News Peace



Peace Lutheran Church, Camdenton, MO

Published monthly by Peace Lutheran Church

May 2025

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Christian Symbols



Rainbow

The Rainbow represents God's pardon and his promises. It also symbolizes his reconciliation to faithful Christians. After the Flood, God placed a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of his promise to never destroy the earth that way again (Genesis 9:12-16). A rainbow can also represent the throne of Christ, as well as his glory and final judgment.

Ankh

Also known as an ansate cross, this originated in Egyptian hieroglyphics. It represented life and regeneration. Its

shape and meaning made perfect sense to ancient Christians, who appropriated it as a symbol for eternal life.

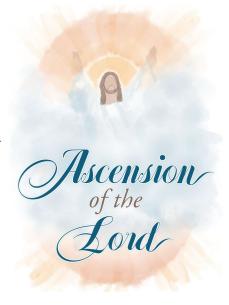
The Ascension of Our Lord

hen it comes to the holy days and festivals of the Church year there is perhaps no greater confusion than over the Ascension of our Lord both in terms of what we are celebrating and why we are celebrating it. We confess the ascension of Christ every Sunday in the words of both the Apostles' and the Nicene Creed: "And he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father" but no further explanation is really given in either of the creeds, and we are left with more questions than answers concerning Christ's ascension:

- Why didn't he stay?
- Where is he now?
- What is the right hand of God?
- Where is it?
- Does this mean that Christ isn't with us anymore?

These questions are worth exploring from the Bible because they determine how we, as the Church, receive Christ and his benefits on the other side of his death and resurrection.

The appointed readings for the Ascension comes from Acts 1, Ephesians 1, and Luke 24, and historically these three sections of



Scripture have served as the basis for our confession of the Ascension. From both his Gospel and Acts, we hear Luke's historical retelling of the events after Jesus' resurrection: that Christ appeared to the two disciples on the Emmaus road and also to the Eleven, teaching them, and delivering to them the promise of the Holy Spirit. He says, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem... Behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you" (Luke 24:46-47, 49) and after this he takes them out to Bethany, blesses them, and "while he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:51) or as it says in Acts, "he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).



- 1 Judi Owens
- 11 Russell Schulz
- 12 Paul Bartels
- 12 Matthew & Debbie Mayes
- 15 Fran Lashley
- 18 Larry & Jayne Marie Trick
- 24 Jeff & Dawn Hedberg
- 29 Barbara Powell
- 31 Paula Emery



What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

A. Priscilla C. Dorcas
B. Lydia D. Joanna
Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40.)

Church Office Schedule

Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Phone number 573-836-8141. Secretary is Pudge McCloud.

These passages from Luke and Acts help greatly with both the "what?" and the "why?" First, Christ is taken, body and soul, as God and man in one person, and is received into heaven by a cloud. The testimony of the angels in Acts confirms this when they ask the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus... was taken up from you into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Not only is he in heaven, but Mark 16 and 1 Peter 3 add that Christ is "at the right hand of the Father" which we hear also reflected in our creeds.

Christ promises at the end of Matthew that he would "be with us always" and this remains true – especially in light of the Ascension.

The "why?" Luke provides in part, namely, that everything which had to be fulfilled by Jesus in his earthly ministry was fulfilled. It was necessary for Christ to come, die, and rise, and these very things Jesus did and was standing before them live-and-in-person to testify to that fact. The promise of the Holy Spirit or the "promise of my Father" and the preaching of the Gospel play another part in answering why. The giving of the Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel hint that Jesus is not ascending into heaven with the result that he is absent from us or that he is no longer with us. Christ promises at the end of Matthew that he would "be with us always" and this remains true – especially in light of the Ascension.

Ephesians 1 and 4 help further clarify what Luke hints at saying that Christ "ascended up far above all heavens, that He might *fill* all things" and that God "set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" to have "power, and might, and dominion" so that "all things are under his feet." Paul confesses that Christ's Ascension is not Christ's absence, but real presence. Because of Christ's ascent to the right hand of God he is not constrained to one place, but is, as God and man, filling all things. In light of these verses, we confess the right hand of God, not to be a seat of rest, locally fixed in heaven, but Christ's authority *over* all creation *in* all creation. His authority is everywhere. Even though Christ is "out of sight" as it says in Acts, Christ is yet present, and not only in power, but physically in his body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

As a person, God and man, Christ was crucified, dead, and buried, and as a person, God and man, Christ ascended into heaven and is therefore present for you today as a person, God and man, concretely, tangibly, and physically. In this there is no greater comfort and glory for God. Because of Christ's Ascension, Christ himself absolves me of my sins through the mouth of a pastor. Because of Christ's Ascension, Christ himself has baptized me and made me his own. Because of Christ's Ascension, Christ himself serves me at the table with his very own body and blood for the forgiveness of my sins. And because of Christ's Ascension, the ruler of this world has been cast out and Christ alone reigns in glory over all creation.

Philip Bartelt

1517

May Devotion



"What He Did"

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed



Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

hat would you think of a parent who explained his method of discipline this way: "When my children were younger, I kept a ruler around. When one of them misbehaved, out came the stick. I shared how their wrong hurt me and told them they deserved to be punished. And then I shared that since I loved them I was willing to take their punishment. Then I would hand the stick to the child, turn around, and they administered my spanking."

Would you not think that parent had become unhinged?

It occurs to me that 2,000 years ago this is what Jesus did for us. He took our chastisement when we misbehaved. Knowing

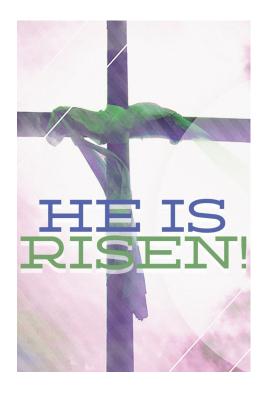
we had to be punished and still loving us in a way that goes beyond all logic, Jesus became our Substitute. We have experienced generosity many times before, but nothing to compare with what the Savior did. At Joseph's borrowed and empty tomb -- the spot which should have been our grave -- Jesus shows how deeply His caring really is.

The story I shared at the beginning of this devotion was not made up.

Not so long ago, a man told me that is what he really did. I have to confess, I was then, and still remain, a bit afraid of that philosophy. I certainly don't recommend it to others. But for this man's family the idea worked. The man's daughter explained her reaction to what her dad had done: "I couldn't stand it when Daddy would do this. But afterwards he would reach out his arms to hug me and let me know I was forgiven."

She concluded, "And I'll never do anything to hurt him, if I can help it."

The daughter's reaction should be ours. We who are blessed to stand before the open tomb know that what happened here is an act of love. Jesus offered His life to fulfill the Law and let us know that Someone cares for us, and not only cares,



but is willing to do everything necessary, so we might be forgiven of our wrongs and made strong for a life of thanksgiving.

That is what happens at Calvary's cross and Joseph's tomb. We are given God's divine assurance that heaven has replaced hell and salvation is ours instead of damnation.

And what should be our reaction to this great and gracious gift from God?

It should be the same as that man's daughter. It should be, "Because I am forgiven, I'll never do anything to hurt him, if I can help it."

The Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, nobody has ever done for me what You did. You took the punishment I by my sins deserved. On this Resurrection Day and always may I offer my thanks. Now, let me share this good news with others, so they may see the wonders of Your grace and love. This I ask in Your Name. Amen. In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

Pastor Ken Klaus (Pastor Klaus 1948-2023 former speaker of The Lutheran Hour® March 31, 2013



EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS:

SEEK: Seeking A Point of Connection

(The point of connection is the starting place for sharing Jesus with a person.)

here is so much to say about Jesus that it's hard to find a place to start. But there is so much to say, there is something to share with everyone.

The challenge is to determine something to share that is meaningful for and interesting to the person. You may find a Bible passage or saying of Jesus fascinating, but the person with whom you are sharing may not.

The key is finding a point of connection with the person. Seeking a point of connection takes place throughout the LASSIE approach but especially while we listen and ask.



As we learn more about a person's interests, likes, dislikes, fears, concerns, hopes, etc., we are likely to discover a starting point for speaking about Jesus in a way that connects with that person.

There are many points of connection. Among other things, these connection points become evident when they relate positive and negative life events, express concerns, share a need, state a doubt, explain a worldview, or experience a loss.

Chances are that the person has multiple points of connection. Listen and ask while seeking a point of connection, and be confident that one or more will surface.

by Mark Wood director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry



April 14 Minutes

2025 Officers: Co-Presidents Cindy Niebur and Dawn Hedberg Treasurer Susan Kral, Secretary Jayne Marie Trick

The meeting was called to order on April the 14th, opened with a prayer. Ten members answered the roll call with their favorite Bible verses about the word "beauty".

The Bible study was presented by Jayne Marie on "Are You an Encourager?". Members recited the LWML Pledge.

Minutes: The March 2025 minutes and treasurer's reports were provided to members attending. Both the minutes and the treasurer's reports were accepted and approved.

Collections: A collection was made for Mites, the General Fund, and the Rally.

Presidents Reports:

- Details for the Easter Brunch were discussed.
- The Spring Rally is April 29 at Trinity in Cole Camp. Registration is 9:15 a.m. and there is no charge for lunch.
- By-laws were distributed to those who wanted or needed them.
- Sedalia Zone positions still available are:
 - 1. Gospel Outreach/Grants
 - 2. Structure/By-Laws
 - 3. Young Woman Rep

Correspondence: None to report this month.

The Mites Reading: No reading this month.

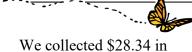
Committees:

- "Pop Tab" Committee, Susan Kral - no report
- "Best Choice Labels", Paula Emery - no report
- "Kitchen Committee", Diane Borgmann - no report
- "Human Care", Cathie Mueller Cathie previously suggested as a new project to make and donate small quilts to the hospital for newborn babies.
- "Stamps", Dawn Hedberg no report, but "Keep the stamps going!"
- "Photography", Jan Loman -No report

Old Business:

- The National Convention is in Omaha, NE June 26-29. We will not have a member attend this year. A short discussion was held on the "Going Green" program. Going Green was tabled until the May meeting.
- Costs of membership dues and the Quarterly are increasing in 2026.

- Our society members will meet before the 2025 Fall Rally Zone Meeting to discuss the 2026 Spring Rally that we will be hosting. Members are asked to come up with a unique theme and agenda ideas for the 2026 Spring Rally.
- We need pictures sent to Zone President Roberta for our Sedalia Zone LWML website. Jan Loman and Cindy Niebur will work together on this project.
- Discussion was held about creating a welcome bag for our visitors. Cindy Niebur



We collected \$28.34 in pocket change for Mites on April 6. Thank you for your continued support of this ongoing project.

You can bring your pocket change anytime during the month. The box is located in the back of the church.



displayed a few welcome bag examples from other churches.

New Business:

- We agreed to hold meetings in the months of January and February, weather permitting.
- Members were asked to con-
- sider new ideas for 2025 mission projects. A short discussion was held on the success of the 2024 Ice Cream Social and the possibility of a mid-summer bar-be-que.
- We discussed taking time to have lunch together after the business meeting.
- We planned an outing to Heit's Point on Tuesday, May 6. We will tour the facilities, and Heit's Point will furnish a lunch for \$11.00. We will meet at the church to carpool.
- We approved two mission projects for this 2025-year, Kids Cove Respite Home in Gravois Mills and the Pregnancy Help Center in Camdenton. A short discussion was held about the Pregnancy Help Center, baby bottles that are used to collect change and possibly touring the Kids Cove Respite Home.
- We were invited to join Kent Memorial Lutheran's luncheon on May the 2nd.
- We had a discussion and made plans for a summer yard sale with a possible date in September. Anyone could "rent" a table for \$20.00. The table money would be designated for missions. We also thought it would be best to have a large banner placed along the highway to advertise the yard sale. Size and pricing for the banner will be further discussed in the May meeting.
- We briefly discussed the Centurion Project. More information is needed from Deb Mayes. Some members voiced that they would be more than willing to help.
- Discussion was held concerning cleaning the LWML room. This item was tabled for discussion in the May meeting.

Support Schedules Elder Altar Guild May Jeff Emery Paula Emery Larry Trick June Jeff Hedberg July Dawn Hedberg Jeff Emery Cindy Niebur August September Larry Trick October Jeff Hedberg Janet Bartels November Jeff Emery Paula Emery Larry Trick December Dawn Hedberg Minister Rev. Gary Brandt **Organists** Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab **Ushers** 1st Sunday Robert & Penny Hansen, Paul Bartels 2nd Sunday Earl Hartenstein, Jeff & Paula Emery 3rd Sunday Diane Borgmann, Rodney Schulz 4th Sunday Jeff & Dawn Hedberg, Russell Schulz 5th Sunday Robert Hansen, Earl Hartenstein, Jeff Hedberg Counters 1st Sunday Jeff & Dawn Hedberg 2nd Sunday Jeff & Paula Emery 3rd Sunday Brett & Cindy Niebur 4th Sunday Matt & Deb Mayes Pudge McCloud 5th Sunday Revised 4/2025

(continued)

We ended our LWML meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

After the Meeting:

As a quick, little project, we were asked to cut out crosses from used greeting cards for the National Convention in Omaha. This project will need to be completed by Sunday April 27.

Members wearing their Thrivent tee-shirts gathered at the cemetery to pick up branches that fell by the recent high winds, and to get our picture taken!

A short meeting and practice were held concerning the stripping of the Altar for Maundy Thursday service.

A few members enjoyed having lunch together at a local restaurant!

Respectfully submitted by Jayne Marie Trick, Secretary



Heit's Point Field Trip & Luncheon May 7, 2025

8:30 AM to 3:00 PMish
\$11 charge for lunch
RSVP/sign up in narthex
Everyone is welcome.
Or call Cindy Niebur at 402-212-3210

We can carpool.

Cemetery Cleanup





Designed

by freepik

After the April 14 LWML meeting, nine ladies gathered at the cemetery to clean up the sticks that fell from the trees after a recent wind storm. Photo submitted by Diane Borgmann.



A wonderful brunch was served after the Easter Sunday Service. Thank you to all who came to set up tables on Saturday and to all members and guests who gathered for the brunch after the service. Photos submitted by Candi Tostenrud.











Stewardship







tewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area we can neglect giving in another.

Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way. This is why our Lord warns:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

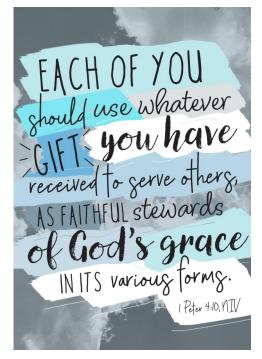
(Matthew 23:23)

We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have. And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is

good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12: 1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that, and then think that we have done what God has required.



Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us – not one for the other, but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God, and, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection.

Through this we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

Reprinted LCMS Stewardship website



Sunday Worship* 9:00 am Bible Class/Sun. School 10:30 am

Wednesday Evening Services:

 Ash Wednesday 	6:00 pm
 During Lent 	6:00 pm
During Advent	6:00 pm

Holy Week

 Maundy Thursday* 	6:00 pm
 Good Friday Service 	6:00 pm
Easter Sunday*	9:00 am

Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Evening Service 6:00 pm

*Holy Communion

The Lord's Servants

• Elders—First Sunday of Each Month

Chairman: Jeff Hedberg, Jeff Emery, Larry Trick

Council—2nd Tuesday of Each Month

6:30 pm

- ◆ President: Brock Kliewer (two yr term)
- ◆ Vice President: Noah Estes (fill vacancy for one yr)
- ◆ Secretary: Susan Kral (two yr term)
- ♦ Financial Secretary: Brett Niebur
- ◆ Treasurer: Peggy Callahan (two yr term)
- **Stewardship:** Dawn Hedberg
- Evangelism: Cindy Kaminski (finishing term)
- Education: Open
- Organists: Rev. Gary Brandt, Diana Schwab
- Trustees: Kyle Wright, Rodney Schulz, Pat Callahan Chuck Kral

LWML—2nd Monday from March—Nov. 9:00 am

Co-Presidents: Dawn Hedberg and Cindy Niebur

Altar Guild: Dawn Hedberg **Bible Studies** As announced

• Elected Offices

Council Meeting April 1, 2025

President Brock Kliewer called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Pastor Brandt opened with prayer.

The following board members were present: Pastor Gary Brandt, President Brock Kliewer, Financial Secretary Brett Niebur, Secretary Susan Kral, Elder Jeff Hedberg, Evangelism Cindy Kaminski, Stewardship Dawn Hedberg, Cemetery Diane Borgmann, and Church Member Pat Callahan

Absent: Treasurer Peg Callahan and **Trustee** Chuck Kral

The minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting and the March 16 special meeting were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary: Brett Niebur reported that giving is lower than at this time in 2024. The report was accepted and approved.

Treasurer: All bills are paid. The report was accepted and approved.

Elders: Jeff had no report.

Trustees: Chuck's written report included the following:

- Tom's Heating and Air Conditioning checked all our units on March 19. A new service contract was issued. There will be no charge for the fall checkup.
- Chuck will get bids for replacing the furnace that is not functioning properly.
- Pat Callahan serviced the mower.
- Kyle Wright has been given keys for the garage.

The report was accepted and approved.

Education: Vacant

Evangelism: Cindy reported the following:

• The cost of sending 233 outreach cards in March was \$230.67.

- There was a good response to Life Line screening held at Peace on Thursday, March 13, 2025.
 Thank you to Russell Schulz, Pudge McCloud, and Peggy Callahan for assisting with opening and closing our facilities.
- Easter Service flyers have been sent to the "Lake Sun", Facebook, and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Cindy ordered 250 updated business cards. The cost was \$41.21.
- May 1 is the National Day of Prayer. Cindy will post a notice on Facebook.

Cindy's report was accepted and approved.

Stewardship:

- Dawn ordered a defibulator that is compatible with the ones used by the nearest fire department. She will arrange for a medic to give a class on the proper way for it to be used.
- Dawn and Paula Emery would like input on which charities the congregation wants to support in 2025.

Dawn's report was accepted and approved.

Member at Large: Vacant

Cemetery: Diane reported the following:

- A Thrivent card totaling \$250.00 for cemetery upkeep arrived. Several Thrivent T-shirts were included.
- On March 29, Rodney Schulz applied preemergent fertilizer and weed spray to the cemetery grounds.
- Rodney removed a spirea bush that was blocking the water hookup. He replanted irises and removed a dead rose bush. He will trim the crepe myrtle.
- Thrivent has requested photos of members working in the cemetery. Diane would like LWML members to pose for pictures at the cemetery after their April meeting.
- Prudy Raymon Petersen will be buried in our cemetery this summer. The family has donated \$500.00 to be equally divided between the church and cemetery funds.

Diane's report was accepted and approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brandt reported the following:

- He is pleased with the attendance at our weekly Lenten services with the theme "A Prayer for All Seasons" which is drawn from the Lord's Prayer.
- His nine-part sermon series based on Job, titled "Job: Blessed Be the Name of the Lord" is a meaningful topic for Lent.
- Pastor Anderegg has had to rescind his offer to fill in for him occasionally. His medical advisor has told him he's not ready to take that on.
- The Andereggs have requested that their membership be transferred to Bethany Lutheran in Eldon, MO.
- Pastor thanks everyone for their prayers and expressions of concern especially while he had a cough and cold.

His report was accepted and approved.

President's Reports:

Old Business:

- Jeff Hedberg will look for an appropriate "No Trespassing" sign for our cemetery.
- Pads for the wooden chairs in the fellowship hall have been purchased to avoid scratching the floor. Several members have offered to assist in installing the pads.
- The council approved the holding of a yard sale in the early fall. Members who wish to participate can purchase a table for \$20.00. Any money raised can be donated to the church at the members' discretion.
- There was no information on the installation of the film on the front doors.

New Business:

Susan offered to have the minutes printed for any council member who would like a copy. She will place them in mailboxes on the Sunday prior to each council meeting.

Brock adjourned the meeting at 7:25.

Pastor Brandt led the closing with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Kral Secretary



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 May Day	2	3
Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Mites Collection	5	Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	7 Heit's Point Field Trip 8:30 a.m. to 3 pmish Meet at the church to car- pool.	8	9	10
Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Mother's Day	LWML Mtg 9 a.m. Roll call word love	13	14	15	16	17 ARMED FORCES DRY
Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline 9 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 9 am Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Elders Mtg.	26 Memorial Day Observed	27	28	Ascension Day	30 Memorial Day	31



News of Peace is a monthly newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church, 9307 North State Highway 5, Camdenton, MO 65020; Rev. Gary Brandt: 580-481-8108; Church Phone: 573-836-8141; Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thurs., 8 am to 12 pm; Church email: plccamdenton@gmail.com; Website: www.plccamdenton.org;

Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church—Camdenton—Greenview—Missouri **Our Mission:** "We the members of Peace Lutheran Church gather and grow together as God's children and rejoice in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, proclaim His word, and reach out with his love to: each other, our community, and the world."