

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

January 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

Holiday blessings and a Happy and blessed New Year!

First of all, my family and I want to thank everyone for the thoughts, prayers and gifts during the holiday season. It is our joy and pleasure to be part of the Peace family.

January 2016, everything begins anew? If that was only so when it comes to the aches and pains, the bills, the world we live in with all the violence and hate.

We just celebrated the holiday season and in fact we still are in the Sundays after Christmas. So as the world gets back to its usual grind we as Christians are still celebrating the birth of Jesus.

And with that, we also realize that each day we do begin anew, in Christ. In Christ we have hope and new life, we are set free from the power of sin, death and the devil. That baby born on Christmas morning came to set us free not just today but for all eternity. So we may still have to deal with the aches and pains, bills and worldly problems but they have no mastery over us as children of God. As I shared on Christmas Eve it's not about the "presents" but about the "presence" of Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.

The good news is that Christ is present with us all the time we don't have to wait to December 25th each year. He has come and promises to come again. But until that time he promises to never leave us alone. We live by faith walking in the presence of Christ

each day. So happy New Year and may each day be made anew in Christ!

As we begin the new year we will install the new church council and officers of the LWML. We also want to thank those who served so faithfully this past year. We will install the new council and LWML officers on January 10, 2016.

May God continue to bless our Peace family in 2016 using us to continue His Kingdom work here in our community.

Pastor Terry

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL! I hope you all had a great Christmas, and 2016 is a good year for you! Thank you again to everyone who kept our church running this past year. Plus, thank you again to those who have just “come aboard” as it were. We all really appreciate both the retiring crew as well as the new one! We also have lots of new folks to meet and get to know better! Our new member class is the largest we’ve had in several years! If you’re not sure if

someone has ever been here before, just ask them! All you have to say is, “Hi! My name’s _____, I’m still learning everyone’s name yet- what’s yours?” If you are married, point him or her out- puts faces with names they see in the Bulletin or the Directory. It’s really easy! You could even ask if they live here, and if not, where? We are looking for folks who’d like to be on the committee to recommend the best way to spend the money we received from the state. Now that the well and sign are finished (money we earmarked in our settlement), and some other repairs and upgrade needs have been taken care of (carpet, tables, etc), we have to decide what to do with what’s left. Ideally, we should have the Kitchen Stewards, Trustees, Treasurer (to keep her in the loop), someone with investing experience, plus 2-3 other folks from our congregation who would like to have some input as to how we spend the money and what to do with what we don’t spend. The committee’s recommendations would be first presented to the Council, and then to the congregation. This is an appointed position, so please see me if you’d like to be part of it. We really MUST get started on this, so if you are interested, please speak up! Once we have this committee’s budget recommendations, we can then set up different committees for those areas to wisely use those monies (ex: kitchen budget, upgrade budget, outreach, or whatever is decided on).

I think that's all for now- continue to pray for each other, and God's Blessings to All!
In Jesus' Service,

Sheryl Lutz, Church Congregation
President

**PEACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

December 14th, 2015

Present: Sheryl Lutz, Bud Koehlinger, Rita Cowan, Becky Williams, Doug O'Hara, Ron Cowan, Jackie Hucker, Eugene Lutz, Liz Koehlinger, Pastor Terry McKee, Vic Rochette, Jennifer Rochette and Jan Barker.

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

Correspondence: We received a thank you note from Covenant Children's Home for our LWML gift of \$50. Also received was a request from Helping Hands for funds.

Minutes: The minutes were accepted as written.

Reports:

Treasurer: Rita Cowan presented the General Ledger Summary and the Check Register. There was some discussion and questions. Rita explained all and the treasurers report was accepted.

Financial Secretary: Becky Williams explained there was a \$10 discrepancy with her Fund Summary and the Treasurers General Ledger. This involves the envelope total and the plate offering total. This was due to an error by the counting team. The end result is that the total of the two accounts remains the same. The financial secretary report was then accepted.

Trustees: Gene Lutz said we received the final release from the DEP regarding the new well. Regarding the old well, Gene spoke with Smokey's and it was recommended to keep it capped. Gene received another estimate from Car Port Solutions. We will need a contractor and a permit. Putting insulation on the pipes was discussed in case of a hard freeze. Gene will replace the chain link post/wood fence behind the kitchen door. Gene has also been researching surge protectors. Bar None Electric has given us an estimate of \$823. This does not include the phone lines. There will be three surge protectors. One for the Well, and one for each

electrical panel. Bud made a motion that the trustees can use their own best judgement in making decisions. Rita Cowan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Elders: Nothing to report.

SCRIP: Pastor said there is a church member who may be willing to take on this responsibility.

Pastor: The VHS/DVD player broke so Pastor bought a new one. The Publicity Director, Liz Koehlinger, is in need of a new camera. The one she currently has does not take pictures as clearly as needed. Pastor recommended talking with Jeremy McKee since he recently purchased one. Pastor mentioned he needs someone to take care of the music on the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Jan Barker volunteered to

New Business: Doug O`Hara made a motion to donate \$250 to the Covenant Children`s Home. Bud Koehlinger 2nd the motion. All were in favor. This money will be taken from the Missions Fund.

do the music.

Old Business: The new smart TV will be put on hold until the New Year. We will take up an offering for this in the future.

President`s Report: Everything has already been discussed.

Doug made a motion to adjourn. Gene Lutz seconded. All were in favor. The meeting closed with the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Barker, Secretary.

Those Serving in January 2016

Sunday, January 3, 2016

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeters: Linda Ryun
Lay reader: Sam McKee
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean
Methlie

Sunday, January 10, 2016

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Bob Sullivan
Greeter: Liz & Bud Koehlinger
Lay reader: Barbara Miesen
Counting team: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda
Williams

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Ushers: Gen Lutz & Bud Koehlinger
Communion assistant: Doug O'Hara
Greeter: Sharon Zavertnik
Lay reader: Ken Buschman
Counting team: Bob Sullivan & Jim Lynch

Sunday, January 24, 2016

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg
Greeters: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Jay Poffenbaugh
Counting team: Linda Ryun & Jackie
Hucker

Sunday, January 31, 2016

Ushers: Doug O'Hara & Ken Buschman
Communion assistant: Samuel McKee
Greeters: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Becky Williams
Counting team: Ron & Rita Cowan

Altar Guild January 2016

Carla & Tricia Ruttinger

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNTING TEAM PROCEDURES
2016**

- Gather offerings and attendance sheet from Sanctuary. Sign the second line as having counted the monies.
- Sort as follows: **Member envelopes and plate monies** (cash and non-member pew envelopes), and **Miscellaneous income** (SBA Tower, Weight Watchers, Yoga, Al-Anon/AA).
- **Counter #1: Member envelopes** (includes designated gifts, flower fund, etc.): **Open and make certain money inside matches what is written on the outside of the envelope.** Write the amount on the front center, if it is not there. If a **check**, write **check number** in upper right corner of envelope. If **cash**, write **CASH in upper right corner**. Keep "check" envelopes separate from "cash" envelopes and checks separate from cash. Run tapes for both stacks and be certain they balance with each other (check amount to check envelopes and cash amount to cash envelopes). Put the combined total on the attendance sheet on the first line, **Member Envelopes**.
- **Counter #2: Plate offerings:** Sort cash from checks. Keep separate from member cash and checks until end of balancing. Enter total on attendance sheet.
- **Counter #2: Miscellaneous income:** List checks and/or cash amounts from **SBA, WW, Yoga, Al-Anon/AA** on lower portion of attendance sheet.
- **Counter #2: Men's Club check:** When the Men's Club receives a check from recycling, give Sam McKee the **dollar** amount on the check from the cash amount to be deposited, deduct the dollar amount from the cash to be deposited and list the check with the others, including it on the attendance sheet as part of the **plate** offering.
- **Deposit slip: List all checks by number and amount. Deposit slip must be done in ink.**
- **Balancing: Attendance sheet total must match deposit slip total.** Run tapes of member envelopes (checks and cash), all plate monies (checks and cash) and miscellaneous income and a tape of the deposit slip. Please keep all tapes with the bundle of envelopes.
- **Combining:** When all parts balance, combine all checks and all cash. Make certain all checks have been listed on deposit slip and stamped "**For Deposit Only**" on the back. On the back of the deposit slip, write the amounts of each denomination of cash.
- **Make only one copy of the deposit slip (front and back) and make 3 copies of the attendance sheet.** The copy of the deposit slip, the **original** and one copy of the attendance sheet, the empty envelopes, tapes and check

copies are for Financial Secretary Becky Williams. Please leave this bundle in the top supply file drawer in the library or bottom right-hand tan file drawer in the office. **Copy #2** of the attendance sheet goes to the Treasurer Rita Cowan. Please leave this in the top file tray on the desk in the office. If you do not have access to the office, leave Rita's copy with Becky's in the supply drawer or put it in Cowan's mail slot. **Copy #3** of the attendance sheet is for Congregation President Sheryl Lutz and should be left in Lutz's mail slot.

- **Deposit:** Put the original deposit slip, checks, and cash in a Brannen Bank pouch. Add the **Scrip** deposit, when available. The key for the bank's depository is on the orange coil in the supply drawer. Please make the deposit and return the key the next time you are at the church. Becky will pick up the pouch and deposit receipt.

A Message from the Financial Secretary

Becky Williams

Completing the term of Financial Secretary Ron Doan, beginning in August, and being elected to the position for the next two years is definitely a learn-as-you-go experience! It continues to be an interesting challenge recording

giving, issuing envelopes for 2016 and getting ready to provide you with your annual statement of gifts to the Lord's work here at Peace.

Because we begin each year attempting to alphabetize the membership and assign sequential envelope numbers most of you will have a different envelope number for 2016. No one knows what name is associated with a number merely by seeing the envelope in the plate, so it would really be most helpful if you would put the amount of your offering on the designated line and if you remember to do it, the counters find it helpful if you will put your check number in the upper right-hand corner of the envelope. If for any reason you are uncomfortable with either or both of these things, please don't do them. Your indicating the amount on the envelope serves as a double-check against the cash or check which is enclosed. If the amount and/or check number are not indicated, the counters will add them. We all want to strive for accuracy.

I would like to have two or three additional volunteers to count the offerings either as a team or as a substitute. If you would like to consider doing this, please ask me about it. I can provide you with a copy of the procedures to help you with determining whether this can be a way for you to serve the Lord. The four current teams count one Sunday a month. Thank you for prayerfully

considering being an offering counter.

There are individual offering envelopes in each box to defray the expense of the envelopes themselves, for a subscription to *The Lutheran Witness* magazine, and for the quarterly issues of the *Portals of Prayer* devotional booklet. Your contribution towards these items will be greatly appreciated as we all work together to balance our income and expenses.

Serve the Lord with gladness and come into His presence with thanksgiving!



LCML Message

***The ladies of Peace L.W.M.L.
December 2015***

The L.W.M.L. business meeting was a short one last month. Many of us were out of town with previous commitments or appointments. Those of us who were present set to work assembling cookie trays for our home

bound friends and those that needed a little cheering-up through a ruff moment in their life. Naturally there were some broken cookies that just weren't worthy to go on the trays, so we disposed of them properly.

The Peace L.W.M.L. ladies also sent Christmas gifts of money to local and world charity's last month.

Thanks to Thelma and Becky who found a great price on 12 new white table cloths for the tables in our fellowship hall; Christmas dinner will be even more special. They were also a donation to Peace by L.W.M.L. After our December meeting we all gathered for lunch and good conversation at the Sub Shop in Dunnellon. We enjoyed a pleasant day.

Our January meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on the 4th. Please plan it attend. I`d love to see any new ladies or friends of our present members attend. I`d also love to have our winter friends join us in fellowship.

I got an E-mail invitation from Forrest Lutheran to join them in a prayer service on January 30th at 10:00 A.M. The theme is "Wanted: Workers in God`s Harvest Field". Please hold the date open. I`d like as many ladies of Peace to attend as

possible.

Sheryl Lutz LWML Society Facilitator

God`s Blessings to all in 2016: Linda W.

TURN TRASH INTO CASH!

Please remember your LWML's project to raise funds for its 2019 National Convention! All **you** have to do is donate your *empty inkjet printer cartridges, empty laser printer cartridges, used cell phones, laptops, digital cameras, e-Readers, tablets, GPS systems, and Scientific Calculators (please include power cords for everything if possible)*. We'll collect them and turn them into a company – for cash- that will safely recycle them. It's easy and it's the right thing to do. Just bring your contributions to Sheryl Lutz or leave them on the "recycle/info table" on the far side of the Fellowship Hall, and they will be collected. Your LWML thanks you, and so will the environment!



Best wishes on your special day

To:

Birthdays

01.02 Pat Doan
01.23 Eileen Nuce
01.29 Stephen Cassan

Anniversaries

01.05.1957 Ken & Peggy Buschman
01.14.1956 Robert & Thelma Grams

day on Saturday and Sunday when they cannot rely on the schools providing meals. PEACE`s next packing date is February 18th 2016. Please let me know who will be able to "stuff" the backpacks on that day. Thank you for all the donations to "Change for Change". Every penny counts.

Thank you! Jan Barker



Hi PEACE family.

Hoping all had a wonderful and Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. On a sad note, the Vice President of Food 4 Kids has resigned due to health issues. Also, the President will be resigning at the end of the school year in May. Therefore, we are in dire need of volunteers to take on these positions. If anyone would like to attend our next monthly Food 4 Kids meeting on January 15th 2016, please let me know. Maybe God is calling you to help with this wonderful organization? :) Presently we are feeding 205 children 3 meals a

First Saturday.
Jackie Hucker

A big thank you to all who came out December 5th to meet and greet the community. We gave out Christmas themed mugs, which was a big hit to all who received them. We also handed out candy canes, books, and information about Peace Lutheran Church. We do this the 1st Saturday of each month to let the community get acquainted with us, and encourage them to attend church. We will not set up in January, but will continue in February. We set up in front of the Lions Club building in Dunnellon. See you there!!

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

Here we are at the turn of another calendar year and an entire month into the Church Year which began with Advent. We are in the Epiphany season. The Feast of the Epiphany, a celebration of the visit of the Magi to the Infant Jesus, is Wednesday, January 6th.

The colors on the altar and pulpit remain white until the second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 17th, when they change to green. White symbolizes perfection, joy and purity; green reminds us of our life in Christ and that we receive nourishment from His Word providing for our growth in faith. Sundays are numbered "after Epiphany" until the beginning of Lent.

An annual reminder, especially if you are the reader for the day:

www.betterdaysarecoming.com is a great resource for correctly pronouncing names of persons or places in the Bible and has other interesting information. Check it out! You may become engrossed.

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 put it in this article. It's been quite a while since someone had a question, but I was asked when Christmas was first celebrated. This is what I found:

The first recorded celebration of the birth of Christ was in the year 336. For the first 300 years of the Christian church,

birthdays were not emphasized, not even Christ's. Death days were more significant because that meant joining the kingdom of heaven. Christ's conception was celebrated before His birth date. The Feast of the Annunciation was celebrated on March 25th as early as 731 and therefore His birth was eventually celebrated on December 25th.

Here's another website to engross you: www.Christianity.com This is where I found the information on when the Christ's birth was first celebrated.

*In All Things,
Give Thanks*
I Thessalonians 5:18



The Gospel via Social Media

Liz Koehlinger

This article refers primarily to Facebook. However, the safety tips would also apply to other social media.

Contrary to many opinions, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) is not all bad although it gets a bad rap about everything from privacy issues to the presence of [sexual predators](#). However, a Facebook account used in

the right way can be a safe way to connect with friends and family – **and to spread the gospel.**

When I post something on the Peace Lutheran page, I can see when it was “liked” by, or shared by, people in the Dunnellon area. When it spreads to 20, 30, people (or more) I have no idea where these people reside – but the message of Peace is being shared. We have had responses and comments from some remote areas of the world, so we know it works!

You can form a relationship with others by sharing enough about your life and your interests that people will feel that they know and respect you without getting too personal. If there's stuff you don't want people to know or see, don't post it. It's that simple.

Here are some safety tips:

1.) Do not place information such as address, phone, or date of birth on your profile. Just enter a town or a county for place of residence. I show an address and map on the Peace page, but not on my personal page. You don't want strangers to know where you live, or when you are away.

2.) Be careful when posting photographs of your children or grandchildren. Some people should not have the picture, name, age, sex and location of your child or grandchild.

3.) Don't think your page is private among your friends and family.

Anyone, anywhere can access your page although they can't post on it.

4.) Don't accept all *Friend Requests*. Do “friend” everyone you know and trust in order to increase your outreach, but be aware that not every *Friend Request* is legitimate.

5.) Keep your house clean. Monitor your page frequently and remove anything you don't want connected with you,.

6.) Have good virus software for your computer and keep it updated.

7.) Check your spelling and grammar. You may mistakenly type a word that is offensive.

8.) Don't provide too much information. You can post a prayer or a prayer request without the details or even the full name of your friend. Respect the privacy of others..

9.) Avoid Apps. Every time an app comes in I immediately turn that one off. Each one is a potential place for data leakage.

10.) Facebook makes information about safety and your settings. easily available: www.facebook.com/safety and www.facebook.com/safety/tools/

If you have questions about setting up and using a Facebook account I will be happy to help and answer questions. I hope that more members of Peace will soon be able to spread our message, including the items posted on the Peace Facebook page, and the links to Bible passages which Pastor McKee posts on his page.



Outreach Tip of the Month
 From Lutheran Hour Ministries

Are You Prepared for the Adventure?

The adventure - you know it well, it's found at the check-out line this time of year. We stand waiting, over-hearing all the greetings that occur right in front of us: "Happy Holidays!" "Merry Christmas!" Many of these are paired with the generic reply, "To you too." It makes us wonder what should I say when I greet this person? Do I wish them a "Merry Christmas"? How will they respond if I do?

Our hearts and minds have been prepared for this. The Babe Himself, Jesus, has prepared us for this adventure! Each day we spend time

[reading His Word](#), receiving His gifts of Word and Sacrament, we are enabled with His truth to greet each other.

God loved us so much He took on skin and bone in Jesus, so that we, in our skin and bone, can live together with Him eternally. No matter where we greet people-at church, in our home, or out and about in our community-that message will never change.

No matter what greeting you choose this time of year, be ready for the adventure. You are well prepared for it; go out and share the greatest story ever told.

Merry Christmas!

P.S. Or go a step further and wish them a "Blessed Christmas." or a "Joyous Christmas." Maybe they will be surprised enough to stop and talk with you.

Liz

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