

Peace Offerings
The Newsletter Of Peace Lutheran Church
September & October, 2020
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 .

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To my Peace family

It is a troubling time with the pandemic and with the political divide in our country. I struggle with the division not only in our country but even in the church at large. As I was reading the latest issue of The Lutheran Witness, I was impressed with the articles focusing on the current state of politics and the Church. A topic that certainly is in the forefront this year. And with the insurgence of violence and hate that has even more divided this nation I thought it would be good to remind ourselves who we are and whose we are.

We have been slowly forgetting or at least attempting to change the founding principles of our nation. This is nothing new, as sinful human beings if we don't

like something, we simply try to change it to fit our narrative or ignore it all together. Since 2015 when the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage, which goes directly against Scripture, it seems that we have accelerated our journey down the proverbial rabbit hole leaving behind all that God has taught us and done for us.

As Christians we believe on the unchanging teachings of Scripture that all human beings are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). According to John 3:16 we are all loved by God and "we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) As such we are thankful that through the death and resurrection our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we are forgiven. And this is a gift we as Christians want all to know about and have for themselves. We want all to experience the joy of being a child of God but some or sadly many reject the free gifts of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness. And

thus, miss out on knowing God's love and how much He wants to care for us.

Of course, even though it is new to the United States these problems are not new to the world. The Israelites, God's chosen people soon forgot how God had blessed them and led them out of slavery. They wandered away getting lost in the sinful ways of the world forgetting all that God had said to them through the prophets. And even sadder they forgot all that God had done and was doing for them. God never forgets or rejects us; His love and faithfulness are always sure. It is we sinful human beings that do the rejecting.

Let us not lose hope as we continue our journey through these troubling times let us cling to our Lord, remember to pray without ceasing and love as we have first been loved.

God is still in charge!
God bless,
Pastor Terry

President's Message

Dear Peace Family,
It seems like forever since the Pandemic started. Fortunately we have been able to have Bible classes and Church services. We are social distancing and wearing masks. We have more room if we get more members to come back. I certainly understand why some of you are hunkering down.
I would like to see more members at Bible class. It's a great way to meet other

members and hear their thoughts on different Bible verses. Different people read and we discuss questions on our worksheets. Sundays Bible class is at 8:30 and Wednesdays is at 10.

The classes are very informative and enlightening. Both are taught by Pastor Terry.

Bumps and bruises seem to be the normal at Peace, on July 2nd Hope had surgery on her left hand, then on August 14th she had surgery on her shoulder. Needless to say it's been challenging, but with God's love and mercy everything will work out for the best. There's been some other members with some injuries, Jackie Hucker broke her arm, Mona Bermudez also broke her arm, Cindy McKee had a knee replacement, so did Thelma Grams. Sending love and prayers to all who are in pain or suffering during these difficult times. God's Blessings.

Very happy to see the church grounds looking great, we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated crew to take care of the lawn and other tasks involved with it. Can't say how glad I will be when we can get back to normal. Until then we will continue to follow the guidelines and wear masks and social distance. I hope to see more people soon. Until then you will be in my thoughts and prayers. Just a reminder we have many vacancies on the Council, pray and ask yourself if you can contribute to one of these offices.

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God Bless Everyone
Garry Kurth, President Peace Lutheran

**COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY –
JULY/AUG 2020**

The Council meets the 2nd Monday of each month.

Pastor reminds us to remember to reach out and call each other to stay in touch with our Church family.

Service is being conducted using Social Distancing and masks. Currently there is no coffee or social time.

Current Business includes:

Chancel Refurbishment – a committee was formed and a design approved. Materials have been purchased and the refurbishment is underway.

Military Bible Sticks – Collection and donation is on hold due to current COVID 19 conditions.

Nominating Committee – The Committee has been formed. Positions needing to be filled are: President, Vice-president, Finance Secretary and at least 3 Trustee positions.

Budget Committee – The Committee has been formed and will be meeting.

Respectfully submitted – Linda “Doc” Azwell, Church Secretary

**ARE YOU UP FOR THE BIBLE
CHALLENGE?**

I am an Optometrist and come into contact with many people each day. Each of us are traveling in our own orbits and when our orbits intersect sometimes it can be more of a collision! I remind myself and train my staff to operate under the principle of “We love all of our patients. Some of them can be harder to love than others. But we still love them.” It helps us to see that we are all in this together and just because someone is not being easy to get along with doesn’t mean we have to meet their state of mind with a similar one.

Today’s Bible Challenge is: Loving our neighbor and remembering that we are to be working together as Church and Christian family.

In his epistle to the Galatians, Paul writes: ‘For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.’ Paul is reminding early Christians in the church not to let divisions – well, divide them. But he takes it a step further and writes: ‘But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.’ Paul certainly does not mince words on any topic! The anger and bitter thoughts or words that we allow to proceed from us toward others in our lives can actually CONSUME us.

Not only must we learn how to walk in love in order to fully realize the benefits of our state of Grace, we have to learn how to LET GO of bitterness and anger. Just as the Spirit and the Flesh strive against each other, so do Love and Anger strive against each other. How powerful are the words: I forgive you or I forgive myself. And then to let it go and forget about it!

Challenge yourself to exchange love for angry thoughts. Choose a recent time you have been angered and say out loud, "I love this person and I prayerfully bless them." It will change your entire outlook and it gets easier each time you do it. It is easy to love the loveable, the challenge to us as Christians is to love everyone and to especially remember this applies to our neighbors both inside and outside of our Church.

Secretary's Message

During the time that we were sheltering in place, I thought often of Pastor Terry and the other ministers and pastors. How do you shepherd when your flock is scattered and you cannot go to them? Many creative ways for pastors to reach their congregations included using social media and meeting in parking lots. Our earthly shepherds could only hope and pray the scattered sheep were finding the offered guidance and were not lost.

But what about the obligation of the flock to self-shepherd while we are self-isolating? God uses many events to teach and lead us closer to Him. Before the entire country shut down and our busy lives were upended, it was easy to let the week slide by and then sit in church on Sunday and feel that would do for now, we would do more later.

But in our days and weeks of limited activity are opportunities to learn to shepherd ourselves a little. How many of us start each day with prayer? Pray before each meal? End each day with prayer? How many of us take even 10 minutes a day to read a devotion or the Bible? Before COVID-19, we could plead being too busy. But not during the long months of April and May.

And as our cities, state and country slowly emerge from our forced hibernation, it is not too late to take the opportunity to start a new routine that includes a few minutes of prayer and Bible or devotion reading. Stop for a moment and let God work in your life during this time of crisis so the Church, its members, and Pastors come out of this deeper in faith and strengthened in the much-needed tools to continue God's mission work.

Your council secretary,
Linda Azwell

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10).

God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are

lived in conformity with God’s will).

Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts. Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks

that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

Submitted By: Jackie Hucker

LADIES OF PEACE

LWML SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

Ladies of Peace plan to restart their Bible studies on **Monday, September 14th at 10am**. We'd love to have you come and join us! We will follow all the "rules" of masks and distancing as needed by our numbers.

LWML (if you are a lady of Peace, you are LWML!!) Our North Central Florida Zone will not hold a Fall Rally, but Our Redeemer plans to host a spring rally. We are still looking for a new Zone President.

Our LWML FL-GA District Executive Committee is currently counting delegate votes for new officers and Mission Grants. The latest Evangel holds the info to send money for offerings (Linda Peters' article), and Gifts from the Heart and helping with the Servant Event (Liz Borth's article).

In His Service,

Sheryl Lutz



ALTAR FLOWERS

Submitted by Becky Williams

There are Sundays in September and October for which no altar flowers have been requested or where a second bouquet may be placed. Our agreement with Blue Creek Florist is that they will provide one arrangement each Sunday whether or not a donation has been made and they will send a monthly statement of no less than \$80. This has worked very well for them and for us. Thank you! And, thank you, too, to those who have made personal orders through Blue Creek. I have placed flowers on Sundays and also received a bouquet for my birthday. Both were stunning and, in fact, four weeks later, there are still daisies and greens that look fresh as ever!

If you would like a certain flower or color in the arrangement you request for our altar, please let me know (304-7674) and the florist will accommodate that, if at all possible. Please see the letter from her. The cost remains \$20 per arrangement.

A Letter from Blue Creek Florist

Parishioners of Peace Lutheran,

To help make informed decisions, I thought it would help with a tutorial on the flowers. When we decided to create flowers for your Church altar, factored in were a couple of decisions. One was for Pastor McKee and Cindy. The other was my parents were parishioners of Pastor McKee in Brooksville, FL.

For his congregation, we chose 3 flowers for the Trinity arrangement. This allows the flowers to be seen from the back of the church. All flowers are cut from fresh flowers we received. In order for the design we chose, Oasis is used and stems are cut according to placement. I realize this does not work for those that want to take the arrangement home for their vase. It does work for the cemetery memorials.

You are welcome as a congregation for your input. If you would prefer traditional round, please let Becky know. Your newsletter is available to all on the internet.

Tips for ordering flowers: You have a choice to go with any local florist or corporation.

Local florists do not have a call center or headquarters. We work with individual flower shops all across the US. International orders are accepted on the Flower

Shop Network. Order gatherers are plentiful out on the internet. They choose to advertise for a real low dollar amount, then add shipping and handling fees, high delivery fees, same day delivery fees and rush fees. Call directly to a local florist; unfortunately local florists cannot compete with the advertising costs of corporations. Usually, the local florists get pushed to the fourth or fifth page down on the internet. Read the reviews. Corporations have thousands of reviews. Florist do not. Better Business Bureau customers report reviews.

The small print is usually ignored when people are ordering flowers from the internet. They can substitute color or flowers. Local florists must do the same. We do not keep on hand thousands of different flowers.

Customers want a florist to plant a tree, just like a top internet company. The internet company for example: \$39.95 to plant a tree in Memory of your loved one. \$10 goes toward 10 seedlings somewhere in the world and you receive a nice printed certificate. This is your choice. A florist, they want us to actually deliver a tree to plant in memory, which is not always possible.

Corporations exist to make money for the shareholders, board, advertising costs.

(The) Local Florist is attempting to create for the recipient a gift of the customer's love, appreciation, etc.

You have the right to choose any florist to provide your order. The local florist will try to meet all expectations. Short notice, you have to work with the local florist's availability.

Thank you for allowing me to express my wishes to your congregation.

Teresa Tuttle

Blue Creek Florist

16672 SW 62nd St.

Ocala, FL 34481

352-489-5886

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

We are still in that portion of the Church Year which emphasizes our growth in Christ and is symbolized by using green altar and pulpit hangings. We notice that the predominant color of nature is green, indicating life, nourishment, and growth. On the Sunday we celebrate the Reformation, the paraments will be red to symbolize the blood of Christ shed for our sins.

There are no religious celebrations in our church calendar during the month of

September. There are a few other days to note: Labor Day on the 7th; Patriot Day the 11th; and Grandparents Day on Sunday, the 13th.

In October, we honor Pastors; note Columbus Day the 12th; remember the Gospel writer, St. Luke, on the 18th; recall Dorcus, Lydia, and Phoebe, all faithful women of the ancient church on the 25th; observe LWML Sunday and celebrate Reformation Day. And, yes, there's also Halloween!

When Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, to protest the practices of the church, it was not his intention to begin another church and certainly not to have it become known as Lutheran. He was merely looking to debate discussion points. He was a prolific hymn writer, providing lyrics for or translating 32 hymns, and composing music for four. He wrote the Large and Small Catechisms for the instruction of children and adults. His most notable achievement was translating the Bible from Latin to German in order to provide the opportunity for the common person to read Scripture. How blessed we are to have God's Word in our own language, the freedom to read it and to worship together!

Pastor's Prayer List

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

Trudy Kreuzer recently had a pace maker put in and still suffers back pain. She will hopefully be able to come to Church in the near future.

Thelma Grams is slowly recovering from her knee surgery. It's slow going for her which is so very frustrating.

Mona Bermudez fell and broke her right wrist. She has a purple cast on(which is her favorite color) and still is fashionable.



09/07 Robert Grams

09/11 James Crapps

09/29 Hope Kurth

09/29 Linda Priem

09/30 Linda Hoskins

10/03 Maggie Santos

10/13 David Sokolowski

10/15 Bill Langstaff

10/18 Bill Neblock

10/22 Linda Azwell

10/22 Sharon Zavertnik

1024 Charles Beyerlein

10/25 Randy Prien

10/27 Ron Doan

10/28 Linda Williams



09/15/1962 Bob & Virginia Sullivan

10/02/1972 Gene & Sheryl Lutz

10/04/1986 Duane & Pamela Zwick

10/15/1978 Terry & Cindy McKee

10/18/1975 Randy & Linda Priem

10/31/1992 David & Carla Ruttinger

Sunday Morning Miracle

This crazy cat lady has 7 cats - 2 in the house and 5 in an air conditioned shed with adjoining screened area and enclosed yard. I mentioned to my husband that none of my seven cats meowed or purred anymore, except for Ms. Wiggins my 19 year old demanding senior. She can be heard all over Dunnellon if things don't go her way.

My husband's take on the silence of my

cats was, "Why should they meow? You give them everything they could possibly want or need." Still, I am bothered by this. Every cat I have ever had purrs like crazy when I pet them. But, not these. It was quite perplexing.

Then one Sunday morning before church, I went to the shed with food in hand. I opened the door and what to my wondering "ears" should appear, but a chorus of felines singing loud and clear.

A Sunday miracle? No, the first time wearing newly acquired hearing aids.

Peggy Buschman

I asked Carla Ruttinger to update us on her family.

Since the arrival of Covid, we have been fortunate not to have suffered affects seen by others. Big Dave's work did not shut down so he could continue to work, in his capacity, as well as myself (being in healthcare). Trina, since she has been using Florida Virtual her past 2 years of high school, was able to graduate with college credits to boot, Summa Cum Laude! We are very proud of her! She had a virtual graduation that was unique and memorable. Since the theme parks have scaled back on entertainment, dance auditions are not available so she got a job at dad's work, DAB Constructors. Right now, she is delivering parts

throughout central Florida and making quite a splash (as you can imagine!). She was able to buy herself a nice car and is going to start college at CF in a few weeks with online learning. She's a busy young lady! Little Dave, I use the term loosely, settled into school shutdown quite nicely! It's a teenager's dream come true! During shutdown, his school, which was not totally prepared for this situation, managed to get school work to the children either through bus delivery or online. It was challenging but got done. He even took an extra FLVS class during the downtime (although I had to crack the whip a few times!). He started back to school, 8th grade, on August 17th (and is the only one wearing a mask aside from the teachers). He doesn't want to bring anything home to dad... Finally, last but not least, our beloved Tricia will be heading out, or should I say under, sea in about 3 weeks. We will not see her for 7 months and that weighs heavy on us. I pray she will be safe and will count the days when we see her again. She is now ranked IST 2, E5, Petty Officer 2nd Class. She has her dolphins and is also making quite a splash, so to speak! So, there we are, still moving forward, Covid or not!

If our Peace family would like to know more about our members let me know and I will continue to "spot light" a family when the Newsletter is published. Carolyn

If you wish to put an article in the
Newsletter please send to Carolyn Turner
at
Ct222577@gmail.com. It will be pub-
lished
Per Pastor's approval

Those Serving September 2020

Sunday, September 6, 2020

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeters: Trina & Carla Ruttinger

Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Ushers: Bill Langstaff & Bob Sullivan

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeters: Hope & Garry Kurth

Lay reader: Jackie Hucker

Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Becky Williams

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan

Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg

Greeters: Bob & Virginia Sullivan

Lay reader: Sam McKee

Counting team: Linda Ryun & Eugene O'Connell

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeters: Jackie Hucker & Trudy Kreuzer

Lay reader: Hope Kurth

Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Altar Guild September 2020

Cindy & Sam McKee

Those Serving October 2020

LWML Sunday, October 4, 2020

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Linda Ryun

Lay reader: Trina Ruttinger

Counting team: Becky Williams & Linda Azwell

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee

Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg

Greeter: Linda Williams

Lay reader: Bob Sullivan

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Mona Bermudez

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bill Langstaff

Lay reader: Linda Azwell

Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Ushers: Bob Sullivan & Bill Langstaff

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Jackie Hucker

Lay reader: Becky Williams

Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Linda Williams

Altar Guild October 2020

Carla & Trina Ruttinger