

**Volume 65
Issue 2**

**FEBRUARY
2024**

The Olive Branch

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

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Dear Friends through Christ:

I would like to thank you for allowing me to stray from our cherished lectionary and cover parts of Scripture that are fundamental to knowing our God, understanding who we are and what is our ultimate purpose. Why are we here? All these answers being found in the first twelve chapters of Genesis, Alpha, the Beginning.

One, God created everything and everything created is good! Almost 9 million different species of plants and animals. But one single species, humanity, is created in the image of God. Again, good. God gives the world on a silver platter to us humans, simply commanding that we take care of creation—including each other and always trusting that God has our best interest at heart. (That is what we call faith). In God's image, we are given freedom, making us different from all living creatures, free to create, free to obey, and free to love. With which comes the freedom to destroy, to disobey and hate. We also learned humanity did not get off to

the best start. What is God to do? Simply give up trying?

Every single thing you need is given. God is good. Can we heed the Creator's command, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and have dominion?" This is our purpose! Be fruitful. Do something with the Spirit, God has breathed into you! Care for creation and each other, nurture it, and help bring the world along to its fullest potential. We are co-creators, caretakers, stewards to the world, to the air, the soil, the water, the animals, to each other, always caring for and bringing along. (Bringing along, working toward the benefit of—both are the definition of Love.) Faith and Love.

Yet, in our mini-series we have seen firsthand how the first human beings will desire more, unwilling to trust and obey their Maker. We learn of our tendency or necessity to blame God, others, or something called the devil, for our own actions. We experience consequences for our

disobedience, due to our lack of trust. And because of our lack of faith, everything, everything in life becomes more difficult.

When we feel that God, or the world is not being fair, we learn from the first two siblings that we must master our feelings by knowing God has our best interest at heart. We learn Cain cannot. We cannot. Instead, Cain kills his brother, and yet, still God walks with him. Still God walks with him.

As time marches on, nobody knows God, nobody trusts God, nobody does what is right—except Noah. Hopefully, we understand God's wrath or justice can be a frightful thing. The fear of the Lord is a good thing. Even though God follows through with this recreation, the "inclination of the human heart remains evil." In our reading, we get to experience that inclination of the human heart immediately, through the story of Babel, where "making a name for ourselves," becomes more valuable than God's promises.

Continued on page 2

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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

We close out the first half of It Is Enough, with Abram and the beginning of the Hebrew faith. Like I said, the creation story is complete, Alpha ends. Now God begins to work through a person (Abraham), a family (Israel), a people (Hebrews). These are the ones who are supposed to trust God and live out their lives by doing what is right and working toward the benefit of creation.

The balance of Scripture, Alpha to Omega, from Beginning to End, from the First Book to the Last Book, from Genesis to Revelation is all about humanity's successes and failures, our moments where we trust, and what happens, our moments where we do not trust, and what happens. Stories about individuals, families and nations that our Creator chooses to work in and through, getting a very basic message across—a message so very simple. Be fruitful! Everything has been provided. It is enough!

Even though it should be enough, it is not. The message has not resonated with the God's children. God will send the Hebrew people prophet after prophet, messenger after messenger, angel after angel, doing exactly what I am doing right now, teaching a return to our purpose and God's promise. Then, then according to our story, in the fullness of time, God sends Jesus, and the Christian tradition begins.

Yet, who is this man? Well, that is exactly what the four gospels attempt to accomplish. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John teach us about the life/death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. These beautiful gospel writings, from 2000 years ago, give a variety of

options to choose from when answering the question, Who is Jesus? Matthew presents Jesus as a Messiah—prophet, priest, king. Mark teaches Jesus is the Son of God. Luke sees Jesus as the Savior of the World. John shows us Jesus as one who has always been—the Word become Flesh—God incarnate. Through this simple carpenter, Rabi, named Jesus, Christianity will be formed, the first faith to care about broken things. The only faith to care about broken things. Jesus healed the sick, fed multitudes with limited resources, walked on water, calmed nature, even raised the dead.

What's odd, is that Jesus teaches the same words we just learned in Genesis. Again, Jesus cries out, "Bear fruit! Love one another." For these teachings, the religious leaders and politicians crucify him as a common criminal. Yet, his message does not die, because the disciples of Jesus, teach that the God of Creation, the God of Noah, the God of Abraham, raised Jesus from the dead after three days. Jesus now sits at the right hand of God.

The remaining 23 books or the balance of the New Testament are written by a variety of authors, the majority of them written by an apostle who never met the earthly Jesus, Paul or Saul. Their main concern in most of these writings is to explain what just happened, in and through this person named Jesus. They try and explain what the life/death and resurrection of Jesus accomplished and what that means for you. They teach how to follow the teachings of this crucified

and risen Messiah, Christ, Son of God, Savior of the World, this Word become flesh.

And finally, to close out Holy Scripture, we are handed the greatest piece of literature ever written—Revelation. Heavenly artwork given to a man named John through a vision. John will be told to write down what he see. John, like Noah, like Abram listens and obeys. Now we come to Part Two of this journey, the book of Revelation, the Omega, the End.

Over the next several weeks we are going to see quite clearly our past, our present and our future! We will be given options, choices, just like in the garden and Jesus will even show us the outcome of our choices, asking each and every single one of us a very important question, "Has your robe been washed?"

I hope and pray everyone can find the time to get involved in this series. Make sure to set Sunday aside to worship a God who has given everything and bring someone with you! The truths one can learn through this fascinating vision will captivate the imagination and change the way one sees our good creation.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Trexler

PS: Spoiler alert! What was taken away in Genesis will be returned in Revelation.



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on
Sunday, February 25, 2024 after the 10AM morning
Worship service.

This is an important meeting for all the members of Peace,
so please make plans to attend.



We will be a full month into 2024 by the time you read these comments. Are you excited about the new year? Are you considering new opportunities for spiritual growth or just hanging in there? For PLC leadership, treading water is not an option. We've already taken a first cut at our 2024-2025 budget and chosen a date for our annual congregational meeting—**Sunday, Feb 25**. Two of our eight elected council members fill terms that expire in February. So, if you are moved by the Spirit to become one of our church leaders, please add your name to the ballot—if you do, you'll find that joining our enthusiastic, dedicated team working in common purpose is a great blessing.

Take the time to review our vision for PLC's future,—it's detailed in Pastor David's comments in the January 2022 Olive Branch newsletter—you can find it on our web page in the "newsletters" folder under the "Peace Lutheran Church Palm Bay" icon. It's essence: becoming a community Lampstand: building a covered outdoor shelter suitable for outdoor ministry. Expanding the use of our facilities. An upgraded, modern attractive sign. We had hoped to double our weekly attendance. We aren't there yet, but we are well on our way. Pray about the vision. Have faith in our future!

A happy and blessed new year to all!

Tom



INTRODUCTION TO LENT

A few months ago, I asked how many people in our pews were born and bred Lutheran? I was so pleasantly surprised to learn that most in our family of Peace were not raised in our beautiful tradition. So, seeing that Lent is a time for fasting and prayer, a time for reflection and growth, we will be offering a worship service that will be centered around the question, "What the Heck is a Lutheran?" Here we will learn the foundational elements of what we teach and believe. What is essential and what is adiaphora? Adiaphora being, we can take it or leave it.

We will look around at the world and try to figure out how these Lutheran teachings might help us navigate our life. Hope you can make it. Hope you bring a friend.



Ash Wednesday

Soup & Sandwich Supper

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
6:00PM

WE WILL GATHER PRIOR TO WORSHIP FOR A MEAL TOGETHER. SOUP & SANDWICHES WILL BE SERVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 6PM.

Lenten Worship

BEGINS ON:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

12:00PM - 1:00PM
2 SERVICES: &
6:45PM - 7:30PM

(MAKE SURE TO JOIN US FOR SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER AT 6PM)

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1801 PORT MALABAR BLVD NE
PALM BAY, FL
(321)727-3131
PASTOR DAVID TREXLER

Treasurer's Report

Blessed New Year to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

As you can see below, in December our income outpaced our expenses due to one person giving a direct contribution from their IRA. If you want more information about that, talk to the undersigned or your tax person. Our thanks to all who contribute and give with a joyful heart. God bless you.

There are some 2024 contribution envelopes on the narthex table. Please contact the undersigned if you can't find envelopes with your name. Your 2023 contribution statements were sent by email for those with email addresses and were also included in the Pastor's "Love Letter to God" and sent out in January (enclosed in their own envelope for privacy). If you have a question or find a discrepancy, please talk to the undersigned. Our counters try to get it right but sometimes stuff happens. I'll gladly research your question and get back to you with an answer.

Please consider giving an extra offering (weekly or monthly) (on the same check as your tithe) to the Major Repair Fund for the roof replacement. Just mark it "Roof Repairs" and the extra amount given. Even if this offering is \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 over your regular tithe it will eventually be enough. The roof has gotten to be a bigger issue with the heavy rains in 2023 and this January 2024. If everyone gives a little (what they can afford) we can get a new roof. Every time we have heavy rain, we'll have problems until we get the roof replaced. Prayers are needed.

Please keep Peace Lutheran Church members and finances in your prayers. The undersigned appreciates your prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds for December 2023

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$21,681.00	\$175,353.79	\$195,617.00
Loose Contributions & Other	\$1,349.00	\$7,839.11	\$18,868.00
Use of Facilities	\$2,305.00	\$26,585.00	\$32,000.00
Total Income	\$25,335.00	\$209,777.90	\$246,485.00
Expenses	\$18,580.17	\$257,616.70	\$246,485.00

Excess Income for December 2023: \$6,754.83
(Total Monthly Income less Monthly Expenses)

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

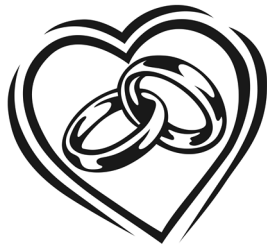
The Major Roof Repair Fund stands at \$8,292.71 at the end of December 2023.

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$13,444.95 for new Air Conditioners.

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 (20) 02/07
 ROSALES, Samantha & Marcel (2) 02/12



(numbers of years married)



ADILOFF, Mary 02/03
 COTTON, Steve 02/11
 GARCEA, Elizabeth 02/20
 GARCEA, Gary 02/20
 HANSEN, Mardelle M. 02/24



Kris Friant	Ariel Cook	Gary Witter	Paul Bickford
George Robbins	Manuel Rodriguez	Carolyn Tarkka	Frank Miller
Lori Deaton	David Flaherty	Helga Bromm	Sally Cook
Ryan Dasinger	Viola Forrester	Phyllis Dale	Suzie McKeny
Rick Pellecchia	Gary Gossett, Jr.	Bill & Nancy Love	Megan O'Neal
Ann Beardslee	Dan Rank	Christian LaPlante	Lou Madden
Jacqueline Darby	David Pinkerton	Matt Parks	Allison Patton
Debbie Parks	Maliaka Singleton	Betsy Witter	Michael Adams
Enid Rodriguez	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Karl Bromm	Kim McGibney
		Carleen Loneski	Nathan Schwartz



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	30 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	31 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
4 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	6 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	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	9 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
11 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	13 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	14 Ash Wednesday (Imposition of Ashes) 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship Begins 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	17 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
18 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	19 President's Day Holiday Office Closed 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	20 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	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	24 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
25 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 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	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club 6:00pm Fairways of Brevard HOA - FH 8:45pm Panera Pickup	2 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



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



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.



Saturday Night
**CASUAL
 WORSHIP SERVICE**
EVERY SATURDAY 5:00PM

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 1801 PORT MALABAR BLVD NE
 PALM BAY, FL

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: (321) 727-3131

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch

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PERMIT 144

Dated Material:

February 2024

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

