

The Olive Branch

Peace Lutheran Church...

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

Volume 62
Issue 2

FEBRUARY
2022

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Of Special Interest

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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



Dear Friends through Christ:

Last month, I laid out a vision with the support of your council. I hope you had a chance to read it. February 27th we will have our annual congregational meeting to approve this budget and discuss our vision.

As I sat down to prepare my annual report, which is harder than it sounds, I realized that I had not taken the time to reflect on everything that happened last year. However, I did find the time to read a few annual reports from other organizations. Most of them tend to paint a not so pretty picture. So, I sat back in my chair and began to think about the year we just left behind.

As I pondered 2021, I began to feel a little guilty, like something wasn't quite right. I keep hearing how bad it was, how bad it is out there. We are bombarded with troublesome news daily from our friends, the internet and media, even bad news from the churches. So, why do I feel like 2021 was a good year? (And it was not a good year because of the stock market. I have no stocks.) So why do I feel guilty? Yes, it was a hard year, a sometimes-inconvenient year, but still a good year. Maybe I shouldn't feel this way? Or maybe I'm not doing a good job at sharing the message of the gospel? That gospel being, with Jesus every year, even the hardest of years, can still be a good one, no matter what. No matter what.

Personally, 2021 began with two eye surgeries, the second one going a little sideways. But now, I can see great at distances. Can't read squat though. Then off to dermatology to remove a big knot on my head. Now I can cut my hair short. A couple of cancerous moles were cut out and I'm back in the sun. Then I broke a wisdom tooth and it had to be yanked. Thing wasn't giving me much wisdom anyway. Now, about halfway through the year, I'm ready to get my shoulder fixed. Very painful for the past eight years. Let's just say, after four tries, I've got to know a lot of nurses, and I still hold out hope to get it fixed in 2022. Taught me a tremendous lesson in patience.

Sandy's mom keeps getting harder and harder to provide a quality way of life, but we do what we can. The worse thing that can happen to Pat, is that she goes to live with the Lord. That too is a good thing. Why be sad? All three of my kids are having their own set of issues. Thankfully, Sandy and I have given them the tools of Word and Sacrament. They'll figure it out. My wife broke her leg. Got to take care of her for a little. It's better. Praise the Lord. The church I love is struggling and many of its members are hurting. Yet our doors are still open, and the gospel is still being shared. Peace will be fine, and her members will get through this. The world seems to be going crazy, and I have the audacity to claim 2021 was a good year. But it was! Why? Because as followers of Christ Jesus, ***"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28)**

Continued on page 2

Another passage of Scripture that relieves some of that guilt of claiming to have a good year, comes from Matthew 6:25, where Jesus says, ***“I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”*** Jesus goes on for a little more, but at the end of chapter six, he proclaims, ***“Your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”***

Just this past week, I had the opportunity to preside at a memorial service for Gloria Swanson Jones, who would have turned 100 in a couple months. Gloria was born right after the war to end all wars ended, WWI, and following the Spanish Flu, which had just taken the lives of some 50 million people. She grew up as a little girl during the great depression. Then gave up her youth, like so many young women did, to work in dirty factories, when the US entered another war to end all wars, WWII. Gloria buried two husbands, raised two boys on her own, one of which she also buried. Wow, that could be called a troublesome life. But she proclaimed it was a beautiful, wonderful life. Not because it was easy, but because of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. According to this almost 100-year-old woman, God’s Church was her home and the place that gave her strength and comfort to serve. Gloria lived an abundant life, a good life, in spite of the thorns.

Folks that is what Jesus wants for me, wants for you, a good life, a good year. Therefore, each morning, when I drag this aching body out of bed, I thank God for another day to do His will. When I shower, I remember the waters of Baptism, where I have been named as a child of the Most High and Living God. Now, today all I need do is live out that baptism, simply taking care of the things that I am able to take care of with the spirit of God at my side. The things which are out of my control, and most of them are, I refuse to let them affect my day/week/month/year. When I lay my head down after a long day, I thank God again, and ask forgiveness for the times I did not behave like a Christian, praying for strength to do better. Then I close my eyes in peace. I sleep like a baby. Folks, that is why I can claim 2021 was a good year, not because it was easy, but because I believe God works in all things. I simply let God take care of things I cannot, again, which are most things, and then live the life set before me, a good life.

We will always be living in a world going sideways, where we can’t see squat for a time. We may have to live with cancer or pain. We will be forced to deal with situations that need to be removed, or ones that require a great deal of a patience. We will be dealt all kinds of issues from home, work, church. These struggles will pile up and cause us to worry. This is what is called life! And my dear friends through Christ, I am simply trying to do a good job at sharing the message of the gospel. I am writing to proclaim that simply putting the gospel of Christ Jesus, and his teachings as a priority in your life, will make for a much better day/week/month/year. Just take care of what you can in the name of Jesus. Leave the rest to God, and then don’t feel guilty about having a good year in 2022.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Trexler



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The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on:

Sunday, February 27, 2022 immediately following the
10:00AM Worship Service.

Please put on your calendar to attend this very
important meeting!

✂



I hate repeating myself—starting out 2022 with the same optimistic exhortations I expressed in my Olive Branch article last year—yet here we are. “It is what it is,” as they say. Yes, we anticipate breaking out of pandemic mode: growing and moving Peace Lutheran Church forward. So, has anything really changed? Are we in the same place that we were in January 2021--have we moved at all?

Well, what’s “old”? We’re still in the middle of a pandemic. We have a solid base of church members who attend weekly services. However, attendance (thus contributions/offerings) remains down, as stalwart members, many of us older and/or with preexisting medical conditions, remain understandingly reluctant to gather in group settings. The pandemic is almost certainly a factor in our difficulty in attracting new members. Our church campus remains the center of faith-based and outreach activities: an outstanding Food Pantry, a sister church, In Season church, meeting in Peace Place; Meals-on Wheels and Alcoholics Anonymous to name just a few.

What’s new? We repainted the entire campus. Selling the unused portion of our property was a very big deal. So was going to one Sunday service and restarting Sunday School classes: Pastor David’s teachings on Genesis (Revelation will follow) are special. Church staff and leadership are solid: not sure I’ve worked with a more unified, dedicated pastor and council. Altar guild, music program; ushers—where would we be without these dedicated individuals? Campus maintenance: same deal: what a joy to come to a well maintained, attractive chapel and grounds, much of it accomplished by volunteers.

What’s the future? January’s Olive Branch included our PLC Vision 2022: our road to the future. It’s essence: becoming a community Lampstand: building a covered outdoor shelter suitable for outdoor ministry. Expanding the use of our facilities, primarily Peace Place and our fellowship hall for weddings, funerals and family functions and for various classes/Bible Studies that offer our older population/lonely individuals a beacon of hope. We need an upgraded, modern attractive sign. We hope to double our weekly attendance by the end of 2022.

Pray about the vision. Have faith in our future!

Tom



Would you consider donating clean, new or used blankets for donations to the Daily Bread in Melbourne for the homeless?

They are in need of lightweight and just big enough blankets that someone can "roll up and carry under an arm."

Please:

***No quilts**

***No comforters**

You can bring to the church and leave in the Narthex. A volunteer at the food pantry will have them delivered to the Daily Bread.

Thank you for your giving!



Treasurer's Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Our noisy offering is going to a different worthy cause each month. During December we raised \$228.00 for the Genesis House (homeless, unwed mothers and abused women). January noisy offering will go to Coffee and

Fellowship Fund. During the pandemic we did not have a fellowship time, so we need to restock our shelves and be ready for potlucks, Bible studies, fellowships, memorial luncheons and other get-togethers.

Anyone wanting 2022 contribution envelopes please contact me after service.

I love those five Sunday months like December. That truly helps the general fund keep up to expenses. Unfortunately, for the General Fund, we also had three payrolls taken during December. This happens twice a year. God will provide.

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



VANCO MOBILE APP

For those who are fairly tech savvy and want a straightforward way to contribute monies try the new Vanco Mobile app. This works on computers, android, and I-phones. You can give directly from your bank account, debit, or credit card, make a one-time payment, or set up a recurring payment, and give to General Fund, Food Pantry, Maintenance, Children's Hunger Project, or Memorial Fund. All through your phone or computer.

We have used Vanco for years and many of us have done recurring contributions. Before this you had to fill out paperwork and the treasurer had to enter the information for members. Now you can do this yourself.

The Vanco Mobile app will added to the Peace Lutheran's Facebook page along with the Pastor's message, and members and non-members can use this platform to give once or on a regular basis.

The directions to use Vanco Mobile will be on the table in the narthex.

Peace Lutheran Church is always grateful for your donations; however, you wish to give.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds December 2021

| | <u>December</u> | <u>YTD</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Contributions | \$15,924.00 | \$172,837.13 | \$202,700.00 |
| Sale of Property/Other | | \$163,457.87 | \$10,000.00 |
| Use of Facilities | \$2,535.00 | \$32,950.00 | \$39,000.00 |
| Total Income | \$18,459.00 | \$369,245.00 | \$251,700.00 |
| Expenses | \$23,844.25 | \$244,531.54 | \$251,700.00 |

Excess Income for December 2021 is: (\$5,385.25)
(Total Monthly Income less Monthly Expenses)

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

Did you know? Instead of writing multiple checks for individual contributions like the Children's Hunger Project, the Food Pantry, etc., you only have to write one check. Simply designate the breakdown of your giving in the check's memo area or on the envelope itself. "FP" for Food Pantry, "CHP" for Children's Hunger Project, and so on.



ACCOLA, Thomas & Brenda (18) 02/07



(numbers are years married)



| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| RING, Alexandra | 02/01 |
| ADILOFF, Mary | 02/03 |
| MCVAY, Brian | 02/06 |
| COTTON, Steve | 02/11 |



Susan Hildebrand
Gwen Newberry
Lori Deaton
Ryan Dasinger
Mary Norwood
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
Mickael Chadwick
Gary Gossett, Jr.

Dan Rank
David Pinkerton
Courtney Hunter
Pastor David &
Sandy Trexler
Jim Brailsford
Carolyn Tarkka
Helga Bromm
Stefan Ellrich
Leah Booth

CDC Guidance for Faith Based Organizations

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



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

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

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

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

IRA owners.....did you know that tithes/donations to PLC directly from your IRA can lower your taxes? A qualified charitable deduction (QCD) is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA owned by an individual that is 70 1/2 or over that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. At 70 1/2, IRA owners must take annual required minimum distributions (RMDs). Paying tithes/donations to PLC from your IRA, reduces your AGI, and might even keep you in a lower tax bracket.

To meet IRS requirements for a qualified charitable deduction, it must be made directly from your IRA to PLC; your CPA/tax return preparer and IRA managers are familiar with the process.

Thanks to Brent Doyle for passing this info on. If you wish to discuss further, contact Brent or Faye Schill for more details.



PLEASE NOTE

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

Thank you!

EXTRA! EXTRA!



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

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



February's noisy offering will be going to:

"Daily Bread"

They provide hot meals, showers, etc. to the homeless in our community.

Thank you for your faithful giving!



Shepherd's Center
of South Brevard, Inc
Adventures in Learning



**WINTER CLASSES HAS BEEN POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**



2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| 30 4th Epiphany 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 31 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 1 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 2 8:30 AM Life Line Screening - FH 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 3 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH 7:00 PM Fairways of Brevard - FH | 4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 8:45 PM Panera Pickup | 5 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA |
| 6 5th Epiphany 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 7 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 8 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Council Meeting | 9 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 10 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 11 9:00 AM Garden Club 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 8:45 PM Panera Pickup | 12 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA |
| 13 6th Epiphany 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 14 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 15 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 16 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 17 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 18 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 8:45 PM Panera Pickup | 19 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA |
| 20 7th Epiphany 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 21 President's Day - Office Closed 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 22 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 23 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 24 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 8:45 PM Panera Pickup | 26 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA |
| 27 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 28 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 1 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 2 Ash Wednesday 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA | 3 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH | 4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 8:45 PM Panera Pickup | 5 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



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.

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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: FEBRUARY 2022

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PERMIT 144

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

Return service requested

Senior Pastor: David Trexler

Worship Service
9:00AM & 11:00AM



We Serve

Altar Guild—Set up and prepare for communion each week, usually serving one month at a time; more people are needed.

Worship Servants—Sunday Worship Assistants and Communion Assistants are needed.

Office Helpers—Those who help with mailings, preparing Welcome Packets, etc.

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

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

Money Counters—Teams of two people working for one month at a time. Call church office if interested.

In the Nursery—Nursery is available during worship.

Property/Grounds—There is always plenty of work to be done here. Please contact Steve Barnett.

Projectionists Needed—People that are in the projection room Sunday morning for our Sunday presentations. Please sign up in the projection room.

Panera Bread Pick-up—Each Friday evening people are needed to go to Hammock Landings to get the goodies for Sunday morning Café Peace. Cindy Wagman at 676-3849

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

