



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

May 2021

FROM THE PASTOR: Have you seen the Risen Jesus? Pastor Heinz D. Raidel

I have been reading a really cool book, “The Resurrection of the Son of God” by NT Wright and I have wanted to share... however the book is incredibly long. But then problem solved: earlier this morning I read the accounts of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene and then to two disciples and... well, there is good stuff there!

First, the reading: (Mark 16:9-18)

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

9 Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. **10** She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. **11** But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

12 After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. **13** And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Jesus Commissions the Disciples

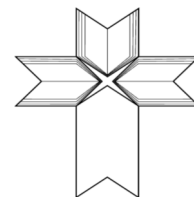
14 Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. **15** And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. **16** The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18** they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Now this section is called the “Longer Ending To Mark” as biblical scholars have found some minor discrepancies between it and the rest of Mark, but all the better for us for what is here. First, consider who Jesus appeared to first: Mary Magdalene. Not to the disciples, not to the chief priests, not to his friend Lazarus, but rather to faithful and persistent Mary. Mary has been following Jesus for a long time. Mary has been trying to do what it is right for the crucified Jesus. Mary has suffered grief and loss, and Mary is hurting. And Jesus appears to her first, to a woman, to someone the others did not believe. If anything, Jesus was making a statement- he cared

Continued on next page

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Church News	2,3,4,& 5
Birthdays	5
Worship Assistants	6



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.



about Mary, and what the others thought of her did not matter.

Next Jesus appears to two disciples- unnamed disciples. And they tell the others, and the others do not believe them. The others lack faith in both the two disciples, and in Jesus' promise that he would be back. And then, Jesus ties it all together: It does not matter that the others have no faith in Mary, or in the two unnamed disciples, or in His own promises. Jesus commissions them to go out and carry on his work anyway. The disciples' lack of faith or belief does not stop Jesus' plans. One could say... it's not about the faith Christ followers have in Jesus, it's about the faith Jesus has in Christ followers.

That's important to me; It means I can get up and go on when my faith is challenged. It means I can assure other folks that it is OK to have doubts and maybe ever fear- because Jesus calls us, and the Spirit sustains us in our call, to show the world the good news of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Jesus point to the core of our faith and personal proclamation of the Good News: **It's not about the faith Christ followers have in Jesus, it's about the faith Jesus has in Christ followers.**

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.

Thank you Debbie Kelley for taking over the reins of our organ while we search for a new Organist, Pianist and Choir Director. Thank you Karen Jackson for taking the time to show Debbie how to get the music playing. We appreciate both of you so much. Thank you Debbie and Karen!

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.

"Grow your Pew" is BACK! The greatest evangelism we all can do is to invite our family and friends to go to church with us! With in- person worship starting, we need to let our voices be heard to everyone we come in contact with! In June we will be celebrating our 148th Anniversary of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church! Let's spread the word that we want our family and friends to be part of Grace! Here's to the beginning of the next 148 years! Thank you Grace Family!



Please stop by our garage sale on Friday April 23rd and Saturday April 24th, 9am-1pm. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and non members that helped us set up the sale, sort through the sale, price the sale, collect the money, buy items from the sale and help our community purchase and take their items to their cars. Our Grace family once again came through for us! Thank you!



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.

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

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.

Going forward, newsletter articles will always be due by noon on the 20th. For example, June's articles are due by May 20th. July's articles will be due by June 20th, etc. I hope this lends some consistency.

****Also, please remember anything for the Grace Notes is due by Tuesdays at noon! ****


MUSIC 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 are planning for a joint service on May 2nd at 10am, in person, at FAITH to celebrate their 25th anniversary (from last year). The bishop will be joining us.

Congratulations to Kristopher and Samantha Dunlap, and big brother Jacob, on the birth of their newest member of the Dunlap family: Benjamin David Dunlap was born Wednesday, April 15th; 9pounds, 10oz, 21 inches long. And Bubba Debbi Dunlap could not be prouder!



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 this service. Please let Pastor Heinz know if you are interested in baptism on this special Sunday! We will return to our 11am worship time. (We will be following the CDC and Synod guidelines for safety.)

**ALLELUIA!**
CHRIST IS ALIVE!

With our church home re-opening completely, we are in need of some donations:

- Dish soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand soap
- Kleenex
- Large/small zip lock bags or baggies
- Pledge
- Window Cleaner

Any donations would be appreciated! Thank you Grace Family!

Thank you Janet Dixon for keeping our outside pots full of flowers. As you walk into church it puts a smile on your face. Janet has also brightened up the inside of the church with floral arrangements. Thank you Janet!

Thank you Donna Maibaum and Ed Thomas for cleaning up our flower gardens. The beds have been neglected for a year and are full of weeds, with some flowers popping up. Who knew that dandelions could get so big and add so much color! There will not be many flowers this year as Ed and Donna get rid of the weeds and get the soil read for flowers next year! Thank you Donna and Ed!

Thank you to our Grace Church Family! If anything needs done, you are there doing it! You keep our money flowing to pay our bills. WE can ALWAYS count on each of you to do incredible things for Grace. Thank you Grace Family!

Thank you Donna Maibaum and Ed Thomas for the phenomenal shelving that they build and painted for our basement. We now have a place to store everything and keep our basement neat and clean! A place for everything and everything in its place. Thank you Donna and Ed!

Thank you Rod DuMond for this past year of keeping our church going. Rod is at the church every day checking on everything, following up with repairs needed, and being a wealth of information for anyone stopping by church, in addition to keeping our church clean. Rod was a very significant help in our garage sale too! Thank you Rod for ALL you do!

Thank you Phil Dixon for all his support and work in setting up our church Zoom meetings. Phil is also an electrician and plumber, and so many other things for our church. Thank you Phil!

And, a big Thank You to our office manager, Elaine Schroeder who has kept those newsletters coming and going, and our office running. Elaine takes care of all our bulletins, correspondence, emails, phone calls and keeping our office equipment in good working order; and so much more! Elaine is our rock who helps us run the church with information, meeting our deadlines and is a phenomenal listener to all our concerns and opportunities! This is in addition to be a wonderful wife and mom of Robbie and Christopher, and running her own household. Thank you to our Amazing Elaine Schroeder!



Stephanie Patmon	05/03
Joy Dunlap	05/07
Pastor Heinz	05/13
Mildred Sater	05/18
Lucille Ables	05/23

If you would like to be a reader and/or assisting minister once the church fully opens on May 9th, please let Debbie Kelley know, kelleydj54@hotmail.com, or 614-863-2571.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Barbara Hipes (friend of Mary Lapham); Mary Lapham; Mary 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. 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!

Rev. Siggy Benedict-Shields has a new phone number. She can now be reached at 614-904-3606, although her room number is still 225B. She appreciates notes and phone calls. Please update your directory.


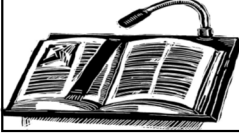
We received a couple of sensors from our insurance company, Church Mutual. They are small gray triangular remote sensors. One is located in the women's restroom and the other is located under the sink in the kitchen. If the sensors detect water they beep, and they beep until reset. The one under the kitchen sink went off and we were able to detect a leak before any serious damage was made; Phil Dixon came to our rescue. Thanks to church Mutual and Rod for setting these up and Phil for repairing the leak!

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.



May Worship Assistants

Date	 Ministry Team				
May 2	SERVICE AT FAITH	SERVICE AT FAITH			
May 9	Rod DuMond	Bonnie DuMond			
May 16	Debbie Kelley	Debbi Dunlap			
May 23	Ed Thomas	Debbie Kelley			
May 30	Janet Dixon	Rod DuMond			

**If any of the assistants or readers have a conflict with the dates they have been asked to participate, please contact Debbie Kelley.

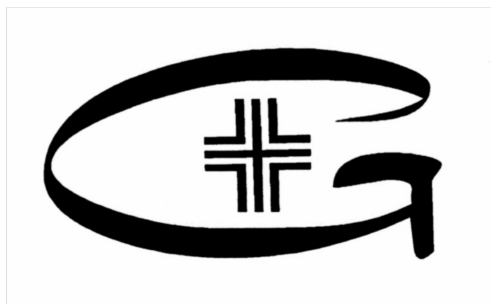
Office Hours:
 Elaine is in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays
 12:30pm-3:00pm. You are welcome to stop in or
 call the office at this time.

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:

Worship - 10:00 am

Email for the Office:
office@gracecolumbus.com

We're on the Web!