

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

November & December 2020

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.



To my Peace family

As we look to the close of 2020, we reflect upon all the events that got canceled this year due to COVID-19. It has been a year of challenges, but we rejoice that God is still on His throne. The Gospel is still being preached and shared by Pastors and Christians around the world. God's Kingdom work continues, maybe a little differently but the message remains the same. I am still getting used to recording my sermons and posting them online but have been pleased to see how God has used this to reach other people who would otherwise not get a chance to hear God's Word preached. I pray God's continued care and protection for each of you as you deal with the pandemic and the changes it has forced upon us.

In just a few weeks, on November 15th we will hold our annual voter's meeting. A new spending guide will be discussed, and new officers will be elected. That is if all were normal and going as we would like. But the nominating committee has had a hard time getting anyone to answer God's call to serve. So I pray that between now and then each of you will take time to pray and give thanks for all of God's blessings and consider how He will have you serve in the new year.

We begin our holiday season on Wednesday, November 25th with our Thanksgiving Eve service as we celebrate and give thanks for all we have and are as God's children who get to live in the greatest country in the world. Then each subsequent Wednesday we will come together for our mid-week Advent services. Our Advent – Christmas series this

year is Jesus: the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Pastor Terry

President's Message

Good day Peace Family,
Hoping to find everyone in good health and great spirits. As the year draws closer to the end there are some things the Church has to get done. There are several offices without members, most of them are open. I am asking for members to think about your church and what it takes to make it run. All these offices need to be filled by some one, it seems, the same members are switching offices yearly so we have someone, please take a look inside your heart and give up some of your time to help the Church. The 2021 Spending guide is attached. Thanks to the members of the spending guide and nominating committee for your time and ideas. God Bless Peace in 2021.

Garry Kurth
President 2019 - 2020
Peace Lutheran Church

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, 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 is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. 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. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and

they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He 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 the celebrations of Thanksgiving, 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, and he will have an abundance.

Jackie Hucker

There are always more needs than willing workers. It is good to inquire of the church leadership regarding the needs of the church. Have a conversation with Garry or Pastor about what jobs are open and how they may or may not be suited for you. Personally I think of these jobs as opportunities.

That said, If anybody is interested in the opportunity of filling the position of Financial Secretary, Please see Garry or Jackie. It is not a hard position, and takes very little time. We have counting teams that help count the weekly offerings. I would continue with this position, but with health and age, I feel the need to retire.

I wish to thank everyone who is keeping up with their offerings. When placing your envelope in the plate, please make sure you put the amount, and if it is cash or check. Also put the check number on the front upper right hand corner. This makes it easier for the counters to balance the deposit. Also thank you to our counting team. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Jackie Hucker

LADIES OF PEACE / LWML

Hi, Ladies of Peace! We have missed a lot of you at our Bible studies during September and October! (We've had some good lunches afterward, too).... We are currently reading "Faith in the Shadow of a Pandemic", by Jacob Cozine and John T. Pless (both Lutherans), written in March of this year. It's so on topic and apropos for us during these times, and a great book. Our next study is **Monday, November 2nd at 10am.** We will also

meet on the 16th, and December 7th to finish the book. We follow all the “rules” of masks and distancing as needed by our numbers. Even if you can’t come to our studies, I highly recommend you get the book yourself. Ask Becky if she has any. I purchased the digital book from Amazon (about \$12 wherever you get it) and downloaded it onto my Kindle. It has been a great time of fellowship, worship and personal sharing with each other. We would love to have you join us!

At this time, we will NOT be making up cookie plates this year, due to COVID.

LWML (if you are a lady coming to Peace, you are LWML): Thank you to all who participated in any way in our LWML Sunday on October 4th. Thanks, also to Pastor, who printed the bulletins in color for us (the grapes on the vines looked much better in purple than gray). \$205 was received towards our District and National mites! Also, thanks to all the ladies who sent me their votes on the proposed slate of officers for our Zone. It passed unanimously throughout our Zone, and our new officers are: **Zone President- Cindy Navarro; Treasurer- Virginia Golec (both from First Lutheran-Inverness); and VP Spiritual Growth- Barb Henrich from St. John.** The officers will be installed at our Zone Prayer Service (more info on that when available).

The Winter *Evangel* will come out around November 20th, with info on your new District officers and 2020-2022 Mite Goals.

FYI: When you are finished with your “Portals of Prayers” you can place them in the pantry box outside. I can’t pass them on, and our own Community Outreach Ministry recipients need them, too! Also, we are no longer collecting empty printer cartridges. If you have some, Office Depot/Office Max takes them and gives you credit. My OD/OM in Crystal River is closing, so I have no outlet for them.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas!

In His Service,

Sheryl Lutz

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

This column is for YOU whether you were raised in the Lutheran faith, have attended Peace for years, or have joined us from another Christian fellowship. If there is something you don’t understand, a term in a reading or hymn, a worship practice, please ask. I’ll do my best to clarify whatever it is for you and may include it in a future column without indicating who asked.

For now, let's look at the calendar for November and December to see what's going on:

Sunday, November 1st, is designated as **All Saints Day**. The paraments will be white. The flowers will be white. White symbolizes the perfection of Christ and His salvation which makes us pure. We remember those who were martyred for their faith. At Peace, we also remember those of our fellowship, family and friends, who died in the Lord during the past 12 months, combining All Saints Day with All Souls Day, November 2nd.

It is also one of those frustrating **Daylight Savings Time** change dates! Remember to turn your clock back one hour. If you forget, you'll show up at "10:00" for church, it will really be 9:00 and you'll be 15 minutes late for Bible study, but the group will welcome you to join them.

Monday, November 2nd, the Ladies of Peace will continue their reading and discussion of the book, "Faith in the Shadow of a Pandemic". Lunch plans have not yet been set. They will also meet on **Monday, November 16th**.

On Sunday, November 8th, the paraments revert back to green until the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th.

Wednesday, November 11th, is Veterans Day, which is often confused with Memorial Day, when we remember those who died in service to their country. Veterans Day honors living members of our service branches both in wartime and peacetime. Remember to thank a veteran! And, "Thank you!" to our many members who are veterans.

Wednesday the 25th of November, we will have a special **Thanksgiving Eve** service at 7:00 PM. The paraments change to white for that service. The first nationwide Thanksgiving was proclaimed by George Washington in 1789; however, it was celebrated on various dates as far back as 1621 at Plymouth Rock, prompted by a good harvest.

On **Saturday, November 28th**, it will be time to decorate the Christmas tree, church and fellowship hall. When the time is announced, why not put it on your calendar and plan to join in the activity! There'll be something you can do.

Christmas trees are a Protestant custom dating to the 1500s. Since Christmas 2016, our chancel tree has had “Chrismons” on it. They are based on Christian symbols.

Advent begins this year on **Sunday, November 29th**, the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The parament color for Advent is blue for repentance as we prepare for Christ’s birth and the hope that gives us. The church year, differently than the calendar year, begins with the First Sunday in Advent.

The advent wreath has four candles. One for each Sunday in Advent. Three are blue; one is rose. The blue ones represent hope, love and peace; the rose one, lit on the third Sunday, symbolizes joy.

Monday, December 7th, the Ladies of Peace will conclude their study focusing on how our Christian faith serves to support us during the present pandemic. Traditionally, this would be the day we pack cookie trays for shut-ins and others, which we cannot do this year.

Sunday, December 20th, is commemorated as the birthday of Martin Luther’s wife, Katharina von Bora.

Thursday, December 24th is **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas** is on **Friday, the 25th**. Our traditional Candlelight Service will be at 7:00 PM. Christmas Day’s service is at 10:00 AM.

Have a most blessed and joyful **CHRISTMAS!**

Altar Flowers

Submitted by Becky Williams

Blue Creek Florist’s owner and designer, Teresa Tuttle, has provided us with some stunning floral arrangements and makes every effort to accommodate any requests for a specific flower or color.

Thank you, Teresa!

As I’ve mentioned before, we will always have one bouquet, whether anyone has signed up for one or not. We do not have a spending guide line item for the cost of altar flowers. Occasionally, a member will make a donation to cover a week or more so that our minimum \$80

monthly cost is covered. The arrangements cost \$20 each.

There are some Sundays during November and December where no flowers have been requested. Please consider signing up for a bouquet on November 29th, December 6th or December 27th. Other dates have one bouquet requested, but there can be two. When you add your name, please indicate whether your donation is in honor or memory of someone or an event in your life so that Pastor can recognize that in our bulletins.

If you would like the flowers given to someone who hasn't been able to attend services, please let me know. The recipients are always so grateful to be remembered by us! Your prayers for them are always welcome; cards or calls are important, too. The visible witness of our care for each other in gifting another member with Sunday's flowers is truly a ministry to them.

How about our updated alter? We have Chet Rochette and his band of helpers for doing a great job. Thank You.



Pastor's Prayer List

Following is a list of some of the Peace family that are on the prayer list.

Linda Priem is doing better and looks forward to attending services in the future.

Gene O'Conner is doing OK. Would love a phone call.

Hope Kurth is healing slowly from her recent surgeries . Hopes to be back to work soon.



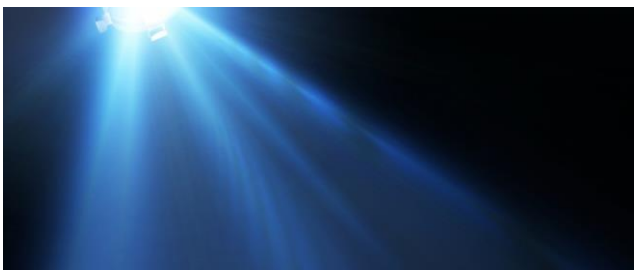
11-04 Thelma Grams
 11-10 Jean Crapps
 11-12 Carole Tobin
 11-18 Carol Hummel

11-4-1974 Lew&Sharon Zavernik

12-02 Jean Bozak
 12-09 Linda Neblock
 12-14 Peggy Dow
 12-20 James Tobin
 12-21 Gene Lutz
 12-25 Don Conner
 12-29 Jeremy McKee

12-16-1972 Bill & Linda Neblock
 12-28-1990 Don & Peggy Dow

Thank You to Randy Priem for the music during our wordship service.



The McKee Family

On Reformation Day 2020 Pastor Terry will be celebrating 16 years as shepherd

here at Peace. A good time to update information about him and his family. Pastor was born in Alliance Ohio, his family did move to Florida when he was 2, partly because he would turn blue and scream when they took him outside and part his Dad was involved with minor league baseball. They moved to Brooksville when he was 6. Cindy was born in Gibson City Illinois, her family moved to Florida when she was 6. They lived in Orlando until 1970 when they moved to Brooksville. Pastor and Cindy knew each other in High School, their brothers were best friends.

They met again in 1978 and married October 15, 1978.

Their Daughter Nicole Marie was born October 8, 1980 and died October 8, 1980.

Their Son Jeremy Clay worked at an Art Gallery in High School and several years after he own a home in Brooksville until he joined the Air Force. After injuring his femurs, he moved to Dunnellon. He went to Culinary School. He now is a Registered Pharmacy Technician, he works at Brashiers Pharmacy in Inverness. He owns a home in Beverly Hills and has a cat named Cash and a dog named Duke. don't have a date for the wedding yet. Jeremy, Sam and Grace are Purple Belts in JiuJitsu working on their Brown Belts. They all also are instructors. Grace teaches a Woman's Self Defense Class. They are all plus Pastor also are in a Kali class. Cindy goes also she assists the instructor plus provide dinner after class. Cindy's dad Roger and stepmother Linda are doing well. Roger is 91 and has not really slowed down. With Covid-19 they do not stray far from home. They live in Brooksville. Cindy's mom Barbara died in 2011, a red-light runner hit their truck and Linda's 1st husband died from cancer. Pastor's mom died in 1980 from complications from Parkinson decease and his dad died in 2003 from severe diabetes.

Their Son Samuel Clay graduated in the top 5% of his high school class. He graduated from the University of South Florida with a Batcheler Degree in Bio Chemistry. He works at Gorman Co which is a wholesale provider of plumbing, pool, septic, and industrial supplies of contractors in Inverness and the surrounding area. He owns a home in Crystal River he has a dog named Max, 5 cats, a bearded dragon, and a fish. Sam is engaged to Grace Cassens. Grace also works at Gorman company.. They met at JiuJitsu Class. They



The need is great and we are still collecting non perishable food for our pantry.

Toys for Tots



The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is directed by the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve, with the assistance of his staff, from the Marine Forces Reserve.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Marine Toys for Tots. An IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity, it serves as the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program. The Foundation provides the leadership, funding, and support needed for successful annual toy collection and distribution campaigns.

Local campaigns are conducted annually in over 800 communities covering all 50 states. Marine Corps League Detachments and Local Community Organizations (generally veteran Marines) located in local communities. One individual, either a member of a Marine Corps League Detachment, or of a local community organization, is designated the Toys for Tots Coordinator for that community. The Coordinator is responsible to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation for

planning, organizing and conducting the campaign in his/her community. Dunnellon is part of the greater Ocala and West Marion county community. The Community Coordinator is Patrick Joynt, a Marine Corps Reserve Captain. The Dunnellon Community Coordinator is myself, Robert Sullivan, a retired Air Force veteran.

The local toy collection campaign begins in October and lasts until mid to late December. Toy distribution takes place in mid to late December. Volunteers from the Dunnellon Police Department manage toy distribution for the Dunnellon area. Over the years, the Dunnellon distribution volunteers have established close working relationships with social welfare agencies, churches and other local community agencies which are well qualified to identify the needy children in the community and play important roles in the distribution of the toys.

Members of the community may drop new, unwrapped toys in collection boxes located in local businesses and churches, including Peace Lutheran Church, which are then picked up by the local Coordinator and taken to a central warehouse in Ocala, where the toys are sorted by age and gender by other volunteers, and then sent to the local distributing centers. At Christmas, the volunteers at the Dunnellon Police Department distribute the toys to the less fortunate children in the Dunnellon area.

While Toys for Tots Coordinators and other volunteers organize, coordinate, and manage the campaign, their ultimate success depends on the support of the local community and the generosity of the people who donate toys.

Thank You, Bob Sullivan

Those Serving November 2020

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Trudy Kreuzer

Lay reader: Linda Ryun

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Mona Bermudez

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeters: Hope & Garry Kurth

Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz

Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee

Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg

Greeter: Linda Williams

Lay reader: Jackie Hucker

Counting team: Linda Ryun & Eugene O'Connell

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Ushers: Sharon Zavertrnik & Linda Williams

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Bill Langstaff

Lay reader: Sam McKee

Counting team: Linda Azwell & Linda Williams

Thanksgiving Eve, November 25, 2020

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Greeter: Linda Ryun

Lay reader: Hope Kurth

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Ushers: Bill Langstaff & Bob Sullivan

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Carla Ruttinger

Lay reader: Trina Ruttinger

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Altar Guild November

Linda Ryun

Those Serving December 2020

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Sheryl Lutz

Lay reader: Bob Sullivan

Counting team: Linda Ryun & Eugene O'Connell

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Ushers: Gene Lutz & Mona Bermudez

Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee

Greeter: Jackie Hucker

Lay reader: Linda Azwell

Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee

Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg

Greeter: Trudy Kreuzer

Lay reader: Becky Williams

Counting team: Linda Azwell & Linda Williams

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams

Readers: Grace Cassens, Samuel McKee, Trina Ruttinger

Christmas Day, December 25, 2020

Ushers: Garry & Hope Kurth

Greeters: Bob & Virginia Sullivan

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Ushers: Bob Sullivan & Bill Langstaff

Communion assistant: Samuel McKee

Greeter: Trina Ruttinger

Lay reader: Linda Ryun

Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Altar Guild December 2020

Cindy & Sam McKee

