

The Olive Branch

Peace Lutheran Church...

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

Volume 61
Issue 2

February
2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Of Special Interest

- Pastor's Message
- PLC Council President
- Treasurer Report
- Food Pantry



Dear Friends through Christ Jesus:

In this letter the only mention of the virus will be to say, "Stay safe and be careful." Instead, I'm going to focus upon why we worship the way we worship.

Pastor's Message	1-2
PLC Council President	3a
Office Administrator	3b
Treasurer News	4
February Birthday's/Prayer Anniversaries	5
Social Distancing Guidelines/Extra! Extra!	6
Food Pantry News	7
February Calendar	8
Bits and Pieces	9
We Serve	10

When the church began to meet some 2000 years ago, they structured the worship of the Crucified and Risen One around guiding principles, which are still important today. Their worship centered upon the Word of God and the Sacraments. Sacraments are mysteries instituted by Jesus—Baptism and Communion. Once Christianity was instituted as a national religion in 313CE, worship for the next couple of millennia looked like this:

Gathering

A gathering is simply a place where people living in the same community come together, studying the Hebrew writings, and hearing stories about Jesus. People of all walks of life, shaking hands, having conversation, putting aside their many differences, and gathering to share the one thing they had in common—faith in Christ Jesus.

Prelude (optional)

A time to quiet down from gathering, centering oneself for what is to come—the Good News. Normally, this calmness comes through a contemplative form of silence, prayer, or music.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (Confessions)

Now we are ready to cleanse our hearts and minds by confessing our sin before God and one another. A person would be hard pressed to find a group of people, different from one another in every way, admitting we don't have it all together. We admit together a need for help and a fresh start. Our confessions are a return to our Baptism, reminding us each week, while we don't deserve it, when we repent or turn toward Jesus our sins are forgiven, and now we can worship with a clean heart.

Liturgy (optional)

The word liturgy simply means "work of the people." Here scattered throughout worship we say or sing petitions asking for our Lord's mercy and lifting our prayers for the church, the world and all in need. Our liturgy comes straight from Scripture; Mary singing praises of thanksgiving, the angels announcing Jesus' birth, all creation in heaven and on earth gathered around the throne singing praise to God and to the Lamb. The beautiful liturgy flows through the entire service.

Pastors:

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

E-mail:

office@peacelutheranpb.org

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

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
Stephen Massey, Custodian

Volunteer Staff:

Faye Schill, Treasurer
Lori Search—Food Pantry Director

Word

Now we come to the meat and potatoes of worship. Word from our forefathers of the Hebrew faith—their stories, history, trials, and tribulation. We read together the Psalms, or songs written some 3000 ago, covering the whole range of human emotions, those of joy, sadness, fear, comfort, life, and death. We also have two readings from the Christian faith. A reading from the apostles, with words of understanding and wisdom. And then a reading from the Gospels, or Good News about Jesus Christ. We learn through proclamation/message/sermon how this gospel applies to us in our daily lives. Over a three-year period, most of Scripture will be read aloud and together in the community of believers. We close the center of our worship with the Word handed down to us through the Apostle's Creed, which is the most ancient and concise statement of our faith, raising our petitions once again with the Prayers of the Church.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Within the "mystery of our faith," Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper/Eucharist/Last Supper/Great Thanksgiving we share a meal, not only with those who are different from us, but also with those who have gone before us (our loved ones). It is a foretaste of the feast to come. It is a Holy Sacrament—a Set Apart Mystery, where we receive the real presence—body and blood—of our Savior! Today's society wants proof, and asks "How can these things be?" Yet how does one explain a mystery? Through our trust, the real presence of Christ Jesus will comfort, strengthen, guide, teach, heal, and forgive. This I experience daily in my personal life. Try to find this promise in the world today?

Sending

We close our worship at Peace Lutheran with a sending, where we are to use the Sacrament of Baptism, God's Holy Word and the Sacrament Holy Communion as we say goodbye to our strange friends, return to the real world, now using our gifts to serve our Crucified and Risen Lord. So there you have it, a little knowledge about the style of worship that has stood the test of time, influencing the lives of Christians for many years. But it seems like something is missing? Oh, I almost forgot—Music.

Music

Little is known regarding the use of music in the early church. King David writes about making a joyful noise unto the Lord, praising God with thanksgiving all day long. Through the writings of Paul, we learn about singing spiritual songs, again through one's daily living. The only songs or hymns we have discovered from the early church come from the Psalms or songs sung by Mary and angels, and as far as we know, no instruments. However, the Reformation changed everything. It occurred in the early stages of the Renaissance, where the Arts and Sciences came to life. Music now became a staple of worship with its beauty filling in the spaces between gathering—baptism—word—communion--sending. Great artists like Bach and Handel created masterpieces for worship.

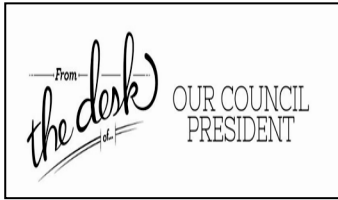
The purpose of music was to prepare the mind for God's Word, proclaim the gospel, teach, and admonish. The type of instruments played was never an issue, at least for Martin Luther. At his time, they had beautiful organs. He calls the style of worship—adiaphora—great word uh? It means "doesn't matter." It doesn't matter whether the instrument is an organ or piano, guitar, flute, bass, drums or gazoo. If it points to the gospel and edifies the flock, it doesn't matter.

The larger questions become, what style or type of music will reach the most people who worship at that congregation? (Knowing when it comes to music, you can't please everyone) What specific group of people is the church trying to reach and bring in? Who are the musicians that serve? What are their strengths and gifts? Once a church answers those questions, they will have a better understanding of the style of music that suits them best?

Peace Lutheran currently is blessed with two of the most talented musicians I have had the privilege to work with. The piano/organ and the flute are the forms of music we have available. These happen to be the instruments that created most of our classic hymns over the past 500 years, music so many of us remember from our youth. Hopefully, very soon our choir will gather to add yet another gift of music to worship.

Well, that about does it for why we worship the way we worship. I hope my rambling was helpful and I am always available to further discuss any matter any of you may have. May God bless!

**In Christian Love,
Pastor David Trexler**



It's hard to believe that I'm already composing a second newsletter article for 2021. I've lately seen lots of funny, tongue-in-cheek reflections on the year past. With everything that's happened, it's great that we can maintain our sense of humor in the face of some really difficult circumstances. Conversely, I've witnessed sorrow: some of the most intense compassion imaginable for friends, family, and neighbors in difficult circumstances. I suppose it's a metaphor for our Christian experience: intense pain when recalling Christ's crucifixion; great joy as we celebrate his resurrection.

As we prepare to emerge from this great test of our faith and fortitude, I sincerely believe we do so as a stronger, more focused people of God. I've pondered the reasons: a forward looking spirit-filled pastor; a dedicated, determined church council; a congregation doing all they can to keep our church campus well-maintained and our services as safe as possible. I marvel at the work that has been done by our Food Pantry; our visitation volunteers, the preparation of our sanctuary for Sunday worship; the decoration of our sanctuary for Christmas and the high quality of our Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters. I am so thankful for the faithfulness of those who continue to contribute their tithes and offerings, keeping us financially stable.

The remainder of 2021 will present more challenges. We will face them with God's grace and mercy. And once again, we will joyously celebrate our victory in Jesus!

Tom Accola



FROM THE DESK OF THE CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

5 Years. That's how long I will be working for Peace Lutheran Church this year. It's hard to believe that so much time has gone by...feels like yesterday that I met all of you and I have to say, I do enjoy my time working here. As the Office Administrator, there are many times when it can get pretty hectic around here. Before Covid-19 hit last year, there were many things happening here at Peace. We had so many groups using the facility and there were others who wanted to use the space for their different events. Watching the hustle and bustle with all the people from my office

window, made me smile many times. Since Covid-19, it slowed down considerably but it is picking up again. It's not like 2019, but busy nonetheless.

I can list the many things that I do here, but that would take up a lot of your reading time...lol. But, working in the office with Pastor David Trexler, has been fun and he keeps me pretty busy. I also work with Faye Schill, the Church Treasurer, and we too have fun working together. There is so much to do...Monthly newsletters, maintaining the website, weekly bulletins, placing orders, calling vendors, answering calls for help from the community, praying with people, AA, NA, weight watchers, food pantry, stamp club, garden club, Blue Gospel Jam group, Holistic Health Clinic and others groups I worked with every week. I still do those things, but a few of the groups has stopped since Covid-19. And sometimes there were surprises that I did not expect, but I will save that for another article.

Many of you may not know that outside of working here at Peace, I am also an ordained minister. I have recently begun to teach at Chesapeake Bay Bible College and Seminary on Tuesday nights at one of their satellite locations in Melbourne. I do teachings online with a ministry that I have started called Get Ready and Make Room—the Gathering Place. I travel to different churches to preach and I also preach at Women Conferences. I am a mother of 2 adult children, Michael (41) and Taeshana (39) and I have 9 grandchildren. I have a husband who is disabled and unable to work, but he is able to get around and do things for himself, so I give God all the praise for that. The Lord has been so good to me. He gives me the strength to be able to do all the things I need to do and I am grateful and thankful to Him for all that He has blessed me with.

I want you to know that you all make it easy for me to work here. It's been a pleasure to get to know you. Some of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet...so once this pandemic is over, I would hope to get to meet you. I also want you to know that I pray for all of you all the time. I am always asking the Lord to keep you healthy and safe and that this virus will not hinder you, your family and your ministry in any way.

Well, that's it for now...looking forward to the next 5 years, God willing, of working at Peace Lutheran Church.

God bless you, always.

Jacqui Robinson

Treasurer's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

Peace of the Lord to all my sisters and brothers in Christ.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the annual meeting which will be held on February 28, 2021.

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 the undersigned.

You should have your contribution statements for 2020. The Pastor requested we enclose these with the stewardship letter which was mailed to you at the beginning of January. If you haven't received your statement please contact me by calling the office at 727-3131 or sending an email.

We 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. We can't let our guard down now. Thank you to all that help sanitize the sanctuary between services. We would hate to lose any one of you because we failed to follow recommended safety guidelines.

We were approved for the Brevard Small Business and Non-Profit Economic Relief Program on December 23rd, 2020, an email was received on January 8th, 2021 that there would be a check mailed to us, and on January 11th we received a check for \$10,000.00. Thanks be to God. A thank you was sent to the Brevard Board of County Commissioners.

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

December 2020

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$19,353.49	\$194,940.22	\$204,800.00
Use of Facilities	\$2,920.00	\$36,224.00	\$39,900.00
Total Income	\$22,273.49	\$231,164.22	\$244,700.00
Expenses	\$24,549.93	\$240,210.61	\$244,700.00

Excess Expenses for December 2020 is: \$2,276.44

Excess Expenses for YTD 2020 are \$9,046.39

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!



ACCOLA, Thomas & Brenda (17) 02/07

RING, Alexandra 02/01
 ADILOFF, Mary 02/03
 MCVAY, Brian 02/06
 COTTON, Steve 02/11
 WILSON, Jack 02/13



*(Years)

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



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 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!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

These boxes were pre-filled to get ready for the Christmas rush. Each box would also get 5-10 lbs. of meat, some fresh produce and sandwiches, bread and pastries donated by WaWa and Panera. Some boxes got a surprise turkey breast or ham while our supplies lasted.

This picture shows just one half of the total boxes that our volunteers packed and used the Tuesday before Christmas. We joke that our "Amazon" conveyor belt is always moving. This is the same picture of what happens every time we are open. We hope that you can imagine the size and need for this ministry.

There are several ways that you can help from home to keep the "conveyor belt" oiled and moving along:

1. Plastic/paper bags are always needed.
2. Donations of non-perishable food are always welcomed.
3. Cash donations are very important. That is how we stay open and continue this ministry.
4. We also take clean clothing and small household goods. Spring cleaning is coming!

Recently we have also been receiving donations from Einstein Bagels. Large varieties of fresh warm bagels.....what a treat!





2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	2 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	3 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	5 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	6 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
7 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	8 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	9 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Council Meeting	10 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	11 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	12 9:00 AM Garden Club 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	13 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
14 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	15 PRESIDENT'S DAY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	16 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	18 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	19 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	20 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
21 1st SUNDAY OF LENT 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	23 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	24 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	26 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	27 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
28 9:00 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 1:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	2 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	3 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM Stamp Club FH 5:00 PM FOOD PANTRY	5 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	6 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA

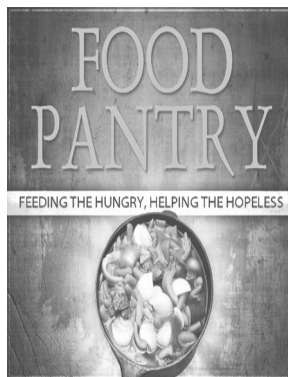
Bits & Pieces

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
John Bedford, Iraq
Kristen Hall AF, Iraq
Capt. Brian Nailing, Co. Ft. Hood, TX
Maj. AD Dennis Peoples, Rock Island Arsenal, IL
Cpt, 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



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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 2021**

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U S POSTAGE
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

