

The Olive Branch

Peace Lutheran Church...

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

Volume 62
Issue 6

JUNE
2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Of Special Interest

- Pastor's Message
- Council President
- PLC Treasurer Report
- Vacation Bible School

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

Pastor:

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
Mark Grice—Campus Maintenance
Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance
Terry Zrutskie—Campus Maintenance



Dear Friends through Christ:

Let me just say, this newsletter came out of leftfield. As you know, Peace has been hosting a ministry called Shepherd Center, where mostly retired, or people wanting to stay active, come and exercise their minds. It truly is a wonderful program; I wish more would take advantage of it.

I teach Books of the Bible, and I have only one student, and he suffers from Alzheimer's. I could tell he used to have a wonderful understanding of Scripture, but those times are fading. His focus seems to be on the Ten Commandments of God. He kept referring back to the Ten Commandments of God. So, I scrapped what I had intended to teach, and the two of us began to "hash out, unpack" what these teachings and instructions from our Creator mean for the world today.

For a while, I have thought about drafting a short paper, sharing the value of these ten most wonderful gifts. I guess now is a good time to start.

All of humanity has "religion" embedded in their heart, soul, and mind. It is part of who we are. All human beings ask the depth questions of Who created all we have? Do I have purpose and what might that purpose be? Is this life all there is? Or is there something else? What does it all mean? All religions seek to answer those questions. The four major religions of the world Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and all the many more religions are asking those same questions. Who created all that is? Why? What is my purpose? Religion will never fade away because the questions will always be there.

What's strange is that the religion in which these ten teachings originated; Judaism is one of the smaller religions of the world, less than 2% of the world's population. What's also odd is that all the different religions of the world have no problem whatsoever with the ten instructions. They all agree The Ten Commandments are good for society, most have similar versions, calling them something different. However, they do not incorporate these seemingly natural laws into their understanding of God. These commands are given for humanity's benefit and given out of Love, to all religions. Everybody has the same God. We may not believe in the Same God, but we have the Same God.

I have long pondered why a nation founded upon Judean/Christian principles, a nation that boldly and proudly claims in the Pledge of Allegiance, "One nation, Under God," a nation, where our other god of currency states quite clearly, "In God We Trust," why are these Ten Teachings/Ten Commandments being removed from our culture's existence, especially in our court rooms where human law is administered and justice is to be served? This is beautiful country, with so much potential. Our makeup is not so different than the Hebrew slaves coming out of Egypt—misfits and slaves from all over the world. Imagine what we could do if we took the prophet's advice and put God's commands back in our world? ***"You shall write them on the doorpost of your house and on your gates."*** Deut. 6:9

Continued on page 2

Sorry to ramble, but can we learn that these instructions were not given to divide or conquer our human spirit, but to bring humanity together and set our spirits free.

Imagine a time some three thousand, five hundred years ago, that's 3,500 years ago. Folks there's not a lot of history before this time. We do know the world is a violent place. Children not born perfect, or even unwanted girls could be thrown upon the rocks into the sea. Women served as property and men as disposable resources. Egypt was the Almighty and All-powerful at the time, building massive pyramids and some of the most beautiful temples to all the different gods of the world.

The Egyptians were building this empire upon the backs of slaves, from all the conquered nations throughout the Middle East. However, amongst these slaves are distant relatives, people that have remarkable stories about their history and their faith in an Unknown God. This remnant of Hebrew slaves lifted their voices to the God of their ancestors, and God said, "Enough!" History teaches as many as 300,000-400,000 slaves started a long, hard journey to a homeland promised to their ancestor, Abraham. Abraham is now the Father of Faith for close to 4-1/2 billion people in the world today. Yes, the Ten Commandments should be written in our hearts and minds, but how did we allow such a small portion of society to make that decision for us? Odd, uh?

Back to the story. Allow me to ask, "How is God going to organize this bunch of misfits in a world that has gone completely nuts? What is going to hold a people together, who are supposed to make known this Unknown God?" So, in honor of Mel, my new Alzheimer's friend, I give you The Ten Commandments. I will cover the first four today and the remaining six in the next letter. I will be using the Jewish order of these commands, seeing they originated from the Hebrew faith.

I am the Lord your God.

Think of nothing. Now think of everything. All of it, God! I was. I am. I will always be, God. There is something greater than yourself, creating a glorious universe and beyond. Remember that! God is your starting point.

You will have no other gods before me, nor shall you worship or serve anything more than God.

This command was given at a time where the gods of the world ran the daily lives of people. Festivals, sacrifices were given to gods too numerous to name. Elaborate temples built to Apollo, Zeus, Aphrodite, and host of others. Sure, these gods have faded into history, but their spirit remains alive today. Our gods of today are just as real because they are the gods that lure or tempt us away from our purpose— "To be fruitful! To take care of this planet, including one another, in whatever vocation you have chosen." Nothing can take the place of God.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Here is a misunderstood teaching of God. Most of my life, the church taught me I shouldn't curse, especially with certain words. Yet there is more to this third command. Do you remember the story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden? The very first words out of the fangs of our slithering temptation are, "Did God really say?" Throughout human history, we have used words of Scripture and put them back into God's mouth to justify our sinful behavior. Did God really say if our children talk back to us, then we should take them among our elders and have them stoned. Did God really say woman brought sin into the world? Therefore, she should somehow be less than the man? Did God say that this or any war is just? Did God say slavery, the way we practiced slavery, is just fine? Did God say it was ok to judge any group of people we deem different? I will simply say, be careful. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

The church used this command effectively for many years. It is a shame because the teaching clearly shows the love of our Creator. This teaching is for our own good, not God's. It is a command to take care of ourselves and everything we care about. Sabbath means "time of rest."

Take one day, set it aside and rest. All of creation needs a rest. It is part of the created order. Man has set up rules and regulations as to what this day of rest should look like, but the command is rather simple. Rest and thank God for life. Show God that thanks. How do you feel when your children simply say, "Thank-You?" The Hebrew slaves chose the seventh day through the story of Creation. We as Christians see a new creation in the first day of the week, but in either day, what better way to keep the world in working order, than creation resting together and giving thanks to the Giver of all these gifts. Think that'll make a difference in our world today?

So, there you have the first four commands given to maybe 400,000 slaves, some 3,500 years ago. The first three deal with our relationship to God, and one thrown in for our own benefit. For us to claim any relationship to our Creator is huge step. Yet, as that relationship grows, you will begin to know this very same God can lead anybody out of bondage and give freedom. If we only listen and begin to obey. Jesus summarized his Father's first four commands by simply saying, "Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, mind, and soul.

You see, God is not trying to make our lives complicated or hard. We complicate and make matters harder just fine on our own. God is simply giving humankind the tools to live an abundant life on this good green earth. Be fruitful. Take care of what God has given, including each other. Keep these straightforward commands and the world God gave us will run much smoother.

So, until next month let's hope we can all continue asking our "depth questions," realizing the rules of life are quite straight forward. I also pray our nation will someday become that "One nation under God," and we begin to put our money where our mouth is, "In God We Trust."

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler



Can we really be nearing the end of May? Time to put together the June issue of the Olive Branch! That means we're approaching the halfway point of the year 2022, and most of us are already forming plans for 2023. I must be having fun because time is really flying. Speaking of news and fun, the following recent Wall Street Journal headlines/stories both intrigued and amused me. They involve circumstances I would never have anticipated--not in a hundred years.

"Operation Fly Formula" brings infant formula to the US from Switzerland through Ramstein Airbase in Germany. USAF cargo masters are unloading pallets of formula in Indianapolis from a C-17. Now, that is shock and awe.

Sweden applies to join NATO. Sweden has shunned military alliances for centuries. The last war Russia and Sweden fought ended in 1809 with the Russian annexation of what a century later would become independent Finland. Badly mauled by the struggle among great powers, Sweden opted for neutrality. When I last served in NATO (1994), it was comprised of 16 countries. When and if Sweden and Finland join, it will expand to 32.

The "degender" movement goes mainstream. The administration's proposed budget calls mothers "birthing people." So does the National Institutes of Health. Harvard Medical School has been doing it since 2020, declaring that "not all who give birth" are women. Some hospitals call breast milk "human milk." If God has a sense of humor, and I believe he definitely does, he must be laughing. I know I am.

Teen Babysitters Are Charging \$30 an Hour Now, Because They Can

Sitter shortage has parents treating teenagers like VIPs; 'order anything you want for dinner'. Rather insignificant in the overall scheme of things, but an intriguing sign of our times.

As I prepare to gather with the Accola grandchildren over Memorial Day weekend, one or more of these topics will surely arise, and I will surely end up on the defensive as an aging 'baby boomer' among a gang of 'millennials'. Suppose I'd better bone up on the Johnny Depp vs Amber Heard libel trial, or I'll be considered "out of it".

Pray for all of us.

Tom

Treasurer's Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have heard from Thrivent, and they are only willing to loan us \$50,000 toward our church sign and pavilion. This will be a new and separate loan from our original mortgage at 4.95% interest over 10 years.

Our noisy offering will be going to the Food Pantry for the next few months. There is an increase of people seeking food assistance at this time and the Food Pantry can use the extra funds to stay in the black. April noisy offering raised \$381 for our Vacation Bible School Program. May noisy offering was directed to Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine.

Unfortunately, we have lost two of our renters, TLC Energy Consultants and Lifeline Academy. This will show as a decrease in the Use of Facilities next month. The council will again look for renters for the three suites in the Education Building.

We will begin taking donations for the Coffee and Fellowship Fund to replenish kitchen supplies. I know we have not been asking for donations during coffee/fellowship for three years, but to afford coffee and other supplies, we need to put the donation baskets out again. Also, if you are thankful for the Panera bread and goodies, you could throw in a couple of bucks to show your gratitude. The bread and goodies are well worth that.

Please keep Peace Lutheran Church members and finances in your prayers. Call or email me with any questions.

Your sister in Christ,
Faye Schill, Treasurer
321-327-7559
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds April 2022

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
Contributions	\$18,305.00	\$69,706.03	\$60,600.00
Loose Contributions	\$534.00	\$908.64	\$5,200.00
Other	\$0.00	\$97.44	\$1,000.00
Use of Facilities	\$8,655.00	\$17,335.00	\$16,000.00
Total Income	\$27,704.00	\$88,047.11	\$82,800.00
Expenses	\$21,266.19	\$77,022.11	\$82,800.00

Excess Income for April 2022: \$6,437.81

Excess Income for YTD 2022: \$11,025.00

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.



BRADLEY, Theresa & Scott (27)	06/10
ARNDT, Steven & Luisa (39)	06/11
FLAHERTY, David & Janet (39)	06/11
LAPLANTE, Christian & Dina (15)	06/13



(numbers are years married)



SMITH, Scott	06/01	RING, Katherine	06/13
SANDBERG, Shayne	06/03	RUSCOE, Robert	06/18
MITCHELL, Judy	06/04	COTTON, Rosita	06/19
CLIFFORD, Greg	06/09	HARVEY, Celeste	06/19
TROTTER, June	06/09	SCHILL, Faye	06/19
BAKER, Kelly	06/11	CRUMP, Richard	06/23
BRADLEY, Scott	06/13	O'BRIEN, Charlene	06/28
COOK, Sally	06/13	RAHAMAN, Christopher	06/28
RAMSEY, Sue	06/13		



Susan Hildebrand
Gwen Newberry
Lori Deaton
Ryan Dasinger
Rick Pellecchia
David Brunner, Sr.

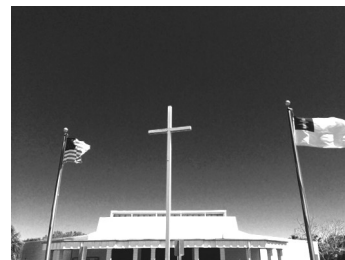
Ann Beardslee
Marta T. Rodriguez
Don Hoffman
Betty Sheller
Bill Leinthall
Rebecca Leinthall
Bob Ruscoe
Tonita Diaz
Theresa Bradley
Gary Gossett

Molly Gossett
June Trotter
Ron Nelson
Ariel Cook
Manuel Rodriguez
David Flaherty
Viola Forrester
Gary Gossett, Jr.
Dan Rank
David Pinkerton

Pastor David & Sandy Trexler
Carolyn Tarkka
Helga Bromm
Phyllis Dale
Bill & Nancy Love
Christian LaPlante
Pat Barnes
Matt Parks
Clarence VanHeck
Mary Anderson

CDC Guidance for Faith Based Organizations

PLC Leadership routinely reviews COVID-19 guidance posted by the state of Florida and by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We will continue to practice sensible routine hygienic practices as we worship and gather for Sunday school/services and other church meetings. General guidance on everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:



- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then trash the tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.

The COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 | 1 (866) 779-6121 | COVID-19@flhealth.gov



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!



We are definitely seeing an increase in the weekly numbers of families coming to the Food Pantry. We serve zip codes 32905 and 32907. Our food donations and purchased food items are flying off the shelves. Lori continues to purchase meat from Second Harvest each week, but we are seeing shortages of chicken, possibly due to "Bird Flu".

We continue to have volunteers that pickup WAWA donations twice a week and Einstein Bagels. The leftover Panera Bread from Sunday church is also important each week. Each week Lori picks up fruits and vegetable produce from Second Harvest. We never know exactly what we will get or how much.

School will be out by the time you receive this newsletter and we are looking forward to seeing our summer teenage volunteers. The grandchildren will be back for a visit. Yeah!!!! Some will be helping in the Pantry, some with Meals on Wheels, and others will be cleaning up the outdoor garden area.

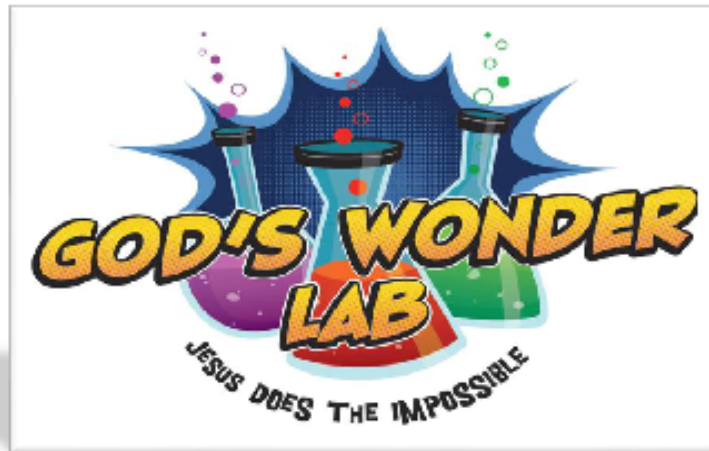
We continue to need clean grocery bags and boxes that are smaller than banana boxes.

Small Amazon and UPS delivery/shipping boxes are great. Thank you to all who give in some way.

A Happy and safe summer to all from the Food Pantry volunteer team.....

"The Take-Charge Ten"

EXTRA! EXTRA!



Vacation Bible School

WHEN: **July 11 – 15, 2022**
 9:00AM – 12:30PM

WHERE:
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH/IN SEASON MINISTRIES
1801 PORT MALABAR BLVD NE
PALM BAY, FL 32905
(321)727-3131

Register at: www.peacelutheranpb.org

Classes are for K - 5th Grade.
(Kindergarteners must have completed Kindergarten
and entering 1st Grade in August)

COST:

**There is a \$5 registration fee for each child up to
a limit of \$15 per family. (Limit is 75 children)**

Registration begins on: **Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

★ ***(Register early to ensure a place for your child/children)*** ★

Last day of online registration: Friday, July 1st at 5:00PM





2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Ascension of Our Lord 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	30 Memorial Day - Office Closed 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	3 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 8:45 PM Panera Pickup	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
5 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 12:00 PM Celebration of Life - Joe Harmon 1:00 PM Celebration of Life Reception - FH	6 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	7 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	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 8:45 PM Panera Pickup	11 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
12 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	13 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	14 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 7:00 PM Council Meeting	15 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	16 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	17 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch 8:45 PM Panera Pickup	18 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
19 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	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 8:45 PM Panera Pickup	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch
26 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch	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 8:45 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**

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
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



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.

amazon
smile

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as 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.

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 and AmazonSmile.

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch

Dated Material: JUNE 2022

NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE FL
PERMIT 144

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

Return service requested

Senior Pastor: David L. Trexler

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—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 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

Jesus

Salvation is found in no one else,
for there is no other name
under heaven given to men
by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12