

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

March & April, 2021

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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

Lenten greetings to all!

As March arrives, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. Our Lenten theme for our Wednesday evening worship is "Return to the Lord." Another Ash Wednesday, another season of Lent. Another call by the prophet Joel to "return to the Lord your God" (Joel 2:13). In fact, Joel says it twice, repeats it. Return and return (2:12, 13).

Is that a little redundant? After all, saying "re" often already means to do something again, right? *Re-start* means start again. *Re-gain* means gain something again, get something back that you had before. *Re-seal* means close that package of bologna up again. *Re-turn*.

Turn to the Lord your God again. And again.

It can't be just on Ash Wednesday or just during the season of Lent that we confess our sins and return to God, can it? We sin every moment; it is our very condition. Luther said in the first of his Ninety-Five Theses that the "entire life of believers" should be in penitence for our sins, *returning to God*. He said the significance of Baptism includes drowning the old sinful nature by contrition and penitence "daily." Turning to God and *returning*. Again and again.

And what do we find? That, Joel also says, the Lord will "relent" of punishing us as we deserve (2:14). *Re-lent*. Another Ash Wednesday, another Lent. Another day of confessing our sins, always with the assurance of God forgiving those sins. Again and again.

As Lent ends we celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem only to

be betrayed, whipped, and crucified a few short days later. We remember these events with our Holy week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Then we come together for our Easter celebration.

Last year I really missed our Holy week services and Easter celebration. And sadly, this year we had to forgo our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. But God is always with us and will bring us through all the trials, illnesses, and hard times. The more the world and Satan attack the more we can be sure that God is with us. It is when the devil stops attacking us that we need to worry, he only goes after what he does not have.

We continue to conduct Bible studies and worship. Sadly, many still are absent. We hope they will return soon. Our practice of social distancing and wearing mask has been working very well. Of course, we all can use prayers and I pray that you all keep each other in your prayers especially those you haven't seen or heard from.

May God bless your Lententide,

Pastor Terry

Letter from the President

Well, it's that time again; and instead of reading the letter from the President, I

am writing it! Please bear with me as these are uncharted waters.

First, thank you Gary and Hope for the great job you did over the past four years. I am inheriting a very well running organization. You and all the council have my deepest thanks.

In that regard, I also commend all those who work to keep our church operating smoothly, most often behind the scenes. From counters to ushers to greeters to readers to landscapers to maintenance to finances to music to flowers to altar guild to teachers and, yes, even to preachers. If I missed anyone, it is a mistake on my part and not a reflection of your value to our church. That being said, there is always room for more people to be involved! If you don't see something you'd like to be involved in, talk to me or to pastor and we will see what we can do.

Finally, I have been making inquiries about getting an organist to play for services. Some important questions have come to light. Foremost is one of finances. Elsewhere in this newsletter others have written of our declining contributions. Hiring an organist would cost an additional \$6,000 to \$7,000 per year. The council has directed me to continue to pursue the subject; but in my opinion, at the current level of giving, we cannot

currently support an organist. I am open to comments and/or suggestions with regard to this matter.

I close with this exhortation: Remember one another in prayer, forsake not the gathering together, give thanks in every circumstance, and remember God will never leave us for forsake us.

Respectfully, Randy Priem

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

January 11, 2021 Present: President Randy Priem, Vice President Bill Langstaff, Treasurer Cindy McKee, Financial Secretary Linda Ryun, Secretary Sheryl Lutz, Pastor Terry McKee, and Trustees Yvonne Conner, Don Conner. Linda Williams was absent. President Randy Priem called the meeting to order and opened with his own prayer. He asked that each of us take turns with the opening prayer, each taking a month. Correspondence: Sheryl had received a Public Notification for a "Special Use Permit" applied for by the Souls Harbor First Pentecostal Church, Inc., who have moved into the building across Hwy 41 from us, within 300 feet of our property. They want to erect a new building for a sanctuary, and

Marion County is holding Public Hearings which we can attend if we object to their permit. We will not be objecting to their application or attending any of the hearings. Minutes from last month were accepted as read and filed. President's Comments: Randy introduced himself with a short bio, then thanked all of us for being willing to serve in the positions we have taken. He also said he wanted to thank our outgoing officers for their service to our congregation: Garry and Hope Kurth, Jackie Hucker, Linda Chappell, Linda Azwell, Dennis Witzgall, Doug O'Hara, and Karen and Dave Sokolowski. Reports: Treasurer: Cindy explained her report, stating our deposits equaled \$150,417, which included a willed gift of about \$42,000, and our expenses totaled \$120,697.00. We would have had a shortfall of about \$10,000 if not for the gift. Due to COVID-19, we had not received monies from Weight Watchers through most of the year, the only income dinner we held was the Pancake Supper in February, and there was no Rummage Sale. The difference between her report of deposits and Linda's of offerings is because we sometimes get direct deposit offerings as well as other refunds, rebates, etc. Financial Secretary: Linda explained her report that total offering income for 2020 was \$146,089.24. Trustees: Yvonne is still working on the sign software/connection problem. Pastor said Sam is working on getting a new chlorinator. Tidewater is coming out to look at it and/or recommend where to go

from here. We are in violation of not having had the water tested in the last 2 quarters. Someone is coming to run a test, but as we have no working chlorinator, we will not pass, so we will not be allowed to use our fountain again until that is taken care of. Sheryl mentioned the CD player used for our service music needs to be looked at- the track number does not always show, and sometimes when you press the play button, it won't play unless you back it up a track, then go forward again. Randy said the men's bathroom urinal is constantly running and needs a new float. The Fellowship Hall A/C unit does not heat: Pastor said Linda Williams told him a part has been ordered. Pastor: Thanked the congregation for his week off. Ash Wednesday service will be February 17 and will begin the Lenten services that run until the Wednesday before Palm Sunday. This year's series will be "Return to the Lord" and should be interesting. Our Synod has moved the Synodical Convention to next year, and our District concurs. Old Business: No old business New Business: No new business Closed with prayer by Pastor and all of us singing the Doxology. Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Lutz, Council Secretary

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

February 8, 2021

Present: President Randy Priem, Treasurer Cindy McKee, Financial Secretary Linda Ryun, Secretary Sheryl Lutz, Pastor Terry McKee, and Trustees Linda Williams, and Yvonne and Don Conner. Vice President Bill Langstaff was absent.

President Randy Priem called the meeting to order and Sheryl opened with prayer. He had asked that each of us take turns with the opening prayer. Linda Williams will pray next month.

Correspondence: None

Minutes from last month were accepted as read and filed.

President's Comments: Randy said we will discuss music and finances under New Business.

Reports:

Treasurer: Cindy: Our expenses were around \$10,000 for January, including a quarterly insurance payment.

Financial Secretary: Linda Ryun: Our income for January was only an average of \$1500/week, and that to make normal expenses, we need about \$2000/week.

With five Sundays in January, we should have collected \$10,000 or more.

Trustees: Linda Williams: The AC/heat are working. The pressure switch had tripped. Rick (AC man) said the switch is weak and may trip again and showed her how to fix it if that happens again. He said all the units are old and will probably need replacement in the near future (as they go out), and he would give us a good price estimate at that time. Linda said he shared that he had put in a bid for our church when these units were being purchased, and although he did not get the job, we were the only job/church that sent him a thank you card for his time and attention to our needs/ability to pay at that time.

Yvonne: Will continue working to fix the sign software/connection problem after the school year. As we are not having events/dinners, etc., she can keep using the USB.

Don: said the new chlorinator is up and working/reading well, and he continues to read the paperwork that came with it.

Pastor: Would like to hear from shut-ins/homebound members that someone else has called them besides himself. Handed out a flyer called, "Will division in the nation spill over to divide the church?"

Some thoughts on keeping congregations united in mission", by Rev Tim Fangmeier. (tim@giftedpeople.org). He also said our sermons are on "peacelutheranonline.com", Facebook, YouTube and now on GodTube.com (for GodTube, search for peacelutheran.dunnellon@gmail.com)

Old Business: Covered under Trustees' reports

New Business: Organist: Randy has been actively investigating/researching the idea/hope that we could someday soon be able to find and hire an organist. He has found it would cost \$100/service and that we have around sixty-five services/year. That would probably not include time spent on a choir (researching music and choir practices). We agreed he should continue looking, although at this time we cannot afford the annual \$6500 it would cost. Don suggested we could ask the congregation to "sign up" for a week here and there, like we do for flowers, as long as that donation did not cut out their normal giving.

Finances: Some members have not given at all to the church during the Pandemic, and we have not had many Snowbirds, and no event/dinner income to offset this. Do we have a contingency plan? Don asked about maybe selling the pews up-

stairs for some income? Pastor said most churches gift extras to other churches (that is how we got all of ours, including the extras), but it is something to think about. Also, how to pay for an organist? (covered above).

Misc: Would the secretary please send the minutes to the council before the next meeting?

Closed with prayer by Pastor and all of us singing the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Lutz, Council Secretary

LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Hi, Ladies!

We are reading Bible studies from our LWML Quarterly magazines and really enjoying them! (Also have had some wonderful lunches...). Thank you to Becky, our Bible Study Warrior and chief cook, as it turns out! We try to take turns "doing" lunch, but Becky usually comes up with the main part plus dessert. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 1, at 10am.

Our LWML North Florida Zone held its Annual Prayer Service on Saturday, January 30 at First Lutheran, Inverness. The theme was: "He Prayed *with* Them",

based on Acts 20:36, written by Rev. Robert L Mundahl, a retired LWM Zone and National Pastoral Counselor. It was wonderful, and I'm sorry I was the only one (from Peace) that got there. Our new Zone President Cindy Navarro; new Treasurer Virginia Golec along with other LWML ladies and our new "co-Zone Pastoral Counselor" Pastor Beaverson (all of First Lutheran) lead the service. One of their ladies sang 3 solos, including "The Lord's Prayer", one of my favorites! We ended with the installation of our new Zone officers: Cindy, Virginia, and Barb Henrich- VP of Spiritual Growth, and a prayer for those continuing: Carol Lynn Scheer- Secretary; Joanne Fetzer- VP Mission Service; and me- VP Communication. We also prayed for former President Barb Moehling (with all of us standing around her), whose husband had died the week before. It was very moving and inspirational, and so nice to spend an hour with our Sisters-in-Christ in person!!

Our Zone is having a rally on Saturday, April 24 at Our Redeemer, Ocala. I will let you know more on that after our Zone Board meeting in March.

Our National LWML Convention is June 24-27 in Lexington, KY, near the Ark Encounter. For more info on that, go to www.lwml.org.

Our Zone retreat is September 24-26 in Melbourne, FL (on the beach). More info soon on that as well.

Happy Easter! In His Service, Sheryl Lutz

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer

teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has

not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.

SPOT LIGHT

Greetings to my Peace family. I have been asked to share a brief bio to acquaint myself to you. My name is Randy Priem, and I was born in Tampa, FL, but raised across the Bay in St. Petersburg where I went to school. I was confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church.

After high school I attended FSU, Tallahassee, for a year and then spent a year at USF in Tampa.

I joined the Air Force in 1973, and was stationed at Macdill AFB in Tampa for a year, then Ramstein AFB in Germany for three years, and finally Langley AFB for two years. During that time I came home on leave, met Linda Stahl on the tennis courts in St. Petersburg, and married her.

Shortly before leaving the Air Force, we had a son, Jason, who lives in Vancouver where he works in the tech industry.

We returned to St. Petersburg, FL, where Linda and I had another son, Matthew, and a daughter, Sarah Joy. Matthew is an LCMS pastor in Raymore, MO, near Kansas City. He is married to Tessa, who he met at Concordia St. Louis, where she was studying to be a deaconess. They have three children, Oscar, Heidi, and Moses. Sarah Joy also studied at Concordia in St. Louis to be a deaconess. She met and married JJ who is now an LCMS pastor in Marshall, MN. Sarah and JJ have six children, John Mark, Elizabeth Joy, Elijah, Hannah, Miriam, Abigail. They are expecting their seventh in April.

I began working for the Post Office in 1980. We moved to the Ocala area in 1986.

We were charter members at Our Redeemer before they moved to their current location. We attended Peace Lutheran when it was called Rainbow Lakes Lutheran and was located in Rainbow Lakes Estates. We most recently were members at St. John Lutheran in Ocala, where I served as an elder and adult Bible class leader for many years.

In 2015, I retired from the Post Office, and some years later we transferred back to Peace Lutheran for the shorter commute and the more traditional service.

In retirement I have more time to enjoy woodworking, cycling, gardening, playing guitar, and traveling to see family.

Linda and I are very happy to be a part of the Peace family and look forward to meeting more of the family as pandemic restrictions allow.

Soli Deo Gloria

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

The color of our altar and pulpit paraments changes several times over March and April. This is a visible reminder of what our God has done for us in sending His Son to redeem us. Violet is the color of royalty and is used during the weeks before Holy Week; red, for the blood of Christ, is used on Palm Sunday and again when we remember St. Mark on April 25th; white, symbolizing purity, is used on Maundy Thursday and from Easter until

Pentecost; and, black, to remember our sins, on Good Friday. The Sunday closest to March 25 may be celebrated as The Annunciation of Our Lord, the day the angel Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of the Messiah.

We don't use flowers on the altar during Lent. Another thing that we give up is the singing of Hallelujahs and Alleluias. Both words are Hebrew for "Praise be to God". We'll enjoy flowers again on Palm Sunday and the words of praise on Easter, when we'll join together in saying, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

"Amen" means "let it be"; "so be it"; "I believe it"; "I agree". It comes from the Hebrew "emuna", meaning "faith" or "emet", meaning truth. Recently someone asked me what happened to the "Amens" at the end of our hymns. Here's when and why they aren't there:

The first synodical hymnal was printed in 1847, the same year as the founding of our Synod. There were 437 hymns in German. The first official English hymnal (green) was published in 1912. The Lu-

theran Hymnal (red) was published in 1941. All had “Amen’s”. The hymnal entitled “Lutheran Worship” came out in 1982 and it omitted them. During the same time period, the Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian hymnals also omitted them. We use the Lutheran Service Book (maroon) which was published in 2006.

Although our pew hymnals do not have Amen’s at the end of hymns, there is an accompanying Amen’s Chart provided for the organist to play one at the end of a hymn which is a prayer or a doxology (Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, for example

St. Patrick

We all know that March 17th is St. Patrick’s Day! It’s OK for Lutherans to commemorate him! His name was Maewyn and he was born in Wales about 385. He was a pagan until 16, 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 established schools, churches and monasteries. He used the

shamrock as a symbol to teach the concept of the Holy Trinity and that is why we see so many of those displayed. Irish Catholics wear green in his honor; Protestants wear orange. And, it’s OK to pinch someone who wears neither of these colors on March 17th.

More Rabbits

Submitted by Becky Williams

I’ve mentioned www.betterdaysarecoming.com as a resource for the pronunciation of names of persons, places, or objects in the Sunday readings. Here’s one reason it is also important to e-nun-ci-ate:

When our daughters were in kindergarten and first grade, we lived in Darien, IL. I brought the girls along with me to choir practice so they could play with the organist/director’s two girls, while we rehearsed for Palm Sunday through Easter. On the Monday after Easter, while having lunch with the girls and trying to get them to share their chocolates, we asked them if they’d enjoyed Easter over and above their baskets. Jennifer (7) said she

liked the music, especially the song about the rabbits! Really?? We knew there had been no such song! When questioned a bit, she said the choir had sung it a couple of days before Easter and it went, “More rabbits! More rabbits! More rabbits!” It was really hard not to laugh when we realized it was a selection from a Good Friday oratorio the choir had done the previous year and the words were repetitive, beginning very softly and ending in a shout, and, in fact were “Barabbas, Barabbas, Barabbas”! Needless to say, the choir director loved it...and used it to make a point he’d been unable to get across previously.

Altar Flowers

Submitted by Becky Williams

Where have all the flowers gone?
Because we are in the season of Lent, a time for repentance and reflection, we choose to not place flowers on the altar until Palm Sunday, March 28.

There are several open dates on the Flower Chart. You are encouraged to subscribe for a bouquet to remember an occasion or loved one or to honor someone. There will always be one arrangement; however, there can be two.

The cost remains \$20 for each bouquet. If you would like a specific flower or color, please let me know, and the florist will make every attempt to accommodate your wish.

Teresa Tuttle, Blue Creek Florist, is always appreciative of receiving your personal flower orders throughout the year. Her cell phone number is 352-484-5150. Please mention that you are a member of Peace.

Adorn the Cross this Easter Sunday,

When you arrive for Easter Sunday worship, you are encouraged to bring cut flowers or greens from your yard or purchased stems to adorn the cross at the top of our driveway just off the parking lot. Even with the onset of COVID-19 last year, and not being able to worship in our sanctuary, many members brought flowers for the lawn cross. Seeing the cross beautified in this way is always a moving experience and a visual reminder of the beauty of Easter.

Pastor’s Prayer List

Following is a list of some of the Peace family that are on the prayer list.

Some of our members who have been on our prayer list are now able to come worship with us.

Pat Doan and her daughter attended Church on Sunday 2/21.

Carol Hummel and her husband were also in Church, Sunday 2/21.



- 03-03 Pam Zwick
- 03-12 Sam McKee
- 03-15 Cynthia Cotter
- 03-18 Trina Ruttinger
- 03-18 Sharon Cassan
- 03-19 James Spiegelberg
- 03-19 Carla Rugginger
- 03-20 Eugene O'Connell
- 03-24 Ken Buschman

- 04-01 Sandra Doudt
- 04-02 Donna Race
- 04-04 Alan Plocharczyk
- 04-08 Don Dow

- 04-09 JaeAnn Witzgall
- 04-15 Louise Plocharczyk
- 04-20 Jackie Hucker
- 04-22 Jan Barker
- 04-24 Dennis Witzgall



03-07-1987 Steve & Sharon Cassan

04-03-2012 Dave & Karen Sokolowski

04-12-2015 Jan & Tim Barker



Non perishable food items.

Those Serving March 2021

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Carla & David Ruttinger

Lay reader: Linda Ryun

Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Bill Langstaff

Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Linda Ryun

Lay reader: Jackie Hucker

Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Hope & Garry Kurth

Lay reader: Hope Kurth

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Altar Guild March

Linda Ryun

Those Serving April 2021

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Virginia Sullivan

Lay reader: Samuel McKee

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

Acolytes: Jeremy & Samuel McKee

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Sheryl Lutz

Lay reader: Bob Sullivan

Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bill Langstaff

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Jackie Hucker

Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, April 18, 2021

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Bob Holloway

Lay reader: Randy Priem

Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Sharon Zavertrnik

Lay reader: Trina Ruttinger

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Altar Guild April

Cindy and Sam McKee