

Peace Offerings

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

May 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

As May arrives we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday; all special days in lives of Christians. Jesus' work of salvation here on earth is now complete so He returns to His heavenly throne so that the Holy Spirit, the Councilor can come, that was Pentecost. For us this is great news because it is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring us to faith through the Gospel and then to guide and direct us as we live our faith as children of God.

We are not called to live our faith idly as we wait for the Lord to return. We are to actively live our faith; we are to be active in sharing

and caring for one another. It means not letting the world and Satan guide and direct us but instead being in God's Word so as to grow as Christians and so that we might be better equipped to face the challenges and opportunities that come our way. And this we do with the help of the Holy Spirit our councilor.

So many in the world and sadly in the church reject the Holy Spirit's help not realizing that without Him we are lost and have no hope. This is why Christ returned to heaven when His work of redemption was done. Now having justified us by His blood we need the Holy Spirit to daily sanctify us until the day we

walk through the doorway of death.

Many believe and teach once saved always saved but Scripture shows us that this is not true. Just like if we do not feed and take care of our bodies we will die so to with our faith. If we don't feed and nourish ourselves with God's Word and Sacraments or exercise our faith by living our faith then this too leads to death, spiritual and eternal death.

My family was out to dinner the other night and sitting at the table next to us was several couples and as their meal was winding down the one decided to tell the others about God, according to him and how we are just one of God's experiments. Scripture never entered into his conversation because he really wasn't interested in salvation or eternity, or for that matter God or having a relationship with God, in fact he let everyone know that there is no such thing as hell. So nobody needs to worry. At that point, it was clear whose disciple he truly was, one of Satan's biggest lies is that there is no hell.

Beliefs and conversations like this are why we as God's witnesses

need to be prepared and willing to share the truth of Scripture. Christ, Himself tells us to ***"go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*** But many chose to sit idly by and do nothing for themselves or for others.

Christ lived died and rose again so that we might have life and have it abundantly now and for all eternity. And then sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper as we not only live our lives but as we help others to live theirs and come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior also.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came bringing the gift of faith to those early Christians and now He brings it to us through the Gospel. And He doesn't just drop it off He stays to keep us in faith and helps us grow each day so that we can be share it with others. So let us grow and go together in Christ! Amen

Pastor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

May, and almost time for summer! I'm looking forward to some "down-time" over the summer, but miss our snow bird friends, too. One by one, they are packing up and going "home" (although, I think they are just going away for the summer, and this is "home")!

I am still looking for a new Vice President. Pray on this, and see me if you'd be willing to step up to this position-I will appoint you. (Read your Church Constitution if you want to check out your duties, and what would be expected of you).

I will be stepping down from the music at the end of this year (or sooner if someone steps up to take over). We really need about five regular "players" to play the service disc for each service. You don't have to create/make anything- Pastor does that-, you simply play it on Sundays and other special services. With six, everyone would only have to do 2 months/year! Please pray on this as well, and see me if interested. I will teach you all you need to know. I think that's all for now. Please continue praying for each other, and God's Blessings to All!

In Jesus' Service, Sheryl Lutz,
Church Congregation President

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting Summary April 11th 2016

Present: Sheryl Lutz, Jan Barker, Rita Cowan, Rebekah Williams, Doug O'Hara, Bud Koehlinger, Bob Sullivan, Ron Cowan, Jackie Hucker, Vic Rochette, Linda Williams, Liz Koehlinger, Rev. Terry McKee.
Guest: Jennifer Rochette.
President Sheryl Lutz called the meeting to order. Pastor McKee opened the meeting with prayer.

Correspondence: A letter was received from Lutheran Services Florida. They provide residential youth shelter for runaway or homeless children. They are asking for a donation.

Minutes: The minutes were then accepted.

Treasurers Report: The report was accepted.

Financial Secretary: The report was accepted.

Trustees: Vic Rochette submitted his report. Please see attached copy. A fourth trustee, Steve Casson will be inducted by Sheryl Lutz. They have decided to rotate the church cleaning person from monthly to weekly.

Pastor`s Report: The spaghetti dinner is scheduled for 5-20-16. We need people to commit to helping. A sign-up sheet will be put on the bulletin board. It was decided to charge \$7 per person. The time will be 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

Pastor talked of the Bible Sticks for our military. Linda Williams made a motion to use 10% of our money made from our rummage sale, which would be \$84.75. Vic Rochette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Also, Jackie Hucker applied and received confirmation from Thrivent for funds for this cause. Jackie stated she would write a check to Peace Lutheran Church now, and then keep the \$250 from Thrivent as reimbursement since the donation must be made by the end of April for the donation to be matched.

SCRIP: Our order for 3-20-16 was \$1335.00 and our profit for this order is \$69.43

Old Business: Our rummage sale profit was \$845.75. Regarding “Boomtown Days”, the LWML will be baking items for a bake sale. The men will be handing out New Testaments.

New Business: Liz K. proposed making a new website. She supplied an estimate from Nature Coast Web

Design and Marketing. They will charge a one-time fee of \$200 to design the website. Then a \$40 per month fee (requires 2 year contract) and the \$150/year after the first 2 years. Much discussion followed. Liz will provide references from present users of this company for the council`s review. This will be reviewed again at the next council meeting.

Presidents Report: Sheryl thanked all who helped with getting the graphics running on our new sign. Also for everyone who helped with the rummage sale. Sheryl stated that she will be stepping down as a music person as of Dec 31st 2016. Jan Barker stated she would need at least one backup person when Sheryl steps down (or sooner if possible). Also, Sheryl will not be seeking a second term for President. Lastly, we are still looking for a Vice President. Bob Sullivan made a motion to adjourn. Doug O`Hara seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned with the singing of the doxology. Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Barker, Secretary

Those Serving in May 2016

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Ushers: Gen Lutz & Bud Koehlinger
Communion assistant: James Spiegelberg
Greeters: Liz Koehlinger
Lay reader: Becky Williams
Counting team: Sheryl Lutz & Jean Methlie

Thursday, May 5, 2016 Ascension

Ushers: Sharon Zavertnik & Linda Williams
Greeter: Jackie Hucker
Lay reader: Linda Ryun
Counting team: Becky Williams & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Ushers: Jeremy & Sam McKee
Communion assistant: Bud Koehlinger
Greeter: Linda Williams
Lay reader: Bud Koehlinger
Counting team: Ron & Rita Cowan

Sunday, May 15, 2016

Ushers: Bob & Virginia Sullivan
Communion assistant: Doug O'Hara
Greeter: Pat & Ron Doan
Lay reader: Virginia Sullivan
Counting team: Bob Sullivan & Linda Williams

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Ushers: Bill Langstaff & Ken Buschman
Communion assistant: Bob Sullivan
Greeters: Bunnie & George Daniels
Lay reader: Sheryl Lutz
Counting team: Linda Ryun & Jackie Hucker

Sunday, May 29, 2016

Ushers: Ron & Rita Cowan
Communion assistant: Jeremy McKee
Greeters: Sharon Zavertnik
Lay reader: Jackie Hucker
Counting team: Steve & Sharon Cassan

Altar Guild May 2016

Cindy & Sam McKee

A Word (or Two) from the Financial Secretary

Submitted by Becky Williams

Again, a big "Thank You!" is extended to each of you who remember to write the amount of your offering on your envelope and kudos, too, for writing your check number in the upper right-hand corner of the envelope. Unless you are an offering counter or input the information into our computer program as I do each week, you cannot imagine how helpful this is and how much more quickly we can do our individual tasks and have greater accuracy, too.

Non-members who regularly attend and use pew envelopes are encouraged to request a numbered envelope, especially if they take a tax deduction for charitable contributions and would like a year-end statement of their giving. Please ask me to issue envelopes to you or note that on the pew envelope you use for your offering.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." I Corinthians 16:2

SCRIP REPORT

WANTED – PARTICIPANTS

Many of you may be unsure of trying something new but I can assure you, it is easier than you think.

Three examples:

1. If you budget \$300 for food monthly you can purchase (3) Walmart, Publix or Winn Dixie cards and Scrip will pay a percentage to Peace Lutheran Church.
2. If you plan to eat out this month, you can purchase cards for Restaurants.
3. If you have Birthdays or gifts to buy, why not buy Scrip Cards and help our Church?

I have printed out instructions on how to register on line step-by-step and will help you do it if you need help. This month we had two new enrollees. Paper forms are always available on the bulletin board as well notification of items on sale.

So, please consider placing orders with Scrip in the coming months and let's see how much money we can deposit in the Scrip Account. Thank you for supporting this program.

Barbara Miesen,
Scrip Coordinator



THE LADIES OF PEACE
L.W.M.L.

It was a busy month for the Peace LWML ladies, starting with the “Spring Rally” on the 2nd of April, hosted by the ladies of “Our Redeemer” in Ocala. Four of our members were able to attend. It was a wonderfully well-organized rally, attended by over 50 members. The 2nd was also “First Saturday” in Dunnellon. Jackie and Becky were all primed to erect the tent until the rains came, forcing them to abandon the idea until next month. On the 9th, the L.W.M.L. together with the help from many other members of Peace, set-up for, and had another successful “Rummage Sale”. Thanks to everyone for their hard work, and a big thanks to Thelma who seems to keep running like the “Energizer Bunny”. If it wasn’t a full month already, the ladies set-up a tent and had a “bake sale “at “Boom Town Days” the following weekend. With everything finally complete for April it’s time to move on to May. The regular L.W.M.L. meeting is scheduled for 10:00 Monday the 2nd. This will be the last meeting until fall, as a lot of us will be traveling north to

visit relatives and friends. On the following day, an outing to Tuscowilla Park in Ocala and lunch out is planned. Information is posted on the bulletin board.

Not necessarily, an L.W.M.L. function; but please remember the “Spaghetti Supper” on the 20th. Any and all help is welcome.

God’s Blessing: Linda W.

READY, SET, RECYCLE!

Your LWML is collecting *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)* to redeem for cash. The cash will be used to pay for some of the expenses associated with hosting the LWML’s National Convention to be held in Birmingham in 2019. Just bring your contributions to church and put them in the box (on the back table in Fellowship Hall). It’s easy and it’s good for the environment, too. See Sheryl if you have any questions. We (as a church) also collect can tabs & used eyeglasses (also on back table), aluminum cans (outside back door) and paper (dumpster in parking lot). Everything we collect brings in money for us, and helps the environment, too. Thanks!



Best wishes on your special day

To:

Hi Peace Family

Birthdays

- 05.03 Elizabeth (Liz) Koehlinger
- 05.06 Peggy (Margaret) Buschman
- 05.09 Tricia Ruttinger
- 05.18 Linda Ryun
- 05.21 Barbara Miesen

Anniversaries

- 05.22.1989 Chet & Diane Rochette

Thank you all for helping with this wonderful organization this past school year.! There will be a "volunteer appreciation luncheon" at Holy Faith on May 12th. I am unsure of the time but will let you know when I know. If anyone is interested in attending, please tell me. We still are looking for a new President, so if you, or anybody you know might be interested, please contact me. Happy Summer Peace family!

Jan Barker

First Saturday

April showers kept us from setting up our display and distribution of Christian materials. However, we did set up the canopy on Boom Town Saturday with a bake sale. Join us Saturday, May 7 in front of the Lion's club in Dunnellon. We welcome donations of Christian materials to give our visitors. If you want to donate, see Becky or Jackie. If you

haven't come to a 1st Saturday, we hope you will take the time to do so. The vendors have almost everything imaginable. Come and share your happy faces!

Boomtown Day Report
Submitted by Becky Williams

Our Boomtown site was in a great location, not only for distributing New Testaments and bakery sales but for people-watching. An added bonus was that we were right next to the access to the stage where the pageant entrants were...from tiny tots to Queen of the Rainbow candidates.

Over the course of the nearly eight hours our booth was staffed, the Men's Club distributed six New Testaments, three Spanish language New Testaments, at least six white yard crosses, brochures on our church and Lutheranism, and several small booklets written in poetry form for children and titled "Do You Know Who Jesus Is?" If you have a young neighbor or grandchild you'd like to give one of these little gems, please ask me for one.

Bakery sales were steady. Between the funds the LWML received at Boomtown and on Sunday when they set out what was still available, they were able to purchase one BibleStick

and have \$65 to bank until November when they will gift several organizations. Thank you for providing baked goods, buying them, and enabling the LWML to bless others.

There were 14 members of Peace who staffed our site in two-hour shifts in order for our church to have a presence at Boomtown and I am most grateful for each of you that you spent the time on Saturday, April 16, to participate in this community pride event. It is my personal opinion that we need to take every opportunity available to us to make residents, snowbirds and other visitors aware that we are here even after over 50 years. Our monthly First Saturday presence was rained out on April 2nd.

Boomtown was a blessing in that we had more participation from members, a beautiful day, and many more people in attendance.

Thank you, everyone!

NEEDED:

1. VICE PRESIDENT NEEDED NOW- Please see Sheryl or Pastor
2. MUSIC ASSISTANTS NEEDED NOW- Please see Sheryl
3. MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR NEXT YEAR- Sheryl is stepping down end of year
- 4.

Mouse Droppings . . .

This little mouse cannot roar, but if I could, I would! The Prayer Garden is just beautiful. It is so lush! And, it is a lovely place for my little family to spend time together in the evenings. We'll leave the other hours of the day for you to enjoy it...and that way you needn't be concerned about stepping on us.

We've checked out the rest of the property, as well. The playground fence has been touched up. The mousekids pointed that out to us. I'm so glad they were not out there while that was being done or there would be tiny little mouse prints all around the building! Even though I don't drive, I have noticed that the driveway has been restriped and the parking bumpers have been rebuilt. They get bumped into a lot over time and having them repaired gives such a nice impression of the care for and pride in the facilities that you have. I know you'll thank everyone you've seen doing all of this work. They've spent countless hours out in the heat of the day

maintaining everything for you.

I hope you've read this issue of "Peace Offerings" early enough to join Becky and Jackie and Mrs. Littlemouse and me on Tuesday, May 3rd, to look at the art installations at Tuscowilla Park and go to lunch together afterwards. If not, they tell me they already have another day trip in mind to take the Singing Rivers Tour of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee rivers right here in Dunnellon. They'll be posting information on the bulletin board with a date sometime this summer and it will be in the summer issue of the newsletter, too.

We're looking forward to the Spaghetti Supper on Friday, May 20th. It is always delicious! We aren't allowed to help with anything except picking up crumbs, but hope you'll find somewhere that you can contribute. See you there!

Happy Mother's Day to all of you moms from the Littlemouse Family!

Proverbs 31:28a & 31:30b - "Her children rise up and call her blessed; ...a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

No one asked about anything in particular during this past month and I don't remember having any unusual words in Scripture readings or hymns that need clarification, so this month I'm just going to co-mingle the church year and secular calendars and write a bit about each special day. There are many more, however, I have chosen about half of them.

Sunday, May 1: This is the Feast Day of the Apostles, St. Philip and St. James. The paraments are properly red on this day for martyrdom.

Thursday, May 5: The Ascension of Our Lord, celebrating the Risen Christ's ascension bodily into heaven. The date each year depends on when Easter is celebrated. The paraments are white, the color of the robe of the glorified Christ.

Since 1972, the National Day of Prayer has been celebrated on the first Thursday of May.

This date is also Cinco de Mayo! It celebrates the unlikely defeat of the French, 8000-strong, by the Mexican Army, 4000-strong, at the Battle of Puebla, not the popularly held belief that it is Mexico's Independence Day, which is in September. However, it is a great excuse to indulge in Mexican food and beverages!

Saturday, May 7: The date marks the 1887 death of C.F.W. Walther, the first president of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a learned theologian and prolific doctrinal writer, for whom the

Walther League, an organization for young people ages 13-24, was named.

Sunday, May 8: Mother's Day is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of May. While it unofficially began in 1858, it was officially established by President Wilson in 1914 to honor all mothers.

Monday, May 9: A day to commemorate Job! What more is there to say about this man who withstood many tribulations and much torment of body and soul, the derision of his "friends", and yet remained faithful in his walk with God.

Sunday, May 15: Pentecost Sunday mark the event when the Holy Spirit descended on the Lord's Disciples in the form of tongues of fire on their heads, which is considered to be the birthday of the church. The paraments are red on this Sunday, the color of fire and the truth of Christian teaching based on the blood and righteousness of Christ.

Saturday, May 21: Armed Forces Day was established August 31, 1949, to thank all members of the military for their service. It is always on the third Saturday in May. Originally, each service had its own day of recognition.

On this date, the Church commemorates the life of the Roman Emperor Constantine, who ruled from 312-337, and also that of his mother Helena. The effects of Christianity on his legislation are seen in his abolishment of rites offensive to public morality; the prohibition of infanticide; restrictions on divorce, etc. The Eastern Church declares that he is a saint, while

the Western Church honors him with the title "The Great".

Sunday, May 22: This is Holy Trinity Sunday. The paraments are white, the color of the Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On this Sunday, we use the Athanasian Creed which was written in 325 to set forth the church's teaching regarding the Trinity. It includes the words "the catholic faith", which often startles at least one person unfamiliar with the term "catholic" with a lower case "c". This simply means that what is expressed in this Creed is what the true Church of all times and in all places has confessed and continues to confess.

Sunday, May 29: This Sunday begins the "Sundays after Trinity" in the Church Year. The paraments are changed to green, signifying the life of Christ and our growth in Him, coinciding with the green growth we experience in nature.

Monday, May 30: Memorial Day...this year celebrated on the date in 1868 on which it was first held. This was changed to the last Monday of May in 1971 when the National Holiday Act established three-day weekends. It honors all those who have died in service to our country.

Tuesday, May 31: The Visitation of Mary, a Feast Day commemorating Mary's visit to Elizabeth. Elizabeth was six months pregnant and as was customary, a female relative, in this case Mary, came to be with her until she gave birth. John leaped in her womb at the moment Mary was greeted by Elizabeth and Elizabeth rejoiced in the realization that she was greeting the mother of her Lord.

SCRIPTURE:
Matthew 6:5-10 (NIV) 5)

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6) But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7) And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8) Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

By Dot Chadwick

The disciples listened intently as they heard Jesus pray.

Lord, teach us how, so we will know what to say.

Jesus instructed them in the basic fundamentals of prayer.

Every element is as important as each breath of air.

As Jesus taught His disciples, the manner in which to pray;

First He offered up His **PRAISE**. A thankful heart conveyed,

“Our Father in heaven, help us **honor your name**.

Let men on earth obey You and Your
kingdom here reclaim.
Show us when we're disobedient and
reveal Your will to us.
May we know your desires and our
lives to you entrust."
Jesus told them "needs" should be
presented by **PETITION**.
And only ask what we need each day
when we requisition.
If it appears a request has no
immediate reply
Keep asking, as He promises our
needs He will supply.
PARDON, Jesus then explained, a
difficult supplication...
We must forgive others before our
pardoning dispensation.
We've clearly been told our Father
won't forgive our sins
Until we forgive others as this is
where pardon begins.
The Lord knew we would face
problems and upheaval.
"Keep us from being tempted and
protect us from evil."
Therefore, He included
PROTECTION in His teaching
prayer.
Satan relentlessly tempts us and we
must be aware.
**PRAISE, PETITION, PARDON,
and PROTECTION.**

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The Fields Are Ripe . . .

The Florida-Georgia District has made MissionInsite available to us at no cost. This service can give Peace custom reports on the demographics of the area around us. Some of these reports are extremely interesting.

Are you aware that within a 15 mile radius of Peace there is currently a population of more than 50,000 - in more than 20,000 households.

By 2020 that is predicted to be nearly 57,000 people in over 23,000 households; and by 2025 the prediction is for 62,027 people and 25,417 households.

Statistics will show that although more may proclaim that they are "Christian," less than 40% of these people are actually members of any congregation.

The fields are indeed ripe for harvest.

As we go about the community (shopping, hair-cuts, doctor visits, eating out), we should all keep in mind our directive to carry the Word to our neighbors. With a little more

effort to meet, greet and invite, we can have a positive effect on this growing population and Peace will also grow.

As we carry out our mission, keep in mind that non-members are much more likely to attend a new/different church if you can volunteer to bring them instead of simply issuing a vague invitation. If you cannot do this, inviting them for a specific date or service will help. Also, those who do attend are much more likely to return if they are treated as welcome guests rather than as visitors.

May your efforts to reap the harvest be blessed.

Submitted by Liz Koehlinger

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