

## Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

July, August, and September, 2022

Rev. Terry L. McKee, Pastor

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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.***



***To my Peace family***

Greetings to my Peace family!

This past week Cindy and I attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District. Our theme "A Future Fixed On Jesus!" At the convention we elected new District officers. Our new District President is The Reverend James Rockey. This will mean that Amazing Grace in Oxford will be losing their Pastor but the district will be gaining a loving and compassionate servant of our Lord to take over the helm of our District. President Gregg Walton has faithfully served as President for the past 13 years, one extra year because of Covid. We wish him and his wife Edith God's blessings as they wait to see what the future holds. At the convention we also elected five regional Vice-presidents. Region one

Vice-president is The Rev. Dr. Victor Belton. Region two (our region) is The Rev. Jay Winter, who has served the past 10 years as District Secretary. Region three is The Rev. Charles Reich. Region four is The Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff. And the Region five Vice-president is The Rev. Stephen Carretto.

Our theme was based on Hebrews 12:1-2: ***"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."*** A reminder for us to keep on running the race which our Lord has set before us.

As we continue to run our race let us also continue to tell our story as Jesus tells the healed demon possessed man in Luke's Gospel. Let us share our faith and share the Gospel.

As we prepare to celebrate the fourth of July let us remember to thank God for the gift of this great country. Even as our nation has forgotten all that we have and are, is a gift from God let us never forget.

God bless,  
Pastor Terry

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### **From our President**

Brothers and sisters in Christ

Well, here we are nearly halfway through the year and I don't know about you, but it seems to be flying past. Many of you may be planning to go out of town this summer to beat the heat, and I pray God will keep you safe on your travels. I am praying also for those of us sticking around that God will keep us safe as well. Whether you are staying or going remember this is not a time to take a vacation from God. He has promised to always be with us and so should we also remain in Him. Wherever you find yourself this summer take time to be with Him in worship, Bible study, and prayer. Oh, and remember your offering; summer traditionally sees a drop in church giving, but the expenses of the church don't take vacation. Elsewhere in this newsletter

there is some good information on ways you can make your offering.

I would like to make one last observation.

As I write this I am aware of at least two of our members who have contracted Covid, one of whom is hospitalized. I realize most of us have been vaccinated, and probably boosted as well, but we are an elderly congregation and many have underlying health conditions.

For all of our sakes please, please, look out for one another. If you feel sick, stay home. Practice social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, do whatever it takes to protect your brothers and sisters. With the beginning of summer, some church activities have been put on hold. Council will not meet until September, non will the choir and Wednesday Bible class. If you have questions or concerns about these, or any other subjects, please feel free to give me a call or drop me a line.

In His service, Randy Priem  
Soli Deo gloria

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## First Quarter Church Council Report

Becky Williams, Council Secretary

The Council has suspended formal meetings over the summer and will meet as the need arises. The following is a synopsis of the May 9, 2022, meeting. We received correspondence from the Florida-Georgia District of The LC-MS thanking congregations for their financial support during their fiscal year February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022. Peace contributed \$2650. The District tithes 20% to Synod.

The Council gave a letter of thanks to Gene Lutz for the use of his talents in the design and completion of new shelving and a work table in the Library/Counting/Pantry Supply room. April's offerings totaled \$8,880; and although there was a \$931.02 deficit over expenses, finances are on track year-to-date.

The trustees will be receiving professional instructions on the servicing of the well to assure we remain in compliance. They are obtaining information on repair/replacement of the sanctuary carpeting. The parking lot is deteriorating and needs to be redone. That will be a capital expenditure of approximately \$45-50,000. Funding options are being determined.

Pastor and Cindy McKee will represent Peace at the FL-GA Convention, June 16-18, in St. Augustine. Council approved Mission Account funds of \$327.41 for the convention project Phil's Friends, which provides care packages for adult cancer patients.



### **LADIES OF PEACE / LWML**

#### **Hi, Happy Summer!**

Thank you for all the baby diapers, wipes, and other baby items! I have already made 2 “deliveries” (pun unintentional) to the Dunnellon Family Hope, Resource and Pregnancy Center, and will also take whatever we have collected up to July 1. They are SO appreciative of our donations!

Beginning July 1, we will collect items for our community at large. As Pastor mentioned, it's been difficult to keep food in stock for the pantry box, so we need to do that this quarter. The original intent was to collect these items in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, but they are needed now. Check the library for open spaces, as well as the front of the box itself for items we collect. (You can get a little creative, too, as long as the container is beastie proof).

Our next three **Mite Sundays** are **July 3,**

**August 7, and September 4.** Thank you again for filling and bringing your mite boxes regularly! In June's collection, we received \$50!

We will continue with our book, **"Pew Sisters"** at Bible study, on September 12 (the first Monday is Labor Day).

**Upcoming LWML events: LWML FL-GA District Convention-** Tampa Bay Downtown, Friday, September 23-25 (sign up on [www.flgalwml.com](http://www.flgalwml.com)); **Zone Fall Rally-** First, Inverness, Saturday, October 29.

In His Service, Sheryl Lutz

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**WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?**

We have recently celebrated Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday. For the next several months, our parament color will be green. We are in a season of growth in nature, and through the Word and Sacraments, in our spiritual lives. Green represents growth, life, nourishment and rest.

Two Biblical figures are commemorated on Sundays during these three months: Joseph of Arimathea on July 31<sup>st</sup> and Moses on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

There are a few familiar secular holidays: Independence Day on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>; Labor Day, Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>; and both Patriot Day and Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Fly your flag and keep our nation in your prayers!

Submitted by Becky Williams



- 7/09 Cindy McKee
- 7/26 Jean Poffenbaugh
- 7/28 Bob Holloway
  
- 8/02 Becky Williams
- 8/05 Garry Kurth
- 8/08 David Ruttinger
- 8/21 Joan Reagan
- 8/28 Jean Methlie
  
- 9/07 Bob Grams
- 9/11 James Crapps
- 9/29 Hope Kurth
- 9/29 Linda Priem
- 9/30 Linda Hoskins



- 7/02/1954 Jim & Carole Tobin
- 7/13/1991 Mike & Carol Hummel
- 7/20/2015 Garry & Hope Kurth
- 8/16/1968 Bob & Sue Holloway
- 9/15/1962 Bob & Virginia Sullivan

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**ALTAR FLOWER NEWS**

Our Flower Chart for July is full of orders. However, Kami, owner of Lily of the Valley Florist did inform us that she would be closing her floral business at the

end of July as she will be attending college in the Fall.

Kami has done a lovely bouquet with each order that was placed by a member of our Peace family. I always felt very “lucky” to hear the compliments that the receiver of the bouquet told me. Since Kami and I were in touch regarding the orders, I was blessed to pass on the accolades from you to Kami. I know that many members love seeing the altar enhanced with flowers, especially for special occasions. Floral prices and delivery charges are sky rocketing. Kami and I met one day in the church kitchen and she showed me how she sets the flowers. Needless to say.....a very skilled young lady. I watched in awe, took notes in hurried scribbling and have prayed about

taking on the challenge. Honestly, it would be too great a challenge at this stage of life.

If anyone has ideas and/or suggestions or a gathering of ladies to discuss thoughts and views on what we might do in the future, please speak with me. By the way, I am not slighting the men at Peace in this request, it’s just that the women show more interest in flowers with audible ohhh’s and ahhh’s that I have heard. Happy Summer to All!  
Cynthia Cotter

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Dear Reverend McKee,

This letter is to express my gratitude for the many times you have helped me and my family with prayers and financial assistance. My name is Cristina Beno and I have an 11yr old daughter that lives with me, Crystal. My older daughter, Grace, 14 yrs old, has been raised by my parents, yet she is also a major part of our lives as well. My late husband was an Honored US Army Veteran and passed a couple years ago. Since then, I have been making it on Social Security Disability and a small VA pension for my daughter. I have also been very ill with a couple surgeries, a blood disorder, and awaiting results from ongoing tests through the Florida Blood & Cancer Center. Nearly every month, I have visited Pastor and his wife at the Peace Lutheran Church for prayer and support. This has also helped me stay on my path with recovery, going into my 7th year this July, clean & sober. Praise God & many thanks to my support network! For I believe, I have been summoning Reverend McKee and his wife for some time, probably since 2019. I have also been blessed with gift cards that have helped greatly with the gas needed to make it to these medical appointments. Without this help, some of these appointments may not have been possible. For this, words cannot express my gratitude. Although we struggle in other areas, our Lord provides for us every time. I do reach out to other community resources and food pantries. Oftentimes, I am happy to bring staple items and non-perishables to the Church Food Pantry Cabinet in hopes of sharing a blessing. Thank you, Peace Lutheran Church, Pastor & Wife, and Church Members. May Our Lord Bless you all.

With sincere appreciation, Cristina Beno (Meyer)

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)**  
**Newsletter Article – July 2022**  
**New Testament Standard Giving**

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Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and

the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did. This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

Submitted by Jackie Hucker

**Those Serving July 2022**

**Sunday, July 3, 2022**

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bill Langstaff

Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz

Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

**Sunday, July 10, 2022**

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Bill Langstaff

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeters: Hope & Garry Kurth

Lay reader: Sam McKee

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

**Sunday, July 17, 2022**

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee

Communion assistant: Randy Priem

Greeter: Jackie Hucker

Lay reader: Hope Kurth

Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan



**Sunday, July 24, 2022**

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bob Holloway

Lay reader: Bob Sullivan

Counting team: Pat Doan & Randy Priem

**Sunday, July 31, 2022**

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Cynthia Cotter

Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

**Altar Guild July 2022**

Sharon Zavertnik

**Those Serving August 2022**

**Sunday, August 7, 2022**

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Pat Doan

Lay reader: Randy Priem

Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

**Sunday, August 14, 2022**

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Linda Williams

Lay reader: Pat Doan

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

**Sunday, August 21, 2022**

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Bill Langstaff

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Sharon Zavertnik

Lay reader: Becky Williams

Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee

Communion assistant: Randy Priem

Greeter: Linda Priem

Lay reader: Linda Ryun

Counting team: Pat Doan & Randy Priem

**Altar Guild August 2022**

Carla Ruttinger

**Those Serving September 2022**

**Sunday, September 4, 2022**

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bill Langstaff

Lay reader: Pat Doan

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

**Sunday, September 11, 2022**

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Jackie Hucker

Lay reader: Becky Williams

Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

**Sunday, September 18, 2022**

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bob Holloway

Lay reader: Linda Ryun

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

**Sunday, September 25, 2022**

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Garry & Hope Kurth

Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz

Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

**Altar Guild September 2022**

Linda Ryun