



# NEWSLETTER

GRACE  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church

November 2021

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### FROM THE PASTOR: What Exactly Is it You are Trying to Say Paul?

The Reverend Heinz D. Raidel

"Let he who is among us who has never struggled with something," Paul has written, "please raise their hand,"... and no hands are going up here folks. But all is not lost; let's look at a small part of Paul's letter to the Hebrews in its context and I am certain we will see discernible (as opposed to unreadable) good news Gospel here!

From Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, 7:11-22:

*"Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood—for the people received the law under this priesthood—what further need would there have been to speak of another priest arising according to the order of Melchizedek, rather than one according to the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. Now the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, but through the power of an indestructible life. For it is attested of him,*

*"You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."*

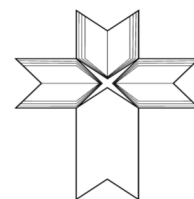
*There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the law made nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better hope, through which we approach God.*

*This was confirmed with an oath; for others who became priests took their office without an oath, but this one became a priest with an oath, because of the one who said to him,*

*"The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever'"—accordingly Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.*

Okay, scholars pretty much agree that Paul may or may not have actually written this letter. But all agree it is written in the style Paul would use; and most agree it was written to a Jewish

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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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audience, as it explains Jesus in terms a first century follower of Judaism would be able to easily understand. Unfortunately, the focus of the writing towards a first century audience makes it challenging for us at times to easily understand. Yes, I am referring to the use of priestly references in this reading. The jist of the priestly references in this part of the letter to the Hebrews, is to explain Jesus as the high priest; as the Hebrews understood what high priest meant. And what better high priest than Melchizedek? (His name means "king of righteousness" in Hebrew.) He was mentioned twice in the Hebrew's scriptures (aka Old Testament.) The first time was in Genesis, where he is referred to as a "Priest of the Most High God" and appears with wine and bread and gives a blessing to Abram.

The second time Melchizedek appears in the OT is in Psalm 110, where we presume it is David who is assured by God that he is a "priest forever according to the order of Mechizedek." So David, was a priest in the lineage of Melchizedek, and would have inherited Melchizedek's "Priest of the Most High God" name, status and power. And followers of Jesus past and present both understand that as Jesus descended from David's lineage, so Jesus would have descended from Melchizedek's lineage, and Jesus would have at the least the status of "Most High Priest" to the early Christ followers from the Jewish/ Hebrew faith tradition. Whew.

So, by explaining Jesus as a Priest, the writer is explaining a few things we might miss. For instance, a priest could perform rituals (sacraments) as they were considered to be able to get as close to God as a human could. This would help early folks see a Jesus to God relationship- not an easy thing for folks to accept then. Also, priests were authorized to "bind and loose the law" meaning they were authorized by God to apply the scriptures (and especially "the law") to the daily life of the Hebrews. This helps to explain Jesus' clarification of the scriptures so many times- as a priest he could do that without being a heretic or a blasphemer according to the understanding of the Hebrews.

It seems as if we could adapt the mindset of a first century Jewish-Jesus convert, that reading, understanding, and living scripture (and a faith life) would be a lot easier. For those of us who do not have time to become a first century Jewish scholar, allow me to offer the following:

In whatever context we think of Jesus, it's a good bet to think of Him as the Son of God, who came in human form as an example and teacher of God's love and salvation for the world. Jesus assumed the role of teacher, showing and commanding us to show God's love for the powerless and poor. Jesus assumed the role of a priest to show us God's love through teaching us the sacraments. And Jesus assumed the role of Savior by showing us that he would be and was, crucified, died, and resurrected, to show that not even death could interfere with God's love and plans to save his people(s).

That's enough of Paul for one newsletter. People of faith, children of God, go out there knowing that God loves us enough to send his Son in so many roles not just to get us through, but also to call us into getting others through whatever the world throws up against us. Peace!!!

**UPDATE:** Due to the increase in COVID cases, and the fact that we want to keep our church family safe, council has voted to require that masks be worn when in the building for large group gatherings such as worship, weddings, and funerals. Thank you for your kind concern and cooperation in this matter.

**\*IF YOU ARE SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME!**

**\*\*Should you feel safer continuing to worship virtually, we will continue broadcasting the worship service at 11am, on Facebook.**



**Food Pantry Needs** We are beginning to gather food for the Pickerington Food Pantry's holiday baskets. These

baskets will serve any family living in the Pickerington School District for both Thanksgiving AND Christmas. Consequently, we need your help to fill the baskets! Each box needs to be filled with:

- \* \$30 Gift card toward the purchase of meat and dessert.
- \* 2 boxes instant mashed potatoes
- \* 2 bags/boxes stuffing mix
- \* 4 packs/jars/cans gravy
- \* 2 cans cranberries
- \* 2 cans sweet potatoes/yams
- \* 8 cans vegetables

We appreciate the donation of a whole basket or individual items! All items will be collected at the church until Tuesday, November 2nd. Gift cards can be given to Elaine (in the office), to Bonnie, or directly to the Food Pantry (70 Cross Street, Pickerington). There is a little slot by the front door where you can deposit the cards. Gift cards can be to any grocery store. The Food Pantry also needs help assembling the baskets and distributing them on November 14th. If you are able to help with either of these processes, please contact Renee Roberts at the pantry. Questions can be directed to Bonnie, or Renee at the food pantry. Thank you for any and all help you can give.

**Looking forward:** Advent services will be at Grace on Tuesdays at 11:30am, beginning November 30th. Faith will have advent services on Wednesday evenings at 7pm with a soup & sandwich dinner at 6:15pm. Members of both churches are encourage to attend whatever services work best for them!

The American Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive, here at Grace, on November 16th, 2pm-7pm. If you are able to donate blood, please consider giving your time and blood to this important cause. There are always blood shortages, but especially now due to COVID. All safety protocols are in place at the drive. You can save time by going to RedCrossBlood.org and using sponsor code Grace ELC to schedule an appointment.

Sunday School for November will be the 14th (preK-5th grade) and the 21st (6th –12th grade). Both classes begin at 10am! We hope you can join us!



Sunday School News

Women's Thankoffering Sunday is November 21st. There is a specific giving envelop in your offering envelopes box that is designated for this special offering. Please consider using it on or before November 21st to support the women's ministries of the ELCA.



- \* The November council meeting will be the 16th at 1pm.
- \* Dorcas Circle meets on November 17th at 9:30am!
- \* There will be no LMM in November or December
- \* Quilting meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30am. Everyone is invited and no experience is necessary!



# Birthday Blessings



Bonnie DuMond	11/01
Kim Norman	11/07
Debbie Klopfer	11/14
Rev. Marti Fisher	11/17
Kaylin Bias	11/18
Ellen Triplet	11/22
James Esswein	11/25
Angela Bias	11/30

**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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Lucille Ables; Kathy Snyder; Elizabeth & Paul Klopfer; Coletta Sneddon; Peggy Holtzberger; Bernie Cantrell; June Robinson (friend of Mary Lapham); Larry Frazee; Jim & Rosie Bower (Faith Lutheran); Barbara Heinlein; Rev. Siggy Benedict-Shields; Michael Styers, Jr.; Cancer Support Groups at Zangmeister; and members of our military.~~

## **Office Hours:**

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

\*\*There is a slight change this month. Elaine will be in the office on Monday the 1st, but out of the office Tuesday the 2nd. She will also be in the office Wednesday and Thursday as normal. Thanks for your flexibility.

*From the  
Church  
Secretary*

Please review the "Prayer Concerns" list above. If you have placed someone on the list that no longer needs prayers, please contact the office.



This is a reminder that we have 4 furnaces in our church. If you are the last one to lock up the church, please make sure all the doors are closed, all the inside lights are off, and the thermostats are all set to 65 degrees in the winter or OFF in the summer. Do not touch the fan button on the thermostat as it should ALWAYS be left on so the air in the church can be circulating.

This month we are collecting sandwich, quart, and gallon size bags for the kitchen! Please send in what you can! Thank you!

We sent 52 quilts, 29 personal care kits, 40 school kits and 3 baby care kits to LWR. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Please start brainstorming ideas for a Spaghetti or Chili dinner for our church and neighbors in the colder months. If you have any thoughts or would like to help plan, talk to Bonnie DuMond.

The season is underway! It is not too late to join the team; we would be happy to have you! Please talk to Rod if you are interested in joining us for weekly fellowship and good-natured competition.



A big THANK YOU to Mary Lapham, and Janet and Phil Dixon, for deep cleaning our church!

*Thanks*  
*Many Thanks*  
*Thanks*  
*Thanks*  
*Thanks*






*Thank you,  
Lord!*



## November Worship Assistants

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Date	 Ministry Team		 USHERS	 Altar Guild	 Greeters
Nov. 7	Janet Dixon	Debbie Kelley		Debbie Kelley & Judi Layman	
Nov. 14	Tim Bower	Rod DuMond		Debbie Kelley & Judi Layman	
Nov. 21	Tina Siddle	Janet Dixon		Debbie Kelley & Judi Layman	
Nov. 28	Rod DuMond	Ed Thomas		Debbie Kelley & Judi Layman	

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!

