

Peace Offerings
The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church

March-April 2020

Peace Lutheran Church
7201 South Highway 41
Dunnellon, Florida 34432

Rev. Terry L. McKee, Pastor

Office: 352.489.5881
Pastor's cell: 352.817.8161

www.peacelutheranonline.com

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

It's nice to once again have a newsletter, I want to thank Carolyn Turner for doing this once again. I also want to thank Bob Sullivan for his service as editor for the last several years. If you have anything for the newsletters in the future, please get them to Carolyn by the second to last Sunday of the month. That way they can be in your mailboxes on the last Sunday. We will continue to do the newsletter every other month.

We are in the midst of our Lenten tide looking forward to the events of Holy Week and of course the celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter. I hope and pray everyone is taking time stop and reflect this Lenten tide. Our theme for our mid-week services has been "Living among the Bible's Trees."

Did you ever stop to think how our Lenten season is 40 days plus Sundays giving us five Wednesdays to be in fellowship, prepare, take time to reflect and of course repent. After all the Season of Lent is all about repentance and preparing.

Our Advent season was only three Wednesdays, I guess we all can use the extra time for personal reflection

and preparation during Lent as our Lord journeys to his death upon the cross in our stead. But the good news is after Lent comes the joyous season of Easter. So, as we take time to come together and prepare, we at the same time look forward to His glorious resurrection. Again, I hope and pray you will make these extra services part of you Lenten and Holy Week schedule.

And then just because the season of Lent and Holy week is over, and we have celebrated our Lord's resurrection we don't get a break. The following Saturday, April 18th is our annual rummage sale. So, start cleaning out your closets or whatever so we can make this rummage sale a great success.

Also, during the month of March we will be once again collecting funds to buy more Bible Sticks for our men and women serving in our military around the world. One Bible stick cost \$25.00. These Bible sticks allow for the men and women to have God's Word with them 24 hours a day.

Have you noticed the post as you enter the church have finally after 32 years been bricked? Thanks, to Chet Rochette, they look wonderful, really add to our church entrance. Chet

is also working on giving us better lighting and less expensive lighting.

May God continue to bless each of you and our Peace family!

Pastor

President's Message

Dear Peace Family,

First, I would like to welcome all new members and friends to Peace. I hope you find all that God has planned for you here.

We are in the Lenten season; services are every Wednesday at 7 pm. Come join us for a wonderful Service.

Palm Sunday is on April 5th, then on Monday the 6th we begin Holy Week with our Maundy Thursday April 9th, Good Friday on April 10th, both services at 7 pm. These are followed by our Easter Celebration on the Sunday the 12th.

Shrove Tuesday was a huge success, the members of Peace served over 200 people. Thanks to everyone that participated in the dinner and to those who came for dinner.

The community meals have been a huge success as well. We are serving over 100 people at each meal. A big thanks to all the members that participate in the church functions. We need everyone to support what we do at

Peace. There is always a need for your talents.

We are going to start renovations to the Alter. Sam McKee is going to be in charge of this project. We are looking for ideas from the congregation members and friends. Please see Sam with any ideas you come up with. We will discuss them at the April 13th council meeting. All members are welcome to attend the meeting and bring your ideas. You can draw your own design; all recommendations will be looked at.

The columns in front of the entryway were surrounded with bricks. Thank you, Chet for doing such a great job. Chet is also doing some other projects and we certainly appreciate his time and beautiful workmanship. Finally, just want to thank all the members and friends at Peace, you make my job much easier.

Gods Blessings,
Garry Kurth



Best wishes on your Special Day

- 03.03 Pamela Zwick
- 03.12 Sam McKee
- 03.18 Trina Ruttinger

- 03.18 Sharon Cassan
- 03.19 James Spiegelberg
- 03.19 Carla Ruttinger
- 03.20 Gene O'Connell
- 03.24 Ken Buschman
- 04.01 Sandra Doudt
- 04.02 Dona Race
- 04.04 Alan Plocharczyk
- 04.06 Linda Chappell
- 04.08 Don Dow
- 04.09 Jae Ann Witzgall
- 04.15 Louise Plocharczyk
- 04.20 Jackie Hucker
- 04.22 Jan Barker
- 04.24 Dennis Witzgall

Happy Anniversary

- 03.07.1987 Steve & Sharon Casson
- 03.16.1963 Ron & Pat Doan
- 03.17.2000 Doug & Marion O'Hara
- 04.03.2012 Dave & Karen Sokolowski
- 04.12.2013 Tim & Jan Barker

Altar Flowers

While we do not adorn our altar with flowers during Lent, which this year is for the entire month of March, we will again have at least one bouquet each Sunday beginning with Palm Sunday, April 5. Arrangements are \$20. If you have numbered offering envelopes, there are two gold-edged Flower envelopes included at the back of the box. If you use a pew envelope for your cash or check donation, please indicate it is for flowers.

In order for the florist to continue to provide flowers at the very reasonable cost of \$20 per bouquet, they require that our minimum monthly statement be \$80. Other area florists contacted about altar flowers would not provide them for less than \$50 a bouquet, plus delivery charges.

If you have a favorite flower or color you'd like incorporated into your bouquet, please let Becky Williams know so that she can mention that when she places our monthly order. Blue Creek Floral will accommodate your request if at all possible.

There are many open dates on the Flower Chart for the remainder of the year. Please consider making a floral offering To the Glory of God, to celebrate a special occasion or in honor or memory of someone. Pastor will use whatever information you provide on the chart to acknowledge your gift in the day's bulletin. There are two lines available for each Sunday. It is helpful if you will use only one line unless you are requesting two bouquets. Please let Becky or the Altar Guild members on duty for the day know if you wish the flowers to be given to a home-bound member or otherwise given away.

Kudos: koo-dowz: praise; applause

Kudos to those who deserve our praise and applause for various things they've done and are doing to maintain our church properties and otherwise serve their fellow members! We are grateful for:

Chet Rochette for the bright new bulbs in the Fellowship Hall light fixtures and the brickwork around

the support posts under the entrance portico

James Spiegelberg and **Linda Ryun** for the soon-to-be published pictorial directory

Blue Creek Floral
(bluecreekfloral@yahoo.com or cell 484-5150) for the deep-discount altar flowers and donating carnations for use at our Presidents' Day Community Meal

Sharon Zavertnik for maintaining our Prayer Garden

The **Lawn Crew** for mowing, edging and fighting the dollar weeds

Bill Langstaff for stapling and folding the bulletins

Mona Bermudez for keeping the racks filled with Prayer Request forms and pew envelopes

Carol Hummel for assembling our Visitor gift bags

Jan Barker and **Sheryl Lutz** for tackling the music system

Bob Sullivan for several years of producing our *Peace Offerings*

newsletter and **Carolyn Turner** for volunteering to do it beginning with this issue

The **gentleman** who attends our monthly Community Meals and brings us a new laser-cut cross creation each time in thankfulness for his dinner

The **Owenses**, owners of the local farm stand, for the donation of potatoes and onions for our annual potato pancake supper and other meals

Everyone who brings sweets for Sunday Coffee Hour mingling

All the **members, guests, and seasonal visitors** who pitch in to help make our community meals successful and much-anticipated

Thank you for your ministries!
To God be the glory!

WhoWhatWhereWhyWhenHow?

Submitted by Becky Williams

We are now in the Season of Lent, leading to Holy Week and the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. There will be several color changes on the altar and pulpit and the stole Pastor wears.

When the color is violet, it is to remind us that Christ is our King. On Palm Sunday, they may change to red, symbolizing His blood as He enters Jerusalem on His way to Good Friday's cross. Maundy Thursday the color is white for His purity. At the close of the service that evening, all of the linens and furnishings are removed from the altar area and the altar is draped in black to remind us of our sin, Christ's suffering for them, and in preparation for the solemnity of Good Friday. On Easter morning, white will be revealed with the removal of the black covering. We'll once again include "Alleluia" and "Hallelujah" in our singing and liturgy. These words mean "praise be to God" in Hebrew.

In addition to the cross symbol, butterflies and hard-boiled eggs are reminders of Christ's bursting from the tomb. These can be reminders throughout the year of what Christ has done for US!

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Sunday closest to March 25 may be celebrated as the Annunciation of Our Lord, the day the angel

Gabriel told Mary she would be the mother of the Messiah. Likewise, the Sunday closest to April 25, may celebrate St. Mark, the Evangelist. If that date is actually a Sunday, the color is red; otherwise, it is whatever the appropriate color is for the season.

March includes St. Patrick's Day. It's OK for Lutherans to commemorate him! His name was actually Maewyn and he was born in Wales about 385. He was a pagan until 16, a slave for six years, studied in a monastery for 12 years, and was a priest and the second bishop of Ireland for 30 years until his death on March 17, 461. He established schools, churches and monasteries and used the shamrock as a symbol to teach the concept of the Holy Trinity and that is why they are a symbol of his feast day. It's doubtful he drove snakes out of Ireland because they are not native to that country! Irish Catholics wear green in his honor; Protestants wear orange. It's OK to pinch someone who wears neither of these colors on March 17th!

Do you proclaim the Scripture readings on Sundays? You may find the website

www.betterdaysarecoming.com to

be a good resource for the pronunciation of names of persons, places, or objects in the readings. There is other interesting information on the site and you may want to spend a little more time acquainting yourself with it once you've done your reading research.

Please don't be shy about asking for clarification or explanations about our worship practices, unfamiliar words and their meanings, or church teachings. Even life-long Lutherans don't remember all of the **WWWWHs** relative to the worship life and functions of a congregation. Your questions are always valid and will be answered or researched. If the subject might be of interest to others, it may be included in a future newsletter, with no indication of who asked.

You Can Never Out Give the Blessings of the Lord

How did the early church support itself? In Acts we are told that the disciples/members worked together to provide money, food and clothing for the members as well as the community. They gave as they were able. Today's church functions much the same way. As disciples of

Christ and members of the church body, we give weekly offerings to support the daily life of the church as well as Outreach and Ministry programs. This money is first put into the General Funds Account and the Dedicated Funds Account. Outreach and Ministry programs are supported by the General Funds Account and are also supplemented by special offerings which go into the Dedicated Funds Account. We are also blessed to have an Emergency Fund which was created by the sale of our road frontage property.

If we give to the Lord first, then pay the bills, we are promised that there will always be enough. Today it is a more common practice to pay the bills, then give the church what is left over. So what happens when not enough money is raised through weekly tithes and giving to support the daily business of running our church?

Last year, Peace Lutheran budget was \$119,000 for daily operating expenses. However, the church only took in \$111,000 in weekly plate offerings. Where did the rest of the money come from? Church Council had to vote to take money from ei-

ther the Reserve Funds Account or Dedicated Funds Account. The choice was whether to meet the shortage by limiting our Outreach programs or diminishing our safety cushion? The vote was ultimately to draw down our Emergency Reserve.

So far this year, each month's plate offerings have been less than the amount needed to meet our basic operating expenses. At this rate, the Church Council will again be forced to decide how best to meet a shortfall.

As we begin our new church year, let us all look into our hearts and revisit the commitment we are each making in service to Christ's church. While it may not be practical to sell everything you own and give it to the church as the early Christians did, it is a small but significant act to give to the church first and deepen

our faith through trust as the Lord blesses both the church and its members.

MOVIE NIGHT

On Sunday, April 5th at 4 pm we are showing the movie Luther in our social hall. Everyone is welcome and you are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor.

Plates and cups will be provided – bring your favorite beverage. There is a sign-up sheet if you want to bring a snack to share!

Members are encouraged to watch the series 'A Man Named Martin' available on the Lutheran Hour Ministries. Go to LHM.org and select Video-based Studies and Resources. It is an enlightening and educational documentary series that just may make you see your faith in a whole new light!