

**THE "NEWSLETTER"
OF
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



February 2012

From Our Interim Pastor

LOOKING FORWARD

Can you turn back the clock? Some interpret the Aztec Calendar linearly as indicating that the world will end shortly before Christmas, 2012. Others take it to be cyclical, indicating a new beginning, a “do over” from day one. As Christians, we view time as continually moving from a God initiated beginning to an end which is also in the control of the Lord our God.

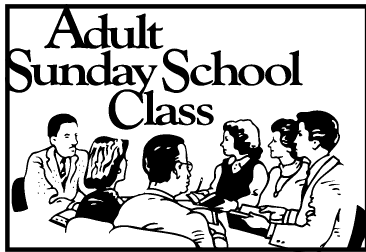
So, can you turn back the clock? We Lutherans may answer “yes”. In 1988 there were three major Lutheran Church bodies in the United States and a few smaller one. There was much cooperation on both the national and local levels – with military chaplains, university campus chaplains, social service agencies. In 1900 there had been over one hundred Lutheran groups. Today there are five major Lutheran bodies in the U. S. and twenty-seven smaller synods. After a century of uniting Lutheran church bodies the clock is being turned back as Lutherans disagree and divide.

But can you really turn the clock back? No! At the heart of the Lutheran Church is a life grounded in Word and Sacrament, dedicated to serving the neighbor in their need, and committed to proclaiming the Gospel of forgiveness, life and salvation in Jesus, the Son of God. For us, this is the same old thing. We are still looking forward to a new church home and appreciate the place where we currently serve. We anticipate the development and implementation of one or two new ministries and mission endeavors based out of 8950 Refugee Road in Pickerington.

Can you turn the clock back? Who wants to? The future the Lord is unfolding before us holds the promise of a new chapter in the life of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. What that future will bring us and who will serve with us is still pretty much an unknown. Time will tell, as they say, but this much we know, we have a gracious Lord who has not and will not abandon us to our own devices. Therefore, we invite all of the people of Grace Lutheran to rally behind the Lord Jesus and, as a congregation, face the future with hope, dedication, and commitment to the life and work of God’s people in this time and place.

Pastor Heinlein

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On January 8, Pastor Heinlein began leading a study of the basic teachings of the Christian Church in general and of the Lutheran Church in particular. The Bible, Luther's Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession will serve as the basic texts for this review of what we believe. All Confirmed Members are invited to participate in this study. Also, this study will serve as an adult membership class for those wishing to join Grace Church. This one hour class begins at 11:45 A.M.

If you know of someone who might be interested in learning about the Lutheran Church, invite them to participate in this course of study with you. The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament follows class time at 1:00 P.M. For the Christian, the Liturgy is the starting point and a simple summary for the practicing of what we believe. Come for study and stay for worship. And remember, Epiphany Lutheran may hold title to the four walls of the church building, but for the time the members of Grace Lutheran Church are in the building, *this is* Grace Church. This fact too teaches us something about being a part of a Church with a shared ministry and mission.

The 2011 Annual Report will be distributed at the Jan. 29 Congregational Meeting. If you cannot be at the meeting, copies of the report will be available at the ushers' table. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call Polly at the office, 834-3122, or email your request to office@gracecolumbus.com

First Communion Instruction

Pastor Heinlein is making plans to provide First Communion instruction for those children who express an interest in or the desire to begin receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. There will be a time of study as a class (about four hours) followed by individual family conferences to determine if the child is ready to begin receiving the Eucharist. The time and place of the classes will be determined by the families who participate.

Each child will receive a study book and each family will receive a parent's book. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the study sessions and to engage the child in faith conversations at home. Christian parents are their children's primary teachers of the faith of Christ and his Church. Students and parents are expected to worship together regularly since the frequent experiencing of the Divine Liturgy is perhaps the best teacher about Holy Communion.

Who should attend? Since 1999 there is no set age prescribed for First Communion. This will vary from child to child. When a child expresses interest in learning about the Sacrament or states a desire to receive the Lord's Supper it is appropriate for that child to participate in a time of study with parents at home and also with the pastor at church. Parental instruction by word and example play a very important role in a child receiving their First Communion.

The decision to begin communing will be made on an individual basis involving the child, the parents and the pastor. Please contact Pastor Heinlein to enroll your children for this time of study.





Seton Parish is sponsoring a seven-week grief support group. This program is designed for adults who are grieving the loss of a loved one through death. All are welcome to attend no matter how long ago that death has occurred; there is no time frame for grieving. This Support Group will be held at Seton Parish beginning Wednesday February 8th. The time will be 6:30 PM until 8 PM. For further information and/or registration, please call the Seton parish office at 833-0482.

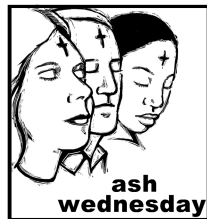
LMM

Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly meeting on Sat., Feb. 25, at 9:00am at the Panera in the Eastpointe shopping center.

Midweek Lent Services

Wednesday worship services in Lent are being celebrated with Epiphany again this year as part of Epiphany's "Pause" program.

A great meal, prepared by a professional chef, is served at 5:30; activities, classes and fellowship/cards start at 6:30 (your choice); and Evening Prayer Service concludes the evening at 7:30. **Ash Wednesday** begins the season of Lent on **Feb. 22** and will be observed with a pancake supper at 5:30 and Ash Wednesday worship and communion at 7:30. As Jesus calls us each to grow deeper into him, plan to set aside this time each week for fellowship and worship.



Profile in Faith

Martin Luther loved children. Although he was not the first of the Reformers to marry, Martin married Katherine von Bora in 1525. The Luthers had six children. Katherine was a good and faithful wife and homemaker. We might even say she ran the first bed and breakfast for Luther's many students and friends.

Luther loved his children and he loved to be with them, playing games, singing together as a family and teaching them, especially teaching the Small Catechism. Martin saw all parents as teachers and expected them to teach the faith of Christ to their children. He wrote the Small Catechism so that all Christian parents might have a simple tool with which to impart the faith in the home.

It has been said that Luther possessed a childlike, cheerful nature. That is why he made such a fine companion for children. He made learning a game for them. Yes, a very serious game! He was a strict disciplinarian. Luther knew the verse about "sparing the rod and spoiling the child" and he insisted on obedience. Disobedience he saw as a great sin to be kept in check. He knew how to apply the law firmly and he knew how to do it graciously and beneficially for parents and their children. He once said, "Children understand the faith better than we old fools. They believe the Word of God and are blessed. They believe that God is kind and that we shall inherit eternal life." Some of Luther's hymns were written for his children. The Christmas hymn, "From Heaven Above To Earth I Come" is but one example.

Let all parents follow the example of Luther. Love your children, provide and care for their physical and spiritual needs. Teach them to be obedient and share the Faith of Christ's Church with them that they may grow up to be healthy, faithful children of God.





Steward's Corner

A recent message from Bishop Holloway announced that our friend and partner in ministry, Pastor Bill Wong, will leave the Synod staff on

January 21. Pastor Wong has been a valuable aid and a strong supporter of Grace Congregation and we will miss him and wish him God's richest blessings as he continues to serve in Christ's Church. The reduction in Synod staff is a reflection of the decreased financial support of the Synod.

In his letter, Bishop Holloway commented, "I urge you to encourage generosity within and beyond your congregations for the sake of God's work among us and through us." The Bishop went on to say, "As the future God intends for us unfolds, let us move forward with a sense of confidence, peace, and urgency. God's intent will be accomplished. As he does this, let us be faithful in our participation."

Certainly this positive attitude is typical of those who regularly worship as Grace Church. Grace's support of our Southern Ohio Synod remains the same in 2012 as in 2011. We too know the "urgency" in the Bishop's message. The money for the new building is no problem. However, pledges for the operation of the congregation's ministry are about half of the projected costs for 2012. This does not include a full time pastor.

This raises the question, *What does "faithful in our participation" mean?* Consider the Three C's of Church Membership. Faithful Christians come, contribute and commune.

Christians come to worship regularly and frequently. This is spiritually healthy as a faith practice that renews and sustains the Christian's relationship with Christ and his saints.

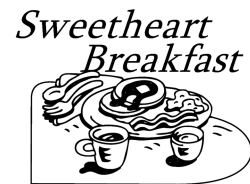
Christians contribute thankfully and generously. God has blessed each one with multiple gifts, including money. A portion of each gift of God may be used as a Thankoffering.

Christians commune frequently and regularly. In the Lord's Supper Christ comes with forgiveness of sins and life with his saints, now and forever. Who does not need these gifts of God?

Two months into 2012 each member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pickerington would do well to ask How am I being faithful in my participation in the life and work of Christ's Church?





Pastor Heinlein

Saturday
February 11
9:00 AM



The Epiphany Men's Breakfast Group will be hosting the special ladies in their lives for the annual Valentine's Sweetheart Breakfast. The men will fix and serve a pancake breakfast, complete with heart-shaped pancakes, and a barbershop quartet has been invited to serenade the ladies. You and your valentine are invited to attend and enjoy some good food and good fellowship. There is no cost. Simply sign up at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Space so the men know how many people to cook for. P.S. Ladies, they clean up, too, so you can just relax and enjoy!

February Worship Assistants

Date	Assisting Minister 	Lector 	Nursery Helper 	Usher 
Feb 5	Rod DuMond	Earl Knies	Alice Faye Snyder	Joe Biri Howard Kendrick
Feb 12	Debbie Kelley	Bonnie DuMond	Debbie Gee	Joe Biri Howard Kendrick
Feb 19			Bernie Cantrell	Joe Biri Howard Kendrick
Feb 26			Elizabeth Klopfer	Joe Biri Howard Kendrick

Altar Guild

Jessie Dorion, Cathy Dorion, and Alice Faye Snyder



Financial Stewardship Through December 2011

Giving in December

December 4	\$1471.42
December 11	\$ 740.00
December 18	\$1705.00
December 24	\$1504.60
December 25	\$ 312.00
TOTAL	\$5733.02

Year-to-Date

Inc Goal for Exp	\$112,355.00
Recvd Op Inc	\$ 72,509.00
Bdgt Op Exp	\$112,355.00
Actual Op Exp	\$103,091.54
Capital Exp & Misc	\$ 69,077.10

Brrrrrrrrrr!



As January ends and February begins, cold and SNOW are finally making their appearance! Although it is a lovely sight, shoveling snow can cause injury if you are not careful. Here are a few tips to remember as you embark on the task of digging yourself out of your driveway and clearing your sidewalks.

Stretch

Shoveling snow can be a strenuous activity and stretching can help prevent injury. Remember, snow is heavier than you think.

Dress Warmly

Fight frostbite by keeping yourself warm, especially your fingers and toes. If you get too cold, go inside and warm up.

Use a small plastic shovel

Plastic shovels weigh less than the metal ones, so they are easier to lift. Try spraying your shovel with a nonstick spray to help the snow slide off.

Legs apart, knees bent

A wider base helps you keep balance and bending your knees lessens the strain on your back. Point your toes in the direction you are throwing the snow to avoid twisting.

Stay Hydrated

It may be cold outside, but your body will still sweat from the lifting and moving. Take water breaks to replenish fluids.

Slow and steady

Shoveling snow is not a race. Take your time to avoid putting any additional stress on yourself and your body. Shoveling sections in shifts may prevent over extension.

Check-in

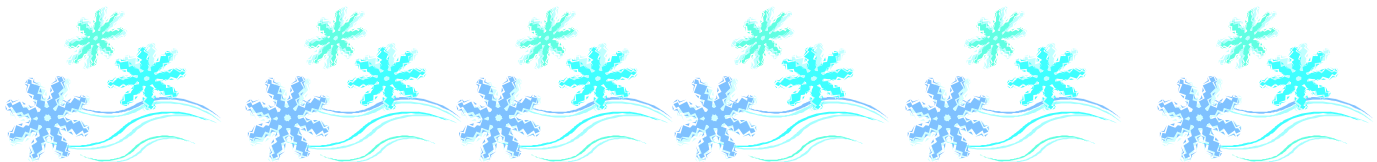
Make a family member or a neighbor aware that you are shoveling snow. After some time has gone by, have them check in with you or vice versa. This guarantees your safety in case you slip and fall.

Don't be ashamed to stop

Stop if you begin to have shortness of breath, excessive sweating, or pain. Shoveling snow may increase the heart rate and blood pressure.

Think about having someone shovel your snow

Those who suffer from high blood pressure, pain, shortness of breath or any other ailments resulting from heavy lifting may want to think about hiring someone to shovel their snow.



Happy Birthday To You...



20

Matthew Dorion
Kristy Dunlap
Shaun Styers

6

Dylan Williams

7

Zachary Schmauch

22

Nolan Bias

1

Maria Benedict
Hayley Stout

10

Doug Jackson

28

Erich Darr

2

Karen Ables

12

Andrew Benedict

3

Ken Havens
Robert Darr

13

Wanda Lynn

14

Howard Kendrick

5

Cathy Dorion

19

Kaylyn Dorion



If someone is missing or should be removed from the list, please contact the church office.

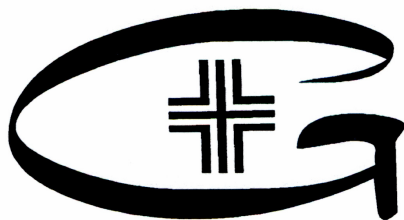
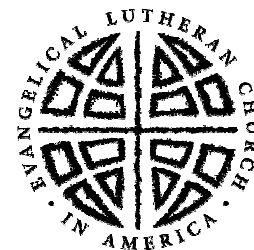
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
At Epiphany Lutheran Church
Office: 203 Nightingale Court
Pickerington, OH 43147

“Return Service Requested”



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.



Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

At Epiphany Lutheran Church

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Pickerington, OH 43147

Pastor Robert Heinlein, Interim

Home: 740-343-0417, Cell: 740-684-1381

Office: 203 Nightingale Ct.

Pickerington, OH 43147

(614) 834-3122

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday School - 11:45 am

Worship - 1:00 pm

(Nursery provided during
worship for pre-schoolers)

Email for the Office:
office@gracecolumbus.com

We're on the Web!

www.gracecolumbus.com