

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

November 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

Fall is here and we begin the process of preparing for the holidays and of course the annual voter's meeting on November 20th. October was a time of joy and remembrance for my family and I. We remembered and celebrated our moms on Cindy's mom's birthday October 2nd and then on October 8th we remembered our daughter Nicole, who is also home in heaven. Cindy and I left on vacation October 15th, which was our 38th wedding anniversary. And, we all

celebrated Reformation together on October 30th, the day before my 12 anniversary here at Peace.

I mention these special days because they remind me how blessed I am. It also caused me to reflect and wonder on how often we take for granted or totally ignore how much God blesses us each and every day of our lives here on earth and even more as He blesses us with the gift of eternal life in heaven. And, this at a great price for it cost Him His Son. God also blessed us with the greatest nation in the world, we have done our best to change that but it still is. We've all, I'm sure, grown tired of the political rhetoric but as your pastor encourage you to pray, do your

research and then vote, as I feel this election is going to have an effect on our country for many years to come, and I don't mean just until the next election. We need to remember that this country is great because God has blessed it and us. And, Scripture tells us we are to be good citizens, but when the laws of the land violate God's Law, we need to stand up for our faith and hold fast to God's Word.

We will begin our holiday season with a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate our blessings and the gift of this great nation on November 23rd , our Thanksgiving Eve service.

Advent begins on November 27th , our midweek Advent worship on November 30th , and each Wednesday following (the 7th , 14th , and 21st).

Christmas Eve is Saturday and Christmas falls then on Sunday. Wednesday evening and Christmas Eve services begin at 7:00 PM.

We will decorate the church on Saturday the 26th beginning at 10:00 AM.

May God bless each of you and God bless the United States of America!

Pastor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's almost time for Thanksgiving, and this holiday brings our thanks and praise out of all of us even if we forget to thank God the rest of the year for the blessings He's bestowed on us. My own Blessing list is endless when I start thinking about it!

My term as president is almost up, and I'd like to thank everyone for their support for the past 2 years. I will also step down from playing the music, and want to thank those carrying on: Jan Barker, Doug O'Hara and Karen Sokolowski. Please be as patient with them as you have been with me (and thank you for that, too)!

Linda Williams and I had a wonderful time at the LWML convention in West Palm Beach! From the opening worship service on Friday evening to the close following our Sunday communion service, the weekend was packed with learning, singing, sharing, tears and laughter. I thank you all again for your financial and spiritual support.

One thing we learned at the convention was about "Time of Grace", a 30-minute Bible study program that airs weekly, (the TV version of The Lutheran Hour). Pastor Mark Jeske, who started the ministry, and still does the program, was the "lunch and learn" speaker for the segment Linda and I attended.

Time of Grace is on TBN on Thursdays at 3:30 P.M. CT, Freeform (formerly ABC Family), also Thursdays at 6:30 A.M. ET, UPtv Sundays at 5:30 A.M. CT, plus American Forces Network (AFN). You can also get daily devotion emails. I have added Time of Grace daily devotions along with Lutheran Hour daily and LWML daily devotions to my Bible Studies. Check them out!

We are already coming up on our Voter's Meeting to be held November 20th after service. We haven't been able to find a President, Vice President or Elders for next year (I cannot stay on due to family needs). So far, we have no slate except for Trustees. We will vote on our budget for next year.

Please continue praying for and supporting each other, and God's Blessings to all!

In Jesus Christ's Service,

Sheryl Lutz, Congregation President

Summary
Peace Lutheran Church Council
Meeting

October 10, 2016

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

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

Pastor/Elders: Pastor Terry advised that Life South has not returned our call so there will not be a blood drive at the church. Also, there will not be a Life Screening scheduled since they were not compliant with the times that Pastor Terry offered them. Pastor Terry then advised that his health insurance cost is increasing at the end of the year and it does not have Dental or Eye Care coverage. He has contacted Concordia and has been offered better coverage with a lower out of pocket expense.

MOTION: Doug O`Hara made a motion for Pastor to go back on Concordia`s health insurance plan. Bud Koehlinger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor stated that this coming Sunday, October 16th, is LWML Sunday. Pastor will be on vacation. Pastor Scheer will conduct the service for us.

Pastor Terry mentioned the District Synod convention this past summer. He said that Pastor Rocky would be holding a Post-Convention Recap to go over what the Synod passed. It will be held at St. John`s Lutheran Church in Ocala on November 6th 2016 at 3:30 PM. He encouraged all who are interested to attend.

Correspondence: None reported.

Minutes: The minutes were reviewed. Rita Cowan had a question regarding the statement under the Pastor/Elder report. The minutes read “the Church`s financial reports should be available for everyone in the congregation”. It should be rewritten, as “The congregation should be informed of how the Church is doing financially” No other corrections were needed.

Treasurers Report: Rita Cowan mentioned a check for approx. \$800 from Thrivent Choice Dollars. Rita and Becky Williams will prepare a financial summary report to be put in the church congregation`s mailboxes in November before the Congregational Meeting. The treasurer`s report was accepted.

Fund Summary: Becky Williams stated she put \$60 from the Oktoberfest profit into the Mission`s fund. The fund summary was accepted.

Trustees Report: Ron Cowan`s report was reviewed and accepted. In summary, it stated that a new sign was purchased for Oktoberfest at a cost of \$80. The A/C filters were changed. The new

stove and refrigerator have been delivered. Lastly the mowing was put off a week due to Hurricane Matthew.

SCRIP: No official report was received.

Old Business: Rita Cowan advised that she spoke with two several accountants and the cost is \$5,000 or more. It was also discussed that it is not in our constitution that we need to do an annual audit. Pastor Terry advised that “Shepherd’s Staff” is a self-auditing program.

MOTION: Bob Sullivan made a motion to rescind last year’s motion to do an annual audit. An audit is not necessary because of the Shepard’s Staff program. Bud Koehlinger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Regarding the Nominating Committee, Doug O’Hara will be holding a meeting after Bible Study on Wednesday.

MOTION: Bob Sullivan made a motion to put the \$525 profit from the Oktoberfest into “General Funds”. Ron Cowan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Liz Koehlinger advised that “Mission Insight” is offering free mailing list for Demographics within a 15-mile radius. Sheryl Lutz will look into this.

Jackie Hucker stated that we would be packing 50 lunches for the High School Basketball Team on December 2nd and Dec 16th. Jackie will apply to Thrivent for seed money.

New Business: Sheryl Lutz has received information from “Lutheran Friends of the Deaf” concerning a grant for the loop system that Ron Cowan has brought up earlier this year. It was decided that this is a great investment due to many people of our congregation with hearing issues. The cost of the system is approximately \$6,000.

MOTION: Becky Williams made a motion to bring up the “Loop System” to the congregation for their approval at our Congregational Meeting in November. Linda Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Reformation Sunday is October 30th. Linda Williams will coordinate a Pot Luck for that Sunday.

Presidents Report: Sheryl Lutz thanked everyone who worked on Oktoberfest. A special “Thank You” to Bob Sullivan for coordinating the event and preparing a report for us to refer to as we plan our next Oktoberfest. Thanks also to Rita and Ron Cowan for the work they did on the refrigerator and the stove.

Pastor Terry requested permission to order \$2000 in SCRIP cards for the needy during upcoming Holidays, funds to be taken from the General fund. Order will be placed on November 13th 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Barker, Secretary

A Message from Financial Secretary

Becky Williams

Thank you for continuing to give to the Lord's work as He has given to you. As we renew our commitments of our time, talents and treasures this month, we ask that He bless our gifts to His glory and we give them with thankful hearts.

Especially with additional seasonal services at this time of year, we are in need of additional counters, either as a team or individually, regularly-scheduled or serving as substitutes. Please let me know of your interest or if you have questions. Training will be provided.

If you would like a set of offering envelopes, please use a pew envelope and check the appropriate box requesting them. Envelopes for 2017 will be issued at year-end.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee." Deuteronomy 16:17

SCRIP PROGRAM

The Holidays are fast approaching and the November 13th Scrip Sunday will be an opportunity to order your gift cards for Christmas gift giving.

We have a faithful group who continue to order from Scrip. However, in order to make this Program worthwhile, we need more people to join the group. The process is easy and I will help anyone who is interested.

The best part of this Program is you simply purchase cards from vendors you choose for items you use on a daily basis and the profits go to Peace Lutheran Church.

Please prayerfully consider this very worthwhile project for your Church.

Barbara Miesen
Scrip Coordinator



The Ladies of Peace LW.M.L.

November 2016

PEACE LWML NEWS

Ten ladies of Peace LWML had a very enjoyable meeting in October. Sheryl and I spoke to our group about our adventure to the Florida, Georgia Convention; the third convention I have had the privilege to attend along with Sheryl. I wish more ladies could have joined us. Becky W. led our Bible study "Living a Chocolate Life". In case we needed a little "pick-me-up" during the study, she brought along a slice of Triple Chocolate Rocky Road Brownie Pizza for each of us. After the meeting we shared companionship at Pizza Hut for lunch.

Looking down the road a bit, the ladies of LWML are making some plans to make holiday decoration and cookies.

It was wonderful that six ladies from Peace were able to attend the Fall Rally at St. John Lutheran in Ocala on October 22nd. For a small church we were well represented. We enjoyed a very good Service along with Bible Study, a business meeting, election of new officers, and a wonderful lunch. At one point in

the meeting, I was asked to describe all the things Peace Lutheran is doing to support Dunnellon and our church community. Being the nervous person I am at public speaking I stumbled for words, but thankfully Jacky H. was there to coach me and I got through OK.

The next Peace LWML meeting is set for Monday November 7 at 10:00. It's getting down to crunch time to get our holiday plans going, so I hope everyone can join us.

God`s Blessing to All: Linda W.

TURN TRASH INTO CASH!

LWML is recycling to raise funds for our 2019 National Convention in Mobile, AL. The District goal is to make about \$25,000 collecting *empty inkjet printer cartridges, empty laser printer cartridges, used cell phones, laptops, digital cameras, e-Readers, tablets, GPS systems, and Scientific Calculators (include power cords for everything you donate if you can, please)*. If you are still working, ask if you can take the empty cartridges for your church recycling program. Place your contributions in the inkjet recycling box on the "recycle/info table" in the Fellowship Hall, and we'll take care of them. **Thank you!** (So far, the District has only made about \$3500). See Sheryl if you have any questions.

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Becky Williams

As the growing season draws to a close and we look forward to the harvest, we continue to display green paraments until the last Sunday of the church year. The new church year begins with the first Sunday in Advent. The color blue before us during Advent reminds us to repent of our sins and that our hope is in our Savior, whose birth we await. When All Saints Day is celebrated on the Sunday closest to November 1st, the color is white, indicating the purity of Christ, and our salvation from sin through His death and resurrection.

Advent always begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, falling anywhere between November 27th and December 3rd. This year it is the earliest it can be. During this period, we await and prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and are reminded of His final coming. The Latin "adventus" means "coming".

Concordia Publishing House has a website, www.todayinthechurchyear.org that provides daily information about commemorations and celebrations through the church year. Our Lutheran Service Book gives dates and names. The website gives more specific information about each.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th. If you forget to "Fall Back" an hour, you will be early for Bi-

ble class or church. You can enjoy fellowship with others who forgot!

Veteran's Day this year is on Friday, November 11th. Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. The first is for remembering those who died in service to their country, especially during times of war, while the second is set aside for thanking and honoring living members of our services in both wartime and peacetime. Remember to thank a veteran! And, "Thank you!" our members who are veterans. We know you are many and represent every service.

Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 24th. The first nationwide Thanksgiving was proclaimed by George Washington on November 26th, 1789. President Franklin Roosevelt changed the day from the last Thursday to the fourth Thursday in 1941.

Please let me know if there is anything you'd like explained, perhaps an unfamiliar term or why we do something during worship, and I will address it in this column.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and remember to practice Thanks-living!



Living as a Local Missionary

There are five groupings of unchurched people in our culture today:

Group 5: Most resistant, even antagonistic to the church and the Gospel. They are skeptical of the Bible and the claims of Christianity. Many have had a wounding church experience earlier in their lives.

Group 4: Resistant to the Gospel but not antagonistic; they may believe in the afterlife, and possibly heaven and hell. Christ is viewed as a historical figure. They have prayed as a “safety net” but don’t know if anyone listens. They resist attempts to convert them.

Group 3: No real interest in the church but open to discussions and believe in heaven and hell. They have a positive view of Jesus and of Christians but have puzzling ideas about God.

Group 2: May say the right “spiritual” things but they have not made a personal step of faith. They often believe that one must work one’s way into heaven, and are probably open to studying the Bible and to discussing it. They would be open to an invitation to visit a church.

Group 1: Receptive to hearing about the Gospel and spiritual conversations. They have probably been involved in a church at some point in their lives and feel bad about not attending church. They pray on a regular basis, but tend to believe that one works their way into heaven.

To reach any of these people, we must develop a relationship and involve them in conversation.

Try to determine which group the person you are contacting belongs to, to get a feel for how far to go in planting the seeds of belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. If the person is apparently agreeing with you on spiritual matters but is not currently attending a church, issue a warm invitation to attend church with you.

To help assess the spiritual state of your contact, you might ask:

1. *Tell me a little about your religious background.*
2. *How would you describe your attitude about the church?*
3. *What is your view of a typical Christian?*
4. *How do you believe one gets to Heaven?*
5. *What do you think about Jesus?*

Our role is not to argue or “teach” but simply to say a few words about our beliefs and offer a short personal testimony.

As local missionaries we must remember that it will probably take many con-

versations and invitations for us to see any results. All we do is to plant the seed and let the Holy Spirit do the work and as in the parable about the seeds (Matt.13), the people in some of these groups are pretty “rocky ground” so we may need to re-plant again and again.

This was printed several years ago. I am re-submitting it because it is important to Peace today; some members have never seen it, and many of those who did read it may be open to a reminder.

Liz Koehlinger



Hi, Peace Family

Food-4-Kids

Happy Fall to everyone! Hopefully our Summer heat will continue dropping accordingly. I know Pastor will disagree, but I am certainly looking forward to falling temperatures. As you may know, I have stepped down as Peace`s coordinator for Food 4 Kids and resigned from the Food 4 Kids Board of Directors. We have been removed as a packing team. If anyone would like to take up the task, please let me know.

If you prefer, you can contact Linda Gosson (past Food 4 Kids President) at (352)-523-4462. The current President is Christine Avina, but unfortunately I do not know her telephone number. If anyone would like to help with the weekly packing of the backpacks, they are done every Thursday at 1:45 PM at Holy Faith. Please do not bring any food items into the church. We will still have our "Change for Change" basket available and will send a check to Food 4 Kids periodically from our church.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you who have helped with the packing and delivering of the backpacks during my time as coordinator. Namely, Gene and Sheryl

Lutz, Jackie Hucker, Linda Ryun, Becky Williams, Janice Manning, Jean Methlie, Bob and Virginia Sullivan, and Carolyn Turner. (if I forgot anyone, my apologies).

God`s Blessings,
Jan Barker



**U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
Toys for Tots Program
By Bob Sullivan**

I've volunteered to be the coordinator this year for our participation in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots Program. Jim Lynch was the coordinator for many years and always did an outstanding job. It is a honor and real challenge to be filling his shoes.

The Marine Corps Reserve collects new, unwrapped toys each year during October, November and December, and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children within the community. The goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver a message of hope to less fortunate children, which will assist them in growing up to be responsible, productive, patriotic citizens.

We at Peace have been enthusiastic supporters of Toys for Tots for many years. I'm certain it will be no different this year. The Marines have already placed the collection bin near the rear entrance to the church. You may also participate through a free-will cash or check made out to cash offering giving it directly to me or placed, in an envelope, in the plate on Sunday morning. All cash received will be used to purchase more toys.

So, come on folks! Let's fill up that bin several times over between now and Christmas.

In Jesus Name,
Bob Sullivan

Those Serving in November 2016

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Ushers: Ken Buschman & Bill Langstaff
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg
Greeters: Sharon Zavertrnik
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Ken Buschman
Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Doug O'Hara
Communion assistant: Bud Koehlinger
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Becky Williams
Counting team: Bob Sullivan & Linda Williams

Thanksgiving Eve, November 23, 2016

Ushers: Bud Koehlinger & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Doug O'Hara
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Becky Williams

Sunday, November 27, 2016

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Bob Sullivan
Greeters: Pat & Ron Doan
Lay reader: Bud Koehlinger
Counting team: Linda Ryun & Jackie Hucker

Altar Guild November 2016

Carla, Tricia & Trina Ruttinger

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