

Volume 66
Issue 11
DECEMBER
2025

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

Dear Friends through Christ:

I started writing newsletters the very month I entered seminary in 1998. That means I have written 325 newsletters in my lifetime and today is my last one. Therefore, I leave you with a cliff note version of the gospel, my understanding of the good news in a nutshell. It is an understanding of God and humanity that has given to me an abundance of life for almost 70 years, no matter the circumstances. I simply share this understanding with you.

First things first...**Who is God?** How do you envision or believe God to be? Me, I see God as Love! **Love meaning, "working toward the benefit of."** **God is Love**, always working toward the benefit of the entire creation, including you.

It is God the Father I see and feel when I stand on beach and watch the waves pound the coast, as our Creator paints the skies with pictures made out of pillow-like clouds. I like to think of God as the best parent a person could possibly have. Someone I can talk to at any time! Yes, God is a mystery, but this God is always capable of giving me goose bumps and making me say Wow. This is God the Judge we read about in the story of Noah, the tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah. This is God the Liberator who delivers Hebrew slaves from bondage in Egypt. This is God the Lawgiver at Mount Sinai. This my dear friend is God—the Father!

However, God is also Jesus Christ—the Son! This is God, through Jesus, showing us the face of the mystery. God the Son, in Jesus, who out of Love took care of the greatest challenge and fear that humans must face—sin and death. Jesus forgives my sin and dies for me! Through the Cross we now have incredible hope that life continues. Death is not the final answer. Jesus teaches I am now free to live in obedience to our Triune God.

How do I do this? How do I live in obedience to God? I don't! I can't! God the Father and God the Son will give me the power of the Holy Spirit anytime I call upon the Lord for help or guidance. I realize I will never fully comprehend God the Father and I can't shake the hand of Jesus, thanking him for all that He has done in my life, but I can experience the same God of Creation, the same God of Jesus in a very real and powerful way. I can always, always experience God as inspiring, motivating, empowering, indwelling and loving, all through the continuing presence of God—the Holy Spirit.

Who is God? God is the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. And this Three-In-One God is all about Love!

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Pastor:

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

Council: Gabrielle DiTota—President
Steve Cotton—Vice President
Stephanie Madden—Secretary

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office@peacelutheranpb.org

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Office Phone: (321)727-3131

Dial-A-Story: (321)727-1048

Websites:

www.peacelutheranpb.org

www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org

Facebook @peacelutheranpb

Staff:

Jacqui Robinson, Office Administrator
Cindy Wagman, Choir
Sally Cook, Pianist
Dina LaPlante, Custodian

Volunteer Staff:

Wes Edwards—Treasurer
Faye Schill—Financial Secretary
Lori Search—Food Pantry Director
Larry Schill—Campus Maintenance
Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance
Christian LaPlante—Campus Maintenance

Second things second... **Who am I? I am a sinner!** Yes, I am a child of the Most High and Living God, but I am still a sinner and have fallen short of the glory of God. As it is written, "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands, no one seeks for God. No one does good, not even one!" (Roman 3:10)

Yet God still loves me, Jesus still saves me, and the Holy Spirit still makes me do good! Praise the Lord! Now, the only thing that I need do throughout my entire earthly existence is to use whatever gifts God has given me and be Fruitful. Then simply "live through or out of my Baptism," by remembering, by returning to these waters of promise each and every day. Folks, that is it! God does the rest. After all, whom do you trust more, God or Yourself? And since God is Love, the best advice I can give to anybody is Let Go—Let God. Let go of your struggles and worries and let the Spirit of God show you a much better way.

To close, I would like to share my favorite line of the entire Bible. It comes to us through John 10:10. Jesus has just healed a man born blind, and the religious leaders are totally confused as to who this person truly is. Jesus looks over at them and says, "I came so that they (the sick and hurting) may have life and have it abundantly! Alleluia! The purpose of our Lord and Savior is to give "the abundance of life!"

My dear friends, that is a fact! The gospel of Christ Jesus has given to me an abundance of life for almost 70 years now, no matter the circumstances, and now that I am leaving, I hope and pray Jesus does the same for you.

May the One seated upon the Throne, the Slaughtered Lamb, and the All-Encompassing Spirit bless you now and forever!

PS: My last official act as pastor will be a "Healing Service" on Wednesday, December 31st...more details will follow. Start the New Year well!

In Christian Love,
Pastor David Trexler

Letter from the Call Committee to the Congregation

Dear Beloved Congregation,

I am writing with an encouraging update from your Call Committee as we continue our journey through the LCMC call process to find our new pastor. It's been two months since the Call Committee was started, and we are grateful for your ongoing support and patience during this important time of transition.

We are pleased to announce that the results of the congregational survey, which captured your valuable insights on the desired attributes of our next pastor, are now available for review. Additionally, the job posting for the pastoral position has been published. Both the survey results and the job posting can be found on the Call Committee webpage on the Peace Lutheran Church website. We encourage you to review these materials, and keep an eye on this webpage, to stay informed about our progress and the vision we are pursuing.

Excitingly, we are already receiving applications from interested candidates. This is a positive sign that our efforts are bearing fruit, and we are eager to begin the next phase.

As we prepare for our first contacts with these candidates, we humbly ask for your prayers. Pray for wisdom and guidance as we evaluate those who may lead us forward. Pray that God will lead us to a pastor who will faithfully serve Him, meet the diverse needs of our current congregation, and keep our church family united in worship. We seek someone who will bring fresh ideas and renewed energy to foster growth, drawing new members into our fold while strengthening our community. Above all, pray that this new leader will guide us boldly into the future God has prepared for us.

Your prayers are a vital part of this process, and we thank you for lifting us up. If you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out to any Call Committee member.

In Christ's Service,
Andy Pedersen
Call Committee Lead

Call Committee Members

Andy Pedersen	andy_pedersen@yahoo.com	321-987-6253
Nancy Haton	hatongobucks@yahoo.com	419-874-8343
John Scherer	Johnscherer16@yahoo.com	321-576-4499
Theresa (Teri) Bradley	toms1982mom@aol.com	914-456-4709
Faye Schill	nomadschill@yahoo.com	321-327-7559
Holly Wikoff	holly.wikoff77@gmail.com	630-806-1668

COUNCIL PRESIDENT



All good things come to an end.

We are closing out the year 2025 and thinking back on all that has happened this year. We remember the joyful moments and reflect on the not so joyful moments. As you decorate your home for the holidays, I am sure you are reminded of past holidays with loved ones, and remembering loved ones who are missing from your gathering. Next year we will be wondering how Pastor Trexler and Sandy are doing. During the new year we will be welcoming a new Shepherd to lead this flock. Always there will be change.

But do all good things really end? Not for us! Our Lord has secured our life everlasting!

Join the church council and myself in wishing Pastor and Sandy a wonderful relocation and retirement. We hope the beaches of North Carolina provide rest and restoration, and that Pastor enjoys time fishing, collecting shells and writing. God bless you both!

Gabriele DiTota
Council President



A POTLUCK LUNCH!

**Sunday,
December 14th
after 10AM
service**

THERE WILL BE A
SIGN UP SHEET IN
THE NARTHEX FOR
ALL WHO ARE
BRINGING FOOD!



**We will have a Potluck Lunch right after
the 10:00AM Worship Service for
Pastor David & Sandy Trexler in the
Fellowship Hall!**



Treasurer's Report for December 2025

Blessings to you Peace Family!

The Major Roof and Repair Fund stands at \$64,216.35 at the end of October.

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$6,019.95 for new Air Conditioners and other projects.

Wes Edwards, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Fund for October 2025
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	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Contributions	\$16,555.00	\$115,866.38	\$156,764.20
Loose Contributions & Other	\$513.00	\$9,525.78	\$6,666.70
Use of Facilities	\$3,150.00	\$49,235.00	\$58,333.30
Total Income	\$20,218.00	\$174,627.16	\$221,764.20
IRS Credit		\$33,559.70	\$0.00
Expenses	\$26,549.57	\$234,219.05	\$215,748.30
Total income/deficit	(\$6,331.57)	(\$26,032.19)	\$6,015.90

Our expenses exceeded our income in October 2025: **(\$6,331.57)**

Year to Date (YTD) Our expenses exceeded income **(\$26,032.19)**

Year to Date (YTD) Budget of income over expenses **(\$6,015.90)**

In October, our expenses exceeded our income by \$6,331.57.

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

God bless all who give freely of their time, tithes and talents.

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.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025

**DEC.
24TH**

**CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
SERVICES**

4:00PM & 7:00PM

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**DEC.
25TH**

**DEC.
31ST**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
HEALING SERVICE**

(More details to follow)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

**JAN. 1
2026**

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Website Photo Update – Share Your Memories!

We're refreshing our church website with vibrant photos from the past 2–3 years, capturing joyful moments like outdoor Easter services, the New Year's party, Trivia Night, Pot Lucks, Super Bowl pick'em, Thanksgiving collection, Christmas gift-giving, and any uplifting shots of our people and sanctuary.

Please send your best images with brief descriptions to Andy Pedersen at andy_pedersen@yahoo.com or text 321-987-6253...we'll select favorites to showcase our community's spirit.

Thank you for helping us celebrate these blessings!



Can you consider a Qualified Charitable Contribution (QCD) to PLC?

Over the past few years PLC has been blessed by some members who have made a significant QCD to our ministry and it has been critical in keeping this lampstand shining. Below is the first paragraph describing QCD's from Fidelity Charitable followed by a link to it for all the details (you will need to type or copy and paste the address into your browser manually). You can arrange for a QCD from your IRA custodian, they all support it. A big advantage of a QCD is you can support PLC's mission with a donation from a traditional IRA that is not subject to federal tax withholding, whereas if you had that distribution paid to you, federal tax would be deducted and less would then be available to offer. If you have any questions after reading the below information and the website contact your IRA administrator. Most administrators (Fidelity, Schwab, TRowePrice etc) allow you to complete the request online with a check of your designated amount sent directly to PLC. From the first paragraph of the Fidelity article:

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to donate up to \$105,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA as part or whole of taking their required minimum distributions. As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phaseouts of other tax deductions, though there are some other limitations.

The full article at below website:

[Qualified Charitable Distributions \(QCDs\) | planning your IRA withdrawal | Fidelity](#)

If you are required to take a Required Mandatory Distribution (RMD), please consider this opportunity to increase your stewardship at PLC in the amount that would otherwise go to withholding taxes.





DITOTA, Bob & Gabrielle (44) 12/12
BACHTEL, Harvey & Pam (29) 12/20
PATTON, Dag & Mary Deese (6) 12/21

(numbers of years married)

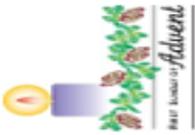
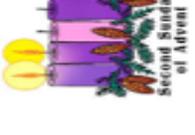


BRIDGES, Jennifer 12/05	ROSALES, Marcel 12/17
MIDDLETON, Jennifer 12/09	WAINIKAINEN, Lindsay 12/19
MOLESKI, Charlie 12/11	LIATOS, Phyllis 12/20
GREENE Mrs, Mary Alice 12/13	HOFFMAN, Susan 12/24
BARR, Emily 12/14	NEUMANN, Terry 12/28
PADULA, Laura 12/15	GRICE, Jennifer 12/29
LOPEZ, Raymond 12/17	SHEEHAN, Frank 12/29
PATTON, Dag 12/17	WIKOFF, Holly 12/30



Don Hoffman	Helga Bromm	Marion Elliott	Patricia Robins
Betty Sheller	Bill & Nancy Love	Mardelle Hansen	Rosita Cotton
Tonita Diaz	Christian LaPlante	Sherry Anderson	Bob Salmons
Theresa Bradley	Brenda Accola	Richard & Joanne Honbaugh	Gary Marcet
Lori Deaton	Deb Moleski	Cristina Elliott	Judy Mitchell
Ryan Dasinger	June Trotter	Karen Holzer	Debbie Formo
Rick Pellecchia	Janet Flaherty	Elizabeth Holzer	Michael Adams
Jacqueline Darby	Viola Forrester	Patricia Aull	Stacy G.
Debbie Parks	Karl Bromm	Denise Thomas	Whitney & Jaime Vazquez
Matt Parks	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Wes & Molly Edwards	Sam Rosales
Enid Rodriguez	Carolyn Tarkka	Jude Zrutskie	Kerry O'Shields

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	2 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA - FH	6 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship 5:00pm Tiffany Miller Baby Shower - FH
7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 	8 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	9 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA - FH	13 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
14 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Potluck Lunch for Pastor David & Sandy Trexler 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	16 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	17 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA - FH	20 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
21 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 	22 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	23 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	24  12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 4:00pm Candlelight Worship Service 7:00pm Candlelight Worship Service	25  12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA - FH	27 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
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 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	31  New Year's Eve Healing Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	1  12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA - FH	3 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay 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,
Ft. Cavazos, TX**

**Maj. AD Dennis Peoples,
Rock Island Arsenal, IL**

**Major Nathan Schill,
Pentagon, VA**

**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

Dated Material:

December 2025

Phone: (321) 727-3131
Dial-A-Story: (321)727-1048
Email: office@peacelutheranpb.org
Website: www.peacelutheranpb.org
Facebook: [@peacelutheranpb](https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb)

Senior Pastor: David L. Trexler

Worship

5:00PM—Saturday Night Worship
8:30AM—Bible Study
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 special mailings, etc. Please call Jacqui in church office (321)727-3131

Chancel Choir—Wednesday night rehearsals—7:00PM

Bell Choir—Call Cindy Wagman to learn more about our bell 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—We need people who can use the remote for our Slide Presentations on Sunday morning. Please see Pastor David Trexler for details if you would like to volunteer.

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



Wishing you a season filled with God's relentless favor,
His unending love and perfect peace!