

# The Olive Branch

Volume 60  
Issue 12

Peace Lutheran Church...

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

DECEMBER  
2020

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### Pastors:

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

### E-mail:

office@peacelutheranpb.org

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### Websites:

www.peacelutheranpb.org  
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org  
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### Staff:

Jacqui Robinson, Office Administrator  
Cindy Wagman, Choirs  
Sally Cook, Pianist

### Volunteer Staff:

Faye Schill, Treasurer  
Curt Peterson, Youth Pastor  
Lori Search—Food Pantry  
Charlene O'Brien—Food Pantry



Friends through Christ Jesus:

**Merry Christmas!** I'm going to try my best to get you into the mood of the Holiday Season, because we sure as shootin need a little Christmas cheer, and right now, celebrating the birth of a new born Savior is just what the

doctored ordered. A Messiah—serving as our prophet, priest and king!  
Merry Christmas!

A **prophet** showing us a glorious future, where you and I will experience things beyond our imagination and understanding. A prophet showing us that abundant life is within our grasp by simply trusting that God has given us all we need, and asking that in return we use our varied gifts taking care of our Creator's handiwork.

A **priest** making the ultimate sacrifice on a Cross, to forgive the times we did not master the temptation striking at our heals. A priest teaching us through his life/death and resurrection that our life/death and resurrection have meaning and purpose. I count for something, because I am a child of the Most High and Living God.

A **king** who rules over all that is seen and unseen. A king whom we can always trust to protect and provide justice.

If the promise of Messiah doesn't get you into the mood for the Christmas Season, then how about focusing upon the Advent Wreath and the wonderful promises associated with each candle, as we anticipate the Messiah's arrival.

The first candle reminds us of the **Hope** Jesus offers—given to you freely through his life, death, and resurrection. Hope one cannot find anywhere else—a hope that will not disappoint.

Hope the virus gets under control

Hope the world can live relatively peaceful

Hope that my children will be safe and do well

Hope that my wife is happy and stays healthy

Hope that my health and mind allow me to be a pastor for a very long time.

Hope that I'm doing the right thing.

Hope that I will see my loved ones again when all is said and done.

Through this hope, which cannot disappoint, we are given what the second candle on the Advent wreath symbolizes and that is **Peace**. The dictionary defines peace as a state of quiet—untroubled by conflict, agitation, or commotion—free from oppressive thoughts or emotion. That’s what God’s hope gives to me—Peace.

With this hope in God’s promises, and a sense of Peace like a river flowing through me, I begin to experience what the third candle symbolizes and that is **Joy**—a gift that Christ Jesus offers to all of us and a gift that belongs in His church. The life Jesus lived was never meant to make anyone sad. It doesn’t say, in John 10:10 “I came so that you might have sadness.” It says, “I came so that you might have a life and have it abundantly.” Joy is a gift—a gift from God, climaxing with the birth of Jesus. From the Hebrew Scriptures to the Greek Revelation the Bible is all about God coming into our lives, and then us going out into the world like an angel bringing glad tidings of great Joy!

With this everlasting hope, a sense of peace that passes all understanding and a joyful existence, I finally begin to understand the meaning of the fourth candle, symbolizing **Love**. Here Webster struggles for meaning, just like we do. Humanity defines love as—affection based on admiration—a warm attachment—to like or desire—to take pleasure in—concern for others—attraction based on sexual desire—and my favorite—a score of 0 in tennis.

Yet, at the very end of Webster’s definitions, we finally find a Godly glimpse at what true Love and Love of God really means—“Unselfish concern that freely accepts another and seeks their good.” I like to say, biblical Love is working toward the benefit of another, just like God does for you and me.

Well, I hope I am succeeding at bringing a little Holiday Cheer to your day. Just think when times get difficult, you have a Messiah, a prophet, priest and king, offering you Christmas presents of hope, peace, joy and love. That my friends is just what the doctor ordered.

Merry Christmas

**Pastor David Trexler**



**Put on your Calendar!**

We will meet on **Saturday, January 9, 2021** at 9am to take down the church Christmas decorations.



As you read these comments, we've already launched the holiday season with treasured Christmas traditions: lighting the Advent candles each Sunday, decorating the sanctuary; "trimming" the "Angel Tree" in our narthex (well, OK, picking up the request slips). We're planning for multiple Christmas Eve services and how to conduct them in a safe and secure manner. We're reminded of the new beginning of the first Christmas and looking forward to the new year: praying that 2021 will be very different than the long months we're leaving behind.

We began 2020 with bold plans to grow our church and expand our community outreach. But we very quickly found ourselves in survival mode: we actually had to close the church and cease services for several weeks, turning to phone calls and the internet to maintain spiritual unity. Despite the difficulties, there were blessings: we learned how to videotape and post our services and Pastor David's sermons, reaching out to new worshippers as well as our own members: Recording and posting Holy Week 2020 services was an experience that I will long remember.

When we deemed it safe to gather again, we instituted sanitizing and distancing procedures that still seem awkward, but work. Our church council meets monthly, masked and sitting at separate tables in our fellowship hall. We expanded our food pantry, planted a community garden, and welcomed a new church to our campus: Kingdom Life in Christ Apostolic Ministries. Sunday attendance is down. However, God's grace abounds, as always, and our church flourishes in many ways.

As the crisis continues, Peace Lutheran Church moves forward with faith, persistence and endurance, Paul told us to respond this way: **"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Timothy 2:3 (KJV).** We are going to make it; our church is going to be just fine.

Looking forward to a very Merry Christmas and a great new year.!

**Tom**

P.S.: I'm reminded of the borrowing from the old hymn: *"We are all one body, all one"*



When it comes to Christmas—think of all the gifts you need/want to buy? Do you really want to go out shopping?

Simply figure out who needs what, from which store, write it down order those items from SCRIP.

Shopping made easy during corona. Plus, did you know that an average of 5-6% of your purchase comes straight back to Peace Lutheran, where it is used to feed the poor?

# Treasurer's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

Merry Christmas to all my sisters and brothers in Christ. To all those that I won't see, you're in my thoughts and prayers.

I encourage everyone to use the "smile.amazon.com" when ordering your gifts or products from Amazon. You can designate Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay as your charity. The church will receive a small percentage. Those small percentages can add up.

Also, the Scrip program is still going strong. You can purchase your gift cards for your use or gifts for Christmas. A percentage of these go to the Scrip program and monies will be donated to a project or mission here at Peace. Sandy Trexler, Debbie Moleski and myself can take your orders. A list of participating stores is on the narthex table.

Thank you to all those that have directed your Thrivent Choice dollars to Peace Lutheran during 2020. This has helped fund many projects here at our church. Anyone wishing to invest monies should think about calling Thrivent. Our representative is Sam Lyons at 321-622-8144. They handle investments and all types of insurance.

Because of COVID-19 we are still "spaced out" at our services at 9:00 and 11:00. We normally have between 25 – 30 members/visitors at each service. We try not to sit behind or close to anyone but family members. The next two months could be very scary but we'll continue to be vigilant in our cleaning between services. We continue to sanitize the sanctuary pews (wood parts), doors and other handles, no one is shaking hands or sharing the peace of the Lord, the offering and noisy offering is not being passed, and we have plenty of hand sanitizer to make everyone feel confident that it's safe to come back to service. Many of us wear masks (Yes, it's uncomfortable!) and we sit at least 6 feet apart to make everyone feel safe. The Pastor and his assistant do wear masks during communion. I feel these are small acts we can do to show how much we care for one another and to worship together. I would hate to lose any one of you because we failed to follow recommended safety guidelines. I pray for everyone's continued health.

**Your sister in Christ,  
Faye Schill, Treasurer  
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org  
(321)727-3131**

## Treasurer's Report of General Funds

**October 2020**

	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$13,234.45	\$158,024.33	\$170,666.70
Use of Facilities	\$2,975.00	\$29,614.00	\$33,250.00
Total Income	\$16,209.45	\$187,638.33	\$203,916.70
Expenses	\$16,747.43	\$197,589.21	\$203,916.70

**Excess Expenses for October 2020 are: \$537.08**

**Excess Expenses for YTD 2020 are \$9,950.88**

**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!**



DITOTA, Bob & Gabrielle (39) 12/12  
 BACHTTEL, Harvey & Pam (24) 12/20  
 O'BRIEN, Mike & Charlene (52) 12/21  
 BAKER, Mark & Kelly (19) 12/22  
 PETERSON, Curt & Susan (19) 12/29  
 SANDBERG, Roger & Beverly (47) 12/29

DALE, Frederick	12/01	WAINIKAINEN, Lindsay	12/19
LOVE, Nancy	12/05	LIATOS, Phyllis	12/20
MOLESKI, Charlie	12/11	BADMAN-PATON, Lin	12/22
RICHTER, Carol	12/12	HOFFMAN, Susan	12/24
AMBROSE, Kaitlin	12/14	WHITLOCK, Noel	12/26
BARR, Emily	12/14	NEUMANN, Terry	12/28
NADEAU, Diane	12/15	BRUNNER, Cameron	12/29
DEMERS, JoAnne	12/16	BRUNNER, Victoria	12/29
ROBINS Sr., George	12/16	GRICE, Jennifer	12/29
		SPRENGLE, Maryanne	12/31



Susan Hildebrand	Rick Pellecchia	Rebecca Leinthall	June Trotter
Gwen Newberry	Tim Calvin	Maryanne Sprengle	Ron Nelson
Lori Deaton	David Brunner, Sr.	Bob Rusco	Frank Thompson
V.B. & Lucinda Johnson	Robert B. Elliott	Tonita Rodriguez	Ken Cramer
Ryan Dasinger	Ann Beardslee	Emily Gossett	
Mary Norwood	Maria Rodriguez	Theresa Bradley	
Larry Cannen	Marlene Eggert	Tom Flanagan	
Jeanette Peterson	Don Hoffman	Viola Forrester	
Gloria Jones	Betty Sheller	Gary Gossett, Jr.	
Frank Chenoweth			



## CDC Guidance for Faith Based Organizations

PLC leadership continues to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for faith based organizations. There is plenty of space for worshippers to spread out. As we continue to social distance in our sanctuary, here are CDC common prevention tips to help stop the spread of COVID-19 as we worship together:



- **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. We do encourage for you to wear masks in our sanctuary, please.**
- **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.**

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



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. Seeeee ya tomorrow!**



### **Shepherd's Center Update**

Due to COVID19, our Shepherd's Center has been unable to meet since the January-February 2020 session at the Wesley Methodist Church in West Melbourne.

We miss seeing all of our friends and having the opportunity to learn something new.

Hopefully, sometime in 2021, we will be able to safely meet again.

In the meantime, you can keep up-to-date by visiting the website [www.shepherdcenterofsb.org](http://www.shepherdcenterofsb.org) or by contacting Helga Bromm: [Helga3040@aol.com](mailto:Helga3040@aol.com)

Thank you, stay safe.

**Helga**



# FOOD PANTRY NEWS

In the week before Thanksgiving, the Food Pantry was able to pass out 60 frozen turkey breasts to families that come to us. It was a huge surprise to be able to get these in time for Thanksgiving dinner. The turkeys weighed 10-12 lbs. each.

If you are contributing to the Food Pantry, you had a hand in blessing these families and we thank you.

Merry Christmas to all from **"The Faithful Elves"** at the Food Pantry!

Ken, Gary, D., Lois, Lori, Chris, Dina, Charlene.



## **Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran,**

Because of Covid-19 and our low attendance, we have a decrease in our contributions. If you've been blessed by Peace Lutheran Church in the past, or currently through our online ministry and or the Food Pantry, please consider sending a contribution to Peace Lutheran Church. Our address is:

**Peace Lutheran Church  
1801 Port Malabar Blvd NE  
Palm Bay, FL 32905**

We are grateful for any contributions to continue our work here in Palm Bay.

Thank you.

**Faye Schill,  
PLC Treasurer**

# December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	<b>30</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>2</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>3</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY 7:00 PM Oaks West HOA - FH	<b>4</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	<b>5</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Dr. Kilday - Meeting Room
<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	<b>7</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>10</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Garden Club 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	<b>12</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Dr. Kilday - Meeting Room
<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	<b>14</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>16</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>17</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>18</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	<b>19</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Dr. Kilday - Meeting Room
<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	<b>21</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>23</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE! FOOD PANTRY CLOSED!!! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 8:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>25</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS! OFFICE CLOSED! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	<b>26</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	<b>28</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>30</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	<b>31</b> FOOD PANTRY CLOSED!!! NEW YEAR'S EVE! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! OFFICE CLOSED! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	<b>2</b> 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA

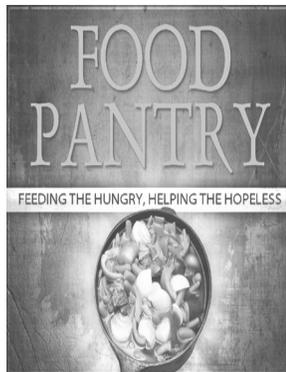
# Bits & Pieces

Check us out on Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Church



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

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



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—9AM -11AM and Thursday's—5PM—7PM.** We service zip codes **32905 and 32907.**

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	USN FC3 Stephen Weaver, USS Dewey
John Bedford, Iraq	Navy Chief Sean Patrick Goguen, Norfolk, VA
Kristen Hall AF, Iraq	1st Lieut. Tanner Johnson—Army, E. Africa
Capt. Brian Nailing, Co. Ft. Hood, TX	
Maj. AD Dennis Peoples, Rock Island Arsenal, IL	
Cpt, Nathan Schill, Ft. Leavenworth, KS	



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](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as [Amazon.com](http://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](http://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](http://Amazon.com).

It may be helpful to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You use the same account on [Amazon.com](http://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 – **DECEMBER 2020**

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MELBOURNE FL  
PERMIT 144

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Facebook: @peacelutheranpb

Return service requested

**Senior Pastor:** David Trexler

**Youth Pastor:** Curt Peterson

**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.

**Peace Band**—Come and try out.

**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

