

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

May & June ,2021

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

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Continued Easter blessings to all. It was nice to be able to gather this year during Lent and Holy week and then celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. Even though we are still dealing with the pandemic we can come together to be fed and nourished by God's Word and Sacrament. Even as we continue to social distance and wear masks it is great to be able to fellowship with each other. It is wonderful to see many of our family returning as they receive their vaccines.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider

how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

As we continue to celebrate the Eastertide we look forward to the special days in May. May 13th is The Ascension of Our Lord; we will worship at 7pm. Then May 23rd is Pentecost and May 30th is Trinity Sunday.

I want to personally thank each and everyone of you who give of your time and talents volunteering to do the things here at Peace to keep things going much of which is behind the scenes

and often goes unnoticed by many. You are truly a blessing to Peace.

Remember to keep each other in your prayers and reach out to those you haven't seen lately due to the pandemic. It is always nice to know you are missed. May God continue to bless each of you as well as our Peace family.

Easter blessings to all!

Pastor Terry

Letter from the President

Easter greetings to one and all. He is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Since I last wrote we have enjoyed a very meaningful Lent (thank you, Pastor) and celebrated a joyful Easter (thank you, God). Now it is time to settle in and get down to the business of church.

We continue to practice the recommended safeguards with regards to covid 19 i.e. face coverings and social distancing during our worship and fellowship times. We have, additionally, started using a commercial-style fogger to disinfect the sanctuary, the fellowship room, and all the perimeter rooms. I am confident we are taking every precaution and want all our members to feel safe returning to worship. If you have any questions and/or comments in this matter, please feel free to call or email me.

Another concern I have heard is how hard it is for some of our members to get to church at the 10:00 hour. In the interest of serving all of our worshippers, the council is asking for input on changing our worship to a later time. Absolutely nothing is being decided at this time; we are only trying to see if there is a need that might be addressed in the future. Again, we are only asking for your input at this time so contact your council member of choice and make your voice heard. My contact information is: phone (352-489-4838), email (rcpriem@gmail.com), or talk to me before/after church.

And finally, a big thank you to all who gave of their time, talents, and treasures during Lent and at Easter. I pray God will richly bless you for your efforts. And indeed, I pray that all of us in the Peace family will continue to abide in Him Who promises to abide with us!

Randy Priem

Soli Deo gloria

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting

March 8, 2021

Present: President Randy Priem, Treasurer Cindy McKee, Financial Secretary Linda Ryun, Secretary Sheryl Lutz, Pastor Terry McKee, and Vice President Bill Langstaff.

President Randy Priem called the meeting to order, and Pastor opened with prayer.

Correspondence: Post card from The Florida-Georgia District Office, signed by those that work there, saying they had prayed for our church, community and pastor that day.

Minutes from February were accepted as written and filed.

President's Comments: Randy said our Lenten services are drawing from 15-17 worshipers each week, which is more than half of those attending on Sundays. Fellowship coffee has restarted, with Bob Sullivan volunteering to make and serve coffee each week. Randy is very thankful for all our volunteers, including all that work "in the background," doing things that the average worshiper doesn't know who accomplishes them. April is Volunteer Month, and we will discuss at next month's meeting if we can do something to commemorate that.

Reports:

Treasurer: Cindy: Our expenses \$8500 for February.

Financial Secretary: Linda Ryun: Our income for February was \$8,149.07 with four Sundays and two Lenten services.

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

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Lutz,
Council Secretary

LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Hi, Ladies of Peace/LWML!

The **first Sunday of the months will be Mite Sundays** beginning May 2. Bring your boxes, or place what you've collected in a Ziplock bag and mark it "Mites". If there is not box/basket, you can give your donations to Thelma, or put it in her mailbox. We would like to send money at Christmas this year again to missions as we have in the past. You can also give money for our treasury we use for other things (decorations for meals or other events, for example) as well. That money needs to be marked "Treasury".

We are having about six of us on a regular basis at our **Bible studies** and would love to have more! Our next study will be Monday, May 3, at 10am, which will be our last until September. We will begin our new book, "Pew Sisters" at that time.

Our **LWML North Florida Zone's Spring Rally** was Saturday, April 24 at Our Redeemer, Ocala. It was based on Job 19:25-26, "I know that my Redeemer Lives".

Our **FL-GA District Retreat** is September 24-26 in Melbourne, FL (on the beach). The Summer *E-vangel* (coming out around the 20th of May) will have a lot more info. I will be going and would love to see some of our ladies there, too!

LWML Sunday will be observed October 17 here at Peace. More on that as we get closer.

Happy Mother's Day, Father's Day and Summer! In His Service, Sheryl Lutz

SPOT LIGHT

Pastor has asked me to SPOTLIGHT my family for this newsletter, so here goes.

I was born and raised in Long Island, NY. I was an only child, that was good and bad, sometimes lonely.

I was trained as a private secretary and worked in many of New City's great buildings including Woolworth Building and the Empire State building.

Some of our members remember my husband, Ray. He was born and raised in Wilkes Barre ,Pa and was 1 of 5 children.

Ray and I met at my cousins wedding in PA. in 1960, fell in love and married in 1963. In 1968 we were blessed with the birth of our daughter, Sue.

Ray worked for Pam Am airlines at JFK in NY. My parents retired and moved to Lake Worth, Fl so every holiday we were alone and decided to move closer to family be it either PA. or Florida. We decided to take a big chance and move to Florida. We had purchased a home but Ray had no job lined up but God provided and Ray ended up taking the post office test among 900 others 3 were hired and Ray was 1 of the 3 and he was never without work. He retired in 1997 from the Lake Worth, FL Post Office and we moved here to Morris-ton.

My daughter, Sue and son-in-law, Danny now live in Bluffton, SC. Sue has worked at Delta Airline for over 32 years and Danny works at an electric supply company where grandson, Max also works. Sue and Danny have 2 boys, Max and Brayden that are adopted from Russia. Brayden is going to be a senior next year and plays baseball on his high school's varsity team.

Ray and I have volunteer mostly for children and I was also a girl scout leader.

My family are animal lovers. I have 2 dogs and 2 mini horses. My daughter has 3 dogs, a Guinea pig and a lizard.

I'm blessed with good health and do most of the work on my 5 acres . I have no plans on downsizing, have to see what lies in my future.

Carolyn Turner

“Thank you!” to those of you who have placed flowers on our altar! It is wonderful to see them again after their absence during Lent.

Please check the chart on the bulletin board for dates on which there are no flowers subscribed. When you sign up, indicate whether you would like one or two bouquets and also the reason you are placing flowers so that can be acknowledged in the bulletin. Arrangements are \$20 each. You may make payment using either the envelope in your boxed set or a pew envelope. If you have a preference as to colors or the variety of flower, please let Becky Williams (304-7674) know so that she can coordinate that with Blue Creek Florist.

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

We are still in the Easter Cycle of the Church Year, which the Christian Church has been celebrating since the year 400. He is risen! Indeed! Alleluia! As the Church, during the months of May and June, we celebrate Christ's Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. We can honor saints and apostles Philip, James, Barnabas, Peter and Paul; remember the visitation of the angel to Mary telling she would bear Jesus, her Savior; and the birth of John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin. Other commemorations are listed in the front of our Lutheran Service Book, pgs. Xii and xiii.

Ascension Day, Thursday, May 13th, has been celebrated by the Church since the year 68. The Christ candle, which was lit Christmas Eve, is extinguished during the service remembering His bodily ascension into heaven.

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, is Sunday May 23rd.

Trinity Sunday, May 30th, we use the Athanasian Creed. Creed means, "I believe!" In this creed, we notice the use of the word "catholic", using a lower-case "c". This simply means this is a universal Christian statement distinguishing the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It does not refer to the Roman Catholic faith.

Our Nation celebrates several special occasions during May and June, also.

Thursday, May 6th, is a National Day of Prayer, always the first Thursday of May since 1972, a day to pray for our nation and leaders.

Sunday, May 9th, Mother's Day, was begun unofficially in 1858, and established on the second Sunday of May since 1914.

Saturday, May 15th, Armed Forces Day, was established August 31, 1949, to thank (living) members of the service branches for their service.

Monday, May 31st, is observed as Memorial Day, when we remember members of the various branches who have died in service to their Country. It was established as Decoration Day in 1868.

Monday, June 14th, is Flag Day, first celebrated in the State of Washington in

1885 and established as a national celebration day in 1949.

Sunday, June 20th, Father's Day, was celebrated in 1910, also in Washington State, and set as the third Sunday in Jun

Pastor's Prayer List

Some of our members on the Prayer list are recovering and on some Sundays are able to attend Church.

Please if you have a few minutes make that phone call to our shut ins. It will make their day as well as yours.



05-06 Peggy Buschman
05-09 Tricia Ruttinger
05-18 Linda Ryun
05-23 Korene Clemings
05-29 Chet Rochette

06-01 Trudy Kreuzer
06-06 Carolyn Turner

06-17 Nicole Purrazzi
06-28 Virginia Sullivan
06-29 Robert Sullivan



03-07-1987 Steve & Sharon Cassan

04-12-2015 Jan & Tim Barker

From Jackie Hucker

St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this de-

serves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "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" (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament?

Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the **resurrection**, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we

gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

Thanks, Jackie

I was given the following article about the Bible and Culture from the “Answers in Genesis” magazine and as I read it I thought it would be good share. Hope you enjoy and maybe are a little troubled by it.

Thanks
Pastor

- It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- Jesus Christ’s death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
- Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God’s free gift of eternal salvation.

Distressing “State of Theology” Results Released by Ken Ham on September 10, 2020

Theology matters. What we believe about God, his Word, and the person and work of Jesus Christ matters. Poor, weak, and inaccurate theology leads, at best, to faith that produces no, little, or bad fruit, is stagnant, will not stand the tough times that will inevitably come in a sin-cursed and broken world; or, at worst, such wrong beliefs won’t save us because we don’t truly understand or believe the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Every two years, Ligonier Ministries releases a new survey titled the “State of Theology,” and the 2020 results were published this week. And they are shocking, to put it mildly. Now the survey was of the American population as a whole, but the results could be filtered for those who are considered “evangelical.” What is an “evangelical?” Such a person is defined as believing these four statements:

- The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.

Beliefs About the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Survey respondents were asked whether they agreed (strongly or somewhat), disagreed (strongly or somewhat), or weren’t sure about a variety of statements. Here’s how those who are considered evangelicals responded to the following statements regarding basic beliefs about the person and work of the Godhead—prepare to be shocked by almost all of these:

- 32% agree: Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.
- 46% agree: God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
- 56% agree: Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God. (An additional 11% are not sure!)
- 51% agree: The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.
- 54% disagree: Even the smallest sin deserves eternal damnation.
- 80% agree: God counts a person as righteous not because of one’s

works but only because of one's faith in Jesus Christ.

For those who are familiar with the Bible and the most basic tenets of theology, these results are shocking and show that many who are considered "evangelical" are far from it. They believe outright heresy when it comes to the person of Jesus Christ, his work on the cross, and the person of the Holy Spirit! Personally, I believe such studies show a phenomenal failure of the modern church. Couple all this with the fact the younger generations are leaving the church in droves!

Beliefs About the Bible

Here are evangelicals' responses to statements regarding basic beliefs about the Bible:

- 23% agree: The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.
- 29% agree: Religious belief is a matter of personal opinion; it is not about objective truth.
- 16% agree: Modern science disproves the Bible. (This is an encouraging drop, though, from 25% just two years ago!)

It's no wonder there are so many false beliefs about God in the church when what we know about God comes from his Word and a sizeable minority of evangelicals don't believe the Bible . . . or that

our faith is grounded in objective reality! (And for those who do believe the Bible is "literally true"—what do they mean by that? Many who believe in evolution, millions of years, no Adam and Eve, and a local flood will say they believe the Bible is "literally true" when they actually don't believe that at all!)

The terrible trends regarding evangelicals' beliefs continue the downward slide each year. Why? After all, here in America, Christians have greater access to churches, Christian teaching ministries, Christian colleges and seminaries, Christian resources, Christian programming, and the Bible itself than any other nation on earth. So why are we seeing such ignorance regarding the Bible and basic biblical beliefs?

Well, people aren't reading the Bible, so they don't know what it says. Many Christian teachers either don't teach the Bible at all or will just sprinkle a few verses in here and there to make what they teach sound Christian when it's far from it. Parents, particularly fathers, have abdicated their role in discipling their families in the ways of the Lord, leaving it to the church . . . or simply not emphasizing or prioritizing it at all. Many Bible-believing churches have just assumed their congregations know what the Bible teaches when many don't! Or they've focused more on entertainment or inspiration at the expense of good theology and spiritual growth.

Many churches have made music the centerpiece of their services and watered down the teaching of the Word.

We need to be teaching children, young people, and adults to think foundationally—to understand that God’s Word is the foundation for our thinking in every area. And that a truly biblical worldview must come from the foundation of God’s Word, as we take everything and compare it against the authority of the Word of God. And, of course, that is only possible if families are reading God’s Word themselves, so they know what it actually teaches.

There is a lack of Bible teaching in families and churches. Many have focused instead on inspirational messages, devotionals, and music—obviously, there’s a place for them, but never at the expense of solid biblical teaching from God’s Word. Also, there’s been a great lack of teaching apologetics in churches and homes to counter the false ideas of the day that are used to brainwash the younger generations through the education systems, museums, and media.

Ultimately, as much as this is a problem in churches, if we truly want to see generational change, we must start in the home with families. Ultimately, the spiritual discipling and training of children is not the job of the church. The church is to come alongside parents and families, supporting them in their God-given mission to train up a child in the way he or she should go. Parents—your family is your responsibility and it should be your

first and primary one! Nothing is more important than discipling your children in the ways of the Lord, in his Word, and in the gospel!

Those Serving May 2021

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Becky Williams
Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Ushers: Sharon Zavertrnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Carla & Davie Ruttinger
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Bill Langstaff
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Linda Ryun
Lay reader: Samuel McKee
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Hope & Garry Kurth
Lay reader: Hope Kurth
Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

Altar Guild May

Linda Williams

Those Serving June 2021

Sunday, June 6, 2021

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Virginia Sullivan
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Ushers: Sharon Zavertrnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Sheryl Lutz
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bill Langstaff
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Jackie Hucker
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, June 27, 2021

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Bob Holloway
Lay reader: Hope Kurth
Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

Altar Guild June

Cynthia Cotter