

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

November & December, 2023

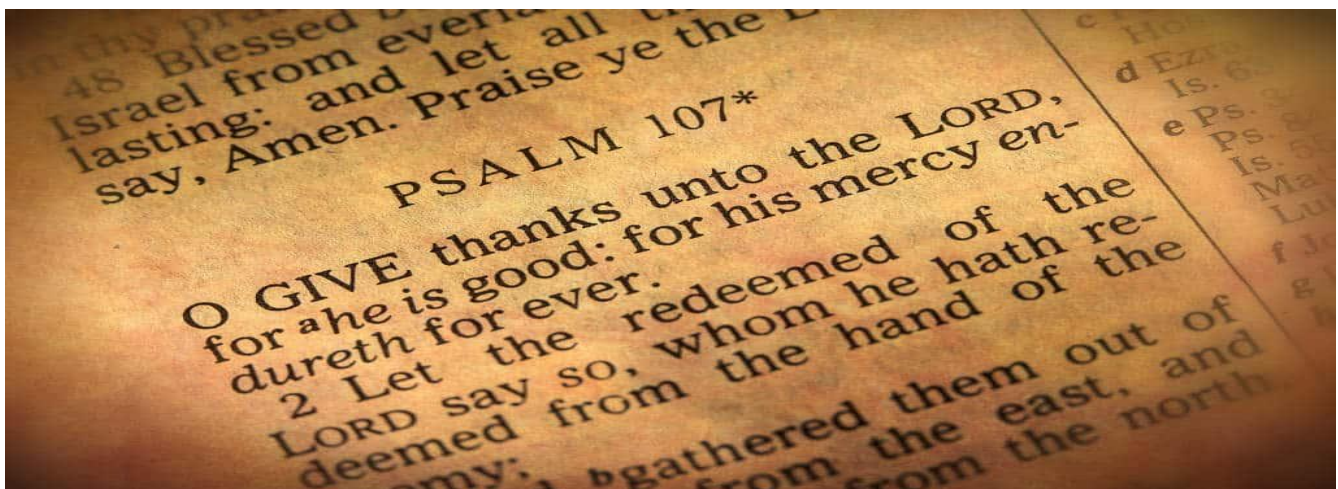
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Our Mission: We are a family of Christians called, equipped, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.



Blessings to my Peace family

Wow where has the year gone? This is our last newsletter for 2023. What a year it has been. We have continued to be blessed; God is an awesome God. Our community meals have really grown and are such a blessing to so many from our community. Our first meal had more workers than guests and now even though we have many wonderful workers the number of guests is now over a hundred each month. Reformation Sunday was such

a great day as we celebrated the reception of new members and had a wonderful meal. Please take the time to introduce yourself to our new family members.

November ushers in our holiday season with our Thanksgiving Eve service on November 22nd at 7pm. On our first mid-week Advent service December 6th we will look at Psalm 80 and the theme of "Restore". On December 13th our theme will be "Revived" and Psalm 85

will be our text. On December 20th we will look at Psalm 89 and our theme will be “Rely”. And on Christmas Eve we will look at Psalm 98 and “Rejoice”. And don’t forget to come and help decorate the Christmas tree and church on December 2nd at 10am.

Each week I record our Psalm, readings and sermon for our YouTube channel and website. At the end of each week’s recording, I close by telling the listeners to take care of one another out there. That’s good for us as a family also. Many of our members live alone and don’t have any other family around, just their Peace family. So, please take care of one another out there.

NEEDED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

beginning January 2024! See Sheryl (You can help me with the Jan/Feb issue in December, & I will help you with Mar/Apr)

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? (a/k/a WWWWWH?)

The Christian Church Year is nearing a close. Our parament colors are still green to remind us to continue to grow in Christ. They will be white for All Saints Day on November 5th to symbolize Christ’s perfection and His salvation which makes us pure. We remember those who have died in the Lord during the past year.

Sunday, November 5th, is also the end of Daylight Savings Time. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

Saturday, Nov 11th, is Veteran’s Day, which is set aside for thanking and honoring living members of our

services in wartime and in peacetime. Thank a Vet!

Thanksgiving is observed on the 23rd. We will have a Thanksgiving Eve service on the 22nd to thank God for the blessings of the harvest. Although celebrated in the past on various dates, George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide Thanksgiving in 1789. Franklin Roosevelt set the observance from the last Thursday to the fourth one in 1941.

December 3rd is the First Sunday in Advent and the beginning of the Church Year. The parament color is blue for repentance and hope as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth. Advent always begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The Latin “adventus” means “coming”.

The Advent Wreath has four candles: Three are blue representing hope, love and peace; and one is rose, which is lit on the third Sunday in Advent to symbolize joy. A white center candle is lit on Christmas Eve as we celebrate Jesus’ birth. Advent wreaths originated in the Lutheran Church of Sweden. Christmas trees are a Protestant custom dating to the 1500s. Then usually decorated with edible foods like apples and nuts, Martin Luther added candles.

The Chrismon ornaments, Christian symbols, on our tree were created by church members and first used in 2016. Their descriptions and meanings

will be posted on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary doors. In case you were wondering, a triangle in front of a hymn verse indicates that each member of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, is addressed within the verse. Because all three are named, it is appropriate for us to stand when we sing it.

Please watch and listen for information about other opportunities for service and fellowship during November and December as some possibilities, in addition to our Community Meals, may be decorating the tree and sanctuary for Christmas; baking cookies to provide cookie trays for shut-ins and others; Toys 4 Tots contributions; Christmas caroling; or going to the Ocala Christmas Lights Spectacular.

These are great opportunities to get to know each other better!

Have a most blessed and joyful
CHRISTmas!
Becky Williams

Church Council Meeting Recap **Synopsis of Church Council** **Meetings** **September and October 2023**

September: Because donations have not met expenses, it was necessary to transfer \$17,000 from LCEF Savings to the checking account over the summer. Expenses will be carefully controlled for the remainder of 2023. The Nominating and Finance (Spending Guide) Committees were established to

develop a slate of candidates for open positions and develop a spending guide for 2024 for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Voters' Assembly meeting. October 29th was designated as the celebration of Reformation Day, Pastor Appreciation Day, and New Member Welcome at a 5th Sunday fellowship meal following worship. The position of *Peace Offerings* newsletter editor will be vacant as of January. Members' pictures are being taken for a pictorial directory.

October: Expenses are on track with the 2023 guidelines. With the inclusion of nine new members there are 48 giving units. Pastor indicated that after review of the membership rolls and with the inclusion of those joining October 29th there are 64 Communicant Members. Worship attendance for September and October ranged from 47-60. Reports were accepted from the Nominating and Finance Committees for presentation at the Annual Voters' Assembly Meeting scheduled for Sunday, December 3rd, following worship. Future large expenditures include roof replacement, replacement of a/c units when needed, and the parking lot and entry drive.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Thank you to all who participated in any way for the past dinners and to those who will in November and December! In September we served about 110 meals, and in August it was 150! It's getting around that Peace has the best food in town! November is Turkey Pot Pie! And December, Meatloaf!



LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Hi, All,
Thank you to all who have donated already to the Pantry, including hats, scarves, and gloves, as well as food! This is a great outreach ministry for our church into our community. The box gets used quite often, both for food, and to leave food.
Thank you also to those faithfully bringing in filled **mite boxes**! There are pamphlets every day on our pamphlet wall (just inside the fellowship hall) explaining our mite

boxes, plus how the money gets used. They are also on the table with our Mite Box on Mite Box Sunday. Our **next two Mite Box Sundays** are **11/5 and 12/3**.

Our Bible study from "Chosen: A Study of Esther", by Donna Snow is **every Tuesday at 10am**. Come!

The Retreat in St. Augustine in September was wonderful! Sharla Fritz did a great Bible study called "Enough for Now". There was food (of course it's a Lutheran event), singing, meeting new and older friends, games.... You need to come next time in two years, and looks like it might be in Savannah, GA!

Peace celebrated **LWML Sunday** October 8, with the choir signing our song "Serve the Lord with Gladness", and ladies serving where they can in the service. We finished up with a cake that the lady at Winn Dixie went out of her way to decorate by going online to find our insignia! (photo at left).

Our **Zone Rally** was October 21 at Our Redeemer, Ocala. We had two speakers, one a teacher/missionary who goes yearly to Scammon Bay, Alaska to help teach VBS to the children. The other was from Kimberly's Center for Child Protection, Marion County. We learned how rampant child physical and sexual abuse is right here. SAD!
Next time I'll give some info on our upcoming District Convention in Orlando in September.

In His Service, Sheryl Lutz



11/07 Bob DeChello
 11/10 Jean Crapps
 11/12 Carole Tobin
 11/18 Carol Hummel
 11/19 Shirley Runke
 11/21 Bryan Reagan

12/02 Jean Bozak
 12/14 Peggy Dow
 12/14 Ron Bornander
 12/14 Linda Bohannan
 12/17 Barney Reagan
 12/19 Michael Ferrier
 12/20 William Dellinger
 12/20 James Tobin
 12/21 Gene Lutz
 12/29 Jeremy McKee



11/14/1974 Lew & Sharon Zavertnik

12/24/1976 Ron & Lucinda Bornander
 12/28/1990 Don & Peggy Dow

ALTAR FLOWER NEWS

As you may have heard, Aldi’s has purchased/ merged with Winn Dixie. As Aldi’s does not have a flower arranging department, we’re not sure

if/how we will be able to continue to provide flowers for our services. If you know of anyone (florist, person, store) that does flower arrangements and would be willing to make them to fit our current price of \$25/bouquet, please let me (Cynthia Cotter) know. Until we’re told otherwise, though, we’re still getting them from Winn Dixie- the price is \$25.00 per bouquet. Two bouquets may be ordered for a single date, but both will be identical. Sign up on the Flower Chart (by the water fountain), including event and/or color you’d like. To pay for them (there is no budget to pay for them), place cash or check into a “Flowers” envelope from your (envelope) box. Pray that we find a new provider, or that Aldi’s keeps Winn Dixie’s flower shop! Cynthia Cotter

SIGN-UP SHEETS

Sign-up postings for Coffee Hour, Community Meals, and other events are now located along with the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall near the water fountain.



COFFEE HOUR

When there’s something to enjoy along with coffee, especially after Sunday worship, we’re getting to know our guests and one another. Please stay awhile if you can. And, we’d love to taste something **you** might want to share with us!

Stewardship Newsletter Article

November 2023

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy. We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do.

We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us. As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. *For to the one who has, more will be given... (Mark 4:25), and he will have an abundance (Matt 23:29)*



The Ocala Christmas Light Spectacular, North Central Florida's largest drive-through light display featuring over 2,000,000 lights, will be presented by St. John Lutheran Church and hosted by the Florida Horse Park from November 24th thru December 30th, at the horse park. The carload cost is \$10. More information can be found at www.ocalachristmas.com. A flyer will be posted on the bulletin board. There may be interest in carpooling from Peace and eating out in Ocala before the drive-through.

Those Serving November 2023

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Sandra Doubt
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Joanie & Rich Hulse
Lay reader: Hope Kurth
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Carol Hummel

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Bob Holloway
Lay reader: Samuel McKee
Counting team: Linda Williams & Jan Pinkerton

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Becky Williams
Lay reader: Bob Sullivan
Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Altar Guild November 2023

Sharon Zavertnik

Those Serving December 2023

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeter: Cynthia Cotter
Lay reader: Joanie Hulse
Counting team: Pat Doan & Ron Bornander

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Ushers: Ron Bornander & Sandra Doudt
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Carol Hummel
Lay reader: Cynthia Cotter
Counting team: Becky Williams & Linda Bohannon

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Ushers: Jeremy & Samuel McKee
Communion assistant: Randy Priem
Greeter: Sharon Zavertnik
Lay reader: Randy Priem
Counting team: Gene & Sheryl Lutz

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeter: Pat Doan
Lay reader: Laurie DeChello
Counting team: Jackie Hucker & Carol Hummel

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Bob Holloway
Greeter: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Pat Doan
Counting team: Becky Williams & Linda Bohannon

Altar Guild December 2023

Cindy McKee

PROPOSED SPENDING GUIDE 2024

	2023	2024
PASTORS PAYROLL	61,275.00	64,350.00
PASTORS MILEAGE	2,500.00	2,500.00
PASTORS HEALTH	23,000.00	23,000.00
PASTORS DISABILITY/RET	6,000.00	7,000.00
PASTORS MEDICAL EXPENSE	2,550.00	2,550.00
PASTORS PROFESSIONAL FEE	500.00	500.00
WORSHIP MUSIC	50.00	50.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	7,500.00	7,500.00
ELECTRICITY	3,000.00	3,400.00
CONTRACTS/SERVICES	2,000.00	2,800.00
TELEPHONE/INTERNET	1,450.00	1,200.00
ADVERTISING	850.00	50.00
KITCHEN/JANITORIAL	1,000.00	1,000.00
MAINT/REPAIR	5,000.00	5,000.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	800.00	1,000.00
PROFESSIONAL FEES	800.00	800.00
OUTREACH/MISSIONS	5,000.00	5,000.00
FL/GA ASSESSMENTS	400.00	400.00
CONF/SEMINARS	1,250.00	1,250.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	500.00	300.00
CORP TAXES	100.00	100.00
DISTRICT COMMITMENT	3,000.00	3,000.00
PULPIT SUPPLY	750.00	750.00
CHURCH SEXTON	4,420.00	4,700.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,150.00	1,150.00
ALTAR/WORSHIP SUPPLY	800.00	1,200.00
TOTAL	\$135,645.00	140,550.00

Proposed slate of officers for 2024-2025

Vice President: Brian Reagan

Write-in: _____

Recording Secretary: Becky Williams

Write-in: _____

Treasurer: Cindy McKee

Write-in: _____

Trustees: Bob Holloway

Gary Kurth

Hope Kurth

Sharon Zavertrnik

Write-in: _____

Elder: Gary Kurth

