

Peace Offerings

THE NEWSLETTER OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2024

Rev. Terry L. McKee, Pastor

Peace Lutheran Church
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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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Pastor's Message

Submitted by Pastor Terry McKee

Summer break has flown by, now it's time to resume our activities. As you took your summer break, I hope that didn't include a time away from God. In our world today a relationship with God seems to be forgotten or absent all together. God invites us all to come and be part of His family gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Worshipping together, being in fellowship with one another is all part of God's plan. We pray for and encourage each other. We support, mourn and celebrate together. So, if you have been missing someone let them know, invite them back or just invite them if they've never been here before. A great first event is our monthly community meal,

it's free to all and the fellowship is wonderful. For you ladies a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual growth is our Ladies of Peace weekly Bible study on Tuesday mornings at 10 am. And of course, the highlight of the week, for me anyway is our Sunday morning worship preceded by our Sunday school and Bible class. So, as we begin our fall activities again let us begin anew and find new ways to encourage and support one another. Let us keep one another in our prayers and praise.

***God bless,
Pastor Terry***

Financial article for September – October newsletter

Our Lord has and will continue to bless us as we do His Kingdom work. As summer winds down and we look at our financial picture for the rest of this year and the future we need to give thanks for all of God's blessings but also share that over the past several years we have had to dip into

savings several times to cover our bills.

During Covid a former member blessed us with a generous gift in his will. This is a good reminder for us all to remember our church in our wills. Since using this gift to help during covid, we have found it necessary to

withdraw money from our saving (as reported at last year's voters meeting) (over \$26,000.00) to cover our monthly expenses.

This summer we had to use \$5000.00. We were blessed that it was only one time. This is not to worry anyone we just want to keep you

informed. In order to pay our monthly bills, we need at least \$2,300.00 in our offerings each week.

As we look to the future, and as God continues to bless our church family may we continue to be a blessing.

Thank you

Your financial secretary Sue Holloway, and treasurer Cindy McKee

Who? What? Where? Why? When? How? a/k/a WWWWWH?

Submitted by Becky Williams

Are you ready to pick up the pace and step into Fall's activities in the life of our congregation? It's been nice to have a Summer break. Let's look at what's being celebrated in September and October within our Peace Family and as we witness to the communities where we live.

As they have been during the summer months, our parament colors and Pastor's stoles are green representing our growth in Christ. On Sunday, September 29, the actual Feast Day of St. Michael and All Angels, they may change to white, symbolizing purity and when we celebrate the Reformation, they will be red to symbolize the blood of Christ shed for our sins. Did you know that Pastor McKee was installed as our shepherd

here at Peace on Sunday, October 31, 2004?

If you look at pages x-xiii in the front of our hymnal, you'll find a list of the Sundays and Seasons of The Church Year, the Feasts and Festivals, and Commemorations of saints to be remembered for their work for the Lord. As examples, on Sunday, September 1st it is Joshua; on the 22nd, Jonah.

As to secular dates, September 2nd is Labor Day; October 14th Columbus Day; and, of course, October 31st is Halloween. Let's celebrate the Reformation as being more important to our spiritual life than the ghostly spirits. But, candy is always good!

Our Community Meals are so welcomed by our guests! Meals are always on the third Monday. In

September that will be the 16th; in October, the 21st. Please consider hosting by planning the menu one month and coordinating the components. The Bornanders will be happy to guide you through the process.

September has a Fifth Sunday. How about a Church Family Potluck after worship that day? Council meets the 9th and will discuss having a family meal the 29th.

We celebrate **Pastor Appreciation** month during October and recognize the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (**LWML**) a/k/a Lutheran Women in Mission one Sunday.

Here's some interesting information in case you were wondering:

Labor Day

Since becoming a legal holiday in 1894, it has been observed the first Monday of September as an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers.

Oktoberfest

Festivities actually begin in late September and extend for several days. This year it is September 21st thru October 6th in Bavaria where it began to honor the October 12, 1810, wedding of Crown Prince Ludwig. The earlier date is to take advantage of more pleasant weather.

Columbus Day

This federal holiday began in 1937 in honor of Columbus' arrival in the Americas.

Reformation Day

When Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Thesis on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, 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. Luther wrote the lyrics for or translated 32 hymns, composing the music for four. The best known is "A Mighty Fortress". Lutherans typically rise when it is sung. He wrote a Large and a Small Catechism for the instruction of children and adults. His most notable achievement was the translating of the Bible from Latin to German in order for the common person to read Scripture.

Halloween

This celebration is on the eve of All Saints' Day although it is largely non-religious. All Saints' Day was originally on May 13th. It ended up in October relating to celebrations following harvest season. Costumes, pranks, and treats developed over the years. I have dibs on Payday bars!

Meet our Church Families: The Sarmiento Family

Submitted by Bryan Reagan

The Sarmiento Family has recently transferred to our congregation, and includes Micheal and Amanda Sarmiento, and their two sons Edward DeCastro and Micheal Jeremiah Sarmiento. The originally came from South Florida but moved to Citrus Springs five years ago.

Mike (Michael senior) works for the Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) as a law enforcement officer. When he is not on patrol he enjoys spending time with his family.

Amanda is a housewife who enjoys home schooling their sons and cooking meals for their family.

Edward is 15 and enjoys reading and playing music on the piano, guitar, and violin.

Michael is 8 and enjoys learning and hearing his dad read all kinds of novels and playing with the family.

As Amanda told me, "We all love the Lord Jesus Christ and are so thankful for His amazing Grace. We are blessed to be in fellowship with all of you.

LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Submitted by Sheryl Lutz

Hi, All

Thank you to all who faithfully bring in their mite boxes every Mite Box Sunday! Over the summer, our average was down from the winter, but was still around \$60 per month. Our next two are: **September 2 and October 6**. We helped our District LWML make and surpass our goal, so all the grants have been paid, except for one who didn't

request the rest of their grant money, so will be paid out when that happens.

Our ladies' Bible study will begin again on Tuesday, September 3 at 10am, and continue weekly. Our new study will be "**Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope and Trust**" by **Sharla Fritz**. (She was our Retreat '23 Keynote Speaker). Each chapter is of a different woman in the Bible who waited, hoped, and trusted for God to do what she was

praying for in His timing. We have ordered them through the church office, and you can donate to offset the cost (about \$15) by talking to Becky Williams or me.

Our **LWML FL-GA District Convention in Orlando is September 13-15** and wish more of us were going! We're allowed two delegates per church to vote Ladies of Peace' selections for grants and officers.

Sunday, October 13 will be our LWML Sunday. We'll have an extra Mite

Box Sunday that month, plus ladies will be the ushers, readers and greeters. Wear purple, everyone- men, too!

Our **Zone Fall Rally is Saturday, November 9 at First Lutheran, Inverness.** Usually runs from 9am to about 2:30. We will carpool as usual, so let me know!

In His Service,
Sheryl Lutz

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

Submitted by Jackie Hucker

"Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need. This is the reality of stewardship.

Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives. It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive.

And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others. But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel. For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God

provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come. The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

Happy Birthday

9/11	James Crapps	10/03	Maggie Santos
9/17	Rick Pascoe	10/14	Mike Sarmiento
9/29	Linda Priem	10/15	Bill Langstaff
		10/17	Richard Hulse
		10/22	Sharon Zavertrnik
		10/26	Randy Priem
		10/28	Linda Williams

Happy Anniversaries

9/15	Robert & Virginia Sullivan	10/02.	Gene & Sheryl Lutz
9/23	Robert & Laurie DeChello	10/10	Richard & Joan Hulse
		10/15	Pastor Terry & Cindy McKee
		10/18	Randy & Linda Priem

Submissions

Please submit all articles to Bryan Reagan by e-mail at
BRYANCELT@HOTMAIL.COM.

Those Serving September 2024

Sunday, September 1, 2024

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Linda Priem
Lay reader: Joanie Hulse
Counting team: Paulette Arnold & Ron Bornander

Sunday, September 8, 2024

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter
Counting team: Becky Williams & Linda Bohannon

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Becky Williams
Lay reader: Laurie DeChello
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Ushers: Sandra Doudt & Shirley Runke
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Cynthia Cotter
Lay reader: Rebecca Dellinger
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Carol Humel

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Sharon Zavertnik
Lay reader: Randy Priem
Counting team: Linda Williams & Jan Pinkerton

Altar Guild September 2024

Linda Williams

Those Serving October 2024

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Pat Doan
Lay reader: Rebecca Dellinger
Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

LWML Sunday, October 13, 2024

Ushers: Sharon Zavertrnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Carol Hummel
Lay reader: Pat Doan
Counting team: Paulette Arnold & Ron Bornander

Sunday, October 20, 2024

Ushers: Sandra Doudt & Shirley Runke
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Michael Ferrier
Counting team: Becky Williams & Linda Bohannon

Sunday, October 27, 2024

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Altar Guild October 2024

Linda Bohannon