

## **Rev. Stephen C. Lee, M.Div.**

Chaplain Steve Lee has served as a law enforcement officer or law enforcement chaplain for more than 40 years. He is a former California peace officer who has served as a patrol officer, juvenile officer, corrections officer, SWAT sergeant (helped form SWAT unit) and major crimes investigator, and as an NIS (now NCIS) foreign counterintelligence and counterterrorism federal special agent. In 1996, he founded Peace Officer Ministries, Inc. ([peaceofficerministries.org](http://peaceofficerministries.org)), a national and international non-profit 501c3 law enforcement chaplaincy. He has served as a local and federal law enforcement chaplain, and as part of an FBI chaplaincy advisory group. He served as Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Idaho Disaster Response Coordinator. He also served on the LCMS Commission for Ministerial Growth and Support's Professional Church Worker Critical Incident Support Team and as a disaster response partner to LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

Chaplain Lee has provided support, materials, consultation, spiritual care and training for officers, chaplains, organizations, agencies, and churches nationally and internationally. In addition to his many other endeavors, he has assisted pan-African Christian police, Russian Ingrian Church and Nicaraguan National Police (MOST sponsored). He assisted the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association/Samaritan's Purse 9/11 response and helped train up their Rapid Response Teams. He chaplained the security team for the Promise Keepers million-man "Stand in the Gap" Washington D.C. event. POM has been a Focus on the Family referral organization (Chaplain Lee provided on-scene response and security consulting to Focus on the Family with their 1996 hostage crisis). He developed an accredited annual law enforcement chaplaincy course at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. He has also authored a book for officers, *Backup on the Beat* (10,000 distributed—currently out of print but available used on Amazon.com).

POM produced a law enforcement Bible (*God's Word for Peace Officers*) in five main editions and several special editions, with a 96-page introduction and study guide by Chaplain Lee. More than 35,000 of these have been distributed, many benevolently. He has donated thousands of these Bibles to officers the world over, including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina responders, military police deploying to the Middle East, and other police agencies and officers. *God's Word for Peace Officers* has received excellent peer reviews (e.g. Texas Tactical Police Officers Association "Command" Magazine, by Dr. Tomas C. Mijares—Dr. Mijares is a former Detroit Police SWAT sergeant, law enforcement consultant, police textbook author and Professor of Criminal Justice, Texas State University, Austin, Texas.)

Lee has served as a critical incident responder at many major crises, including 9/11, Columbine, Texas 7 arrest, Colorado/New Mexico/California wildfires, Gulf Coast hurricanes (e.g. Katrina, where in addition to other efforts he helped coordinate the rescue and evacuation of about 100 people from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Orleans—more recently Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017), tornados (e.g. Florida, Joplin MO, Moore OK, IL, LA), Virginia Tech, Kirkwood, Alabama, Oakland PD, Aurora and Chicago PD shootings, American Samoa earthquake and tsunami (worked on behalf of LCMS World Relief and Human Care with Samoan emergency management, social workers and police), Haiti earthquake (LCMS initial assessment team), Ferguson MO shooting, Flint MI, Houston, Cedar Rapids and Lumberton (Hurricane Matthew) floods, and Orlando/Dallas/Baton Rouge/TN church/Las Vegas Mandalay Bay Hotel shootings. He chaplained the team that recovered the steel-beam cross at Ground Zero—now part of the permanent 9/11 Memorial Museum. He has been a trainer, guest and speaker in many settings (e.g. FBI/Quantico, FBI National Academy Prayer Breakfast, various police agencies and

organizations, Concordia Seminary, LWML, LLL, Lutheran Hour Ministries, Indiana School Resource Officers Association Conference, and the 2013 Lutheran Church Charities “Comfort Dogs” Conference). His work has been featured in Thrivent Magazine, The Lutheran Witness, The (LCMS) Reporter, Christianity Today, Decision Magazine, and other publications. He has been a guest on both radio and television. Lutheran Hour Ministries has produced two videos about his work. He has received many letters and certificates of appreciation for his chaplaincy work, including Virginia Tech PD (shooting), ATF (Columbine), the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association/Samaritan’s Purse (post-9/11 work and Rapid Response Team training), Focus on the Family’s Dr. James Dobson (hostage crisis), former NYPD Chief and current NYC Office of Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito (9/11), and President George W. Bush (9/11).

Chaplain Lee is U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA certified, ICISF CISM certified, and ICPC Master Chaplain certified. He holds an A.A. Degree in Law Enforcement (West Valley College, CA), a B.A. degree in Psychology (Azusa Pacific University, CA), and a M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (Master’s Thesis: “Police Chaplaincy”). He has partially completed doctoral work at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN.

Steve Lee is an ordained Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) pastor currently serving Living Word Lutheran Church in Orland Park, IL, a Chicago suburb. While serving as a faithful LCMS pastor, he has fostered and cherished his many positive relationships with the faith-based community regardless of affiliation. In word and deed he has strongly supported the foundational beliefs, principles and practices that have traditionally guided our country and Christian churches. Personally, he practices a biblically-based, Christ-centered life and ministry, and supports ministry and mission to all cultures, ages and conditions. He promotes an Ephesians 4 ministry model, including the appropriate development and utilization of the gifts and talents lay people offer to Christ’s kingdom. In recent years he has also focused on healthy aging and lifestyle management.

Pastor Lee has served in a variety of professional church worker roles, including parish pastor, church planter, missionary and chaplain. While attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN (graduated 1992), he also served as Fort Wayne P.D. chaplain, and helped start Aboite Lutheran Church and New Life Lutheran (Gypsy) Church (he served as both Vicar and Director of Christian Outreach at Aboite). After seminary, he served as a missionary to Cote d’Ivoire (West Africa) with LCMS World Mission, working with Liberian civil war refugees. Later, as a Missionary-at-Large for the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS, he successfully founded and pastored Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Monument (Colorado Springs), CO, today a large church. He also has a background in California youth ministry.

Rev. Lee has been married for 45 years (in 2022) to his wonderful wife Elaine; she has assisted him as POM’s Ministry Support Coordinator and as his church secretary. Among other endeavors, she has also worked for Dr. James Dobson’s Focus on the Family and Dr. Wyn Arn’s Institute for American Church Growth. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

*Support documentation including photos available*