



# NEWSLETTER

GRACE  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church

September 2021

## FROM THE PASTOR: "Lord, to whom shall we go?" The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

I enjoyed a midweek conversation this week. A member was commenting that we had been reading Gospel lessons for several weeks in a row that were about Jesus being the bread of life. I humorously said at one point that even the Judeans grew tired of hearing of "bread of life" and they were leaving the Jesus movement. That was actually the case for the reading on Aug 22, (John 6:56-69) when the disciples reported to Jesus that many of the listeners were leaving. They were tired, and hearing Jesus explain that he was the bread of life time and again was too much for them. They did not like what they were hearing, and they left.

Talk about a relevant scripture! We have lost our share of people at every level of church, including from our own congregations over the past year. (Statistics show us to be about par with other churches as far as people attending now vs. attending pre-March 2020.) We are obviously at a point where membership and giving requires serious thought and intentional action. It is a good time to remember that the number one factor in congregational growth is how much members invite their friends and relatives to worship. It's also a good time to remember that the "Jesus movement" did not roll over and fade away when his 12 informed him that others were leaving. Jesus asked the 12... "Will you leave me also?"

"Leave?" Peter said. "Where would we go, you have the words of eternal life," and those 12 did not leave (except for Judas); So no, the first disciples did not leave, rather they stuck close to Jesus at first. Then they had a few rough roads and they had their share of challenges. They watched in disbelief and with little understanding as Jesus was crucified in front of them. They scattered, but they did not leave. They didn't leave even after Jesus was buried, although they did lock themselves in a room, where they did see and hear the risen Jesus. They knew who had the words of eternal life.

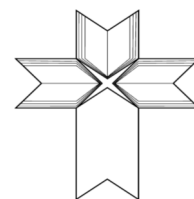
Then, they went out after Jesus left, and they shared the words of eternal life with the world. I can't help but think Jesus' question "will you too leave me" was more rhetorical than anything else. I wonder if Jesus asked the question just to make a point, that is, that the 12 (except for Judas) were just not leaving.

I hope and pray that we can be like the 12- I hope we can stand and say "where would we go, you have the words of eternal

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

life," because we have some challenges ahead of us. We're going to have to adapt to survive. We're going to have to do some things differently. We're going to have to accept some changes. We are certainly going to go through a period of finding out what works, not just for us, but for the folks we invite to share our worship.

We can make church work. I want to share that we will make our church and our congregation work- we are the only people in town who preach and proclaim a no holds barred God of love and mercy and inclusion. We are the ones who share a Jesus of the poor, and sick, and needy. We're the ones who preach a Jesus who comes to us and stays with us when we need him the most, even when we're at our worst. We're the ones- the Lutherans- who hold up a Jesus who dies for everyone and not just those who think they are good enough. We preach and proclaim through word and deed- we hold Jesus up as the word of eternal life. We are part of the light John talks about, which the darkness can not put out.

Are we, as people of Faith going to leave? Hardly, we're going to stick around and tell the world about the guy who has the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia!

#### A few notes from the Treasurer:

- ♦ Our donations are severely down, as are our total assets. We need additional donations to pay our bills. If you have already given, THANK YOU! If you are thinking about giving, this is a great time to do so!
- ♦ The sidewalk has been replaced, but the electricity for the shelter house has been put on hold until after the new year.
- ♦ Please continue supporting your church with prayers and donations!

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

This policy may change at short notice based on changing CDC and ODOH guidelines.

Should the CDC or local authorities mandate 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 worship virtually, we will continue broadcasting the worship service at 11am, on Facebook.**



There will be Dartball this fall! Teams are being organized, the schedule is being hashed out and fun will be had! Please talk to Rod if you are interested in playing on Team Grace this year! We would love to have you join us!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Faye Volkmar. Faye was a member of our church many years ago who had since moved to Pennsylvania to live closer to family. Faye joined those saints who have gone before us on July 17th.

Give thanks for the life of Faye!





September 12th will be an outside worship service including a dedication of the shelter house and worship in an outside service. We will also be eating lunch together; Cane's chicken will be provided, we are asking members to bring salads and desserts. Please let Bonnie or Linda know what you are bringing to share.

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

Bernie Cantrell and Lucille Ables are both doing well in their new homes. They would love to hear from us! Please contact the office if you need a phone number or address.



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](mailto: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! Preschool through 5th grade will meet on September 19th for class, while 6th grade through high school will meet on September 26th. Both classes will be held at 10am. We are looking for a couple additional teachers, so please let Debbie Kelly know if you are interested in helping out!



- \* Dorcas Circle meets on September 15th at 9:30am!
- \* The September council meeting will be the 21st at 1pm.
- \* LMM will meet on Saturday, September 25th, at 8am at Scrambler's.
- \* Quilting meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30am. Everyone is invited and no experience is necessary!

**HEALTH KITS & SCHOOL KITS!**

It is time, again, to start collecting items for health kits and school kits to be sent to LWR. Please see the list of items below:

**HEALTH KITS:**

**\*\*We NEED 30, dark colored bath towels to complete the kits we have now.**

- Bath towel (dark colors)
- 2-3 full size bars of soap, in original package
- 1 Adult size toothbrush
- 1 sturdy comb (no picks or fine toothed please)
- 1 metal nail clippers

(These items will be wrapped at church).

**SCHOOL KITS:**

**\*\*We need as many additional notebooks as possible, to match with leftover items so we can complete more kits.**

- (4)70-80 sheet notebooks (8.5"x11", wide/college ruled)
- 1 ruler with cm and inches.
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 steel blade, blunt scissors
- 5 unsharpened, #2 pencils w/ erasers
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens wrapped with rubber band
- 1 box 24 count crayons
- (1) 2.5 inch pink eraser

We will supply the backpacks.

All kits must be at the church by October 1st. The kits then get sent on to St. Luke's Lutheran Church. Thank you!



Kimberly Schmuach	09/01
Gary Bohrer	09/17
Mary Lapham	09/19
Paul Klopfer	09/26

**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:**

Beginning September 7th,  
Elaine's hours are Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, & Thursdays  
9:30am-1:30pm.



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.



### WHO AM I?

Adam, God made out of dust,  
 But thought it best to make me first,  
 So I was made before man,  
 To answer God's most Holy plan,  
 A living being I became,  
 Adam gave to me my name.  
 I from his presence then withdrew,  
 And more of Adam never knew.  
 I did my Maker's law obey,  
 Nor ever went from it astray.  
 Thousands of miles I go in fear,  
 But seldom on earth appear.  
 For purpose wise which God did see,  
 He put a living soul in me.  
 A soul from me God did claim,  
 And took from me the soul again.  
 So when from me the soul had fled,  
 I was the same as when first made.  
 And without hands, or feet, or soul,  
 I travel on from pole to pole.  
 I labor hard by day, by night,  
 To fallen man I give great light.  
 Thousands of people, young and old,  
 Will by my death great light behold.  
 No right or wrong can I conceive,  
 The scripture I cannot believe.  
 Although my name therein is found,  
 They are to me an empty sound.  
 No feat of death doth trouble me,  
 To Heaven I shall never go,  
 Or to Hell below.  
 Now when these lines you slowly read,  
 Go search your Bible with all speed.  
 For that my name is written there,  
 I do honestly to you declare.  
 WHO AM I?

*\*\*This puzzle was written by a lady in California in response to an offer from a gentleman in Philadelphia that he would pay anyone \$1,000 who could write a puzzle he could not solve. He failed to do so and paid the \$1,000. The answer is one word, and it appears only four times in the Bible.*






The answer to this riddle will be given in next month's newsletter. Can you guess the answer? (No prize money is involved this time, just fun!)



## September Worship Assistants

Page 6



Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
Sept. 5	Rod DuMond	Bonnie DuMond		Wanda Lynn & June Bohrer	
Sept. 12	Debbie Kelley	Debbie Kelley		Wanda Lynn & June Bohrer	
Sept. 19	Ed Thomas	Janet Dixon		Wanda Lynn & June Bohrer	
Sept. 26	Jane Dixon	Tim Bower		Wanda Lynn & June Bohrer	

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](mailto:office@gracecolumbus.com)) and let her know!

