



# NEWSLETTER

GRACE  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church

April 2021

## FROM THE PASTOR: "It Was Impossible For Him To Be Held in Its Power"

**Pastor Heinz D. Raidel**

I have read or heard this particular scripture (Acts 2:14-24) more than a few times, and I never really appreciated or caught hold of the power and importance of the last few lines until a few days ago. I would like to share that with you.

First, this is obviously from the second chapter of Acts. By this time, Jesus has been crucified, resurrected, and has visited and departed from the disciples and followers. They (disciples and followers) are gathered in an "upper room" in Jerusalem, and they are talking about what they have seen.

And, while there are Jews from all over the near middle east (who speak different languages) in the upper room, each of them can hear and understand the speakers in their own language. They are "amazed and perplexed" at this and some of them go so far as to say the speakers are "drunk with new wine". To which Peter replies, "They are not three sheets to the wind, it's only nine in the morning". (Yes, I paraphrased that, and yes, when we read this in church I am certain there are some who are thinking... "why can't they be drinking at 9 in the morning?...")

Okay, so two things follow that I think are most important. First, Peter explains that everything they have seen (Jesus being ratted out by Judas, the baseless accusations of the chief priests and elders, the show trial, the crucifixion, and the resurrection) are all part of God's plan- so that any of us who call on Jesus will be given salvation and eternal life. God planned this. Everything went according to God's plan.

The second thing that follows is so important, it is the basis of our faith- in that God freed Jesus from death because it was impossible for Jesus to be held in death's power. It means God is more powerful than even death.

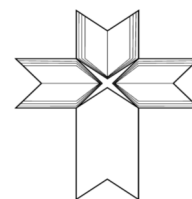
Think about that- because if God is more powerful than death, then God is more powerful than everything, and that idea becomes more than a Sunday school lesson. It becomes a way to live.

It means God is more powerful than evil. More powerful than injustice. More powerful than hate. More powerful than the folks of this world who have hardened their hearts against the

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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.

Spirit. More powerful than the greedy, the selfish, the unfaithful, the naysayers... it means God is more powerful than that force which tries everything, to separate us from God.

It means God's power will eventually be seen, heard, and felt in this world- that evil will be finally defeated - and that with that final defeat of evil, the new world of God- (heaven, the kingdom, etc) will become present and real.

Our call as followers of Jesus is to teach the world of God's power; to show the world that God's love is the most powerful force, and that through God's love in the here and now, we can change the world and give the people an idea of what God's world will be.

Jesus' resurrection isn't so much about our personal salvation as it is about God's plan to save and rescue all of us. The Easter message is a message to the world that God is in charge, and things will be lots better. God's plan does not end with the empty tomb on Easter morning, and we all have a part in how it plays out.

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](http://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.

Confirmation classes are scheduled to begin in September, in person. If you, or a youth you know are serious about this step in their faith life, please contact Pastor Heinz, ASAP.

Debbie Kelley will be serving as the Chair of Music and Worship! Thank you Debbie for your service to your church!



C H U R C H  
**GARAGE SALE**

The annual Yard Sale is planned for April 22nd and 23rd. The sale is scheduled to run 9am-1pm. We have many treasures as we had to cancel the sale for 2020. Please tell your friends and family and help us make this the best sale yet. If you would like to help in anyway, contact Debbi Dunlap! We are looking forward to resuming this fun Grace tradition!

**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!



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP OTHERS?

The Pickerington Food Pantry is in desperate need of donations and volunteers. Volunteers are greatly needed as many of their regular volunteers have had to isolate during the pandemic. Currently they need volunteers to:

- Pick up groceries at the Refugee Rd. Kroger on Thursdays.
- Pick up groceries at Meijer on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.
- Unload the MidOhio delivery truck on the second Tuesday of every month (this does include heavy lifting).
- Donate reusable grocery bags, or even sturdy plastic ones
- Food/health care items are always welcome.
- Cash donations are also greatly appreciated!

For every dollar you donate, the pantry can purchase \$11 worth of food. So monetary donations are appreciated.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating, please contact Renee Roberts at the Food Pantry,

[renee@pickeringtonfoodpantry.org](mailto:renee@pickeringtonfoodpantry.org).

Grace is also still collecting money and goods for the Lancaster.

We also have a Blessing Box outside the church that is available to those who need it any time of day and needs to be restocked sometimes. You can stop by anytime and leave something inside the Blessings Box.

**Articles for the May newsletter should be into the office by April 20th at noon. Thank you!**

We are planning for a joint service on May 2nd to be in person at FAITH to celebrate their 25th anniversary (from last year). The bishop will be joining us. As of now, the service is a go. Stay tuned!

Do you know someone who is gifted in music and directing? We are currently looking for a new choir director! Please let Rod or Debbi know if you know of someone who is interested!



We will be fully opened on May 9th! We will be celebrating Easter on this Sunday and anyone interested in being baptized is encouraged to celebrate it during our this service. Please let Pastor Heinz know if you are interested in baptism on this special Sunday! (We will be following the CDC and Synod guidelines for safety.)





# APRIL

Bernie Cantrell	4/18
Phil Dixon	4/19
Mark Cantrell	4/21
Jennifer Lawson	4/26
Aries Kelley	4/26
Linda Styers	4/27

### 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](http://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:** Barbara Hipes (friend of Mary Lapham); Mary Lapham; May Alice (grand-daughter of Tim and Dana Bower); Kathy Snyder; Coletta Sneddon; Ann Biri; Paul Klopfer; Peggy Holtzberger; Bernie Cantrell; Lucille Ables; Barbara Heinlein; Rev. Siggie 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.



### 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.