

**Volume 66
Issue 9
SEPTEMBER**

The Olive Branch

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



Dear Friends through Christ:

A little over seven years ago I became your pastor. I can remember like it was yesterday walking the entire campus for the first time, noticing all the older buildings, and thinking to myself, "This place has gotta cost a fortune to keep up, but wow, look at all the opportunities to do ministry." I also noticed that Peace was going to need outside financial assistance in order to support not only the daily operations of the church, but the many and various ministries that serve our community. I knew that these weather-worn buildings would be the help we needed. Looking back, it is truly incredible how much has been accomplished with the limited resources that we had.

The first step was basically a freebee—Adopt A Plot. Thirteen people/families signed up to make Peace look like She was loved. To this day our campus is still beautiful. Thanks to everyone who played a part, especially Mark Grice. He was my property angel. Next, we moved on to Peace Place, (the old sanctuary built in 1965 and neglected for the past few years) The quotes to remodel came in at \$85,000 to \$120,000 but remember we have no money. So, Peace took out a loan for \$100,000. Funny story, but we accomplished the remodel for \$33,000, recarpeted the sanctuary and replaced two large air conditioners. Pastor Chips with "In Season Ministry," now occupies our remodeled Peace Place and helps with our bills to the tune of \$18,000 per year.

Then came Covid-19 in January of 2020, lasting to the Fall of 2021, almost two years. Here the Church actually shut their doors for at least eight weeks and many of those churches never opened again. Peace survived, but we don't just want to survive, we desire to thrive. What's next? Well, the church desperately needs a coat of paint. Nothing good came from Covid, but it did save us \$20,000 in painting cost, because people were now desperate to work, instead of paying \$33,000 to paint our entire campus, we found someone for \$13,000.

Tough decisions came during the pandemic. We sold the parsonage/home to Richard Pribell, who has done wonders with not only the home, but the property is now incredible. Rick has put in walking paths and is building a dock. He wants to turn the 10 acres into a park. Lots of possibilities! (For Him and Us). These funds from the sale of the old parsonage helped us to weather Covid, pay down our mortgage and purchase a beautiful new sign.

Next, we move on to building F, which years ago served as a pre-school. Let's just say trying to utilize this building for ministry and at the same time bring in needed income has caused more than a few sleepless nights. We tried a medical clinic and an air conditioning guy that trained the unemployed. Neither worked out. Then I met Dr. Cooks, who runs "Life-Line Academy," a Christian based school. He loves the campus and has all kinds of ideas to expand. The process took over two years of messing with the city and all their inspectors, but finally, we got her done. Life-Line ministry brings in about \$50,000 per year to help support the Church, while teaching 75 high school students that bring laughter and joy to our campus. Plus, he has ideas.

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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
Mark Grice—Campus Maintenance
Steve Barnett—Campus Maintenance
Christian LaPlante—Campus Maintenance

But we're not done yet. Just recently, we finalized a ministry with the Shekinah French Church who are renting our worship center and fellowship hall all day on Saturday, the day of worship for Seven Day Adventist. They too love our campus. Their ministry will generate an additional \$12,000.

With the combined income of \$80,000 from our partners in ministry and generous donations of many of Peace's members, we continue to serve the community of Palm Bay well. From the wonderful ministry of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings each and every day, probably saving about as many souls as our gospel, to our food pantry providing meats and vegetables for about 400 families a month. (Thank you, Lori!) Then there's Meals on Wheels serving up healthy food to about 250 seniors every day during the week for our front porch. Plus keep in mind all kinds of events we host during the week, from HOA meetings, different clubs, and all kinds of celebrations. The campus of Peace Lutheran is busy seven days a week. And never, never forget the power of the Gospel, proclaimed each and every Saturday and Sunday, accomplishing more than we could ever imagine.

So yes, over the past seven years we have accomplished much together. Our campus serves the community faithfully. She has become quite active and everything we do points to the gospel of Jesus Christ. May I just say, "Well done, my good and faithful servants!"

Just this past Sunday I announced that Sandy and I will be leaving Peace Lutheran Church sometime soon, probably around November 2025. Doctors tell me, "Better sooner than later." The heart attack I had one year ago has kicked this pastor's you know what and basically zapped my energy. I feel weak and have a challenging time exhaling, not good for preaching and teaching. I'm not sure exactly what is next, but I do know something new lies ahead, either in this life or the next. God is good! All the time. God is good!

Now over the next couple of months, we have our work cut out. The first thing that needs to be done is form a "call committee." We need to gather a group of six people who love the Lord and Peace Lutheran, leaders who want desperately to see Her go forward and have an open mind about the future. Once the call committee is in place the Holy Spirit of God will guide you to through the next steps.

I have learned that in moments of uncertainty if I read Matthew 6:25-33 my heart and soul are put at ease. Jesus says to me, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

We will talk more before I leave.

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler



COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Change can cause anxiety, uncertainty. It can also encourage growth. The Bible encourages embracing change as a pathway to maturity, transformation, and fulfillment of God's purpose, viewing it as a necessary process of spiritual growth rather than a cause for fear. Key concepts include being "transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2), putting off the "old self" for a "new self" in Christ (Ephesians 4:22-24), and trusting in God's unchanging plan for a future full of hope.

We are facing change. Pastor David has informed us that he will be leaving us. That simple statement from the one person whom we have come to rely on for Word and Sacrament is certain to be upsetting. Of course we wish him and Sandy well as they negotiate this next chapter of their lives. We will need to do what we need to do. We need to form a call committee for the purpose of finding a new pastor to deliver Word and Sacraments. We need to join together and support each other through this process. We especially need to listen to each other as we determine the type of individual we are looking for.



Step 1... Form a Call Committee. According to our Constitution, the Call Committee shall be comprised of 6 members. Please look into your heart and pray about it and see if this is what God is calling you to do. Let myself or Steve Cotton know if you would like to serve on the Committee that will put out the call and interview prospective candidates. Thank you for considering this important responsibility.

Gabriele DiTota
Council President



Isaiah 33:6

IN THAT DAY HE WILL BE YOUR
SURE FOUNDATION, PROVIDING
A RICH STORE OF SALVATION,
WISDOM, AND KNOWLEDGE.

Treasurer's Report for September 2025

Happy September Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The Major Roof Fund stands at \$49,982.26 at the end of July.

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$5,019.95 for new Air Conditioners and other projects.

Wes Edwards, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Fund for July 2025

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Contributions	\$12,329.00	\$80,699.38	\$109,734.94
Loose Contributions & Other	\$460.34	\$8,285.43	\$4,666.69
Use of Facilities	\$1,950.01	\$28,020.01	\$40,833.31
Total Income	\$14,739.35	\$117,004.82	\$155,234.94
*IRS Credit	\$20,425.61	\$20,425.61	\$0.00
Expenses	\$25,336.41	\$164,945.97	\$151,023.81
Total income/deficit	\$9,828.55	(\$27,515.54)	\$4,211.13

Our income exceeded our expenses in July 2025: \$9,828.55

Year to Date (YTD) Our expenses exceeded income (\$37,344.09)

Year to Date (YTD) Budget of income over expenses (\$4,211.13)

****We were blessed with a windfall in July thanks to the Good Lord and the hard work of our previous Treasurer and current Financial Secretary, Faye Schill. She worked diligently to secure covid relief funds from the IRS, and it has finally paid off! Thank you Lord for this much needed blessing and thank you Faye for all of your hard work!***

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.



SMITH, Scott & Carolyn (20)	09/03
MARCUS, David & Barbara (51)	09/08
PADULA, John & Laura (3)	09/18
PEPPLE, Eric & Laurie (25)	09/22
COTTON, Steve & Rosita (37)	09/24

(numbers of years married)



September Birthdays



PATELSKI, Elaine	09/02	DEFOSSE, Kathleen	09/16
BROMM, Karl	09/06	HATON, Charles	09/16
CHRISTENSEN, Sally	09/07	HARMON, Barb	09/18
PEPPLE, Eric	09/07	COTTON, Ryan	09/24
EDWARDS, Wesley	09/08	EVANS, Sharon	09/27
HOLZER, Karen	09/10	WEST, Beulah	09/28
PEPPLE, Laurie	09/11		
MADDEN, Louis	09/14		



Don Hoffman	Helga Bromm	Evelyn Rodriguez	
Betty Sheller	Bill & Nancy Love	Yvonne Burns	Wes & Molly Edwards
Tonita Diaz	Christian LaPlante	Marion Elliott	Jude Zrutskie
Theresa Bradley	Brenda Accola	Mardelle Hansen	Patricia Robins
Lori Deaton	Betsy Witter	Sherry Anderson	Finnley Ryan
Ryan Dasinger	Kaylie Trexler	Richard & Joanne Honbaugh	Rosita Cotton
Rick Pellecchia	Suzie McKen	Cristina Elliott	Bob Salmons
Jacqueline Darby	Dale McKen	Karen Holzer	Gary Marcet
Debbie Parks	Lou Madden	Elizabeth Holzer	Ron Mitchell
Matt Parks	Michael Adams	Patricia Null	Debbie Formo
Enid Rodriguez	Sylvia Elliott	Denise Thomas	

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	1 Labor Day Holiday - Office Closed 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 SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
7 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 SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
14 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 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 SDA 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
21 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 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	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 SDA 9:00am Ministers Friendship Brunch - FH 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	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Shekinah French of PB SDA - FH	4 8:00am Shekinah French of Palm Bay SDA 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.



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.

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



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:

September 2025

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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