

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

March and April, 2023

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Our Mission: We are a family of Christians called, equipped, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

HAPPY EASTER!



To my Peace Family: As of February 22nd, we have officially entered the Season of Lent. This is a time to start anew as we travel to the cross once again with our Lord. Like I said a couple weeks ago the cross is not basic Christianity nor is it advanced Christianity. The cross is the whole thing from start to finish. The cross is the key to it all, shedding light on all matters of faith and life. The cross is obviously our faith. We believe that Christ died for us, and whoever believes has eternal life. I hope your busy schedule will allow time to join us on Wednesday evenings as we chronicle the Kings. A big "Thank You" to everyone who has stepped up to host and help with our community meals and of course Shrove

Tuesday Potato Pancake Supper. If you would like to host a month please just sign up, the list is on the bulletin board and there is always plenty of help. The church council also decided to go ahead with our spaghetti supper and Oktoberfest this year.

And start gathering up items for our rummage sale which will be in April. More details to follow.

And I want to thank you all for the well wishes, prayers and cards as I recover from my knee replacement. I am learning to be patient, well I'm trying. And a big thank you to Randy for stepping in and conducting our worship services. And of course, my sons. It is truly a blessing to be your pastor and be part of this church family.

God bless, Pastor

From our President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I write this having just returned from peeling potatoes and cutting onions in preparation for the pancake supper. We had a great group of people there and had a great time doing all the set-up. I hope you were able to attend. Thank you, James, for overseeing the project and to all the volunteers (You know who you are!) who helped.

Next up on the calendar is Ash Wednesday. Our Lenten season starts with services on Wednesdays at 7:00 p. m. It would be wonderful to see our whole church family there as we walk with Jesus to the cross and then, praise God, to His resurrection on Easter morning.

Our Sunday morning Bible study has some empty chairs. Would you consider showing up at 8:45 a. m. to help fill them? We are currently studying the Lord's Supper for a better understanding of the who, what, why, where, and when.

Secondly, I bring to your attention the finances of our church. We have a spending guide rather than a budget because we don't want anyone to have to give from compulsion. However, the operating expenses continue to come in, and they have to be paid. Generally, week to week, we receive enough to cover expenses, but a couple times we had to go into our savings to meet our commitments. Would you prayerfully consider increasing your weekly or monthly giving to ensure all our expenses will continue to be paid in a timely manner? Your council and leaders are doing everything they can to be responsible stewards of your gifts.

I close with this thought I heard from Pastor Tony Evans. We often find ourselves, our lives, and the world in a dark place wondering how

we can go on. I'm sure the disciples felt like that on Good Friday; but, brothers and sisters, hang on... Sunday's coming!
In Christ Randy Priem
Soli Deo gloria

WhoWhatWhereWhenWhyHow?

With Ash Wednesday, we've entered the season of Lent. The color of the paraments changes several times for various reasons. Violet is a royal color reminding us that Christ is our King who suffered for us. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ as He enters Jerusalem on His way to the cross of Good Friday. White is for Christ's purity; black for our sin.

During Lent, we omit the singing of "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah", which in Hebrew mean "praise be to God". We also do not use altar flowers.

Let's look at our worship opportunities: Sunday, March 19th, St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus, is commemorated. What an awesome responsibility Jesus' earthly father had to parent God's Son!

Sunday, March 26th, we celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lord (the 25th), when the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of God's Son.

Midweek services are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm through March 29th.

Palm Sunday, April 2nd, is the beginning of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday is on April 6th. The word "maundy" is based on the root word for "command". We heed Jesus' command to wash one another's feet as an act of servitude and humility. At the conclusion of this evening service, all of the linens and furnishings are removed from the altar area and the altar is draped in black to remind us of our sins and Christ's suffering for

them and to prepare us for the solemnity of Good Friday, April 7th.

Easter Sunday is April 9th. We see the return of our “Alleluias” and “Hallelujahs” as we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Savior! Did you know that butterflies which burst from their cocoons and hard-boiled eggs are reminders of Christ’s bursting from the tomb? Nice thoughts on any day!

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!**

Of course, we don’t want to forget other opportunities we have for fellowship and service to one another and our community, so here’s what else to experience during March and April:

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12th. If you forget to “Spring Forward” one hour, you’ll arrive at church in time to receive the Benediction!

St. Patrick’s Day is Friday, March 17th. Here’s the scoop on St. Pat! He was born Maewyn in Wales about the year 385 and was a pagan until he was 16. He was a slave for six years, studied in a monastery for 12 years, and was a priest and the second bishop of Ireland for 30 years until his death on March 17, 461. He was arrested several times for preaching and teaching. He established numerous schools, churches and monasteries. He used the shamrock to teach the concept of the Holy Trinity. Irish Catholics wear green in his honor; Protestants wear orange. If someone wears neither, it is OK to pinch them on St. Paddy’s Day!

Our Monday, March 20th, Community Meal will be corned beef hash and will be hosted by Ron and Lucinda Bornander.

The Monday, April 17th, Community Meal will be sub sandwiches with beans and slaw sides. The co-hosts are Sharon Zavertnik and Linda Williams.

Sheryl Lutz and Sharon Zavertnick have volunteered to co-chair our Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 29th. Please see them regarding donations of items and watch for notification of times for set-up during the week before the sale.

There is a Fifth Sunday in April. We’ll have a Church Family Potluck on the 30th following worship service. You’ll have the opportunity to browse items from the Rummage Sale before whatever remains is packed up for donation to the Annie Johnson Thrift Store.

A huge “Thank you!” to so many of you for your willingness to help with set-up, serving, providing desserts, restoring the Fellowship Hall to its usual arrangement after our events, and being supportive of the hosts. You are greatly appreciated!

Submitted by Becky Williams

LADIES OF PEACE / LWML



Hi, All,

Thank you to all who have been donating hats, mittens, blankets and food for our outside pantry- there are many folks in the community both using and replacing items when they can! We will continue collecting these items through March, then, from **April- June**, we will collect **diapers and other baby items** for the Dunnellon Family Hope and Resource Pregnancy

Center again. Please let me know if you have any group or agency you'd like to see us help.

Thank you, also, for your continuing donations to our **Mite Box Sundays!** We have been able to give about \$50/month to the District LWML toward our mite goals! Our next two Mite Sundays are **March 5 and April 2.** I've heard from several members that they are enjoying the monthly Mite Box Challenge calendar, and I'm happy about that. When you read the challenge for the day, it makes you think a little deeper about the "mites" you are dropping in the box. Just like the widow with her mites, it helps us expect the miracles we know God can do with those mites in the lives of people we will never meet.

We have begun a new Bible study from the book "Chosen: A Study of Esther", by Donna Snow. We will meet again **March 6 and April 3 at 10 am.** Come!

Ladies of Peace hosted the Zone Annual Prayer Service on January 28. We had a wonderful time with 26 ladies and two pastors in attendance. Thank you to all who helped!

Our **Zone Spring Rally- Faith, Lecanto, Saturday, April 22, 2023** (more info later.

Church Rummage Sale- Saturday, April 29. We will work most of the week leading up to it. Come and help open the boxes to see what treasures YOU can't live without! So, start collecting "stuff"- you can bring it to church on Sundays, and tell Bob Holloway or Linda Williams, and they will arrange for someone to help you load your items into "Rummage Sale Shed".

District LWML Retreat- September 22-24, at the **St. Augustine Golf Hall of Fame.** Also, more info coming soon. (Ladies, if your guy golfs, come to the retreat, and hang out with the ladies, and let him loose to check out the "Golf Stuff"!)

In His Service, Sheryl Lutz

P. S: **Emily says, "Thank You!"** to everyone who bought **Girl Scout Cookies!** She really appreciates your help! Sheryl



03. 12	Sam McKee
03. 15	Cynthia Cotter
03. 18	Sharon Cassan
03. 19	James Spiegelberg
03. 23	Lauren DeChello
04. 01	Sandra Doudt
04. 04	Alan Plocharczyk
04. 08	Donald Dow
04. 15	Louise Plocharczyk
04. 20	Jacqueline Hucker
04. 22	Jan Barker



03. 07. 1987	Steve & Sharon Cassan
04. 12. 2015	Tim & Jan Barker
04. 15. 1961	Barney & Joan Reagan

ALTAR FLOWER NEWS



Our Flower Chart is somewhat void of signatures for purchase of flowers for the altar and we no longer have a designated Flower Fund to pay for flowers for special church holidays.

The Chart should appear empty during Lent and the chart designates that with a dark line drawn through the last Sunday in February through the last Sunday in March.

The first Sunday in April is Palm Sunday followed by Easter Sunday. **EASTER SUNDAY** for **CHRISTIANS**, worldwide, is a major day of **CELEBRATION**. We want to shout it out, “**HE IS RISEN**”! Yes, we do shout it out and with great joy and strong, verbal feeling!

If anyone wants a visual **CELEBRATION** within our Sanctuary Easter Sunday, please consider putting your signature on the chart for April 9. There is enough space to have more than one signature, even three. Three would put two bouquets on the Altar and one more a little closer to the congregation. White is the celebratory color for Easter flowers.

Do not expect lilies because lilies are very fragrant and we don’t want a lot of sneezing, just lots of singing and shouts of “He is Risen- Alleluia!” from all of us!

Please remember, I must place our order for altar flowers approximately one month in advance of the dated signature on the calendar. No later than the 21st of February would be perfect.

Just a quick change of subject; yet, about flowers, in an unusual way. A few days ago, I got an e-mail from Kami Harper who did a wonderful job setting flowers for our church before she went off to college last September with a strong desire for Mission work in her future.

In her note she enclosed a lovely picture of herself and her new friend that she met at school. It’s a lovely picture of both Kami and Leah, and it makes me smile just to think of it. Their Christian background is visible on their faces.

Submitted by Cynthia Cotter



Coffee Hour

Before and after Sunday worship, the coffee is on! This is a good time to meet and greet our guests and catch up on the lives of fellow members.

Sweets are especially nice with coffee! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with space each Sunday to add your name if you can bring something for that day. Donations of regular and decaf coffee are also appreciated.

You aren’t a coffee drinker? We have teabags! We may have juices! The important thing is that our guests are welcomed, and friendships are strengthened. Please become a part of that!

Synopsis of January and February Council Meetings

Your Church Council meets the second Monday of the month to conduct the business of the Church. Meetings are begun and ended with prayer and encouraging words from President Randy Priem and Pastor Terry McKee. Due to lack of a quorum on January 12, 2023, no official business requiring a vote was conducted, however, several items which did not require a vote were discussed. With the sudden and unexpected death of recently re-elected Financial Secretary, Linda Ryun, this past December, President Priem appointed member Sue Holloway to this two-year term.

The finances are being monitored closely by Treasurer Cindy McKee, as donations were short for the month of December 2022 and again in January, necessitating the transfer of monies from savings. February's donations for the first two Sundays were nearer the \$2000 needed each week. There have been increases in insurance coverage for Pastor McKee and in the church's liability insurance. Due to significantly increased phone rates, the church now has cell phone service through T-Mobile at about 1/4th the cost of a landline. This includes internet service, and we were able to retain the same phone number.

The Community Meals resumed in January and a sign-up sheet is posted for hosts. There will not be community meals in months we have fund-raising meals, for which we will need co-ordinator/hosts. This includes the Potato Pancake Supper in

February, a Spaghetti Dinner in May, and Oktoberfest in late September.

James Spiegelberg will continue to take members' photos for publication of a pictorial directory.

The date of the Rummage Sale will be Saturday, April 29th. Sheryl Lutz and Sharon Zavertrnik have volunteered to co-chair this fund-raising event.

Pastor reported the following have requested a peaceful release from membership at Peace: Linda Azwell; Linda Hoskins; Kenneth and Peggy Buschman; William and Linda Neblock; Trisha Ruttinger and Trina Ruttinger. Motion was made, seconded and duly carried to grant these requests. This action will be ratified at the next general Voters' Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Williams, Council Secretary

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship), March 2023**

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly

contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying “no” to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you’ve learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You’ve learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving

that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

Submitted by Jackie Hucker

Those Serving March 2023

Sunday, March 5, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Jackie Hucker

Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter

Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bob Holloway

Lay reader: Randy Priem

Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Cynthia Cotter

Lay reader: Joanie Hulse

Counting team: Linda Williams & Jan Barker

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Sandra Doubt

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Sharon Zavertnik

Lay reader: Becky Williams

Counting team: Pat Doan & Ron Bornander

Altar Guild March 2023

Cynthia Cotter

Those Serving April 2023

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Becky Williams & Linda
Bohannon

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Joanie & Rich Hulse
Lay reader: Samuel McKee

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Acolyte: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Greeter: Becky Williams

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Pat Doan
Lay reader: Hope Kurth
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Sandra Doubt
Lay reader: Sam McKee
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Carol Hummel

Sunday, April 23, 2023

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Linda Priem
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team: Linda Williams & Jan Barker

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Sandra Doubt
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Hope & Garry Kurth
Lay reader: Joanie Hulse
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Altar Guild April 2023 Cindy McKee

