

The Olive Branch

Peace Lutheran Church...

A Life-Changing Community, Sharing Christ's Love!

Volume 61
Issue 9

SEPTEMBER
2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Of Special Interest

- Pastor's Message
- Council President
- PLC Treasurer Report

Pastor's Message	1-2a
Council President Message	2b
Food Pantry News	3
Treasurer News	4
September Birthday's/Prayer/ Anniversaries	5
Social Distancing Guidelines	6
Extra! Extra!	7
September Calendar	8
Bits and Pieces	9
We Serve	10

Pastors:

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

E-mail:

office@peacelutheranpb.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:30am -12:30pm

Office Phone: (321)727-3131

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

Websites:

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
Charlene O'Brien—Food Pantry
Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance
Terry Zrutskie—Campus Maintenance



Dear Friends through Christ:

This particular corona virus has been a formidable foe, especially for the church. Covid-19 has chased away over half the people from worship in one single year, and the Delta Variant has kept them from returning. Just a few months ago, I felt this form of evil was slowly winding down, but it has reared its ugly head again, causing us to make changes on the fly. Our original goal of combining the two worship services into one, with Sunday morning Bible study and choir have been postponed from early September to a "wait and see what this thing does" date. We have our work cut out for us.

Twenty years ago, 70% of Americans claimed they belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque. In the year 2019, the number of Americans claiming to have a church home dropped to 47%. Using 325,000,000 as our population, that means, the church has lost 74,800,000 saints and sinners in the past twenty years. And this is a number before the pandemic! Factor in the virus, and one can add another 76,350,000, or 50% of self-proclaiming Christians leaving the church this past year alone. Will they return? Your guess is as good as mine.

What does all this mean? It means less than 25% of the population of the United States of America will be attending worship this coming Sunday. Again, Peace has her work cut out. We cannot return to yesteryear, but we can do something, and we'd better start doing it sooner rather than later.

I do not enjoy being the bearer of a grim news. But it doesn't have to be this way. With Christ Jesus in our hearts, we begin to understand what the Apostle Paul writes in Roman 8:28, "For we know that all things work together for good for those who love God." With 75% of the U.S. population being either un-churched or de-churched the harvest is definitely plentiful. I trust that God will work through our efforts to rebuild this glorious house of worship.

We have worked hard the past couple of years getting our church facility functional and looking great. Thank-you for that support! We have a beautiful worship service, especially for the baby boomers and older, who happen to be the largest group of people claiming they plan to return to church when the pandemic is behind us, and a large percentage of these claim they are open to a new place of worship.

So how do we begin to reach at least a small portion of the 250,000,000 people who feel the worship of God is no longer important?

Did you know that "word of mouth" is the most effective way to grow a business or a church? More effective than all other forms of advertising combined! Word of mouth truly works. But a person must use their mouth in order for the best form of advertising to work. We can no longer assume most of the people we know already have a church and are happy there.

Continued on page 2

What about this? Start making a list of the people you care about the most. When you feel the time is right, simply ask, “Do you have a church home?” If they answer, “No,” then simply say to them “Come and See.” When this virus gets behind us (and it will) invite everyone on that list. It’s a start. More people walk through the doors of a church because someone they knew invited them. The harvest is plentiful.

The second most effective form of advertising is signage. During the sale of the property, the buyer shared with me last year’s traffic count of cars that pass our property. On the average, 11,490 cars pass Peace Lutheran Church, daily. Our current sign is old and for the most part unreadable. I can envision a beautiful sign allowing over 10,000 people a day, who are living and working close to Peace Church, to see us. Our neighbors will always know what is happening inside, day after day, week after week. If the new sign brings in only one person per month, the sign would pay for herself in around three years. There are pictures of what I have in mind in the narthex. The harvest is plentiful.

An example of how God works through all things can be seen in the church’s online presence. The virus forced us to figure out how our parishioners might hear the gospel during our two month shutdown. Now our postings are viewed by approximately 350 people per week. I will continue to share the message on Facebook. Perhaps when we begin to host events, our hard work will pay off.

Speaking of events, I can also picture a beautiful shelter house in our court yard, hosting all kinds of events and ministries. Saturday evening worship service has always done well at the previous churches I’ve served, but I have always felt an outdoor worship under cover will reach even more of the younger crowd, those wanting something not so churchy and those who work on Sunday. The picnic shelter can host all kind of things like community potlucks, ice cream socials, craft shows, car shows, blessing of the animals, multiple outdoor classes, or rented to our friends and neighbors for celebrations. Pictures of this vision are also in the narthex. The harvest is plentiful.

Yes I know, times are a little tough right now, but like I said, trust that God will work through our efforts to rebuild this glorious house of worship. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts and visions.

“For we know that all things work together for good for those who love God.” Roman 8:28

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler



As I compose this Olive Branch article, I’m winding down from a week with family in Nebraska. What a transition: from palm trees and sandy beaches to deep green fields of corn and soybeans. We enjoyed cool, dry mornings and evenings; visits to the Homestead National Historical Monument in Beatrice and Offutt AFB. We drove northeast from Omaha along the Elkhorn River, past fields, feedlots, small farming towns and Norfolk, Nebraska: a city of 20,000 souls with seven Lutheran churches! I always return from visits to the Heartland with a deep appreciation for the vastness of the Great Plains, the down-to-earth values of its residents and the ubiquitous churches they’ve built to worship our Lord.

Despite the differences between eastern Nebraska and the Space Coast, many of the challenges we face are the same. Covid infection/vaccination rates; masking policies at public and private institutions—especially schools. Fully re-opening restaurants and other businesses. Preparation for the imminent college football season dominate the sports pages in both locales, only it’s “Cornhuskers” there and “Gators”, “Seminoles”, “Hurricanes” and “Knights” here.

As we drove through Offutt AFB, my thoughts turned to my time in the USAF and an old adage we would use on those frequent occasions when things went awry and plans/expectations changed: “Flexibility is the key to air power.” Fast forward to 2021 and Palm Bay, FL: we’ve been planning a launch date for PLC’s emergence from 18 months of lockdowns, masks, and social distancing: a great leap forward to combined Sunday services, bible studies, small group gatherings and, yes!!--church potlucks! We’ve had to put that great leap on hold; but we’re ready.

Our timetable may be flexible, but our faith is unchanging and rock solid. Praise God!

PLEASE NOTE

If you want to be taken off the newsletter mailing, please send an email to the church office at: office@peacelutheranpb.org or you can call: (321)727-3131

Thank you!



Lile-Line Screenings will be at Peace Lutheran Church (in the Fellowship Hall) on:

Monday, October 11, 2021

They go beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up. All 5 screenings for \$139

There are 3 ways to register:

Call Toll-free: (1-866-229-0469)

Online: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle

Text: the word **CIRCLE** to 797979



BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2021, OUR FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY
WILL BE OPEN ON:



EVERY TUESDAY - 9:00AM - 11:00AM

1ST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH - 4:30PM - 6:00PM

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THIS AND SHARE THIS INFORMATION
WITH PEOPLE YOU KNOW WHO MAY BE IN NEED.

GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
THIS VERY IMPORTANT MINISTRY!

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of July, we are now under budget in contributions by \$15,449.09 for the year (that's not good). We are also under budget in expenses by \$6,851.61 (that's good). July expenses were high mainly because there were three payrolls in that month. This happens twice a year.

In the June newsletter I reported that COVID-19 was slowing down. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Some of us are wearing masks, most are vaccinated and we're all praying that we see the end of this virus soon.

Our attendance is low on Sundays which is very sad because Pastor David together with the Holy Spirit are giving us five-star sermons. I've belonged to 10 Lutheran churches and visited some other denominations and Pastor David sermons are up there with the best. If you are missing these in person or through the website, I sincerely hope you are being fed spiritually. We do miss all that have decided that it's not safe to attend church or are worshipping elsewhere.

Our noisy offering is going to different good causes each month. The June noisy offering raised \$205.50 for the Food Pantry which is helping to supplement those in our area with canned food, fresh vegetables, and meat. For the July noisy offering we raised \$165.50 for our Calling and Caring Committee that visit shut-ins and those in hospitals and nursing homes. In August we are raising monies for Family Promise of Brevard which helps families with minor children. During September we will raise monies for ELCA Seminary.

Please keep Peace Lutheran Church in your prayers. Please have a safe and healthy September.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds

June/July 2021

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget (to July)</u>
Contributions	\$11,446.00	\$9,475.00	\$108,625.91	\$124,075.00
Sale of Property/Other			\$162,553.63	
Use of Facilities	\$2,975.00	\$2,325.00	\$19,890.00	\$22,750.00
Total Income	\$14,421.00	\$11,800.00	\$291,069.54	\$146,825.00
Expenses	\$19,040.35	\$25,038.57	\$139,973.39	\$146,825.00

Excess Expense for June 2021 is: (\$4,619.35) Excess Expense for July 2021 is: (\$13,238.57)
(Total Monthly Income less Monthly Expenses)

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

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.

Thank you for your contributions!



September Birthdays



SMITH, Scott & Carolyn (16) 09/03
ROBINS, SR., George & Patricia (56) 09/04
MARCUS, David & Barbara (47) 09/08
COTTON, Steve & Rosita (33) 09/24
BOYUM, Gary & Linda (54) 09/30



(numbers are years married)

FUCCI, Preston	09/02	HATON, Charles	09/16
PATELSKI, Elaine	09/02	HARMON, Barb	09/18
BROMM, Karl	09/06	O'BRIEN, Olivia	09/20
CHRISTENSEN, Sally	09/07	COTTON, Ryan	09/24
LaPLANTE, Dina	09/07	WEST, Beulah	09/28
EDWARDS, Wesley	09/08	SANDBERG, Wyatt	09/29
MADDEN, Louis	09/14		
SANDBERG, Amber	09/15		



Susan Hildebrand	Larry Cannen	Bob Ruscoe	David Flaherty
Gwen Newberry	Gloria Jones	Tonita Rodriguez	Ginger DuCote
Lori Deaton	Rick Pellecchia	Theresa Bradley	Helga Bromm
Ryan Dasinger	David Brunner, Sr.	Gary Gossett	Viola Forrester
Mary Norwood	Ann Beardslee	June Trotter	Sean Green
	Maita Rodriguez	Ron Nelson	Mickael Chadwick
	Don Hoffman	Ariel Cook	Gary Gossett, Jr.
	Betty Sheller	Carolyn Tarkka	Dan Rank
	Bill Leinthall	Manolo Rodriguez	

CDC Guidance for Faith Based Organizations

PLC leadership continues to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for faith based organizations. The most recent CDC guidance simply says: **"Infection/ transmission is minimal for fully vaccinated people; prevention measures are still recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and washing hands often."**



Most PLC worshippers are fully vaccinated; others are not. We are blessed with plenty of space in our sanctuary for attendees to do what is comfortable for them as far as masking and distancing.

Thanks to all for your dedication to Christ and devotion to PLC!

- **Maintain good hand hygiene, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**
- **If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, tissues, and no-touch trash cans. (We have hand sanitizer readily available for your use)**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in a no-touch trash can.**
- **Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.**
- **Do not place protective masks on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.**



Shepherd Center News

A note from the Board of Directors of the Shepherd Center of South Brevard,

On behalf of all of us, we wish to express our gratitude to Pastor David Trexler, the members of the Council of PLC and the many volunteers (you know who you are) who made it possible for us to return to our roots. We are grateful for the generous support from Pastor Trexler, and the willingness of the Council to grant us the use of the office space. (And to prepare the room for us as well, as even moving our "stuff" into it made my heart sing). There are still good people in this cooky world, I don't have to look far to find them. Thank you very much.

Due to the grim COVID19 DELTA situation all over the US and particularly here in Brevard, the decision has been made to postpone the fall session (October 2021) until January or even February 2022. We will keep everyone who is on our e-mail list informed; those of you who don't have e-mail can check us out on-line under www.Shepctrofsb.org.

Until then, stay well.

With blessings,

Mary Anne McMillen, President,

Helga Bromm, Vice President

Mary Beth Moseley, Secretary

Rick Rakauskas, Treasurer

EXTRA! EXTRA!



The idea is to spread the Love of God and the stories of the Bible through short entertaining messages over the phone.

One simply calls **321-727-1048** and they hear a different story everyday about Flip the Flea, Dirty Windows, Phillip the Pig, and many other strange concepts and characters, all sharing a theme from Scripture. Granted some may seem a little off of the wall, but what better way to reach out? After all, aren't most of us a little off the wall?

Your task is to not only use the service, but share this ministry with those around you.

Gotta go. Bye now. Seeeeee ya tomorrow!



 **MILITARY BIBLESTICK**
A ministry of Faith Comes By Hearing®



Hello Pastor Trexler,

I would like to humbly extend my heartfelt thanks to you and your families for giving to the Military BibleStick Outreach. This video will also introduce "Vision 2033," our worldwide mission effort.

(To see video: <https://faithcomesbyhearing.wistia.com/medias/jjbiy48rsi>)

We are living in a time when hearing the good reports of how God is moving in the earth today is rare... yet so refreshing!

This is why I am so excited to share this Church Partner Thank You Video with you. In as little as 3.5 minutes, your families can be highly encouraged as they see for themselves the impact of their giving to reach people with the power of God's Word!

Your partnership is so appreciated and so vital! Together, we will continue bringing the hope of the Gospel message to hurting people, fulfilling the Great Commission.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" - Romans 10:14 ESV

Until all have heard,

Morgan Jackson

Senior Vice President

Faith Comes By Hearing

1.800.545.6552 TOLL FREE

505.881.3321 OFFICE

FaithComesByHearing.com



2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	30 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	31 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	2 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH 4:30 PM Food Pantry	3 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
5 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	6 Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	7 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 7:00 PM Council Meeting	8 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	9 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	10 9:00 AM Garden Club 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	11 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
12 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	13 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	14 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	15 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	16 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	17 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	18 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
19 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	20 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	21 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	23 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	24 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
26 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	27 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	28 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	30 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	2 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch

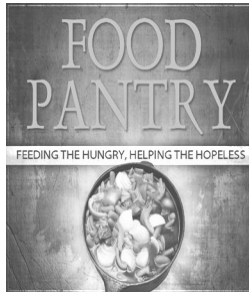
Bits & Pieces

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



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**
and 1st Thursday of every month—4:30PM—6:00PM

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



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.

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
Cpt, 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



Did you know that every time you order from Amazon you can make a contribution to Peace Lutheran? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Peace Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you.



When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to **Peace Lutheran Church**.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will then be asked to pick your charitable organization. Make sure to pick **Peace Lutheran Church in Palm Bay, FL**. You may also want to share with your children and grandchildren as well when making their purchases on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

It may be helpful to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You use the same account on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and AmazonSmile.

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch

NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE FL
PERMIT 144

Dated Material:

September
2021

Return service requested

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

Senior Pastor: David Trexler

Worship Service
9:00AM & 11:00AM



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—Because of Covid-19, there is a break.

Bell Choir—Call Cindy Wagman to learn more about our choirs 676-3849.

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 676-3849

Call and Caring—Our team visits people who are in the hospital, nursing homes, and who are homebound. See Terry Neumann 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

