

Volume 65  
Issue 1  
JANUARY  
2024

*The Olive Branch*  
Peace Lutheran Church... A Life-Changing Community,  
Sharing Christ's Love!

**Dear Friends through Christ:**

I hope everyone has a Joy filled Christmas! I pray this New Year will be Fruitful!

As I reflect upon the year of Lord 2023, it brings a mixed bag of emotions. There are so many things that make me smile and be happy about, such as the wonderful ministry our small congregation offers to our community. Just in the past four weeks, I have hauled to The Salvation Army thirty Thanksgiving baskets and forty-six bags of Christmas presents for those less fortunate. Our food pantry is now feeding, mostly meats and vegetables, to around 450 different people per month. While Meals on Wheels serves the elderly and handicap, two hundred meals a day, right from our front porch. They could serve more if they had additional volunteer drivers. (Hint, hint).

Since we have installed the sign, AA, Alcoholics Anonymous has grown rapidly. Some days, its standing room only. I cannot give you a number as to how many lives and families have been

redeemed through AA, but it is a lot. It is a lot because AA teaches the same thing Lutherans teach—a very practical approach. Step one—admit you have a problem. Step two—come to realize that only God can restore us to sanity. (Good Lutheran theology)

Yet, that is not all we do for our community. We open our church home to a variety of community groups, such as, In Season Ministry, Stamp Collectors Club, Garden Club, Homeowners Associations, Anniversaries, Baby Showers and Birthdays. Council just approved a request to become a “Cold Night Shelter” for the homeless when the temperature drops below 40 degrees. Plus, hopefully this week, Peace will have a signed contract to host a Christian based school for approximately seventy-five ninth through twelfth graders.

Still, that is not all we do. We proclaim the message of the gospel in a manner that gives hope and comfort to many,

in person and online. We visit the sick and shut in. We bury the dead and celebrate with the living. Plus, we must never forget the quality of responsible citizens the church continues to raise up through Jesus’ teachings, citizens bearing “good fruit” for Palm Bay and the world. This year, Peace welcomed more new members than previous years.

So, you see, there is a great deal of ministry happening at Peace Lutheran to make a person smile and be happy. And get this, we do God’s work with barely a hundred members, one full time pastor, four part time employees and a whole bunch of volunteer angels, who are being the hands of God. Remember also, we have eight buildings that demand a great deal of tender loving care. All this, on a budget of \$250,000! Folks, that is what I call being frugal with the treasures you offer to God.

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**Pastor:**

Senior Pastor—David Trexler  
Cell Phone— (321)289-7115

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**Office Phone:** (321)727-3131

**Dial-A-Story:** (321)727-1048

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www.peacelutheranpb.org  
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org  
**Facebook @peacelutheranpb**

**Staff:**

Jacqui Robinson, Office Administrator  
Cindy Wagman, Choir  
Sally Cook, Pianist  
Dina LaPlante, Custodian

**Volunteer Staff:**

Faye Schill, Treasurer  
Lori Search—Food Pantry Director  
Mark Grice—Campus Maintenance  
Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance  
Terry Zrutskie—Campus Maintenance  
Christian LaPlante—Campus Maintenance

Yet, there are few things to be concerned about, like making our budget! What makes me sad is that we do not have enough current members who see and understand the value of church and our ministry. I say this because this year Peace will not meet our budgeted income by a whopping \$50,000! I am certain everyone reading this letter knows that we cannot continue the level of ministry if our expenses exceed our giving. We either begin to cut ministry or giving must increase. Those are our options.

To tell you the truth, I have always had faith and still do, that if we, Peace Lutheran Church proclaim the gospel in purity and administer the Sacraments rightly, if we keep Jesus Christ in the center of our Lampstand, continuing His work the best we know how, if we do these things, God will always provide, always. But please try to remember that our God works through us. God's Work! Our Hands! Think about it...

Here in a few days, you will be receiving a Stewardship packet in the mail. Jesus refers to us quite often as stewards. We are the ones who take care of God's property. Within this packet is a letter, teaching that the giving of our first fruits makes a person more Christ-like, more in the image of God. Please read this letter carefully.

Since God promises to provide for our every need, we promise God, to give of our time, talent, and treasures, now providing for those around us in need, both physically and spiritually. Also, in the packet there are two half-sheet cards and one envelope. The cards are "Love Letters to God." Fill out both cards, keeping one to remind you of those promises, returning the other card in the envelope provided. If you made this promise last year, your Love Letter is being returned to you, unopened. I believe what you offer to the Lord should be between you and God. I also genuinely believe, if we keep Jesus in the center of Peace Lutheran, proclaiming His good news

and continuing His hard work, this Lampstand will shine brightly in the year 2024, and God will once again give us many more reasons to smile and be happy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

**Pastor David Trexler**



## EXTRA! EXTRA!



The celebration of our Savior's birth and the new year approach! It's been a good year for Peace Lutheran Church, with the singular exception of losing aging, long-cherished brothers and sisters as they move on to be with our Lord. For a congregation like ours, life becomes an unrelenting roller coaster ride of losing fast friends and celebrating the passions of our youth.

We are so very blessed at PLC. We have a church campus with room to host a long slate of community activities. Our main house of worship is a holy place, with its stained windows, wood-graced ceilings and spacious pews—I especially enjoy the holiday season decorations. We have leadership—pastor, council, hardworking staff, choir, and volunteers—that work so very well together. Our congregation is small but committed to growing closer to our Lord and to each other. We never stand pat—we're always looking for better ways to use our space, grow our church and reach out to our community.

God bless all as we celebrate Christmas and seek to increase our faith in 2024.

**Tom**

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## NEW CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY

If you didn't get your picture taken in November for the new church directory, you can still be included by sending a picture to [office@peacelutheranpb.org](mailto:office@peacelutheranpb.org). We would appreciate a nice horizontal picture of your family.

We'll continue to try and catch those dodging the camera.

**Jacqui Robinson and Faye Schill**

## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The Food Pantry will be closed for 2 upcoming dates:

**Jan. 2**  
**Jan. 16**



**We will no longer accept donations of clothing or household goods.**

All the volunteers wish you a very Happy New Year from the Food Pantry's new location.



## I WONDER

Ten Ting fingers, ten tiny Toes  
In a manger filled with Hay  
With no ribbons and no bows

The cows, The sheep and The donkey Too  
Huddled round his manger bed,  
As Mary and Joseph Watched their babe  
Lay down His weary head

I wonder how The shepherds felt  
On That Starry Bethlehem night  
When first They gazed upon The child  
And beheld that wondrous sight

I wonder what you would have done  
If somehow you'd been there  
Would your heart have surely skipped a beat  
Seeing Love beyond Compare

I Think I'd want to hold Him close  
And Tell my heart "Be Still"  
Softly whisper That " I Love you"  
And That I always will

He's watching and He's Waiting  
From His heavenly Throne above  
And The words He longs to hear you say  
" I accept your Gift of Love

If you haven't invited  
Him into your Heart,  
Now is The Time

**~Don Hoffman**

# Treasurer's Report

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God's blessings to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

As you can see below, in November our expenses outpaced our income due to three payrolls, some extra expenses and low contributions during the month. Our thanks to all who contribute and give with a joyful heart. God bless you.

Your 2024 contribution envelopes are on the narthex table. Please contact the undersigned if you can't find envelopes with your name. Your 2023 contribution statements will be sent by email or snail mail shortly after the new year.

Please consider giving to the Major Repair Fund for the roof replacement. After the rain on December 16<sup>th</sup> we had leaks in at least three places in our sanctuary. This problem is not going away. Every time we have a heavy rain we'll have problems until we get the roof replaced. Prayers are needed.

Please keep Peace Lutheran Church members and finances in your prayers. The undersigned appreciates your prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

**Faye Schill, Treasurer**  
[treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org](mailto:treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org)

<b>Treasurer's Report of General Funds for November 2023</b>
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	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$9,788.00	\$153,672.79	\$179,315.62
Loose Contributions & Other	\$340.00	\$6,490.11	\$17,295.63
Use of Facilities	\$2,035.00	\$24,280.00	\$29,333.37
Total Income	\$12,053.00	\$184,442.90	\$255,944.62
Expenses	\$24,699.19	\$239,036.53	\$255,944.62

**Excess Expense for November 2023: \$12,646.19**  
**(Total Monthly Expense less Monthly Income)**

**The General Fund account is used for regular expenses (utilities, salaries, lawn care, insurance, mortgage, etc.)**

***Please help!*** As of late, our money counters get the job done in less than an hour, but we pray for the day that it will take them two hours minimum!

*Also, invite friends and family to hear our Pastor's excellent message and commune with God's family here at Peace. Thank you and God bless our money counters and all who volunteer and support Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay.*

**Did you know?** Instead of writing multiple checks for individual contributions like the Children's Hunger Project, the Food Pantry, etc., you only have to write one check. Simply designate the breakdown of your giving in the check's memo area or on the envelope itself. "FP" for Food Pantry, "CHP" for Children's Hunger Project, and so on.

# January

ANNIVERSARIES

TREXLER, Pastor David & Sandra (37) 01/03  
 PELLECCCHIA, Rick & Henrietta (56) 01/20  
 EDWARDS, Wesley & Molly Gossett (10) 01/26  
 NEUMANN, Ed & Terry (59) 01/30



(numbers of years married)



FORRESTER, Viola 01/01  
 ROSALES, Samantha 01/05  
 BRADLEY, Theresa 01/07  
 MINTON, Debbie 01/13  
 SANDBERG, Roger 01/15  
 ANDERSON, Sherry 01/18  
 ARNDT, Steven 01/21  
 MITCHELL, Ronald 01/24  
 SANDBERG, Connor 01/28  
 BARNETT, Yonna 01/30



Kris Friant	Ariel Cook	Gary Witter	Paul Bickford
George Robbins	Manuel Rodriguez	Carolyn Tarkka	Frank Miller
Lori Deaton	David Flaherty	Helga Bromm	Sally Cook
Ryan Dasinger	Viola Forrester	Phyllis Dale	Suzie McKeny
Rick Pelleccchia	Gary Gossett, Jr.	Bill & Nancy Love	Megan O'Neal
Ann Beardslee	Dan Rank	Christian LaPlante	Lou Madden
Jacqueline Darby	David Pinkerton	Matt Parks	Allison Patton
Debbie Parks	Maliaka Singleton	Betsy Witter	Michael Adams
Enid Rodriguez	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Karl Bromm	Kim McGibney
		Carleen Loneski	Nathan Schwartz

# 2024 January

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	New Year's Eve 8-46am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR! 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>2</b> 9:00am <b>FOOD PANTRY</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm <b>Men's</b> Via de Cristo 7:00pm <b>Women's</b> Via de Cristo	<b>3</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA	<b>5</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	<b>6</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
7	8:46am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>8</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>9</b> 9:00am <b>FOOD PANTRY</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm <b>Men's</b> Via de Cristo 7:00pm <b>Women's</b> Via de Cristo	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	<b>12</b> 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	<b>13</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
14	8:46am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - Office Closed 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Vista Oaks HOA - FH	<b>16</b> 9:00am <b>FOOD PANTRY</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm <b>Men's</b> Via de Cristo 7:00pm <b>Women's</b> Via de Cristo	<b>17</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	<b>19</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	<b>20</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
21	8:46am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>22</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>23</b> 9:00am <b>FOOD PANTRY</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm <b>Men's</b> Via de Cristo 7:00pm <b>Women's</b> Via de Cristo	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	<b>26</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	<b>27</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
28	8:46am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>29</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	<b>30</b> 9:00am <b>FOOD PANTRY</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm <b>Men's</b> Via de Cristo 7:00pm <b>Women's</b> Via de Cristo	<b>31</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA 6:00pm Fairways of Brevard HOA - FH	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	<b>3</b> 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship

# Bits & Pieces

## Check us out on Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Church

Give us a LIKE and get updates, spiritual messages, events and any changes.

Or visit us on our website  
[www.peacelutheranpb.org](http://www.peacelutheranpb.org)



Jesus says in Matthew 25, *"For I was hungry and you gave me food... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Where do you buy groceries, gas, prescriptions? What restaurants do you like? Where do you purchase clothing or things for around the house? A couple weeks ago, Peace began a program called Scrip. Simply and I mean simply, purchase the cards following worship or order whatever you want for the following week. That's it. 100% of the proceeds will go toward our food pantry in feeding the poor.

We are going to shop no matter what. We might as well serve the Lord in the process. I love the program because it helps me think more about God. I don't always do that when I use my debit or credit card. When I'm out having a meal with family or friends, shopping at the mall with my wife, doing some work around the house, and I go to pay the bill with my Scrip card, I find myself lifting up a word of thanksgiving for being able to enjoy the blessings given by my Creator.

Give it try. See how you feel.



Our Food Pantry is always in need of donations of either food or financial donations to support this much needed ministry. Our community is flooded with people looking for help, and we are grateful that as a church, we can help meet the need, anyway we can. Your generous donations will

allow us to continue to help them and together, we can see our community get stronger!

Our pantry is open on: **Tuesday's—9:00AM-11:00AM**

Thank you to everyone who has been donating to the food pantry. It truly makes a difference in our community.

Please help us keep our list of military personnel up-to-date!  
Call or e-mail the office with any changes in status, rank, or location! Thank you!

E.J. Alcario, Iraq  
John Bedford, Iraq  
Kristen Hall AF, Iraq  
Capt. Brian Nailing,  
Co. Ft. Hood, TX  
Maj. AD Dennis Peoples,  
Rock Island Arsenal, IL  
Major Nathan Schill,  
Ft. Leavenworth, KS

USN FC3 Stephen Weaver,  
USS Dewey  
Navy Chief Sean Patrick Goguen,  
Norfolk, VA  
1st Lieut. Tanner Johnson—Army,  
E. Africa



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2024**

"The New Year has arrived, may your fears fade away, your strength grow and your dreams come true."

Peace Lutheran Church  
1801 Port Malabar Blvd N.E.  
Palm Bay, FL 32905

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY  
*The Olive Branch*

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MELBOURNE FL  
PERMIT 144

Dated Material:  
January 2024

Return service requested

Phone: (321) 727-3131  
Dial-A-Story: (321)727-1048  
Email: [office@peacelutheranpb.org](mailto:office@peacelutheranpb.org)  
Website: [www.peacelutheranpb.org](http://www.peacelutheranpb.org)  
Facebook: @peacelutheranpb

Senior Pastor: David L. Trexler

Worship

5:00PM—Saturday Night Worship  
8:45AM—Sunday School  
10:00AM—Worship Service



## We Serve

**Altar Guild**—Set up and prepare for communion each week, usually serving one month at a time; more people are needed.

**Worship Servants**—Sunday Worship Assistants and Communion Assistants are needed.

**Office Helpers**—Those who help with mailings, preparing Welcome Packets, etc.

**Chancel Choir**—Wednesday night rehearsals—7:00PM

**Bell Choir**—Call Cindy Wagman to learn more about our choirs 321-830-4207.

**Money Counters**—Teams of two people working for one month at a time. Call church office if interested.

**In the Nursery**—Nursery is available during worship.

**Property/Grounds**—There is always plenty of work to be done here. Please contact Steve Barnett.

**Projectionists Needed**—People that are in the projection room Sunday morning for our Sunday presentations. Please sign up in the projection room.

**Panera Bread Pick-up**—Each Friday evening people are needed to go to Hammock Landings to get the goodies for Sunday morning Café Peace. Cindy Wagman at 321-830-4207

**Call and Caring**—Our team visits people who are in the hospital, nursing homes, and who are homebound. See Sally Christensen for more information.

Please call the office to be a servant for the Lord by taking on one or more of these opportunities. (321)727-3131



900  
BLESS  
YOUR YEAR!