



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

June 2021

FROM THE PASTOR: “There Was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, Who came To Jesus” The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

There is a story in John 3 where a Pharisee has questions and comes to Jesus at night. I once heard a rather self-important pastor preach that Nicodemus could have, and should have come by day, and talked with Jesus, and by doing that, he would have shown his friends and fellow Pharisees that Jesus was truly who Jesus said he was.

The reality of the situation is that Nicodemus came at night because he was rightfully concerned with the responses from his fellow Pharisees when they saw him conversing with Jesus. Pharisees take some abuse in scripture, but I like to remind everyone that they were a seriously devout group and their faith drove them to their actions. As much as Jesus called specific Pharisees out, it should be noted he respected (loved?) them enough to hold discussions with them. Also very much worth noting is that the Pharisees were the first of the Jewish groups to embrace and confess the idea of eternal life.

Now, forgive me, but this must be said: sometimes we are more like the Pharisees than we would like. But hold on please; consider this Nicodemus- he came at night. Not wanting to be seen. Old school folks might want to condemn him for going in the dark. I would suggest, instead, that we hold him up for taking the first step to see Jesus, even if it was at night. Similarly, we can beat ourselves up for “not being very religious” or living a period of our lives without faith- or we can hold ourselves up for realizing that we have, at one point, come to Jesus with questions, and we continue to do that.

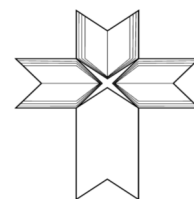
Why do we have questions, and why do we seek Jesus at specific times? I think the answer to that might be the Holy Spirit, and how it works in our hearts. Many of us can remember things called “Spiritual Gifts Inventories” which were popular a few years ago. We filled out surveys, and our answers revealed what our spiritual gifts were. I am not sure how accurate or effective those “Spiritual Gift Inventories” were, or if they motivated anyone to use their gifts. What they did show (I think this is worth noting) is that we all have different spiritual gifts. And, we are all called by The Spirit in different ways.

Being called by the Spirit in different ways...that explains why some of us are drawn differently and at different times in our lives. It explains why some folks are moved by specific events and others respond to a long term yearning or desire to know God. And here is the lesson for the day: If the Spirit calls us at different times and in different ways, who are we to condemn ourselves?

Continued on p. 2

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Church News	2,3, &4
Birthdays,	4
Worship Assistants	6
Calendar	7



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.

Continued from p.1

If we do a modern day version of Nicodemus and come to Jesus at night, then who are we to question or condemn ourselves for not seeking Jesus in a different way? Because the story of Nicodemus is not about the details- it is about a person seeking Jesus as they were able. And Jesus loved that person enough to stop everything and engage them. This is the unconditionally loving Jesus who waits for us to seek him...whenever and however!

Masks are required for in-person worship unless you have a exemption noted signed by a medical doctor. We will continue to follow the guidelines from the Synod.



Lucille Ables is facing some health challenges. She would really appreciate a card of phone call. Currently, mail can be sent to her c/o the Violet Springs Health Campus; 603 Diley Road, Pickerington, 43147.

If you are interested in being a reader and/or assistant minister in the service, please contact Debbie Kelley! You can email her at kelleydj54@hotmail.com, or call her at 614-863-2571.



Congratulations to Aries Kelley on his graduation from Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School on June 3rd!

Thank you Phil Dixon for our new LED lights in the parking lot! These new lights were the least expensive option now and going forward!



Dwayne Spence Funeral home in Pickerington is having their Shred Day and Electronic Recycling on June 5, 9am-1pm. They will shred paper on site, accept electronic recycling, food for the Pickerington Food Pantry, clothes and household goods and used eye glasses. Please see the flier on the kiosk for more information, or call the church office.

ATTENTION WOMEN OF GRACE: Join us on June 16th for our monthly circle meeting, starting at 9:30am! All women are welcome! Hope to see you there. For more information contact Linda Styers 614-566-9474.



We are still looking for a choir director/organist/pianist to fill Karen's vacancy. We appreciate Karen recording music for our worship services, and Debbie for making the music play during worship, but would also like to be ready with a music director when the time comes. Please keep your ears open and pass along any interested parties to Rod or Debbi!

If you have not yet received your Covid vaccine, stop by your local Kroger store and get it! They currently have a walk-in policy, although you might want to call first to make sure they have vaccines in stock.



The Pickerington and Lancaster food pantries are still in desperate need of food, diapers and cash donations. Anything you can give is appreciated. They are also in need of some volunteers if you have a heart to serve in that way. For more information on how you can help, please contact Renee Roberts at the Pickerington Food Pantry: renee@pickergintonfoodpantry.org.



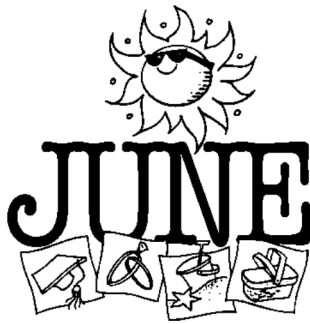
"He's using the devotional we gave him for Father's Day."

LMM will meet on Saturday, June 26th. Details will be coming soon. All men are welcome!

The June council meeting will be the 15th at 1pm.



Rose and Howard Kendrick have moved to Indiana to be closer to family. Howard and Rose, you will both be missed! Your Grace family is sending you our thanks and best wishes as you move into your new home. Please stay in touch!



Gary Layman	06/03
June Bohrer	06/09
Jim Siddle	06/11
Peggy Holtzberger	06/23
Karen Jackson	06/27
Logan Schmauch	06/29

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.

**Stay
in the
Word**








Office Hours:

Elaine's hours this summer are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 9:30am-1:00pm. This schedule will begin on June 1st!

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.

June Worship Assistants



Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
June 6	Tina Siddle	Ed Thomas		Ann Biri & Mary Lapham	
June 13	Rod DuMond	Janet Dixon		Ann Biri & Mary Lapham	
June 20	Debbie Kelley	Tim Bower		Ann Biri & Mary Lapham	
June 27	Ed Thomas	Bonnie DuMond		Ann Biri & Mary Lapham	

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!

