

The Olive Branch

Peace Lutheran Church...

A Life Changing Community, Sharing Christ's Love!

Volume 62
Issue 9

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2022

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www.peacelutheranpb.org
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org
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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
Christian LaPlante—Campus Maintenance



Dear Friends through Christ:

Most of you know, I like telling stories and boy/girl have I got one to share.

Sandy's dear mother died June 4th following a 2-1/2-year difficult battle with some rare blood disease. Patricia Barnes was a devoted Roman Catholic saint, who truly feared God and fought her hardest to keep God's commands. It took Pat ten years to take communion from me, but even then, she had to attend her beloved church because Lutheran communion didn't count. Always made me laugh. I loved Pat for her devotion to Christ's Church. Each month while living with us, she mailed 10% of her income to a church that she no longer attended. In the 37 years that I knew Pat, I never, not once heard her say anything bad about another human being. Find that in the world! I wish we had 50 Pats at Peace.

During Covid, Pope Francis assured the devoted Catholics that being cremated had no bearing upon our eternal life. (I'm so glad we got that cleared up.) Fortunately, we convince Pat to go that route. Sandy has a large family, aunts, uncles, tons of cousins, so we planned a two-week trip around my brother's wedding and Pat's funeral, along with enough time to prepare a home for sale that had been their dwelling place for over 60 years, and if Pat had a fault, it was that she saved everything! (She might need it someday.)

Do you want to make God laugh? Then make good plans.

Sandy and I started feeling weird on Wednesday night, August 4th, one day before we were to leave. That next morning, we both tested positive for Covid. The wedding for my brother, my best friend in the whole world, was off. What a bummer! He still got married, I just didn't get to marry him. Sandy and I didn't get real sick. She laid around on the couch and I spent the next three days taking extremely long naps. Sunday morning, Sandy and I spent our last days of quarantine in the car with our two dogs. (I thought Braxton would probably die on the trip, he's so old—but he made it.) Good thing I rented this luxurious Chevy Silverado.

When we finally arrived in Highland, some 23 hours later and still feeling like crap, all the stuff that should have been taken care of by my brother-in-law the past two months was not done. None of it. About the kindest thing I can say in this letter is that most of the people I have come to know, they all seem to have one thing in common. They all seem to have a family member that has demon or two. Sandy and I are no exception. We ended up bringing Jeff home with us. No choice. At least to Sandy.

Here's where the story starts getting fun. The next ten days, ten days mind you, Sandy and I from early morning to early evening, were either packing up and giving away or packing up and throwing away: 62 years' worth of stuff that had been important in Patricia's lifetime. I carried at least 10,000 pounds of stuff up 15 steep steps, with a three-foot clearance, one slow step at a time. We loaded at least 20 truckloads of beautiful things for Good Will, and filled two, two mind you, 10 X 30-foot dumpsters of what now is simply garbage.

Continued on page 2

My dear Christian friends, I say this with love. When we leave this earth in a relatively short time, nothing material that you own will mean squat, and most of it, will mean nothing, not even to the people you love. Stuff means nothing! Hit me like a ton of bricks. So sad, especially for Sandy to go through all her parents' early possessions and keep less than ½ of 1%?

Jesus teaches, ***“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. Instead store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”***

The day before we left Highland, we buried Sandra's mother. It was a meaningful service in a beautiful Catholic church, sort of enjoyable to sit back and participate. (I now have more sympathy for those hard of hearing. Couldn't hear much of the priest's message.) Then we traveled south to Monticello, Indiana, where Sandy's father was born and laid Patricia ashes to rest alongside the Tippecanoe River. I presided and Sandy shared a message she had written as a Mother's Day sermon years ago. We closed this special day with a foretaste of the feast to come at one of our favorite restaurants with 30 of Pat's closest friends and family. The day was prefect. God is Good!

Friday, August 19th we packed up what would fit in the luxurious Silverado for our new house guest, and drove that now 27-hour drive so I could be back in time to deliver a sermon, recorded three weeks earlier, entitled, ***“Put on the Full Armor of God.”*** How ironic it that? The full armor of God is the only thing that held us up on this eventful trip.

On that drive home, I looked over at Sandy and asked, “How are you doing?” She looked over with a smile and simply said, “Good.” I replied, “Me too. I'm Good.” The two of us had just spent what may be the most difficult two weeks of our entire life, mentally, physically, emotionally, and yet we can both look each other in eye and say, “I'm Good.”

As Sandy and I continued our conversation, it was sort of like an epiphany, where I realized that we were more than just good. We had grown closer during this trip. As hard as it had been, there was still lots of joy and laughter, lots of love from family and friends and hope for her brother. All these gifts were given to us through our faith in Christ Jesus.

This short experience brought to life the very beginning of a letter Martin Luther wrote to Pope Leo in 1520, entitled “The Freedom of a Christian.” He opens the letter by saying,

“Many people have considered Christian faith an easy thing and not a few have given it place among the virtues. They do this because they have not experienced it and never tasted the great strength there is in faith. It is impossible to write well about it or to understand what has been written about it, unless one has at one time or another, experienced the courage which faith gives a person when trials oppress them. But the one who has had even a faint taste of it can never write, speak, meditate, or hear enough concerning it. Faith is living “spring of water willing up to eternal life,” as Christ calls it in John 4:14.”

I have experienced that faint taste of faith and I will never quit sharing this precious Word. It is salvation to all who believe. Salvation in this life and the next. It truly is worth sharing. Faith in Jesus does not make life easier, but it darn sure makes it doable. Even the worst times can be filled with joy! God is Good!

Your tired but joyful pastor,

Pastor David Trexler





Believe it or not, summer is drawing to an end! It's been a good year so far: relative stability has returned to our church and community. Schools are back in session. Pre-season pro football games are underway and post-season baseball will begin in a few weeks. I'm already anticipating those standard fall events that lead us into the holiday season: Halloween; Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving. It may seem somewhat premature to be talking about the holidays, but after viewing the Hallmark channel's "Christmas in July" movie line up with Brenda, maybe not.

Our church has endured an extended time of crisis. Our faith and God's grace has sustained us. In this third decade of the 21st century, no traditional church is truly 'out of the woods' when it comes to congregational growth (or lack of it) or financial stability, but we're OK. We'll continue to struggle to maintain/increase attendance and budgets. There will always be recurring challenges regarding campus maintenance, be it air conditioning or roof repair. Together, and with God's blessings, we will face and overcome these challenges.

A short drive through Palm Bay-Melbourne reveals explosive growth: new homes, apartment complexes and businesses. We exist in a dynamic, expanding community that needs to match its material success with spiritual purpose and meaning.

Our new sign will soon be finished. It will symbolize a church that is keeping up with the times rather than 'treading water'. Reaching out to that community: spreading God's word is and becoming God's Lampstand remains our vision. Keep our church and our community in your plans and prayers—be excited and optimistic about our future!

Tom



Do you love to sing? Studies show that singing relieves stress, stimulates the immune response, improves lung function, and most importantly, contributes to a sense of connection and belonging. The bible tells us to make a joyful noise and praise the Lord with music!:

The chancel choir will be starting Wednesday night rehearsals on August 31st at 7:00pm. We would love to have you join us. Please consider giving it a try. On the job training is provided, as well as lots of encouragement and laughs.

If you read music and would be interested in learning about the handbell choir, please contact Cindy Wagman at 321-830-4207 or email: cindyluwho57@yahoo.com.

We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 6 pm and you are asked to commit to one month at a time.

See you in church!

Musically yours,

Cindy



Treasurer's Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have paid 50% (\$26,600) down on the new sign with the remainder of \$26,600 due after installation. Because the loan for the sign was \$50,000, there will be a shortage of \$3,210 in that fund to pay for the new sign. (One member has contributed to this fund already). If you wish to help pay for this shortage, please write "new sign" and the amount on your contribution check or envelope. Please make sure you give your regular tithe first to help pay the bills.

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. The June noisy offering raised \$153, and the July noisy offering raised \$228.50 for the Food Pantry Fund. We know the Food Pantry volunteers will get the most bang for our bucks with smart shopping.

The Coffee and Fellowship Fund is in the negative by \$207. We will continue taking donations for the Coffee and Fellowship Fund to replenish funds used for potlucks and memorial luncheons. 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 June and July 2022

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$10,695.20	\$16,277.00	\$108,941.48	\$106,050.00
Loose Contributions	\$994.09	\$571.50	\$2,963.34	\$9,100.00
Other	\$0.00	\$00.00	\$97.44	\$1,750.00
Use of Facilities	\$500.46	\$2,105.00	\$21,815.46	\$28,000.00
Total Income	\$12,189.75	\$18,953.50	\$133,817.72	\$144,900.00
Expenses	\$21,852.41	\$19,411.45	\$142,366.66	\$103,500.00

Excess Income for June 2022: \$9,662.41

Excess Expenses for July 2022: \$457.95

Excess Income for YTD 2022: \$8,548.94

The General Fund account is used for regular expenses (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.



SMITH, Scott & Carolyn (17)	09/03
ROBINS, SR., George & Patricia (57)	09/04
MARCUS, David & Barbara (48)	09/08
COTTON, Steve & Rosita (34)	09/2



(numbers are years married)

September Birthdays



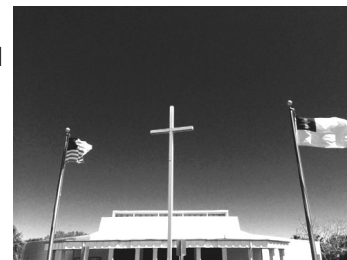
PATELSKI, Elaine	09/02
BROMM, Karl	09/06
CHRISTENSEN, Sally	09/07
EDWARDS, Wesley	09/08
MADDEN, Louis	09/14
DEFOSSE, Kathleen	09/16
HATON, Charles	09/16
HARMON, Barb	09/18
COTTON, Ryan	09/24
WEST, Beulah	09/28



Marta T. Rodriguez	Ron Nelson	Carolyn Tarkka	Chuck Bergfeld
Don Hoffman	Ariel Cook	Helga Bromm	Corrine Bickford
Betty Sheller	Manuel Rodriguez	Phyllis Dale	Ben Eargle
Susan Hildebrand	David Flaherty	Bill & Nancy Love	John Eargle
Gwen Newberry	Viola Forrester	Christian LaPlante	Lori Stotlemire
Lori Deaton	Gary Gossett, Jr.	Matt Parks	Martha Sprouse
Ryan Dasinger	Dan Rank	Mary Anderson	
Rick Pellecchia	David Pinkerton	Betsy Witter	
David Brunner, Sr.	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Karl Bromm	
Ann Beardslee		Amanda Young	

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

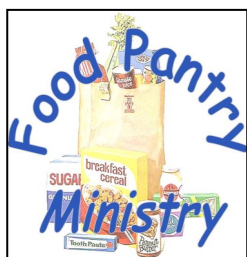


The idea is to spread the Love of God and the stories of the Bible through short entertaining messages over the phone.

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!



This is a typical assortment of groceries that we try to box up to give out on Tuesdays. We also add an additional 7-8lbs of meat to each box. Some weeks we are able to get eggs, cheese, laundry detergents, toothpaste, shampoos and personal hygiene items.

With your help, God has provided faithfully each and every week. We continue to need your donations to serve our community. You can help either by providing these types of items or giving gifts of money. At our

cost of 20 cents a pound, monetary gifts are a great option when you want to give. Also, if you are a member of Thrivent, you can give through their donation plan.

The summer went by very quickly. Our volunteer team took a few vacations, and some battled through COVID. We had visits from grandchildren and they were a huge help filling in.

Thank you from all of the Volunteer Team.



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was held at Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay on July 11 through July 15. **Henrietta** and **Richard Pellecchia** and myself, helped to organize, order materials and draft teachers and volunteers.

This was a joint effort by three different organizations: **In Season Ministries**, **Lifeline Academy**, and **Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay**. We had twenty-nine children that registered to attend. Each organization provided volunteers to help put on a successful and safe VBS for our local children. One volunteer took a week vacation to assist. Another volunteer turned seventy-nine during our Vacation Bible School week. There were also three volunteers that were not affiliated with the churches involved.

The curriculum came from Concordia Publishing House and was Bible based. Each day focusing on “*Jesus Does the Impossible.*” *Jesus performs His 1st miracle, Jesus walks on water, Jesus heals, Jesus brings back the dead, and Jesus calling Saul* were taught and discussed each day. The children also had science experiments, crafts, and games to illustrate that “**Jesus Does the Impossible.**” The children were given lessons regarding giving. Our mission for the VBS was ‘**Mission US**’ which gives books to children in the United States teaching them about Jesus. Our small group raised \$102 towards this cause.

One member of Peace Lutheran donated funds to buy Bibles for students attending VBS. (Some of our young volunteers also were happy to receive a Bible). Other members of Peace Lutheran secured T-shirts for volunteers and Thrivent gift cards to help with the cost of VBS material and food. Many members of Peace donated funds. Peace Lutheran Food Pantry secured drinks and breakfast bars through 2nd Harvest Food Bank to help keep our expenses down. Any food, drinks, breakfast bars, snacks remaining after VBS, was over went back to the Food Pantry to be given to their clients during this tough financial time. The children and volunteers loved the snacks.

Both the children and volunteers had a great time and were fed spiritually by this program. God bless **Pastor David Trexler**, all the volunteers, and the children who attended.

Between donations and Thrivent gift cards, Peace Lutheran financially stayed in the black to begin planning for Vacation Bible School 2023.

Faye Schill,
Treasurer, Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay, Inc.



September 2022

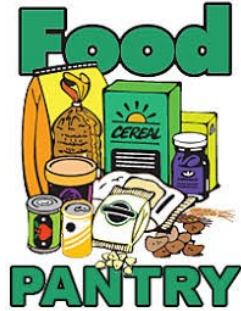
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	30 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	31 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch
4 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	5 LABOR DAY! 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	6 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	9 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch
11 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	13 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Council Meeting	14 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	17 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch
18 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	20 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 AUTUMN BEGINS! 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	24 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch
25 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	1 12:00pm 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



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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.

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Palm Bay, FL 32905

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch

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Dated Material: **SEPTEMBER 2022**
ISSUE

Return service requested

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Website: www.peacelutheranpb.org
Facebook: @peacelutheranpb

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—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