

# Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

December 2016

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 through God's holy Word and Sacraments.*



**To my Peace family**

Advent and Christmas greetings!

What a wonderful time of the year! We begin our holiday season by gathering on Thanksgiving Eve to remember all God's blessings and of course to give thanks. As this is the last newsletter for the year 2016 I want to thank you my Peace family for your prayers and support this past year. I also want to thank all those who have volunteered their time and energy to be part of God's Kingdom work here at Peace and in our community.

The first song we sing as the new church year begins ushering the

Advent season is "Prepare the Royal Highway," appropriate as we begin preparing for the Promised Messiah who would be born not in a fancy palace but in that humble stable surrounded by the barn yard animals. The world doesn't understand that Jesus didn't come to take over the world but to reconcile us to the Father so we can be inhabitants of the world to come. He alone does this by living the perfect life of obedience that we can't. Then in our place giving His life in payment for our sin.

So as we begin this holiday season focusing on who and what is to come we sing another of my favorite hymns "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." We prepare for the Christmas celebration all the while looking forward to Christ triumphant return. In this troubling world we remember the angels words:

***"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."***

So let us prepare with joy in our hearts for Christ the Lord has been born and will return to take us to be with Him for all eternity.

***Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the savior, Who takes your sins away. To us be grace alone the truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.***

God bless and Merry Christmas!

Pastor

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**From the President**

Here it is, Advent and Christmas again already! Can you believe another year has come and gone?

For members who attended our Voters' Assembly meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, you saw we did not have a slate to fill the officer positions: President and Vice President, plus we still need one more Trustee and two more Elders. Trustees take turns cleaning the church building, and conduct general maintenance of the property. Elders are responsible to and

for the Pastor. To all members, please pray about stepping up to fill one of these spots.

As I also mentioned at the meeting, Thank You to all for allowing me to serve as your President these past two years!

One major person I neglected is Liz Koehlinger, and I'm SO SORRY! Liz has done so much for outreach of this church with all the ads (mostly free) for all our events as well as who, what and where we are! Plus, she set up our Facebook page and updated weekly. It was through their business connections that we got the website at such a great price! Thank you, Liz!! Now that Koehlingers are moving, Tricia and Trina Ruttinger will be taking over the Facebook part, and I am learning the website.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and God's Blessings to all!

In Jesus Christ's Service,

Sheryl Lutz, Congregation President

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**Peace Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
November 14<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Present: Sheryl Lutz, Jan Barker, Rita Cowan, Rebekah Williams, Doug O`Hara, Bud Koehlinger, Bob Sullivan, Ron Cowan, Jackie Hucker, Linda Williams, Liz Koehlinger.

President Sheryl Lutz called the meeting to order.

**Pastor/Elders:** No report.

**Correspondence:** Nothing received.

**Minutes:** A correction was made to the October 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 minutes. Under the Treasurers report it was noted in the first sentence that “a check” was a “direct deposit”.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer`s report was accepted.

**Financial Secretary:** The report was accepted.

**Trustees Report:** It was decided that the LWML women will clean the church on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. The men will do the outside lawn work. LWML will also be making Christmas cookie platters later that morning. The trustees report was accepted

**SCRIP:** October`s profit was \$33.25. The checkbook balance is \$1251.39.

**Old Business:**

Nominating Committee: We still need nominations for President, Vice President, additional trustees and additional elders. Right now there are no nominations available.

Hearing Aid Loop: Ron Cowan will be obtaining a quote. He will have the information available for the Congregational meeting on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Sandwiches for Dunnellon High School on Dec 2nd and Dec 16th: Jackie Hucker will put cards in our member`s mailboxes asking for help preparing the sandwiches. She will also buy all the food needed and bring it to the church.

**New Business:**

**Motion:** Bud Koehlinger made a motion to continue using \$200 a month from the LCEF fund into missions. Doug O`Hara seconded. The motion passed.

No changes were needed for the 2017 spending guide.

Linda Williams will address the Christmas Dinner at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday. Linda said the church will provide the meat and the members will be asked to bring side dishes or desserts. She will also discuss the Christmas Cookie platters.

Liz Koehlinger advised that we can purchase a 2 x 2 color ad in the Village Crier for \$75 for 2 months.

**Motion:** Doug O`Hara made a motion to purchase the above stated ad. Linda Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Sheryl Lutz thanked everyone for their hard work and help during her term as President.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Barker, Secretary

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**Peace Lutheran Church Congregation  
Voters Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**

President Sheryl Lutz called the meeting to order with Pastor Terry McKee opening with prayer. Sheryl Lutz thanked all of the church officers for their help during her term as President.

Attendance: 38

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved.

**Correspondence:** None received.

**Reports:**

**Financial Secretary:** The Fund Summary report was accepted.

**Treasurers Report:** The treasurer`s report was discussed and accepted.

**Trustees Report:** The report was reviewed and accepted.

**LWML:** Linda Williams thanked all the ladies of LWML for a successful year.

**SCRIP:** Barbara Miesen stated that November`s order totaled \$4280, with a profit of \$181.39. We purchased 80 Walmart cards at a cost of \$25 each for a total of \$2,000. These cards will be distributed to needy families during the holiday season.

**Elders/Pastor:** Pastor Terry thanked Bud and Liz Koehlinger for all their help during Pastor`s time here at Peace Lutheran. The Koehlingers will be moving in the near future. Pastor then said that we will be receiving 6 new members next Sunday. Lastly, he stated that his health insurance is back with Concordia starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the cost of his health insurance is lower than last year.

**Election of Officers:** Sheryl Lutz stated that we do not have any candidates nominations for President or Vice President. Also, Doug O`Hara is the only elder and we need 2 to 3 more elders. Steve Cassan, Linda Williams and Ron Cowan are our trustees, but we need another trustee. Linda Williams asked for help cleaning the church once a month. Don Dow thanked all the trustees for all the work they do in cleaning the church.

**Motion:** Don Dow made a motion to re-elect Doug O'Hara as elder, and Linda Williams and Ron Cowan as trustees. Bob Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.

**Motion:** Don Dow made a motion to accept the 2017 Spending Guide. Jackie Hucker seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

Kitchen committee: Sam McKee stated he has a bid of \$29,226 for the kitchen improvements. This would include bringing the electric and plumbing up to code. Also, a new large hot water heater will be put in. The cabinets will be removed and replaced. The outside kitchen wall will be repaired. New counter tops and backsplashes will be put in. There will be an island in the middle of the kitchen for storage. A garbage disposal will be put in and lastly, the ceiling will be redone with a textured finish.

**Motion:** Jackie Hucker made a motion to accept the above proposed bid. Rita Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed. It was noted that the cost of the kitchen improvements will come from the LCEF account.

Sheryl Lutz stated that our accounting program, Shepherds Staff is self-auditing. Therefore there is no need for an outside audit.

**New Business:**

Audio loop for Sanctuary. Ron Cowan explained that this is a system that will help members who wear hearing aids to hear better in the sanctuary. The cost will be approximately \$4788. Much discussion followed.

**Motion:** Linda Williams made a motion to purchase the loop system at a cost of approx. \$4,788 for the sanctuary. Bud Koehlinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with one member opposed.

The LWML will be packing Christmas cookies on Saturday Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Becky Williams noted that we will be preparing large platters for the Fire Dept, the Police Dept and the EMT's. Other smaller platters will be made for our members to take to their neighbors or friends in need. Sheryl Lutz also stated on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, that the men will be cleaning the outside of the church specifically the edging of the driveway. The LWML women will also be cleaning the inside of the church after packing the cookies.

Sheryl Lutz asked for a hand count of who would like to have a Christmas Dinner at the church. It was decided to have a Christmas Dinner. Linda Williams stated the church will provide the turkey, and the members will bring side dishes or desserts.

Bob Sullivan encouraged the congregation to buy new, unwrapped toys or donate money for "Toys for Tots".

Sheryl Lutz thanked everyone for their help during her term as President. In turn, Don Dow thanked Sheryl for her service. Jeremy McKee made a motion to adjourn. Bob Sullivan seconded the motion. The meeting closed with the singing of the doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Barker, Secretary

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**A Note from the Financial Secretary**  
Becky Williams

Offering envelopes for 2017 will be available Sunday, December 18. Some of you will have different numbers than in 2016 because of changes in the membership list. I encourage you to make a special offering to defray the cost of the envelopes, pay for your personal subscription to *The Lutheran Witness* and towards the bulk purchase of the quarterly *Portals of Prayer*. You will find specific envelopes for those in the set designated for your use.

Thank you for your faithful and prayerful giving to the Lord's work here at Peace!

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**Best wishes on your special day**

**Birthdays**

- |       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| 12.02 | Jean Bozak     |
| 12.03 | Robert Boggess |
| 12.09 | Diane Rochette |
| 12.12 | Douglas O'Hara |
| 12.13 | Janice Scheib  |
| 12.14 | Peggy Dow      |
| 12.15 | George Daniels |
| 12.20 | James Tobin    |
| 12.21 | Gene Lutz      |
| 12.25 | Donald Conner  |
| 12.29 | Jeremy McKee   |

**Anniversaries**

- |            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 12.28.1963 | Duane & Gloria Robinson |
| 12.28.1990 | Donald & Peggy Dow      |



It looks to be a another great year for our Toys for Tots program. The collection boxes are filling up and someone has already donated a beautiful little girl's bicycle. We've also been approved for funds from Thrivent in support of our efforts.

Thank you all and Merry Christmas  
Bob Sullivan

**WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?**

submitted by Becky Williams

Where has this year gone? How can it be December already? We must be having fun, because time is flying!

We are about to close out another year and enter 2017; however, we have already begun a new Church Year, with the beginning of Advent. The color for the season of Advent is blue, signifying repentance and hope as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve, and through the first Sunday after Epiphany, the paraments will be white, to symbolize perfection, joy and purity.

The advent wreath's blue candles represent hope, love and peace; the rose-colored one, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, represents joy. The white candle is lit Christmas Eve, as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior. The origin of the advent wreath was in the Lutheran Church of Sweden.

Christmas trees are a Protestant custom dating back to the 1500s, although some German homes used greenery, sometimes even full trees, in the 1400s. Decorations were edible foods like apples and nuts. Martin Luther was the first to use candles on his tree.

Our sanctuary tree has new ornaments on it this year. They are called "Chrismons", because they are based on Christian symbols. You will find their descriptions and

meanings in this newsletter and are welcome to take a closer look.

In doing my research for this article, I discovered that December 17th is set aside to remember "Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men". As the Wednesday morning Bible study class has been learning, they lived in interesting times!

Have a blessed and joyful CHRISTmas!

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**First Saturday**

We will be setting up our booth on December 3rd in front of the Lion's Club building. We have lots of items to give out. Some of the items we pass out are book marks, books, Bibles, candy, and various other favors. This month we will give candy canes with a schedule of our Advent Season schedule. This is a great opportunity to get out and greet our friends in the community. See you there!

Jackie Hucker

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**Those Serving in December 2016**

**Sunday, December 4, 2016**

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik &  
Linda Williams  
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee  
Greeters: Bill Langstaff  
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan  
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean  
Methlie

**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan  
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg  
Greeter: Doug O'Hara  
Lay reader: Ken Buschman  
Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

**Sunday, December 18, 2016**

Ushers: Bill Langstaff & Ken Buschman  
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee  
Greeter: Bunnie & George Daniels  
Lay reader: Becky Williams  
Counting team: Bob Sullivan & Linda  
Williams

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2016**

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan  
Greeter: Barbara & Wayne Miesen  
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Sheryl  
Lutz

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**

Ushers: Doug O'Hara & Gene Lutz  
Communion assistant: Bud Koehlinger  
Greeters: Rita & Ron Cowan  
Counting team: Linda Ryun & Jackie  
Hucker

**Altar Guild December 2016**

Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

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