

**Volume 66
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2025**

The Olive Branch

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



Dear Friends through Christ:

When I arrived June 1st 2018, what impressed me were all the ministries Peace Lutheran offered. What scared me were your finances. Fast forward 7-1/2 years, and what still impresses me are all the ministries that this small congregation offers. What still scares me are our finances.

Our budget for 2025 to operate Peace Lutheran Church is \$260,000. That's not a bad value for all the ministry that is done, especially when a person considers that we only feed about 125 hungry souls with Word and Sacrament through our Worship on Sunday morning, and only about 75 saints and sinners come to eat with us on a weekly basis. Granted hundreds more are physically fed through Meals on Wheels and our Food Pantry. Thousands more are spiritually fed through AA and our Web presence, but for the most part, we the 125 hungry souls, or the 75 that come to eat, we are responsible for that budget of \$260,000.

Yet our budget of \$260,000 is our bare minimum for keeping our doors open. That number does not include much needed repair, or additional ministries. Plus the cost of being church just keeps going up and up. Yet God is always good! It has taken all of those 7-1/2 years, but I think we have figured out a working solution in balancing the ministries and the budget, for now. This year, approximately \$180,000 of our budget will be met by our parishioners, while the balance of \$80,000 will be met by organizations using our facilities to do ministry. Finally, a balance budget after all these years. Good job!

However, there is so much more to do than simply survive, and two of the actions I believe that are holding this Lampstand back are our understanding of tithing and our practice of invitation. That my friends is on me, because it is safe to say that I have not done a good job of teaching. While Jesus didn't seem to mind talking about money, I struggle. Sure, last year I gave more than \$15,000 back to the church, but that's my business, right? Afterall, it's really not that much when you consider, it comes back, pressed down and running over. Through everything our family has gone through, and it's been a lot, we have always had enough. Tithing, giving our "first fruits," or 10% of our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure back to the Lord is the heart of Christian ministry and it has been a rather good religion or way of life now for some 2000 years, and we Lutherans have the best theology that the world has to offer. Our teachings are so practical, and they work when we use our faith. Hopefully, prayerfully a new pastor can motivate tithing and inspire us all to invite our friends and family to church.

Still, there are a couple of things you could do for me and the Lord when I leave for the sunset of my life in Sunset Beach, North Carolina. First, have you ever desired or even wondered if you could "write a 15-25 minute message on Scripture, relating back to life. Or a 15-25 minute life changing story that ties back to Scripture?" Would you? Could you? Will you share a message of faith that points to Christ? Trust me, I do not turn over the pulpit lightly, but I feel that having our own beloved members, reaching deep into their soul sharing their faith is not only powerful for the person presiding, it can be uplifting for everyone. Preaching and presiding at Communion is a Holy Honor. If you are interested, there will be a sign up in the narthex.

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Cell Phone— (321)289-7115

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Steve Cotton—Vice President
Stephanie Madden—Secretary

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Staff:

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

Volunteer Staff:

Wes Edwards—Treasurer
Faye Schill—Financial Secretary
Lori Search—Food Pantry Director
Larry Schill—Campus Maintenance
Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance
Christian LaPlante—Campus Maintenance

Like I said, I do not turn over the pulpit lightly. Those who are willing, we will meet one weekend, or two, and go over Everything. Think of it as my going away present.

The second favor I humbly request is that this church continues finding ways to work closely with the organizations that use our facilities. In 2020, during Covid we sold the parsonage and 10 acres of unused land to Rick and Joyce Pribell, who have been members now for a few years. Originally, the land was going to be rezoned and converted into residential, but the city denied that request. Therefore, Rick and his lovely wife have shifted their vision to convert this beautiful piece of property into a Park! A park serving our community, schools, scouts, vacationers, complete with walking trails, a turtle sanctuary, a professional volleyball court with tournaments, kayak rentals and in the future a “all-purpose activity center,” to be used by the community, our church, and Life-Line Academy.

In the near future, Pribell Preserve could put to use the balance of our unused property, and in return would help Peace Lutheran financially, and provide for even more opportunities to do Christ’s work, now through a park. It is one of those win, win situations. But right now, we are having a little trouble piecing together the details of what would a community of different churches, an exceptional school, and a park living together, what would that look like?

The favor I ask, pray for, is that when I’m gone, please keep the dialogue going and the minds open. And by all means, try to keep the Devil out of the details. I am a firm believer of where there is a will, there is a way, and folks, if it is God’s will, no one will stop it. Sure, I’d would like to hang around and see this vision come together, but my health is fading and Sunset Beach is waiting. All I can do is simply share what I feel and pray that God will keep you on the path to do His Will, which is “always working for the benefit of others—Love.”

Yes, when I leave on January 1, 2026, what will always impressed me are all the ministries Peace Lutheran Church offers. And hopefully, when Sandy and I leave you will make certain that leadership will carry on the dialogue with everyone involved, trying their best to piece together the details of a beautiful vision—Church/School/Park/Jesus.

In Christian Love,
Pastor David Trexler

Letter from the Call Committee to the Congregation

Dear Members of Our Beloved Congregation,

As your Call Committee continues the sacred work of calling our next pastor, I am pleased to share an update on our progress within the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) call process. This multi-month journey requires careful attention to each step, and we are steadily moving forward. The LCMC guidelines remind us that patience is vital during this time, and we are grateful for your steadfast support as we proceed with discernment.

We have received your responses to the congregational questionnaire, and we deeply appreciate the thoughtful and detailed insights you provided. Your input has given us insight into the qualities and attributes desired in our future pastor. These responses are invaluable as we shape the profile for this role. We have shared the summarized results with the Church Council and will make them available to the entire congregation for transparency and unity.

The Call Committee is nearing completion of the materials needed to post the pastoral position, a critical step that will allow our new pastor to find us. We are excited about this progress and remain committed to ensuring every detail aligns with God’s plan for our church.

Please continue to engage with any Call Committee member if you have thoughts, concerns, or questions. Your partnership is essential to this process. Above all, we ask for your ongoing prayers for the committee, the Church Council, and our congregation as we navigate this time of transition. May God guide us to the pastor He has chosen for our future.

In Christ’s Service,
Andy Pedersen
Call Committee Lead

Call Committee Members

Andy Pedersen	andy_pedersen@yahoo.com	321-987-6253
Nancy Haton	hatongobucks@yahoo.com	419-874-8343
John Scherer	Johnscherer16@yahoo.com	321-576-4499
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Faye Schill	nomadschill@yahoo.com	321-327-7559
Holly Wikoff	holly.wikoff77@gmail.com	630-806-1668

COUNCIL PRESIDENT



When I think of our Thanksgiving dinners as a child, I see the faces of my parents and my siblings sitting at the table, laden with all the trimmings, with heads bowed and hands folded. Our prayer was simple: *“Komm Herr Jesu. Sei unser Gast, und segne was du uns aus Gnade bescheret hast.”* Translated into English it becomes : **“Come Lord Jesus be our guest and bless what you have given us out of grace.”** There was genuine thankfulness and we were recipients of God’s grace in the bounty before us.

Here at Peace Lutheran, we have so much to be Thankful for. We have a beautiful church, a welcoming community of worshippers and a pastor who preaches the Word of God.

Yes, we still need a new roof, and we’ve had a few leaks, but no hurricanes this year. Yes, we will go through some transition as Pastor David and Sandy leave, but Pastor Paul will come to preach in the interim. Yes, the Call Committee needs our prayers and support but they are following the procedure that will lead to finding our new pastor.

We are richly blessed and we can join hands and thank God for all he has given us out of grace.

Wishing everyone a peaceful, prayerful Thanksgiving!

Gabriele DiTota
Council President



Can you consider a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) to PLC?

Over the past few years PLC has been blessed by some members who have made a significant QCD to our ministry and it has been critical in keeping this lampstand shining. Below is the first paragraph describing QCD’s from Fidelity Charitable followed by a link to it for all the details (you will need to type or copy and paste the address into your browser manually). You can arrange for a QCD from your IRA custodian, they all support it. A big advantage of a QCD is you can support PLC’s mission with a donation from a traditional IRA that is not subject to federal tax withholding, whereas if you had that distribution paid to you, federal tax would be deducted and less would then be available to offer. If you have any questions after reading the below information and the website contact your IRA administrator. Most administrators (Fidelity, Schwab, TRowePrice etc) allow you to complete the request online with a check of your designated amount sent directly to PLC. From the first paragraph of the Fidelity article:

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$105,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA as part or whole of taking their required minimum distributions. As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions, though there are some other limitations.

The full article at below website:

[Qualified Charitable Distributions \(QCDs\) | planning your IRA withdrawal | Fidelity](#)

If you are required to take a Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD), please consider this opportunity to increase your stewardship at PLC in the amount that would otherwise go to withholding taxes.

Treasurer's Report for November 2025

Blessings to you Peace Family!

The Major Roof and Repair Fund stands at \$63,666.35 at the end of September.

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$5,519.95 for new Air Conditioners and other projects.

Wes Edwards, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Fund for September 2025

	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Contributions	\$10,151.00	\$99,311.38	\$141,087.78
Loose Contributions & Other	\$423.34	\$9,037.77	\$6,000.03
Use of Facilities	\$15,040.00	\$46,060.01	\$52,499.97
Total Income	\$25,614.34	\$154,409.16	\$199,587.78
IRS Credit		\$33,559.70	\$0.00
Expenses	\$24,208.69	\$207,669.48	\$194,173.47
Total income/deficit	\$1,405.65	(\$19,700.62)	\$5,414.31

Our income exceeded our expenses in September 2025: **\$1,405.65**

Year to Date (YTD) Our expenses exceeded income (\$19,700.62)

Year to Date (YTD) Budget of income over expenses (\$5,414.31)

In September, our income once again exceeded our expenses and reduced our YTD deficit. This is mainly due to income from the use of our facilities (we receive quarterly payments from Lifeline Academy).

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

God bless all who give freely of their time, tithes and talents.

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.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Website Photo Update – Share Your Memories!

We're refreshing our church website with vibrant photos from the past 2–3 years, capturing joyful moments like outdoor Easter services, the New Year's party, Trivia Night, Pot Lucks, Super Bowl pick'em, Thanksgiving collection, Christmas gift-giving, and any uplifting shots of our people and sanctuary.

Please send your best images with brief descriptions to Andy Pedersen at andy_pedersen@yahoo.com or text 321-987-6253...we'll select favorites to showcase our community's spirit.

Thank you for helping us celebrate these blessings!



PAC-A-SACK is back!!!

Please pick an empty bag in the Narthex and bring your bag back to church, filled with the items listed to help a family in need have a 'thankful' Thanksgiving. Leave your bag in the Narthex.

We have received our Christmas Angels, both children and seniors. They will be available after Thanksgiving.

Blessings,

Sandy Trexler



Hello from Arizona!

Many of you remember **Beulah West**, longtime member of Peace. She called and wanted to say hello to all of the members of Peace and that she thinks of you and prays for all of you often.

She wants you all to know she is doing well and that she misses all of you.

For those who have her phone number (its still the same) and would like to say hello to her, she would love to hear from you. If you do not have her number and would like to speak to her, call the church office.

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	31 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA	1 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
2 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	4 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA	8 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
9 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	11 VETERAN'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	14 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA	15 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
16 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	17 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	18 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA	22 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
23 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	24 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	25 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 THANKSGIVING DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 OFFICE CLOSED! 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA	29 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	2 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA	6 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship



WIKOFF, Kenny & Holly (40) 11/07



DALE, Phyllis	11/01	SHELLER, Betty	11/13
HOFFMAN, Donald	11/04	SEARCH, Virginia	11/15
WITTER, Michael	11/05	MCKENY, Sean	11/20
KING, Ivy	11/08	HORNBURG, Lucas	11/23
DARBY, Jacqueline	11/10	ROBINSON, Jacqui	11/24
LAPLANTE, Christian	11/12	MCKENY, Dale	11/25

(numbers of years married)



Don Hoffman	Helga Bromm	Marion Elliott	Patricia Robins
Betty Sheller	Bill & Nancy Love	Mardelle Hansen	Rosita Cotton
Tonita Diaz	Christian LaPlante	Sherry Anderson	Bob Salmons
Theresa Bradley	Brenda Accola	Richard & Joanne Honbaugh	Gary Marcet
Lori Deaton	Betsy Witter	Cristina Elliott	Judy Mitchell
Ryan Dasinger	Kaylie Trexler	Karen Holzer	Debbie Formo
Rick Pellecchia	Suzie McKeny	Elizabeth Holzer	Michael Adams
Jacqueline Darby	Dale McKeny	Patricia Aull	Stacy G.
Debbie Parks	Lou Madden	Denise Thomas	Whitney & Jaime Vazquez
Matt Parks	Sylvia Elliott	Wes & Molly Edwards	Sam Rosales
Enid Rodriguez	Evelyn Rodriguez	Jude Zrutskie	
	Yvonne Burns		

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



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,
Ft. Cavazos, TX**

**Maj. AD Dennis Peoples,
Rock Island Arsenal, IL**

**Major Nathan Schill,
Pentagon, VA**

**USN FC3 Stephen Weaver,
USS Dewey**

**Navy Chief Sean Patrick Goguen,
Norfolk, VA**

**1st Lieut. Tanner Johnson—Army,
E. Africa**



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.



During the month of October, the faithful volunteers of the Food Pantry handed out donated food, candy and miscellaneous treats to over 205 plus families. Our numbers are growing. Thankfully the cost to us for food from Second Harvest has not gone up, but the number of families we serve certainly has.

We appreciate any monetary assistance or donations that we get to help with this ministry. We continue to give out meat, can goods, rice, pasta, peanut butter and produce. Some weeks we are able to give out eggs and cheese.

Many Tuesdays, the items on the shelves are spread pretty thin and we wonder if we can fill the boxes that we give out, but.....God always provides. Thank you for any assistance that you can give.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Food Pantry Volunteers!



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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch

Dated Material:

November 2025

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Email: office@peacelutheranpb.org
Website: www.peacelutheranpb.org
Facebook: [@peacelutheranpb](https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb)

Senior Pastor: David L. Trexler

Worship

5:00PM—Saturday Night Worship
8:30AM—Bible Study
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 special mailings, etc. Please call Jacqui in church office (321)727-3131

Chancel Choir—Wednesday night rehearsals—7:00PM

Bell Choir—Call Cindy Wagman to learn more about our bell 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—We need people who can use the remote for our Slide Presentations on Sunday morning. Please see Pastor David Trexler for details if you would like to volunteer.

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

