

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

September & October, 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

Greetings Peace family,

It's that time of year when things normally resume, students have returned to school with uncertainty of how their days will look. Many are already quarantining at home after only being back to school for a few days. The pandemic is still interrupting our lives not wanting to give up, face masks and social distancing are still the norm. It was our plan to return to normal worship practices, but it looks like we will still need to bring our offering forward when we come to communion instead of passing the offering plates. We'll keep the fellowship books stored away for the time being. We were also wanting to resume the community

meals in September but that may have to be put on hold as the number of Covid cases continue to rise in Marion County.

Even though times are still trying, and we struggle to get back to a sense of normal God is still watching over us. God has a plan. We can still come together for worship (fellowship) as God nourishes us with His Word and Sacrament. Bible study gives us another opportunity to gather around His Word and with each other (safely). I invite you to return and take time to be in fellowship with each other and be in God's Word. Wednesday morning Bible class is going through Genesis. Our Sunday morning class is studying Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Attending Bible class is a great time and a

safe time to get out of the house and gather together in God's Word.

One worship note, we have started bringing groups forward for communion, no more than five per side. It is nice to be able to welcome you forward and allow time to kneel (if you choose) as you receive the Lord's Supper.

As the pandemic is still on the minds of many, we remind everyone to wear your masks when gathering and of course let us all wash our hands. As we enter the cold and flu season masks are a wonderful way of not sharing. So, if you are feeling ill or think you might be, a mask is a wonderful way to protect those around you. I know it has been a tough 18 months, but we have a loving Lord and Savior who is our physician of both our bodies and souls who promises never to abandon us. He will get us through this and all trials and illnesses. He is with us both in the tough times and the good times.

God bless
Pastor



LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Hi, Ladies of Peace/Lutheran Women's Missionary League members! First, thank you to all who gave to our July and August Mite collections-we received \$80 and \$50 respectively!

Our monthly Bible study/ladies' gatherings will begin Monday, September 13 at 10am! We will start our new book, "Pew Sisters", a book written by a pastor's wife about real "sisters" in the pews of their churches over the years and how God helped them accomplish solutions or dreams. Come, join us!

Our next two **Mite Sundays** are September 5 and October 3. Again, please ask Becky, Sheryl, or Thelma if the big Mite Box is not out, we will thank you for remembering! All Mite box money gets sent to the LWML FL-GA District. Some stays with the district for district grants, and the rest goes to national for those grants. We are more than halfway through our LWML District biennium with only about 40% of the grant money raised.

Thanks for the gifts of **1st class stamps given to Ginger Sullivan** to send out all those “Get Well” and “Thinking about you” cards! Please continue to remember this ministry when you purchase stamps for yourselves. Even 4 or 5 stamps helps send out cards! Just place them in Sullivan’s mailbox if you don’t see her.

Zone Rally: Saturday, September 18 at St. John Lutheran, Ocala Registration is at 9am, theme “Daughters of the King”, Proverbs 31:20, 22b, 25a. We will be carpooling, so let me know! There is a list of items on the bulletin board we are collecting for **Operation Shoebox for women in the military**. Bring any items to church marked LWML Rally, and I will make sure they get there. Thanks!

District Retreat: September 24-26 in Melbourne. We are *collecting clean, used denim items*. They get ripped apart, zippers and buttons removed, and the material given to a women’s mission to make into new, sellable items in their store. Mark them District Retreat, and I’ll take them along. Again, thanks!

LWML Sunday: October 17. Wear purple!! Our mite box will be our again.

In His Service, Sheryl Lutz

Our next study will be Monday, September 13, at 10am.

Zone Rally: Saturday, September 18 at St. John Lutheran, Ocala.

District Retreat: September 24-26 in

Melbourne, FL at the Crown Plaza Hotel (on the beach) **LWML Sunday:** October 17.

In His Service, Sheryl Lutz

SPOT LIGHT

Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Gene is the 4th of 5 brothers and 1 sister, born in Rehrersburg, PA. He was delivered by his grandmother during a bad snowstorm December 21, 1951, at home before the doctor got there. An older brother and his sister had gone to a Christmas party and came home to a new brother! He grew up on a small farm near Reading. His parents went to the local United Church of Christ, although his maternal grandparents were Lutherans.

Sheryl, the oldest of 3 girls, was also born during a snowstorm February 20, 1953, in Reading, PA. Her parents began attending a Lutheran Church where all 3 girls were confirmed and married.

Sheryl and Gene met in high school in the Fall of 1968 and started “going steady”. He was a senior, she a sophomore. Gene graduated in June ’69, working at a construction firm with his dad. Sheryl’s dad’s family were “Telephone people”- Bell of PA, AT&T, Bell Labs, plus her dad was the

PBX guy for Western Electric in the telephone Central Offices. In early 1970, he heard there was an opening for a Bell "House Service" person (janitor, but that and public phone money collector was how you got into the phone company, no matter who you knew...). Gene decided to go for it, got the job, becoming a Lineman the next year, and enjoyed it so much, stayed for 37 years.

Sheryl grew up camping and traveling around the USA, and if you wanted to hang around them, you went camping, too. Gene bought a pop-up camper, and went along on weekend campouts, sometimes bringing her sister Jan's boyfriend. She graduated in June 1971, and they married at her Lutheran church on October 2, 1971, honeymooning (in Gene's camper) in Williamsburg, VA. By then they were bringing Barb's boyfriend along on weekends.

In 1975 and 1977 their children, Kelli and David were born (Kelli on Gene's birthday). Their kids grew up traveling and camping, each of them only 2 months old for their first trips to Florida for winter vacations.

In 1981, Southern Bell was looking for folks willing to transfer to South Florida, and Sheryl had the house packed and ready to put on the market before the

weekend was over! They bought a home west of Boca Raton, and stayed there for 26 years, until Gene retired in 2007, and they moved to Dunnellon.

In 1978, to make some extra money, Sheryl became an Avon representative, and still sells Avon today. To be able to be home with the kids when school was out, she began working in their middle school cafeteria. She became the manager of a different middle school, staying until both kids were in high school. She also had her own lawn service for a few years, then became District Secretary for a subsidiary of Abbott Labs.

Kelli entered the Navy in 1997, retiring in 2019. She and her Navy hubby Jon have 3 kids and live in Jacksonville. David, a computer IT guy and his teacher wife Gina still live in the Ft. Lauderdale area, no kids. They are very proud of both kids and their families. Jon's mom moved in with him and Kelli around 2012, and Dave and Gina help her mom a lot, as well.

Sheryl's mom moved in with them in 2005, and still lives with them. "Mama Jean" at 92, is pretty much the "Grand Matriarch" of the family since the passing of Sheryl's 106-year-old Grandmother last summer.

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

With all the rain we've had, we definitely can observe that this is the growing season! So it is in the Church Year, as well. Our paraments and Pastor's stole are green to symbolize our growth in our knowledge of Christ.

Sunday, October 31st, we will celebrate Reformation Day, the date in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his ninety-five discussion points on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, merely looking to debate them, not to begin another church and certainly not to have it become known as "Lutheran". The paraments will be red, symbolizing the Blood of Jesus Christ, shed for us for the remission of our sins. Let's wear red, too! Pastor (then Vicar) McKee was installed as Shepherd here on Reformation Sunday, October 31st, 2004.

There are no feast or festivals days on the liturgical schedule for September and only Reformation Day in October. Sunday, October 5th, commemorates Zacharias and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, who was Jesus' cousin.

During October, we will have two special Sunday occasions: One is Pastor Appreciation Day and the other is LWML Sunday, which we'll observe on the 17th. October 25th is the actual date designated for us to remember Dorcas, Lydia and Phoebe, faithful women in the ancient church. Our LWML is officially called the Dorcas Circle. Dorcas helped the poor; Lydia opened her home to Paul and other missionaries; and Phoebe served as a deaconess in Corinth. On LWML Sunday, all ladies are encouraged to wear purple as the organization's colors are that and gold.

We don't want to forget secular celebrations either! Labor Day is Monday, September 6; Patriot Day

is Saturday, September 11; and Columbus Day will be observed on Monday, October 11.



09/07 Bob Grams
09/11 James Crapps
09/29 Hope Kurth
09/29 Linda Priem
09/30 Linda Hoskins

10/03 Maggie Santos
10/13 Bill Langstaff

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote:

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all

10/18 Bill Neblock
10/22 Sharon Zavertnik
10/26 Randy Priem

10/28 Linda Williams



09/15/1962 Bob & Virginia Sullivan

10/02/1971 Gene & Sheryl Lutz
10/04/1986 Duane & Panela Zwick
10/15/1978 Terry & Cindy McKee
10/18/1975 Randy & Linda Priem
10/31/1992 David & Carla Ruttinger

very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20).

The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

Submitted by Jackie Hucker

Altar Flower News

This article is to try and keep our Peace Lutheran family up to date with news about some changes regarding our Altar Floral arrangements. If your attendance has been altered for

any number of reasons, you may not know that Theresa Tuttle, Blue Creek Florist, decided to no longer be doing our Altar flowers because she wanted to be free to give her aging Mother more of her personal time.

We are pleased that Jeri Gibbs, who once did floral designs for the Turner House Florist of Dunnellon, will be our new floral provider.

If you would like Jeri to do an arrangement for your family, beyond church involvement, she would be happy to help you and the price would be based on your choice of flowers and size of the arrangement. Jeri Gibb's phone number for a special arrangement is 352-533-0175. She would need five days notice prior to the date for delivery. If there is an emergency need, Jeri will try hard to accommodate you.

Meanwhile, Becky Williams wanted a change, also! Now Becky is teaching the Altar floral process to me, Cynthia Cotter, (Cyndy) a novice to this Altar Guild. My thanks go out to Becky for the years and time that she has put into her service to Peace Lutheran's Altar and it's beauty and her many talents. She certainly is my patient guide, and I am grateful.

The Flower Chart resides in its usual position, on the bulletin board, left of the doors to the Sanctuary.

There are still a number of openings available in October, November and December. I look forward to the Flower Chart filled before the 2022 Chart replaces 2021.

The price for one bouquet will be \$25.00. You can pay for your bouquet by cash or check placed in an offering envelope marked Altar Flowers.

If you desire special colors, please let Cyndy C. know. Please, speak with me well in advance of your chosen date. I must place the order with Ms. Gibbs mid-month, the month prior to your chosen date for your bouquet choice. If no color is requested, Ms. Gibbs will choose the seasonal colors.

Naturally, if you bought the flowers, they are yours to retrieve at the end of the Sunday service.

They are placed in a container and will be given to you by the Altar Guild member on duty. If, you do not want them; perhaps, the guild member on duty will have a suggestion to be of service to you or pleasure to someone known or unknown. Please return the flower container the following week to an Altar Guild member or place on the table across from the doors to the sanctuary.

Cynthia Cotter - (Cyndy) Contact info: ackcot4now@yahoo.com or 352-854-0594
(leave message)

Those Serving September 2021

Sunday, September 5, 2021

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

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Virginia Sullivan
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, September 19, 2021

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

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bill Langstaff
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Hope Kurth
Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Altar Guild September

Linda Ryun

Those Serving October 2021

Sunday, October 3, 2021

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Bob Holloway
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, October 10, 2021

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Cynthia Cotter
Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

LWML Sunday, October 17, 2021

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Sharon Zavertrnik
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Linda Williams & Linda Ryun

Sunday, October 24, 2021

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

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Linda Ryun
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Altar Guild October

Linda Williams

