

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

January and February 2023

Rev. Terry L. McKee, Pastor

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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.



As 2022 comes to an end we offer our thanks and praise for all of God's care and blessings both personally and as a church family. We are thankful that we have been able to restart our community meals and look forward to resuming our 5th Sunday potlucks with the first one on January 29, 2023. We have our new organ, and it sounds great. No matter what we have going on in our lives or in the world around us we are truly blessed and have so much to be thankful for.

As we look forward to the new year, and pause to reflect upon the challenges, trials, and blessings of 2022 we know that ***“neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be***

To my Peace family:

able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38).

Many have faced health issues but thankfully our Lord has gotten us through them according to His will. Our country is still struggling with the economy and moral issues as is the world. But God is still in charge, and we continue to look forward to His triumphant return. ***For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal*** (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

We continue to remember those in need both in our prayers and with our time, talents, and treasures. The food pantry box is still a true blessing to so many, so thank

you for your food and financial donations. Many of you have volunteered in so many ways to help others and to serve here at Peace- Thank you! Of course, before we know it, Shrove Tuesday will be here (February 21, 2023) and we will need lots of hands to make this another success. With Ash Wednesday we begin our Lenten season. Each Wednesday evening, we gather to prepare personally and as a church family for our Lord's ultimate sacrifice for our sins all the while looking forward to celebrating His triumphant victory over sin, death, and the devil on Easter.

In closing, let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy, Blessed New Year!
God bless, Pastor

From our President

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
Merry Christmas to you all! May the joy of Christ's first coming be- and abide- with you throughout the coming new year as we await His second coming. We have begun a new church year, and as we move through the seasons of the church- Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and so on, let us remember these two things:

Jesus=He saves, and Immanuel=God with us.

God sent His Son into the world to save you and me from our sins and to restore the relationship between God and us. He has furthermore, through Jesus, promised to always be with us!

Let me share with you some of our latest activities:

We have a new organ. We served over one hundred people at our Thanksgiving meal.

As I write this, we will be serving a Christmas lasagna dinner shortly. The choir has resumed singing during Sunday services. Church counsel has been staffed for the next two years.

These are all great achievements for which we give God all the glory and praise, yet we have a few problem areas:

The need for leadership has never been greater. Community meals, including Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, may not happen if no one steps forward to manage them. The workers are many and ready, but we have no one to lead them. A handful of people are trying to fill these leadership positions, but we need help. Please, please prayerfully consider stepping up to help with this important community ministry. Having said that, allow me to close by thanking the many people who have stepped up to serve in the many ministries we undertake here at Peace Lutheran, and as always, the glory is to God alone.

In His service, Randy Priem
Soli Deo gloria



YOUR NEW COUNCIL, 2022-2023

PRESIDENT, ELDER- Randy Priem (2024)
VICE PRESIDENT- Bob Sullivan (2023)
TREASURER- Cindy McKee (2023)
FINANCIAL SECRETARY- TBA
SECRETARY- Becky Williams (2023)
TRUSTEES- Linda Williams, Bob Holloway,
Chet Rochette
THANK YOU TO ALL!

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Happy New Year, everyone! This column is intended to help us keep in mind dates to remember in the Church Year, as well as our calendar year, and special events in our church family life. It is also where you can get an explanation of what occurs in our worship services or of an unfamiliar word or term in a hymn or Scripture reading. The altar and pulpit paraments and Pastor's stole are white during the Christmas season and through the second Sunday after the Epiphany when we begin using green. White signifies perfection, joy, and purity; green reminds us of our abiding life in Christ, nourishment from His Word and growth in our faith.

Sunday, January 1st, is set aside in celebration of the **Baptism of Our Lord**.

Epiphany is always **January 6th** and has been celebrated since 361AD, to recall the visit of the Magi to the Infant Jesus.

Sunday, February 5th, we can remember the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob.

Saturday, February 18th, is remembered as the date of Martin Luther's death. He never wanted to have a church body named after him. He lost that argument as there are at least 40 Lutheran church bodies in the United States alone!

Shrove Tuesday is February 21st, which is 47 days before Easter. Shrove is the past tense of "shrive", which means to confess. So, why pancakes and our always anxiously awaited Potato Pancake Supper? To prepare for the holy Lenten season, and not be tempted to indulge in rich foods, it became the practice to use up eggs, milk

and sugar before Lent began. Pancakes were the perfect solution! We make 800 or more!!

Ash Wednesday is on **February 22nd** this year. Ashes are imposed in the shape of a cross on the forehead or back of the hand during Ash Wednesday services and signify confession of and mourning for our sins. Whether or not to give up something for Lent is an individual decision. We do not display altar flowers during Lent.

There are always secular holidays and occasions to be recognized, too! A few are: **Presidents' Day** is Monday, January 20th. Are you old enough to remember when Presidents Lincoln and Washington had their own birthdays shown on our calendars?

We enjoy having **church family potluck** meals on 5th Sundays. There'll be one on **January 29th**. This is a great time to get better acquainted with other church members.

February 2nd isn't only Groundhog's Day, but it is also **Pastor McKee's birthday!** (We don't know if he casts a shadow or not.)

We're all aware that **February 14th** is **Valentine's Day**. Saint Valentine is remembered for his witness for Christ, which ultimately condemned him to death by beating, stoning, and beheading in the year 269. His feast day has been on Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and other church bodies' liturgical calendars since the 1600s.

Looking ahead, our always successful **Rummage Sale** is scheduled for **Saturday, April 22nd**.

Submitted by Becky Williams

LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Hi, All,

Thank you to all who donated **bears for the police departments** (Dunnellon & Marion County)- they were very appreciative! This was to be a 1-year LWML project, but was so well received, it's been requested we continue into 2023. **January- March:** There is again a need for **socks** this winter for our pantry box, plus we will also collect **hats, scarves, and mittens** as well. **April- June-** We will collect **diapers and other baby items** for the Pregnancy Center. If any of you have any special requests for any special groups, let me know, ok? Would love your input! Thank you, also, for your continuing donations to our **Mite Box Sundays!** We have been able to give about \$50/month to the District LWML for our mite goals! (We've been keeping Thelma busy counting money). Our next two Mite Sundays are **January 1 and February 5.** We will begin a new Bible study from the book "Chosen: A Study of Esther", by Donna Snow. We will meet on **January 9 and February 6 at 10 am.** Come! Ladies of Peace will host the **Zone Annual Prayer Service** (here) on **Saturday, January 28 at 10am.** Please come, it is always a wonderful fellowship time! Our **Zone Spring Rally- Faith, Lecanto, Saturday, April 22, 2023** (more info later).

In His Service, Sheryl Lutz



01.02	Pat Doan
01.14	Mona Bermudez
01.23	Eileen Nuce
01.29	Steven Cassan
01.31	Glenn DeChello
02.02	Terry McKee
02.02	Sue Holloway
02.20	Sheryl Lutz
02.27	Rosemary Sheehan



01.05.1957	Ken & Peg Buschman
01.14.1956	Bob & Thelma Grams
02.10.2007	James & Jean Crapps
02.13.1997	Alan & Louise Plocharczyk

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE OUR DECEMBER COMMUNITY DINNER A SUCCESS! WE SERVED AROUND 100 FOLKS WHO ALL ENJOYED EVERY BITE!- Sheryl & Gene Lutz

ALTAR FLOWER NEWS

The 2022 Flower Chart was removed from its dwelling place over a week ago.

To my delight, I am very pleased with the new design. In many ways it appears the same; but the pale-yellow background makes it easier to see who ordered the flowers and are they in fond memory of someone or to honor someone, perhaps a special occasion.

I must call in the orders no later than the 21st day of the previous month for which the flowers have been designated to be set for their chosen Sunday service.

Once the December order was called in, I probably should have raised my hand, when Pastor asked, “Are there any new announcements”? Well, I didn’t announce the new Flower Chart! I would have probably raised my hand to make the announcement this Sunday, December 18th; but I can’t be in church. I want to be at the airport to pick up my daughter for our most special Holiday celebration.

Hopefully, you will read this new PEACE OFFERING, and read this section and know that I still have time to order flowers for all signature requests for January.

If you are new to this church, perhaps you don’t know this little detail. You can write in a color choice of flower, possibly a request for a special type of flower. The supplier for the lady who sets the flowers for us is located near Fort Myers. The last hurricane hit the Fort Myers area and the havoc was far reaching. Even locally for those in the floral business. Another new detail, if you order flowers and don’t want to take them home; at your request, I will take them to the Timber Ridge facility on

my way home from church. I live nearby. Basically, a right turn versus a left turn off Route 484. It is a nice idea and I know that it certainly brings a smile to someone’s face who ever that person is and it lifts their spirit each time they look up or open their rested eyes. Picturing this as I’m typing these words makes me smile and now, I can’t see. Happy tears are filling my eyes. I have taken several arrangements there after a conversation with a member of our Peace family and after this article is read, it will be known that our (anonymous) conversation has brought about JOY to another anonymous person. Note: I think that I will make some tags to add to those flowers that go to Timber Ridge that will say...One of God’s children from Peace Lutheran Church in Dunnellon sent their Blessings to you today with LOVE.

Any words that YOU might like to suggest that I write on those tags, let me know. Thanking you, Sheryl, for putting this to print and those who read this article and those who love flowers in our Sanctuary.

Submitted by Cynthia Cotter

Synopsis of Council Meetings

In the interest of being fully transparent as we conduct the Lord’s business, the Church Council provides this synopsis of the Council meetings from September through December, as well as of the Annual Voters’ Meeting in November.

The income/expense financials are on target for the year.

At the Annual Meeting, the following were re-elected to two-year terms: Randy

Priem, President; Linda Ryun, Financial Secretary; and Linda Williams, Trustees. Linda Ryun is unable to serve due to having a massive stroke. Randy Priem will appoint someone who is willing to fulfill the duties of Financial Secretary.

The Proposed Spending Guide for 2023 of \$135,645 was approved by the Voters.

Pastor McKee reported that Jean Methlie, Jean (Jay) Poffenbaugh, Donna Rice, Connie Smith, and Don and Barbara Thomas were called to eternal glory during 2022. The Voters accepted into membership William and Linda Bohannon; Robert and Lori DeChello and sons Glenn and Zander; and Richard and Joan Hulse. Carla Ruttinger requested and was granted a peaceful release from membership.

Due to a power outage caused by a lightning strike, the organ became inoperable and could not be repaired. A new organ was dedicated on Sunday, December 4. The cost was \$36,000 (reduced from \$45,000), of which \$21,000 was covered by insurance, \$7,000 was pledged, and the congregation approved the balance to be paid from an LCEF account.

The Thanksgiving Community Meal was attended by more than 110. A lasagna dinner is planned for December.

A Potato Pancake Supper was scheduled for Shrove Tuesday, February 21st, and a Rummage Sale for Saturday, April 22nd. The Trustees have been monitoring the water/well for sediment and air in the lines. Under their supervision, the parking lot was resealed as a safety feature; however, in the future it will be necessary to repave it at an expense in excess of \$45,000.

The response to the Toys for Tots drive was tremendous due to the efforts of Bob Sullivan, who also serves as the Dunnellon area coordinator.

James Spiegelberg plans to compile a pictorial directory which Linda Ryun and he had begun before the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Williams, Council Secretary
In Christ's Love, Your Church Council

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost. New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed

for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9:6–15). St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you’ve not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God’s Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord’s body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn’t want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord’s help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God’s family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God’s mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the

church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament’s teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what’s left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church’s work. Are you relying on God’s promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don’t let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God’s gift to you for this body and life.

-LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Submitted by Jackie Hucker

Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved, I adjusted my tie. I got there and sat, in a pew just in time. Bowing my head in prayer, as I closed my eyes, I saw the shoe of the man next to me touching my own. I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side, I thought, 'Why must our soles touch?' It bothered me, his shoe touching mine, but it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: 'Our Father'..... I thought, 'This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!'

'Thank You for blessings,' the prayer went on.
The shoe man said a quiet 'Amen.'
I tried to focus on the prayer, but my thoughts
were on his shoes again.
Aren't we supposed to look our best when
walking through that door?
'Well, this certainly isn't it,' I thought, glancing
toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended, and the songs of
praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud..... Sounding
proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters; his hands were
raised high.
The Lord could surely hear the shoe man's
voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering, and what I threw in
was steep.
I watched as the shoe man reached into his
pockets so deep.
I saw what was pulled out, what the shoe man
put in.
I heard a soft 'clink' as when silver hits tin.

The sermon bored me to tears, that's no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man, for tears fell
from his eyes.
At the end of the service as is the custom here.
We must greet new visitors, and show them all
good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow to meet the shoe
man.
So after the closing prayer, I reached over and
shook his hand.
He was old, his skin was dark, and his hair was
truly a mess,
But I thanked him for coming, for being our
guest...

He said, 'My name's Charlie, I'm glad to meet
you, my friend.'
There were tears in his eyes, but he had a large,

wide grin..
'Let me explain,' he said, wiping tears from his
eyes.
'I've been coming here for months, and you're
the first to say 'Hi.'"

'I know that my appearance is not like the rest.
'But I really do try to always look my best.'
'I always clean and polish my shoes before my
very long walk.'
'But by the time I get here they're dirty and
dusty, like chalk.'

My heart filled with pain, I swallowed to hide
my tears.
As he continued to apologize for daring to sit so
near
He said, 'When I get here, I know I must look a
sight.'
'But I thought if I could touch you maybe our
souls might unite.'

I was silent for a moment, knowing whatever
was said
Would pale in comparison. I spoke from my
heart, not my head.
'Oh, you've touched me,' I said, 'and taught me,
in part'
'That the best of any man is what is found in his
heart.'

The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never
know.
Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty
old shoe touched my soul.

Live each day as your last, for we never know
our time here on earth. Submitted by Sheryl



Those Serving January 2023

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Greeter: Sandra Doubt
Lay reader: Hope Kurth
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Ushers: Sharon Zavertrnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Bob Sullivan
Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Bill Langstaff
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Cynthia Cotter
Lay reader: Laurie DeChello
Counting team: Linda Williams & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Pat Doan
Lay reader: Becky Williams
Counting team: Pat Doan & Ron Bornander

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Bob Holloway
Lay reader: Randy Priem
Counting team: Jan Barker & Carol Hummel

Altar Guild January 2023

Sharon Zavertrnik

Those Serving February 2023

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Ushers: Sharon Zavertrnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Joanie & Rich Hulse
Lay reader: Pat Doan
Counting team: Stephen & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Becky Williams
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Sandra Doubt
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Carol Hummel
Lay reader: Sam McKee
Counting team: Linda Williams & Jan Barker

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Linda Priem
Lay reader: Laurie DeChello
Counting team: Pat Doan & Ron Bornander

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Linda Ryun

Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Carol Hummel

Altar Guild February 2023

Cindy McKee

