

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

January-February 2019

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

Blessings to all as we begin the New Year!

Last year we were truly blessed as a family here at Peace and I hope each of you were also. We thank everyone who volunteered and helped with our different ministries as well as helping with the worship services and other duties. We also, thank you if you have volunteered to help in 2019. Together with God's guidance and help we will continue to accomplish wonderful things in our community and here at Peace.

This past year during our Wednesday morning Bible class we studied the Book of Hebrews. I think everyone really enjoyed the study.

We were looking for more on Melchizedek, especially when one lesson was entitled "The Great Melchizedek" but were left wanting. We did bring him up every chance we got. But if I may suggest a book for your study Hebrews is a wonderful book of encouragement especially in today's world which isn't much different from the time of the writing of Hebrews, when it comes to sin.

I love the way chapter 12 begins, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

What great words of encouragement and hope for us who are currently on the race track of life.

And then again in chapter 13:1 & 2:
“Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Or verses 5 & 6: “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”

God’s blessings to all in the new year!
Pastor

President's Message

Dear Peace Family, Well, it's almost 2019, this year really has flown by. There are so many people I need to thank for all they have done for Peace. Thank you to Pastor, the council, the community meal preparers and helpers. There're also the folks doing things behind the scene that we don't even know about. There are so many talented people at Peace, I hope you can find a way to use your God given talents at Peace. I feel a more positive vibe in Church. I hope we can continue to keep moving forward as the Lord directs us. Wishing everyone a Blessed, healthy and prosperous New Year. Let's make 2019 the best year ever.

Garry Kurth
President Peace Lutheran Church

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING**

December 10, 2018

Present: Garry Kurth, Hope Kurth, Linda Ryun, Rita Cowan, Rebekah Williams, Doug O'Hara, Donald Conner, Linda Williams and Pastor Terry McKee. Guests: David Sokolowski and James Spiegelberg.

President Garry Kurth called the meeting to order and Pastor McKee opened the meeting with prayer.

Correspondence: None

Minutes: The November minutes were accepted.

President's Comments: Garry Kurth stated we are doing pretty good, but we are still in need of a Treasurer for next year, which will be discussed under Old Business.

REPORTS:

Financial Secretary:

Becky Williams provided the Fund Summary for November and explained the Mission Offering (which was the Scrip account.) She also stated the 2019 envelopes will be in our boxes before the end of year.

Treasurer: Rita Cowan provided the Budget Worksheet report for November, and also distributed the corrected 2019 Spending Guide that includes the Cleaning Services in the "Maintenance & Repair" category.

Trustees: Linda Williams reported that since the cost of a shutter for the cross window is so expensive, she suggested a shade that would be hung on the inside that could be taken down before our worship services. She will check into the cost for making this type of shade. Donald Conner reported we are having problems with the chlorinator for our well. David Sokolowski said he worked on it today, and the problem was it was not primed, so the chlorine could not flow into the water. They will keep checking it to make sure all is working properly.

Elders: Doug O'Hara said they had no report.

Pastor: Our Wednesday evening services have been poorly attended. On Thanksgiving Eve we only had 12 members and the first Advent services only had 11 present. We will continue to encourage attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer Position: Rita Cowan reported she talked with Darryl Collier, CPA, and he thought we only needed a Bookkeeper, and suggested a someone. Rita contacted her and presented a report. Discussion was held. Council asked Rita to check to see if our bill paying banking could be done on line.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas Ad: It was discovered we missed the date to respond for the Christmas worship services in the Citrus Chronicle papers, so no ad will be in this year.

Cadence Bank/LCEF: The account we have with Cadence Bank (designated for education) has been charging us a monthly \$5 fee for no activity.

LCEF has a limited time offer to invest in a CD from \$500 to \$40,000 with 4% interest for 40 months. Motion by Linda Ryun to take \$40,000 from our existing LCEF funds and invest in the CD offered through LCEF and, to transfer the remaining balance of our Cadence Bank account into our LCEF account, keeping that amount a specific line item in our books, designated for education.

Seconded by Doug O’Hara. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn. Pastor closed the meeting with prayer, and Council members joined in singing the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Ryun, Council Secretary

**HIGHLIGHTS
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL VOTER’S MEETING**

NOVEMBER 18, 2018

Attendance: 32

Minutes: The November 26, 2017 minutes were accepted.

President’s Comments: Garry Kurth commented things are running well at Peace, but we still need people to volunteer to help with things around the church (especially someone who would volunteer to be our Treasurer for next year.)

REPORTS were made from the: Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees, Elders, and Pastor.

Barbara Miesen was thanked for her work with the Scrip program. Since no one volunteered to head up this program, it was discontinued and the Scrip account was closed.

The \$2,312.32 in the account was used as follows: \$1,500 to buy gift cards for Pastor to give to those in need during the holidays and into next year, and \$812.32 was given for the Toys for Tots.

Don Dow was thanked for heading up the paper bin, which we have now removed since the company was going to charge us \$50 a month, and we did not receive that much from what we collected. Don will continue recycling of the aluminum cans. The money received from this project will be given for Toys for Tots.

We were reminded of the Community meal which will be served the 3rd Monday of every month. Come help if you can, or else just come to enjoy the meal and fellowship.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Officially received into membership: Charles Beyerlein, Mona Bermudez, Korene Clemins, James & Jean Crapps, Bill & Linda Neblock, Donna Race, and Connie Smith.

Church Cleaning: Hope Kurth thanked the members of church who have been doing the cleaning, but as they are aging, several of the cleaning tasks are becoming difficult, and there are fewer people who are willing to do the cleaning. The congregation was asked for volunteers, but since no one volunteered, we need to hire someone to fill this position.

The Council recommends that we hire Randy Priem as our Church Sexton @ \$75/week.

Don Dow made a motion to hire Randy Priem as our Church Sexton @ \$3,900/year to clean our church as stated. Seconded by Jean Bozak. Motion passed.

Spending Guide: Because we will be hiring a Church Sexton, an additional \$4,000 needs to be added to the proposed Spending Guide.

Don Dow made a motion to accept the 2019 Proposed Spending Guide with the addition of \$4,000 for Church

Sexton, raising the total from \$118,379 to \$122,379. Seconded by Linda Williams. Motion passed.

Election of New Officers for 2019-2020:

Garry Kurth proposed the following members as new officers:

President: Garry Kurth
Vice-president: Hope Kurth
Elder: Doug O'Hara
Financial Secretary: Jackie Hucker
Trustee: Linda Williams

David Sokolowski would also be willing to serve as a Trustee.

Don Dow made the motion to accept the New Officers for 2019-2020 as proposed, with the addition of David Sokolowski as a Trustee. Seconded by Sam McKee. Motion passed.

Treasurer Position: Don Dow asked if a new Treasurer has been found, stating Rita has done a fantastic job and is very competent!

No one has volunteered. Pastor stated if no one volunteers, we will need to hire someone outside the church to fill this position, which will require our Spending Guide to increase greatly. It is hoped someone from the congregation will accept this position.

Jeremy McKee made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sam McKee. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Pastor McKee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Ryun, Secretary

LADIES OF PEACE

Hi, Ladies of Peace,

As members of LWML (happens when you join an LCMS church), I wish to invite you to the Annual Zone Prayer Service at St. John's on Saturday February 9, 2019 at 10am. It lasts about an hour, and if they don't have lunch for us, we'll stop and get some!

We'll also continue with our Bible study on the first Mondays of each month at 10am, at different places. On January 7th we will meet at my house (Sheryl). Please join us. This study ("Mirror, Mirror") is particularly interesting, and we have a nice time sharing our own personal life's stories.

February's Bible study will be at Becky's. If that changes, we'll let you know.

Our next Zone Rally is Saturday April 6th at First Lutheran, Inverness. I would really love to take someone with me when I go!

LWML National Convention- Mobile, AL is coming up quickly, June 20-23, 2019 (Thursday to Sunday). More info on the board.

We (as a sanctioned LWML unit at Peace) continue to send mites to the District, so please don't stop filling

those mite boxes!! It's amazing what is done with them!

Sheryl

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR NOVEMBER

Gene & I would like to thank EVERYONE who helped us "pull this off"! As many of you know, we thought we'd have 25-30 folks come, hoping for a good increase from the first two dinners. Well, we fed about 70 meals! We had a lot of help from advertising to setting up, baking of desserts, serving, more food (from Becky's pantry and Winn Dixie) and clean up! Thanks to all! Come (to help and/or to eat) at the next one, January 21st- it's a spaghetti dinner!

Sheryl

Altar Flowers

Thank you to each of you who provided bouquets for our Altar during 2018! A new chart for 2019 is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please choose your dates as soon as possible and indicate the reason you are providing flowers, i.e. in honor or memory of someone, to celebrate an

occasion, to the Glory of God, in thanksgiving, etc. Two arrangements will be ordered for each Sunday. If you would like both of them, please indicate that on the chart. The cost is \$20 per bouquet. Becky Williams places our order before the beginning of each month. Please let her know if there is a particular flower or color you would like in the bouquet you are placing. If you would like your floral offering to be given to someone who is homebound, ill, or hospitalized, please let Becky or the Altar Guild team on duty know.

My Thanks!

From Outgoing Financial Secretary
Becky Williams

Thank you to everyone who has served as an Offering Counter during my three plus years as your Financial Secretary! Your faithfulness has been a blessing to all of us. And, your accuracy has been very much appreciated! I know that those of you who will be serving in this ministry in 2019 will be just as supportive of Jackie Hucker.

If you have any questions or concerns about the year-end statements which you will receive during January, please do not hesitate to ask Jackie or me to check our records.

Coffee Hour

Our Coffee Hours before and following Bible Study and after Worship on Sundays provide an opportunity for catching up on what's happening with fellow members we see only on Sunday. That's important! It's also very important to engage our guests in conversation so we know a bit about one another and they do not return as strangers but as part of our Peace Family. Please greet them and introduce them to others, too!

Please consider signing up to bring sweets (or provide a few dollars to purchase them)! There are a faithful few who provide them each month. Those who indulge are not particular about whether they are homemade or store-bought as long as they are yummy! If you have questions, please talk to Becky Williams.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Submitted by Sheryl Lutz

If you've ever wondered how "stuff" gets done for services, or you are looking for a way to serve our God with your own talents, this is a list of who is giving their time already. Even if something seems "filled" and you'd like to help, have no worries. There is

plenty of room for you!! This list is mostly who OVERSEES each ministry. If you want to know who else is involved in each one, check your newsletters and bulletins to see "Who-All's doing what". If you enjoy the benefits of ANY of these ministries/programs, let that person know!

Newsletter:

Bob Sullivan: This very newsletter you are reading comes to you because of the time he spends combining the articles written by ten or so members. The folks contributing articles spend quite a bit of time writing them, too. If you'd like to be involved in the copying, stapling and/or distributing of them, I'm sure he wouldn't mind some help, and would gladly teach you!

Service Related:

Altar Guild: currently Pastor is making up the monthly list of who takes care of set up before, and cleanup after of Communion sacraments, paraments (which change with church seasons and special days) and "vessels" for the month. These are folks who checked the box on the Volunteer Form each of us filled out in November. We could really use someone in charge of the Altar Guild who can teach each group of monthly volunteers (usually about 2 people each month) how to set it up

correctly. Another way you can help is to make sure there is wine in the Sacristy, and can be purchased as a one-time offering, monthly or whatever schedule works for you and your budget. You can go into the Sacristy (left side of Sanctuary) to see what we use.

Flowers: Becky Williams. The Flower List (if you don't know) is on the bulletin board. Each week has 2 spaces where you can add your name for a special day in your own life. Each bouquet costs \$20, and you can ask Becky for special colors.

Music: Jan Barker. As you know, we don't have an organist, and we need someone to play the CD in the player each service. We REALLY need more volunteers for this ministry! Besides Jan, Doug O'Hara helps when he can, but is also an Elder and an Usher, so is not regularly available to play, and sometimes we all like to just go to church to worship and go home, too. Hope Kurth plays sometimes too, but as Vice President, there are other things she needs to be doing as well.

So, don't be shy, I promise you will be taught well, and if you can play a DVD or CD player, you CAN play the music!

Food:

Kitchen Steward: Currently, no one. For a church that likes food as much

as we Lutherans do, we could surely use one (or even a team of folks)!

Sunday Morning Fellowship Snacks: Becky. You can either show up with something on Sunday morning or speak to Becky about "taking" a week. This is NOT paid for by the church, it is strictly member donated. So, if you eat any of the goodies on Sunday morning, think about bringing something!

After Service:

Offering Counters: Jackie Hucker. There are currently about 4 or 5 teams of 2 counters that take turns counting and making the deposit. You will be trained well, the system is simple, and it does not take much time, usually we are finished by 11:30- 11:45 (and still beat the other churches to lunch!). Members taking turns counting and depositing the money each week takes a big load off the Financial Secretary.

In-Church Ministries:

Ladies' Bible study: Becky Williams. We meet the 1st Monday of every month at different ladies' homes. If you would like to get involved with this, read your invites in your mailbox the day before, and come! If you'd like to be our "leader", you'd be more than welcome!

LWML: Sheryl Lutz. We are not currently actively involved in the bigger organization, but Sheryl is the Zone

VP of Communications, so she goes to most events. If you'd like to keep up with Zone/District/National LWML, speak with her, she'd love to talk with you!

Lawn Crew: Ron Cowan. If you'd like to help keeping the grounds mowed and trimmed, let him know, and he will keep you informed as to when to show up.

Garden Weeding: Sharon Zavertnik. You can let her know you'd like to help her, but ANYONE is allowed to pick weeds, and thank you!!

Advertising: If you'd like to help with this we would be happy to show you!

Sign: Yvonne Conner

Newspapers and radio: Sharon Cassan.

Facebook: Jae Ann Witzgall.

Website: Sheryl Lutz

Charities/Outreach

Community Meals: Rita and Ron Cowan. You can either show up to help at any of them (the 3rd Monday of each month), or even speak to Rita about volunteering to "take" a month. The menu is up to you or ask for ideas. They are a lot of fun, and we have met a lot of nice people from our community!

Romeo School Supplies: Yvonne Conner. If you'd like to donate, ask Yvonne for the list. You can also go

onto Thrivent.com if you are a member and put in for a \$250 Action Team gift card that you can use to buy supplies. Ask Yvonne or Jackie for help with this if you need it.

Gift cards: We as a congregation (through Council) give Pastor money each year to purchase gift cards he can give to needy folks who come to our door. You can also purchase gift cards for stores/gas and give them to him as an extra bonus.

Pantry box: The brown box outside our front door (in case you didn't know) is a pantry with food and personal items anyone can take (or donate to). There is a list on the front of suggested items. Many people are involved with keeping this filled, some even from the community. You are welcome to leave any items missing or getting low. Canned foods with pop tops are the best, and/or plastic jars.

Toys for Tots: Bob Sullivan. If you would be interested in helping with this, speak with Bob. This year he was the Community Coordinator for Dunnellon, dropping off and picking up boxes to merchants in town, and delivering them to the warehouse in Ocala. About 6 of us even went to Wal-Mart and purchased \$1200 worth of toys with money donated by our members!

Things we collect (and for what):

Aluminum cans: The money we collect from the recycling of cans goes toward Toys for Tots.

Aluminum tabs: Thelma Grams. We send these to Ronald McDonald House.

Miscellaneous: If you see anything that you think should be done that is not being done (or any of the above ministries that pulls at your heart), please consider stepping up. We'd all love to have you! Also, don't forget this article doesn't even mention the elected/appointed positions that need to be filled. We really need to replace these folks when their terms are up each November. Please consider these ways to serve God as well.

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

Happy New Year! Our Church Year actually began with the first Sunday in Advent. We've experienced Christmas and are now in the Epiphany Season. This is the celebration of the coming of the Magi to visit the infant Jesus and the revelation to them and to us that God's

Son came as a human being to be our Savior. Epiphany is always January 6th, which this year is on a Sunday. During Epiphany Season, all Sundays are numbered "after Epiphany" until the beginning of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6th.

The parament color is white on January 6th for Epiphany and on January 13th for the Baptism of our Lord. White symbolizes perfection, joy and purity. Beginning on January 20th, the altar and pulpit hangings, and Pastor's stole, will be green to remind us of our life in Christ and the nourishment we received from His Word and our growth in faith.

Happy Valentine's Day this February 14th! Did you know that Lutherans commemorate St. Valentine's Day as a feast day? St. Valentine is remembered not for himself, but for his witness for Christ. Valentine was a Roman priest and the Bishop of Terni, in what is now Central Italy, in the third century. At that time, while under arrest for marrying Christian couples and aiding the persecuted, which was considered a crime, he became friends with a judge, with whom he discussed the Christian faith. The judge had a daughter who was blind and told Valentine that if he could restore the girl's sight the judge would believe. When the girl regained her sight, the judge had all of his idols broken, he fasted for three days, and

he, his family and forty of his household were baptized. He then freed all the Christian inmates. When Valentine was arrested once again for persisting in preaching Christianity, he was sent to Emperor Claudius in Rome. He tried to lead Claudius to faith, which angered Claudius, who had him condemned to death by beating, stoning and ultimately beheading. It wasn't until the 1300s that St. Valentine became associated with romantic love. Since the 1600s, his feast day has been on liturgical calendars of Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and other church bodies. Now you know the rest of the story!

This column is for you! If you are wondering about a worship practice, would like an unfamiliar word explained, have a question concerning what Lutherans believe, please ask me, leave a note in my mail slot, call or email me. I'll research it and get back to you. If I think others might be interested, I'll include the information in this column.

Here are a couple of interesting websites:

www.betterdaysarecoming.com is a great resource for the correct pronunciation of names of persons or places in the Bible. Select Bible Words Phonetic Pronunciation on the site. If you are a reader for Sunday worship, you might want to consult this site to double-check the

pronunciation of words in the texts. It's also a fun place to find other information and can be engrossing!

www.Christianity.com also has information about questions you may have such as how December 25th was chosen for the celebration of Christ's birth. Enjoy your research!



**Best wishes on your Special Day
To:**

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------|------------------|
| 01.02 | Pat Doan |
| 01.10 | Donald Thomas |
| 01.14 | Mona Bermudez |
| 01.23 | Eileen Nuce |
| 01.29 | Stephen Cassan |
| 02.02 | Terry McKee |
| 02.20 | Sheryl Lutz |
| 02.27 | Rosemary Sheehan |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 01.05.1957 | Ken & Peggy Buschman |
| 01.14.1956 | Robert & Thelma Grams |
| 02.10.2007 | James & Jean Crapps |

Those Serving January 2019

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeters: Rita & Ron Cowan
Lay reader: Trina Ruttinger
Counting team:

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Sullivan
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg
Greeters: Linda Ryun & Peggy Buschman
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team:

Sunday, January 20, 2019

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeters: Jae Ann & Dennis Witzgall
Lay reader: Pat Doan
Counting team:

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Doug O'Hara
Greeters: Bunnie Daniels & Linda Neblock
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team:

Altar Guild January 2019

Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Those Serving February 2019

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeters: Jackie Hucker & Pat Doan
Lay reader: Becky Williams
Counting team:

Sunday, February 10, 2019

Ushers: Doug O'Hara & Bob Sullivan
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg
Greeters: Bill Langstaff & Linda Ryun
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team:

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeters: Carla & Trina Ruttinger
Lay reader: Samuel McKee
Counting team:

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Doug O'Hara
Greeters: Virginia & Bob Sullivan
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team:

Altar Guild February 2019

Cindy & Sam McKee

