

The Olive Branch

Volume 61
Issue 1

Peace Lutheran Church...

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

January

2021

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Of Special Interest

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Dear Friends through Christ Jesus:

Happy New Year! I pray all were blessed in some way by Jesus during the Holiday Season. Thank you for the Christmas gift! Your kindness makes me feel that you appreciate hearing God's Word and you care about shining His Light in a sometimes dark world. I hope and pray in 2021 you will appreciate even more of that Word and shine even more of that Light.

I don't remember ever looking so forward to a new year. It has been a challenging one, for some more than others. For myself, 2020 shined a bright light on human injustice. Our lack of concern for the planet, given to us as a gift, and our unwillingness to sacrifice and take action has caused much pain and suffering.

The virus affects the most vulnerable; the poor, the sick and the elderly, those whom Jesus was the most concerned with throughout his ministry. Jesus in all the gospels shows "preferential treatment" to the most vulnerable. The Hebrew Scripture and the Christian Writings both scream out justice. For whom? The poor, the sick and the elderly.

Yet those who have power in our society, those who have contributed to this mess, those who could be the most effective agents in solving these problems, those are the ones who have turned a blind eye, those are the ones who have actually accumulated human wealth and done quite well on the surface. I am quite certain God is not smiling. The pandemic or virus is a brutal bright sign or warning that we, as a global society are heading in the wrong direction. We need to repent—turn around.

The good news is that many of us have now at least "seen" this challenge staring us in the face. Pope Frances writes in his book Let Us Dream, "For a long time we carried on thinking we could be healthy in a world that was sick. But the crisis has brought home how important it is to work for a healthy world."

The hope is that we begin to look toward God for the solutions. The hope is that "one by one" we begin to focus upon the Cross—the life/death and resurrection of Jesus—and "one by one," through the Cross we can be shown a path to recovery and abundant life for all, not just the few.

The good news is that the "one by one" can outgrow, outspread Covid-19 and any problems like it; if only we begin to take seriously the role God should play in our everyday existence.

Pastors:

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

E-mail:

office@peacelutheranpb.org

Office Hours: M-F 8:30am -12:30pm

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Websites:

www.peacelutheranpb.org
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org
Facebook @peacelutheranpb

Staff:

Jacqui Robinson, Office Administrator
Cindy Wagman, Choir
Sally Cook, Pianist
Stephen Massey, Custodian

Volunteer Staff:

Faye Schill, Treasurer
Lori Search—Food Pantry Director

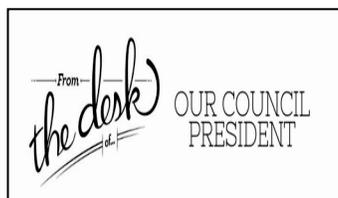
The good news is that regardless of wealth or health, color or age, every single one of us is capable of shining a little light in a sometimes dark world, remembering even a small amount of light can eliminate a lot of darkness. Maybe, just maybe, some of that light will reach the top.

This New Year, return to the waters of your baptism and repent. When you awake in the morning, thank God for one more day and all its blessings. When you shower and anytime you touch or see water, try to remember the fact that you are a child of the Most High and Living God. Then try and act that way.

Spend time with God and His Holy Word. Study it carefully, ask the questions Scripture demands, and then pray like you've never prayed before, pleading for guidance, wisdom and strength. Listen, listen for answers, watch for paths shown, and then make a choice whether you want to be part of God's solution or the Human problem.

Scripture never promises that doing the will of God and following Christ Jesus is easy. It is not. But Scripture does promise, those willing to sacrifice, those willing to do what is right and just, those will not be left in the dark. Their face will shine as bright as the Son--eternally. The light of Jesus Christ is the solution the world needs and it needs to shine through you.

Happy New Year!
Pastor Trexler



Welcome to the year of our Lord 2021! Goodbye and good riddance to the Lord's year 2020. What an unexpected and unbelievable 12 months for our church!

We've weathered the COVID-19 storm in relatively good shape. I realize that the storm is not yet over, but we can see light at the end of the tunnel. We moved forth boldly in several areas: expanding the food pantry, keeping our excess office space rented, and listing our excess property for sale. We have a core group of worshippers attending Sunday services, and are reaching others through our Facebook and website postings. It's been rewarding to move forward as a team—as a congregation—to meet these challenges. As we count our own blessings, we need to be aware of how hard this year has been for so many: constantly pray for them and help where and when we can.

So, what's in store for us in the New Year? What's at stake? What are our hopes and dreams? What are our fears? What's really at stake is how we remain true to who we are in a world that is remaking itself at dizzying speed. Our hopes and dreams: making Peace Lutheran a more vibrant and effective source of faith, not just for our current worshippers, but for the many others we would like to see filling our pews. Fears? Well, it's said that character isn't defined when things are easy, it's etched into how we respond in moments of fear, despair and gloom. I believe that our church has faced a pretty desperate situation, and will continue to respond with faith, hope, and charity.

The one thing we can be sure of is that the New Year will present us with plenty of challenges and plenty of new opportunities. Bring it on!

Tom Accola

DON'T PUT HIM AWAY

As Christmas time comes
Bringing Hope to the world
Decorations, Celebrations
And Joy is unfurled
We sing Christmas Carols
A star leads the way
As three wise men go search
For the child in the hay
Our Savior is born
Let His love lead the way
He'll always be there
By our side day by day
He came to be with us
His love was the reason
And not just for Advent
Or a short Christmas season
Don't put Him away
With the tinsel and bows
On a shelf till next Christmas
Cause God only knows
The times you will need Him
When things don't go right
And you feel alone
Like a child in the night
So don't put Him away
With the wreath and the manger
The tree and the lights
Like some unwanted stranger
Our Beautiful Savior
Asleep in the hay
Is pleading with you
Don't Put Me Away.

Poem by: Virginia Wink

Treasurer's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

Happy New Year to all my sisters and brothers in Christ.

You will find your contribution envelopes are on the Narthex table. If you don't see your name on a box and wish to have contribution envelopes for 2021, please contact me.

Your contribution statements for 2020 will be emailed to you or placed on the Narthex table for 2 – 3 weeks. If you can't pick those up I'll mail them to you for tax purposes prior to the end of January.

Despite COVID-19 we had a good November and it looks like we will hold our own in December. Even though our attendance is light our faithful members continue to support our ministry here at Peace Lutheran. Our Christmas Eve services had 63, 18, and 42 attending at 4:00, 6:00, and 8:00 p.m. That is less than half of what we worshipped last Christmas Eve but they were beautiful services and we thank God we can worship together even in small groups. We have hope and faith that next year we will resume with a full choir and sanctuary of people singing Silent Night with candles lit.

We try not to sit behind or close to anyone but family members. We'll continue to be vigilant in our cleaning between services. We continue to do all the things we can do to make everyone feel confident that it's safe to come back to service. If more of us wore masks, maybe that would encourage members to return to in-person services. 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.

Besides the good news of the birth of our Savior, we have other good news. We have been approved for the Brevard County Small Business and Nonprofit Economic Relief Program. The grant amount (\$10,000 or less) will be finalized once all grant applications have been reviewed. Psalm 136:36, "O give thanks to the God in heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Please give thanks for all our blessings and keep Peace Lutheran Church in your prayers.

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

Treasurer's Report of General Funds

November 2020

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$17,562.40	\$175,586.73	\$187,733.37
Use of Facilities	\$3,690.00	\$33,304.00	\$33,250.00
Total Income	\$21,252.40	\$208,890.73	\$224,308.37
Expenses	\$18,071.47	\$215,660.68	\$224,308.37

Excess Expenses for November 2020 is: \$3,180.93

Excess Expenses for YTD 2020 are \$6,769.95

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!



TREXLER, David & Sandra (34) 01/03
 LEINTHALL, William & Becky (19) 01/05
 PELLECCCHIA, Rick & Henrietta (53) 01/20
 EDWARDS, Wesley & Molly Gossett (7) 01/26
 NEUMANN, Ed & Terry (56) 01/30
 JAMES, Katie & Ryan (17) 01/31
 RUSCOE IV, Robert & Yvonne Burns (20) 01/31

MATTHEWS, Kevin	01/02		
MATTHEWS, Krystal	01/02	ARNDT, Steven	01/21
BRADLEY, Theresa	01/07	WYGANT, Vicki	01/22
KOWING Jr., Richard	01/09	MITCHELL, Ronald	01/24
SANTOS, Nico	01/09	BOTHWELL, Harold	01/25
MINTON, Debbie	01/13	WELSH, Mary	01/26
SANDBERG, Roger	01/15	AMBROSE, Brennan	01/27
HOWARD, Amy	01/17	ANDERSON, Nathan	01/28
ANDERSON, Sherry	01/18	SANDBERG, Connor	01/28
THOMPSON, Lona	01/18	BARNETT, Yonna	01/30
RIZZO, Joseph	01/19		



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



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 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!



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS—TAKE DOWN

We will be taking down the decorations from Christmas on **Saturday, January 9th at 9:00AM**. We need volunteers to help us take them down. Any help you can give to us will be greatly appreciated!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Happy New Year 2021 from the Volunteers at the Food Pantry

We are so thankful for the several faithful volunteers that we have each Tuesday and Thursday in the Food Pantry. With their service and the contributions from our congregation and friends, the Pantry has been able to bless hundreds of families in need of food each month, in 2020.

As God has blessed us, we have been able to bless others.



Serving in the Food Pantry is a Family affair!



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	28 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	29 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	30 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	31 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED!!! NEW YEAR'S EVE! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! OFFICE CLOSED! 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	2 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
3 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	5 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	6 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	7 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	8 9:00 AM Garden Club 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	9 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
10 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	11 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	12 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Council Meeting	13 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	14 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	15 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	16 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
17 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	18 Martin Luther King Holiday 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	19 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	20 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	21 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	23 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
24 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	26 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	27 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	28 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Principles before Personalities - NA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	30 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA

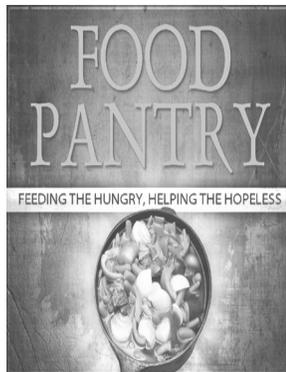
Bits & Pieces

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—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, 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 – **JANUARY 2021**

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PAID
MELBOURNE FL
PERMIT 144

Phone: (321) 727-3131
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.

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

