

Volume 64
Issue 10

OCTOBER
2023

The Olive Branch

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

Dear Saints and Sinners through Christ Jesus our Lord:

Ha! After twenty-five years of writing monthly newsletters, I finally changed the greeting. That's 300 newsletters. Ya'll probably didn't even notice, but for any of you who have ever under- taken such a task, you understand, writing these things ain't easy. What do I say? How do I say it? Who's gonna get mad? But know this, if what I am writing points to the love of God, seen most clearly through the Cross of Christ, then the Spirit can usually come up with something worthwhile. I know I can't.

Sometimes I find myself worrying about the future of the church, more specifically the future of our church, but I am quickly reminded, worry prevents my full trust in God. Trust—that if Jesus Christ remains in the center of the church. Trust—that if we focus on the mysteries of Word and Sacrament, God will always protect the future, ours and the church. That's a big if, no matter what that future looks like.

Twenty-five years ago, I began a quest for the understanding of two books that I was forced to read at the age of twelve—Genesis and Revelation. The winding journey has produced a written dialogue with these bookends entitled, "It Is Enough."

Through a careful study of the first twelve chapters of

Genesis and the entire book of Revelation, one will discover that it is enough to know God and it is enough to understand human nature! It is enough to see our past, our present and our future! It Is Enough!

Pretty lofty claims, uh? Well, all I can say is that these two pieces of heavenly literature did wonders for me. They opened the balance of Scripture in a way I can't really explain. Now, how do I share these insights and gifts that these mysteries bring? After all, the text of Genesis and Revelation seldom show up in our lectionary on Sunday morning and when they do, they are chopped up into semi-random pieces. How do we get to hear the whole story, especially when it is enough to bring clarity to the balance of Scripture? What do I do? Simply wait until it comes out as a book and hope you buy it off Amazon? I've spent twenty-five years of countless hours sitting at a computer trying to make these heaven-sent pieces of God's Word talk to me and did they ever. I did all this so I could share this insight and wisdom. So, what am I waiting for?

Well guess what folks? It is a good thing that we are not bound by our lectionary. Remember, Lutherans are the original rebels.

So, beginning this Sunday, (you won't even have the letter yet) and continuing until you tell me to stop, or we finish, I will incorporate the texts of Genesis, chapter one through twelve, (which is also the gospel of Christ Jesus), extracting nuggets of truth, helping us to know God and understand why humanity does so many stupid things, trying my hardest to make these Words come alive and yet be faithful to the nature of God as I understand. If we make it through Genesis without too much kicking and screaming, we head straight into Revelation and here we get to see, pretty clearly I might add, our past, our present and our future. We will be given options and shown the outcome of our choices. Folks, it truly is some exciting, good news.

I'm not quite sure how all this will look. You guy/gals are hearing about this at the same time almost as me. Told you the Spirit would come up with something to say. Don't worry, our worship structure will change very little, confessions, songs, the gospel, choir, communion—the whole

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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

Mark Grice—Campus Maintenance

Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance

Terry Zrutskie—Campus Maintenance

Christian LaPlante—Campus Maintenance

shootin shabangger. (Spell check says those aren't words. What do they know?) Anyway, I'll keep the messages at about 30 minutes, while also trying to keep worship time at one hour. That means, if we play this thing through, we will reach Revelation 22:21 in about six months.

We can use these six months to invite as many people as you have the courage to invite. Tell them about a series on two of the most fascinating pieces of the Holy Bible, Genesis 1-12:4 and Revelation 1:1-22:21, told in a unique way. If they are reluctant, ask them to at least check it out on the internet.

The way I see it, we all have a difficult task, even harder than writing monthly newsletters. It is the difficult task of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with those around us. It ain't easy. Sure, we can try to live according to God's purposes, but being a good person is only part of the equation. As Christians, we are also called to share the message of the gospel, always inviting people to hear these life-giving, life-saving words. If we do not share the stories of the Bible, the good news, we

cannot call ourselves Christian. Folks, it is the only way our world will move forward in a positive direction. It is the only way the church, our church will survive. But what do I say? How do I say it? Rest assured, if it points to the love of God, seen most clearly through the Cross of Christ, then the Spirit will come up with something, especially if you understand the bookends of Scripture. I pray you come to know the nature of our God and begin to understand humanity's predicament. I pray you will be a witness to our past, our present and our future, learning firsthand the outcome of our choices. With this insight and wisdom, I pray you may find it easier to know what to say and how to say it. I pray you join me on a journey that does not disappoint and best of all, never ends. Now you'll never have to worry about your future again, personally, or together as Saints and Sinners of Peace Lutheran Church. I look forward to traveling this road with you.

In Christian Love,
Rev. David Trexler

P.S.—Five years ago, when I arrived at Peace Lutheran our church grounds were not as beautiful as they are now. The reason for the improvement was you. One of the first programs instituted was called "Adopt A Plot." About the only thing I did was draw up a map with 13 different plots of landscaping found at Peace and then asked that each plot be adopted by members. Within a few months our grounds were beautiful.

Well, five years later, people have moved, left the church or their adopted plot has become a burden. Sure, our grounds still look beautiful, but that is because Mark and Jennifer Grice and Larry Schill have picked up the slack. Thank you, but they shouldn't have to work so hard when there are many who could lend a hand.

Therefore, in the narthex you will find a revised version of "Adopt A Plot." Look at the map, walk around the campus and decide which section you would like to care for and nurture in the future. Put your name on the map and presto you are the proud adopted parent/s of a piece of God's green earth. Then three or four times a year do what it takes to have your adopted child sing of God's glory.



Brenda and I spent most of September on the beautiful island of Kauai. Getting there and returning home required six separate flight legs through Atlanta and Los Angeles—4500 air miles each way. Then, finally, there we were in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, six time zones behind Florida. We had escaped! For several weeks we were free of the daily routines of our lives here in Florida, replacing them with the many pleasures of Kauai. But, even as we enjoyed this 'alternate universe' of sun and fun, our thoughts frequently turned to friends and family back in the 'mainland'—that's what Hawaiians call the continental US. Church and community relationships have become the foundation of our day-to-day lives here in Florida.

Summer ended and fall began as we returned home. Looking forward to those special events and activities that lead into the holiday season. God Bless!

Tom



Thank you



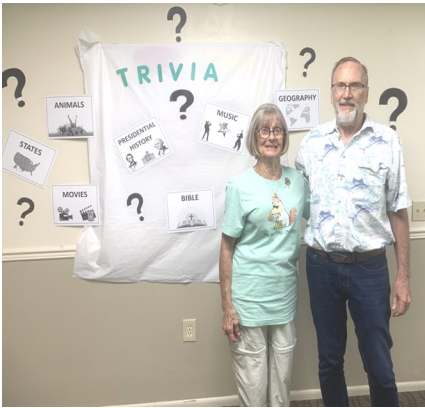
I personally would like to thank my husband, Pastor David Trexler as well as many of you for all the support and encouragement you gave to me over the past 18 months of Diakonia study. I had an official graduation ceremony on Saturday, which was presided over by the Bishop. While my educational curriculum is completed, I have much intra-congregational work yet to be done before I can be formally commissioned.

Thank you for your prayers and support on the journey.

Blessings,

Sandy Trexler

Extra! Extra!



Back by popular demand. **TRIVIA NIGHT !**

Saturday October 21st, 2023.

Pastor Trexler's infamous Chili is on the menu followed by fun, laughter and fellowship. Sign up in the Narthex. Please join us!!



Pack-A-Sack

For our fourth year we will be collecting all the non-perishable food items needed for a Thanksgiving Dinner for those in need. Bags with attached lists will be in the Narthex **starting on October 21st**. This ministry brings such joy to those to whom the holiday is stressful.



A yummy and enjoyable lunch was shared this past Sunday by 25 of our members and a few new faces as well. Thanks for joining us. A special shout out to the maker of the Delicious Chinese Noodle Salad.

Music



Chancel Choir rehearsal every Wednesday—7:00PM

We would love for you to join us !



The Space Coast Flute Orchestra will be presenting our fall concert on Sunday, November 5 at 3 pm at Suntree United Methodist Church on Wickham Road.

As always, it is a free concert.

Hope to see you there.

Cindy

Treasurer's Report

God's blessings to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

As you can see below, in August our expenses outpaced our income. As usual our income is down during the summer months. Our YTD expenses are high because we paid the entire 2023-2024 property and liability insurance in June and July. Our thanks to all who contribute and give with a joyful heart. Your contribution is between you and God.

We have a fund called Major Repair Fund where we will be putting contributions for the roof replacement for our sanctuary. Please make this contribution in addition to your regular General Fund contribution. We still need to pay our regular bills and payroll. We will not be getting help from our past or present insurance company because our deductible is \$100,000. In the following months, I will keep you informed regarding the Major Repair Fund balance and quotes from the roofing companies.

If you have been visiting Peace Lutheran for a while and want to join, we would love to have you as a member. Anyone wishing to join Peace Lutheran Church please fill out a membership form (located on the narthex table) and give to the Pastor or drop in the offering plate on Sunday. We would love to have new members and increase our church family.

I continue to seek a replacement for the job of Treasurer. I'm willing to spend a year training if necessary.

Please keep Peace Lutheran Church members and finances in your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report of General Funds August 2023
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	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$9,495.00	\$113,821.79	\$130,411.36
Loose Contributions & Other	\$504.00	\$5,546.15	\$12,578.64
Use of Facilities	\$2,350.00	\$17,585.00	\$21,333.36
Total Income	\$12,349.00	\$136,952.94	\$164,323.36
Expenses	\$15,801.31	\$178,720.10	\$164,323.36

Excess Expense for August 2023: \$3,452.31
(Total Monthly Expense less Monthly Income)

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

***Please help!** As of late, our money counters get the job done in less than an hour, but we pray for the day that it will take them two hours minimum!*

Also, invite friends and family to hear our Pastor's excellent message and commune with God's family here at Peace. Thank you and God bless our money counters and all who volunteer and support Peace Lutheran Church of Palm Bay.

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.



BROMM, Karl & Helga (60) 10/04
 MCKENY, Suzie & Dale (57) 10/15
 WAGMAN, Cindy & Dan (37) 10/18
 DUCOTE, Mitchael & Ginger (5) 10/20



(numbers of years married)



ARNDT, Luisa 10/02
 MCKENY, Suzie 10/04
 WAINIKAINEN, Laura 10/04
 LAPLANTE, Dina 10/07
 PINKERTON, Wanda 10/08
 POORAN, Steve 10/10
 TREXLER, Sandra 10/10
 BROMM, Helga 10/13
 BACHTEL, Harvey 10/15
 BICKFORD, William 10/19
 WAINIKAINEN, Donna 10/23
 WITTER, Betsy 10/30
 WAGMAN, Cindy 10/31



Don Hoffman
 Betty Sheller
 Bill Leinthall
 Rebecca Leinthall
 Bob Ruscoe
 Tonita Diaz
 Theresa Bradley
 Gary Gossett

Lori Deaton
 Ryan Dasinger
 Rick Pellecchia
 Ann Beardslee
 Jacqueline Darby
 Debbie Parks
 Kris Friant
 George Robbins

June Trotter
 Ariel Cook
 Manuel Rodriguez
 David Flaherty
 Viola Forrester
 Gary Gossett, Jr.
 Dan Rank
 David Pinkerton
 Maliaka Singleton

Pastor David & Sandy Trexler
 Gary Witter
 Carolyn Tarkka
 Helga Bromm
 Phyllis Dale
 Bill & Nancy Love
 Christian LaPlante
 Matt Parks
 Betsy Witter

Karl Bromm
 Paul Bickford
 Frank Miller
 Sally Cook
 Suzie McKeny
 Megan O'Neal
 Lou Madden
 Marion Bistarky
 Allison Patton
 Kris Friant



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday																						
1 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	3 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Dina's Daughter Baby Shower - FH 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	8 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	9 Columbus Day 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Turkey Creek Meeting - FH	10 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	11 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	13 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	14 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 1:00pm Baby Shower - FH 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	15 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	17 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship 6:00pm Trivia Game Night - FH	22 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	24 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	25 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	29 Reformation Sunday 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	31 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship

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,
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



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.

amazon
smile

PLEASE NOTE:

AMAZON HAS DISCONTINUED THEIR AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM AS OF FEBRUARY 2023. THEREFORE, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHOOSE 'PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PB' TO DONATE WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR PURCHASES ON AMAZON ANY LONGER.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED TO PEACE IN THE PAST, WHEN YOU PURCHASED FROM AMAZON..

GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY!

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch

NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE FL
PERMIT 144

Dated Material:
October 2023

Return service requested

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

Senior Pastor: David L. Trexler

Worship

5:00PM—Saturday Night 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

New Sermon Series...

GENESIS & REVELATION

A DIALOGUE WITH THE BOOKENDS OF SCRIPTURE

SATURDAY - 5PM
SUNDAY - 10AM

Peace Lutheran Church * 1801 Port Malabar Blvd NE * Palm Bay, FL 32905 * (321)727-3131