

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

January 2017

Peace Lutheran Church
7201 South Highway 41
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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

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2017, let us pause to reflect and be thankful for the blessings and opportunities that God gave us in 2016. Many have faced illness and physical pains yet through it all our Lord and Savior, our Physician of our bodies and souls has sustained us. This is His promise that He will never abandon us. Jesus Christ is our Good Shepherd and is always working in our lives and in those around us no matter how dark the situation might seem. We

have hope for today and tomorrow in Christ.

Our Peace family has continued to be blessed with many wonderful and talented people. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to serve here at Peace doing God's Kingdom work. Though our 2017 council is not complete I know God's work will get done. For those who have committed themselves to serve in 2017 I thank you in advance. I know God will present us with many opportunities again this year to share the Gospel and help our brothers and sisters in need.

Another blessing from God is the gift of being able to remodel out kitchen. The remodel should begin this month, as soon as the new cabinets arrive. I know those who have worked in the

kitchen over the years will greatly appreciate the improvements as well as the work that will be done to bring the kitchen up to code (plumbing and electrical). They won't have to run extension cords on Shrove Tuesday to run the griddles and Thelma won't have to put aluminum foil on the walls to protect them. The addition of an island in the kitchen will for more counter top space to work and also in kitchen storage.

Our circuit will be hosting a mission convocation featuring Greg Finke on January 21st. This is a Saturday and the convocation will begin at 9:00 and end at 3:00. Each church is hoping to bring about 20 members. The cost is free; our circuit funds are paying all the expenses. I encourage you to think and pray about it and if you would like to attend let me know.

My family and I would like to thank everyone who remembered us with your prayers, cards and gifts over the holidays. It means a lot to know that you keep us in your prayers and well wishes.

May God continue to bless you in the New Year and our Peace family!

Pastor Terry

**Peace Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
December 12th 2016**

Present: Sheryl Lutz, Jan Barker, Rita Cowan, Rebekah Williams, Bud Koehlinger, Bob Sullivan, Ron Cowan, Jackie Hucker, Linda Williams, Steve Cassan, Rev. Terry McKee, Liz Koehlinger.

President Sheryl Lutz called the meeting to order and Pastor McKee opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor/Elders: Pastor Terry stated he has been disappointed in the attendance for the Wednesday Advent services. The computer needs to be fixed. It currently cannot access the internet. It was noted that Doug O'Hara is our only elder for 2017. Bud Koehlinger stated that he and Liz have thoroughly enjoyed their time here at Peace Lutheran. He thanked Pastor Terry and everyone for all things done over the years. All the board members thanked both Bud and Liz for all their hard work. They will be greatly missed.

Correspondence: There are several Christmas cards and Thank you Cards on the bulletin board.

Minutes: The minutes from the November meeting were accepted.

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was accepted.

Financial Secretary: The Fund Summary report was accepted.

Trustees Report: Ron Cowan's report was reviewed and accepted. Liz Koehlinger thanked Ron for replacing the reflectors at the entrance to the church. Bud Koehlinger thanked the trustees for doing their job and keeping everything up to date.

SCRIP: The November order was \$4280, with a profit of \$181.28. Sheryl Lutz stated that the December order was \$1800 with a profit of \$77.13. The total profit for the year was \$774.16. Sheryl then stated that Barbara Meisen would like to see increased participation from the congregation next year.

Old Business: Ron Cowan is waiting for a call back from the hearing Aid loop system installer. It will be installed within a week or so.

Jackie Hucker will be buying the food for the lunches for the DHS on Dec 16.

Linda Williams states that she has 21 people who have signed up for the Christmas Dinner.

We still need officers for 2017. This includes President, Vice President, Trustees and Elders.

New Business: Lu Ann Cooke is starting a semi regular choir for us. Sheryl Lutz noted that we could use a second piano player for Wed practices and/or Sunday services. Also needed is another person or persons to play the computer music at services.

Bob Sullivan gave a report for "Toys for Tots". Our members donated over two bins of assorted toys and one small bicycle. Cash donations totaling \$950 were also received. On Dec 9, the Sullivan, Lutz, Robinson and Cassan families conducted a shopping spree at Wal-Mart. Bill from Toys for Tots picked up the gifts later that day. There was some discussion as to where the toys go. Do they stay in the Dunnellon area? Bob Sullivan said he would research this before next year.

Presidents Report: Sheryl thanked Bob Sullivan, Bud and Liz Koehlinger and Jackie Hucker for their service. She also thanked Doug O'Hara, Rita and Ron Cowan, Becky Williams, Jan Barker, Linda Williams and Steve Cassan for staying on for next year.

Ron Cowan made a motion to adjourn. Linda Williams seconded. The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Barker, Secretary

Scrip Program

December ends this year's Scrip Program with a profit of \$77.13, which brings the total for the year to \$774.16.

In order to improve our profit for next year we will need to increase our participation. I would welcome any comments or suggestions to help improve this program.

Scrip Coordinator
Barbara Miesen



***The Ladies of Peace L.W.M.L.
January 2017***

LWML News

First, a very Joyful and Blessed Christmas to all my Peace Family. I am personally blessed to be a member of Peace, and to be able to serve God and you in whatever way I can. Thank-you all very much.

The ladies of LWML along with other members of our Peace family gave the church a good Holiday cleaning inside and out this month. The men did a wonderful job on the outside and the ladies did some needed inside cleaning.

After the church cleaning, The LWML met for a short meeting. It was nice to have some new faces and some returning snowbirds join us. I hope they will return to our regular meetings. We had a short business meeting and adjourned to the work of assembling Christmas cookie trays. Putting the cookie trays together is always a fun holiday exercise. It's just a shame some cookies get broken and we have to dispose of them ourselves.

Some of the Peace Ladies were able to attend a wonderful "candle Light Service" at Forest Lutheran this month.

This January Peace LWML will hold our meeting on the 9th at 10:00 AM because New Year's falls on Sunday

this year. We finished our Bible study from the book "Living the Chocolate Life" in November, and Becky promises something new to start the year. First Lutheran in Inverness will be hosting the winter prayer service next month and Forest Lutheran will be hosting the Spring Rally in 2017. The dates are yet to come. Just some things to look forward to.

I hope to see all of the great ladies of LWML in January to kick-off a good 2017. And, I hope I see some new faces also. Remember all the ladies of Peace are welcome.

God`s Blessing,
Linda Williams

TURN TRASH INTO CASH!
READY, SET, RECYCLE!

Hello, everyone that Santa visited: If you received a new computer, cell phone, tablet, etc. for Christmas, please recycle your old ones to the LWML if you don't intend on keeping them- we can get money for them toward our 2019 National Convention in Mobile, Alabama our District is co-chairing. Please bring them to me, and I will remove the old hard drive and either return it to you, or destroy it myself before passing it on. We are collecting *empty inkjet printer cartridges, empty laser printer*

cartridges, used cell phones, laptops, digital cameras, e-Readers, tablets, GPS systems, and Scientific Calculators (please include power cords for everything if possible) See me if you have any questions.

We (as a church) also collect can tabs & used eyeglasses (also on back table), aluminum cans (outside back door) and paper (dumpster in parking lot). Everything we collect brings in money for us, and helps the environment, too. Thanks!

Sheryl Lutz,
LWML Society Facilitator



Best wishes on your special day

Birthdays

- 01.02 Pat Doan**
- 01.23 Eileen Nuce**
- 01.29 Stephen Cassan**

Anniversaries

- 01.05.1957 Ken & Peggy Buschman**
- 01.14.1956 Bob & Thelma Grams**

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNTING SCHEDULE
JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH
2017**

JANUARY

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Sheryl Lutz and Jean Methlie |
| 8 | Steve and Sharon Cassan |
| 15 | Bob Sullivan and Linda Williams |
| 22 | Linda Ryun and Jackie Hucker |
| 29 | Jackie Hucker and Becky Williams |

FEBRUARY

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Sheryl Lutz and Jean Methlie |
| 12 | Steve and Sharon Cassan |
| 19 | Bob Sullivan and Linda Williams |
| 26 | Linda Ryun and Jackie Hucker |

MARCH

| | | |
|----|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Ash Wednesday | Jackie Hucker and Becky Williams |
| 5 | | Sheryl Lutz and Jean Methlie |
| 8 | Lenten Vespers | Jackie Hucker and Becky Williams |
| 12 | | Steve and Sharon Cassan |
| 15 | Lenten Vespers | Jackie Hucker and Becky Williams |
| 19 | | Bob Sullivan and Linda Williams |
| 22 | Lenten Vespers | Jackie Hucker and Becky Williams |
| 26 | | Linda Ryun and Jackie Hucker |
| 29 | Lenten Vespers | Jackie Hucker and Becky Williams |

Subs: Pat Doan; Becky Williams

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!

12-18-2016

Those Serving January 2017

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Doug O'Hara
Greeters: Linda Ryun
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Bunnie & George Daniels
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Ushers: Bill Langstaff & Ken Buschman
Communion assistant: Bob Sullivan
Greeter: Barbara & Wayne Miesen
Lay reader: Jackie Hucker
Counting team: Bob Sullivan & Linda Williams

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Ushers: Doug O'Hara & Gene Lutz
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg
Greeters: Hope & Garry Kurth
Lay Reader: Pat Doan
Counting team: Linda Ryun & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeters: Tricia & Trina Ruttinger
Lay Reader: Jean Methlie
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Becky Williams

Altar Guild January 2017

Rita & Ron Cowan



Don't Make Santa Slap You By Schroder, with permission

Santa Claus isn't what he used to be. The image of jolly, ole St. Nick with his big belly, white beard and red coat has been around for less than two centuries. Our modern manifestation of Santa is based on the writings of Washington Irving and L. Frank Baum, as well as the illustrations of Thomas Nast and the Coca-Cola ads painted by Haddon Sundblom.

Our modern Santa bears little resemblance to the real St. Nicholas.

Nicholas was a bishop in the early Christian Church who lived just over two centuries after Jesus. He was known for his generosity and penchant for gift giving.

He was also a defender of the faith. He was imprisoned during the empire-wide persecution of Christians under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. When Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity, Nicholas was

one of the bishops invited by Constantine to the Council of Nicea.

Another bishop named Arius was teaching that Jesus wasn't really God. According to Arius, Jesus wasn't eternal like God the Father and wasn't equal to him in power and majesty. His teaching, known as Arianism, had spread throughout the empire causing confusion and division in the Christian Church.

At the Council of Nicea, Arius debated with the other bishops about whether God is really triune, that is, three persons in one God. In the end, the teaching of Arianism was found not to agree with the Bible.

The majority of bishops, including Nicholas, later subscribed to a confession of faith, which many Christians still recite today in their worship – the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed confesses what the Bible says about Jesus, namely that he is the eternal, all-powerful God through whom all things were created.

According to tradition, at one point Nicholas became so frustrated with Arius at the Council of Nicea that he walked up and slapped him in the face. Not exactly the jolly, ole St. Nick we've come to know and love.

Every year at Christmas, Christians lament the fact that Christ has been removed from Christmas. But the truth is, you can keep Christ in

Christmas and still miss the whole point. When Christmas is simply about a cute baby in an idyllic stable, surrounded by smiling shepherds and pretty angels, the true meaning of Christmas is lost.

Christmas isn't about a cute baby in a manger. Christmas is about who that baby is. Jesus is God – the all-powerful God who created everything that exists – the God who fills the universe and rules over all things.

The meaning and miracle of Christmas is the incarnation – that God became a man. God became one of us to take our place, to die our death, so that we could live with him forever in heaven.

That is what makes Christmas so special. That cute baby lying in the manger is God himself. Never forget who he is.

You don't want Santa to come and slap you.

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Editors
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