more than heat and comfort. It's like warmth and light and even love. It's like taking care of the people around you. It's like a thing a person can share with family and friends. It says welcome. It shelters us and whomever we invite inside, from the cold outside. As long as the fire is burning, we're taking care of being taken care of. Yeah, it's love.

There is no Christmas birth story in the Gospel of John. But there is a comparison of Jesus (read chapter 1) to "the light." The writer calls Jesus the light of the world- and the part I love, that makes my Christmas complete- is where the writer John, calls Jesus the light that the darkness can't put out. The reader can see



Birthday Blessings

this is
the
that
dark-
can't
is an



where
going;
light
the
ness
put out
eternal

Craig Norman	01/05
Dorothy Wilson	01/07
Landon Bias	01/15
Rev. Siggy Benedict-Shields	01/17
Ed Thomas	01/19
Ann Biri	01/22
Patti Heinlein	01/27

light. One that calls us, warms us, shelters us, and forgives us. As long as the light is on, we are being taken care of. Yeah, the light is the love of God through Jesus, and it won't go out.

Fortunately we don't have to cut wood or fuel the fire that won't go out- that's not our job. Our faith (and scripture) only asks us to share the light. The light that welcomes, shelters, protects, feeds, savers, and shows the unconditional warmth of the love of God through Jesus.

Merry Christmas Everyone from Anna and myself.

Office Hours:

Elaine is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30pm-3:00pm. You are welcome to stop in or call the office at this time.

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