

**Volume 65
Issue 9**

**SEPTEMBER
2024**

The Olive Branch

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

Dear Friends through Christ:

God is Good, All the Time! All the Time, God is Good! For the first time in a long time (at least six years) we are full, not only full, we are busting at the seams. Peace Lutheran Church is serving the Lord through serving our community. Currently, Lifeline Academy has approximately 70 kids, split between middle and high school. In September, we will begin a weekly chapel for these young minds. I'm excited! I'm not sure if you realize that Peace started this entire process two years ago. Setback after setback, expense after expense, and finally the hard labor after hard labor paid off.

We also have a new partner in spreading the gospel, Iglesia De Cristo Ebenezer, with pastor Luis Herrera from Honduras. A group of 20-30 meet in our fellowship hall on Sunday from 3-5 PM, offering to our community a fully Spanish speaking worship. If you including Peace, with a traditional and Saturday contemporary, we now offer five unique styles of worship on our campus. That is a first for me.

Allow me share again the ministries being offered from our older, in need of repair worship center. Along with the Christian school and four different churches, we feed some 400 families a month with mostly meats. If those items were purchased through Walmart or Publix that would mean our panty gives to the needy close to \$250,000 per year of meat. Meals on Wheels serves 250 shut-ins per day from our doorstep. Because of the sign our AA program is overflowing, now meeting every day, at two separate times of the day, couple that with CODA (codependency program) two nights a week. This year we will serve as Palm Bay "cold night shelter" for the homeless. Here in a few months, we open our doors for voting. There are Stamp Clubs, Garden Clubs, Via De Cristo, all kinds of communities functions now making use of our facilities. We are full. Just gotta keep working on Sunday morning.

God is Good, All the Time! All the Time, God is Good! Utilizing our gift of space for worthy causes enabled Peace to generate enough extra income to make up our difference between Sunday morning giving and expenses. As a church, we operate on a very tight budget. We do everything I mentioned above, pay five employees, plus all the intangibles, for around \$250,000 per year. Pretty thrifty if you ask me. A lot of bang for the buck.

Yet, with all this good news of being full and having more income, this good news only gets Peace back to a balance budget. In other words, "We're even." Which is good, but there is still much to do to keep Peace Lutheran a bright and shining Lampstand in our community.

Did you know, in my six years of service here at Peace, we have replaced 13 air conditioners, only one more to go. Ya'll know how much they cost! Granted the one we just replaced was 24 years old, but in the year 2000 that same \$2900 air conditioner now cost \$6000. However, next up on our "to do list" is huge. Our roof, or I should say, roofs, eight of them need to be replaced. (All of roofs are even older than the last air conditioner.) I can remember when I first arrived at Peace, just about every giant rainstorm produced a new leak, but six years later, between Tech Systems and Mark Grice, we have managed to keep us dry. We do this continual patching of leaks because a new roof or roofs will cost approximately \$375,000. Ouch!

Council and Faye Schill have been working diligently with the old insurance company and various adjusters trying to get that number down. Right now, and don't hold me to it, we should be able to fix our roofs in the \$80,000-\$100,000 range.

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Pastor:

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

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

Of course that's better than \$375,000, but still it's going to take time to raise that kind of capital. In the meantime, your council will continue to search out all options. But no matter what we decide as a council and as a church, replacing our roofs is going to be a costly matter. Start thinking about, praying about how you might be able to help. In the meantime, I'll do my best to keep you dry and keep a light on for you.

Ok, that takes care of the business side of church. Let get to the spiritual side. Just last month I finished a series, where for over 30 weeks we had a dialogue with the bookends of Scripture, Genesis 1:1-12:5 and all of Revelation. This message in its entirety is available through a self-published book, titled "It Is Enough," located in the narthex (back) of the church. The premise of "It Is Enough" is that a knowledge and understanding of these bookends of Scripture is enough to know God and understand humanity. It is enough to see our past, our present and our future.

I still passionately believe this premise. However, as you all know, things don't always turn out the way you hoped. In 2010, I took my first stab at publishing the traditional way. What a nightmare. Felt like I spent all my time dealing with the publisher—Tate. Then a couple of years later, the two sons of the founder, squandered the money and charged with embezzlement. So about three years after publishing, Tate shut down and the book was out of print.

This time I thought I would self-publish through Amazon, or as they call it Amazon Kindle. After all, they are ones who started selling books online. They are the ones who started Kindle. They promised to edit, format and design cover for a reasonable fee. That's all I need. But then these slick talkers convinced me to take a chance on allowing Amazon Kindle to market for an entire year. So I scrouged together almost \$10,000 and took a chance. After all, I sold 5000 copies of the first book and I didn't advertise at all, granted I never got paid by Tate, but Amazon is different, right? They are the king of advertising.

Well, it was all a scam. Still don't know what or how it happened. Just happened. Amazon and Amazon Kindle are pleading the silent fifth. Amazon is one of those beasts I talked about in the sermon series and in the book. They offer the world and when they fail to deliver, they are simply too big to challenge. Granted, I do have an unedited book, but mistakes in books drive me crazy. It does have a beautiful cover that I designed. But more importantly, is the valuable information found inside, just waiting to be read. Still, it breaks my heart that people and corporations do such things. I often wonder, how they live with themselves?

Yet, I did not write "It Is Enough" to make a million dollars. If I did, I could pay for a new roof. I wrote so that others may gain knowledge of God and have a better understanding of humanity. I wrote so that others may see their past, present and future. I wrote because I feel that's what God wanted me to do.

When people, like yourself, explore these pages, making exceptions for a few grammatical errors, you will find a fresh understanding in two of the strangest books known to humanity, Genesis and Revelation. You will be the ones who share this newfound knowledge with others. I don't need Amazon Kindle's advertising. I got you. Eventually, and over time the scam artists will be canceled out. I know this because God is Good all the Time! All the Time God is God!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Trexler



**Saturday, September 28th
6:00PM**

Join us after Saturday Worship in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00PM.
Dinner is yet to be determined, but Fun is guaranteed!

**Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex.
Please RSVP if you plan to attend!**



It's been another busy summer: hosting an outstanding Vacation Bible School at Peace; welcoming Lifeline Academy students to our campus; dodging Hurricane Debby and hoping the worst of hurricane season is over. I found myself drawn to several televised sports events. the Tour de France—3 weeks of cycling through the beautiful French countryside with its drone/helicopter videos of the cathedrals, forests, castles and palaces and the 2024 Olympics—the best athletes in the world competing for gold, silver and bronze. Stories of redemption, fulfillment, self-belief and belief in others. I was especially impressed by the young Americans who boldly professed their faith in post competition interviews. Read what Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone said after winning gold in the 400M hurdles:

"I credit all that I do to God. Regardless of what happens, He's going to get the praise. Every time I step on the track I pray 'Let me be the vessel in which you're glorified'... that's why I do what I do." "What an honor, a blessing, and a privilege. I never want to take these moments for granted. In a week where my faith was tried, my peace wavered, and the weight of the world began to descend, God was beyond gracious."

"It never ceases to amaze me how powerful He is to help those who trust in Him overcome the battles within. His word is sufficient, His promises hold true, and all the glory belongs to Him. What a blessing."

And there's the intriguing A'ja (pronounced "asia") Wilson, named after an album from the 70's by Steely Dan, a popular rock band: "God was working today. God was working today. Oh my God, He was working today!"

Interviewer: "How do you begin to describe your journey, A'ja?"

A'ja: "'Just a blessing from God. He just worked so much through me. My parents have really helped me. They sacrificed to be here. We understood what we had to do. We leaned on each other; we believed in each other. I'm so proud and blessed to be a part of it."

I hear so often that young people today have lost their way, hopelessly devoured by a faithless and empty culture. Take a look around our campus at young ones attending a faith-based academic academy. Read the words of these Olympic champions, giving God all the Glory. Have a little faith!

Tom



Extra! Extra!



We have 8 women here at Peace,
lifting one another up in prayer.
We are feeling heard and held
by this gift.

Pray On!



Chancel Choir practice will resume on
September 4th at 7pm.

Anyone interested in bell choir, please see
Cindy Wagman.

No experience necessary...just a willingness
to serve and sing!

Treasurer's Report for June and July 2024

Greetings to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

As you can see below, we're not doing too badly. Yes, our expenses each month of June and July were more than our income, but we held our own because we had a great first quarter of the year and we had a cushion when we went into our summer slump. Our YTD income is more than our budget. This is the first summer since I've been Treasurer that I haven't been concerned to meet our payrolls.

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 you wish to give. The Major Roof Fund stands at \$14,387.71 at the end of July. That amount has been given by nine family units. Imagine if all of our 70 families would contribute what they are able above their tithe. When the council decides to do something, I will put up a fund's thermometer.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds for June and July 2024

	June	July	YTD	YTD Budget
Contributions	\$9,370.00	\$11,453.00	\$138,101.62	\$109,734.94
Loose Contributions & Other	\$757.00	\$653.00	\$5,830.60	\$5,661.88
Use of Facilities	\$2,750.00	\$2,885.00	\$28,976.11	\$30,916.69
Total Income	\$12,877.00	\$14,991.00	\$172,908.33	\$146,313.51
Expenses	\$16,176.28	\$17,467.38	\$133,973.61	\$146,313.51

Excess Expenses for June 2024: **(\$3,299.28)**

Excess Expenses for July 2024: **(\$2,476.38)**

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

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$11,019.95 for new Air Conditioners and other projects. During July and August, we have had to replace 1 ½ AC. You will notice that expense next month. Both of these units were in the Education Building.

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 (19) 09/03
 ROBINS, SR., George & Patricia (59) 09/04
 MARCUS, David & Barbara (50) 09/08
 PADULA, John & Laura (2) 09/18
 COTTON, Steve & Rosita (36) 09/24

(numbers of years married)



Correction:

In the Summer Issue of our newsletter "The Olive Branch," there was an error that showed **Don and Sue Hoffman** celebrated 59 years of marriage.

However:

Don and Sue Hoffman celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary!!!

Congratulations, Don and Sue on 60 years of marriage!!!!



September Birthdays



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



Lori Deaton	Don Hoffman	Viola Forrester	Matt Parks	Denise Thomas & children/grands
Ryan Dasinger	Betty Sheller	David Pinkerton	Betsy Witter	Yvonne Burns
Rick Pellecchia	Tonita Diaz	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Karl Bromm	Marion Elliott
Jacqueline Darby	Theresa Bradley	Gary Witter	Paul Bickford	Mardelle Hansen
Debbie Parks	Gary Gossett	Carolyn Tarkka	Sally Cook	Kenneth Lipkins
Matt Parks	Deb Moleski	Helga Bromm	Suzie McKeney	Allan Thomas
Enid Rodriguez	June Trotter	Phyllis Dale	Lou Madden	Ginger Taylor
George Robbins	Ariel Cook	Bill & Nancy Love	David Schill	Sherry Anderson
	David Flaherty	Christian LaPlante	Michael Adams	

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	2 LABOR DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	3 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	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	
8 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	9 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	10 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	11 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	14 10:00am Ministers Friendship Brunch 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	
15 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	17 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	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	
22 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	24 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	25 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship	
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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

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PERMIT 144

Dated Material:

September
2024

Return service requested

Phone: (321) 727-3131
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
8:30AM—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 Newsletter 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

