



NEWSLETTER

GRACE
Evangelical Lutheran
Church

August 2021

FROM THE PASTOR: "Bread of Life" The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

I was reading John 6:24-36 and it is one of those "Jesus places" where we get a good quote, a short explanation, and we are left with a few questions. One of the things we do is skip over the common and ordinary, and in the process complicate the lesson. Allow me to provide an example:

In John 6:1-23, Jesus has just fed the 5,000 with a few loaves of fish, and walked on water; he and his disciples had crossed the Sea Of Galilee looking for some rest. There was no rest, because the people from the crowd who had witnessed the signs (the feeding) decided to also cross the lake and find Jesus. They were looking for more signs. They were complicating it.

Jesus explained that He was the "bread of life." The inquisitive crowd pressured him for more. Jesus explained He was the bread of life from heaven, and the crowd still pressured him for more answers. They wanted another sign. They were complicating it again.

So as the crowd was looking for more dramatic signs, Jesus was explaining that the situation called for the common and ordinary. Bread is common and ordinary. At the time, every meal had bread- and the common bread was both nutritious and life giving. Jesus was explaining that He, the Son of God, came to them as an ordinary person who happened to be the Son of God; all they needed to join up, or carry on, with Jesus was to accept that as common bread sustained life on earth, a common belief in Jesus as the Son of God was enough to sustain eternal life.

It is tempting for us to look for, and maybe even ask Jesus for dramatic signs to help our faith. The good news is that Jesus comes to us with exactly what our faith needs- and asks only that we believe He is the Son of God sent to save us. Despite this, sometimes we might miss what "bread of life" might be- we miss those little signs that our God is sustaining us. Maybe when we complicate it; we miss what might seem common and ordinary.

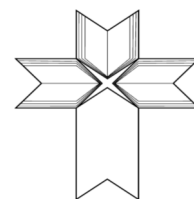
I borrowed the gist of this from Carly Sawyer, a hospital chaplain in the south. Pr. Sawyer kinda pointed out that this bread of life, Jesus, refers to might look like:

- a COVID vaccine sent through ordinary people to protect individuals and communities.
- front line health care workers who show up every day to do their next to impossible jobs; ordinary people doing the extraordinary
- and clergy and lay people who remind everyone of God's presence in 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.

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here and now- holding up
the bread of life for all to

see

Lastly, (again, the gist of this lifted from
Pr. Sawyer) this bread of life might look like all
the folks, preachers, pastors, and grandmoth-
ers, who remind us:

-that God's love is real

-that this kingdom of God is real and it is com-
ing

-that Hope is alive

-and that the darkness can not drive out the
light.

For this, we thank the Lord. Amen.

Thanks
Many Thanks
Thanks
Thanks
Thanks

When you are out shop-
ping this month, please
pick up an extra pack or
two of toilet paper to be
donated to your church.
We all appreciate it!

In keeping with CDC and Ohio Dept. of
Health guidelines, masks will not be re-
quired of vaccinated individuals at worship.
Also in keeping with CDC and Ohio Dept.
of Health guidelines, all unvaccinated per-
sons (regardless of reason for not being vac-
cinated) are still required to wear masks at
worship.

This policy may or may not change at short
notice based on changing CDC and ODOH
guidelines.

Should the CDC or local authorities man-
date the wearing of masks again, Church
Council has voted that we will adhere to
these guidelines. Please do not blame the
Pastor; if we are mandated to wear masks,
we have no choice.

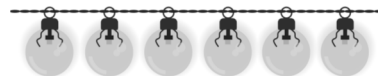
**Should you feel safer continuing to wor-
ship virtually, we will continue broadcast-
ing the worship service at **11am**, on Face-
book.

Our new pianist and choir director, Pam Vil-
larreal, has transformed our worship experi-
ences on Sunday mornings. She is talented
and easy to like! If you haven't had a chance
to worship with us lately, we hope to see you
Sunday mornings at 11am. You can enjoy
worship with live music again, and introduce
yourself to Pam. She is excited to join us and
we are excited to have
her!

MUSIC
News

**The August council meeting will be the 17th
at 1pm.**

The solar light on top of the flag pole has
stopped shining its light. If anyone would like
to serve the church through donating a new
light, please see Phil Dixon.





Please join us for worship at 11am! You will want to be seated by 11am so you can enjoy the wonderful prelude and prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Traditional communion will begin in September. Until then, we will continue to use the individual communion kits.

LMM will meet on Saturday, August 28th.

Looking for a way to serve your church? Council is looking for a chair for the Music and Worship Committee, and the Evangelism Committee. If you have questions or are interested, please talk to Rod or any council member. We would love to have YOU!



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.

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.

Sunday School kick off will be on September 12th at 11am! We will also dedicate the shelter house and worship in an outside service. There will be more details to follow. We hope you can join us! Sunday School will resume their schedule of meeting once a month after the 12th.



Sunday School News

Joseph's Coat will be hosting shredding events in the area throughout the summer. Allshred Services will be onsite to collect your paper items at the following times/locations:

- July 31st (9am-12pm) -Messiah Lutheran Church (1200 Waggoner Rd, Reynoldsburg)
- August 7th (9am-12pm)- Eastpointe Community Church (745 N. Waggoner Road, Blacklick).

No need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands, etc., but please no binder clips.

Cash and check donations are accepted to benefit Joseph's Coat.



| | |
|---------------|------|
| Eve Davis | 8/9 |
| Janet Dixon | 8/9 |
| Tom Siddle | 8/13 |
| Rose Kendrick | 8/15 |
| Athena Kelley | 8/17 |
| Jeremy Kelley | 8/19 |
| Max Fisher | 8/29 |

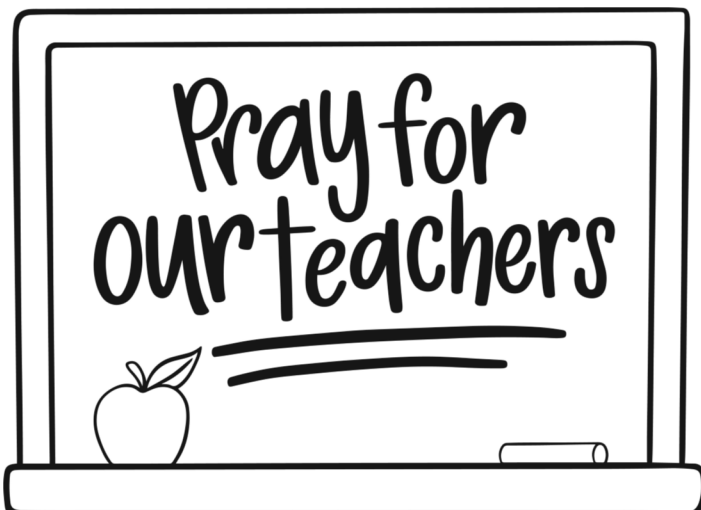
Kroger will donate a percentage of all purchases to Grace Church! All you need to do is call 1-800-576-4377, or go to Kroger.com and click the community rewards link. To register you will need our account number: QS108. Last year, we earned \$1200 through this program and we can earn up to \$4000. Register 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.



Office Hours:

Elaine's hours this summer are
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, &
Thursdays 9:30am-1:00pm.








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.

August Worship Assistants

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| Date |  Ministry Team |  |  USHERS |  Altar Guild |  Greeters |
|-----------|---|---|--|---|--|
| August 1 | Debbie Kelley | Tim Bower | | Linda Styers & Angie Bias | |
| August 8 | Ed Thomas | Janet Dixon | | Linda Styers & Angie Bias | |
| August 15 | Janet Dixon | Rod DuMond | | Linda Styers & Angie Bias | |
| August 22 | Tina Siddle | Debbie Kelley | | Linda Styers & Angie Bias | |
| August 29 | Tim Bower | Ed Thomas | | nda Styers & Angie Bias | |

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!

