

Volume 66
Issue 2

FEBRUARY
2025

The Olive Branch

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

Dear Friends through Christ:

This year I did something I've never done... I strayed from the lectionary and preached much of 2024 from Genesis and Revelation in a series entitled "It Is Enough." The book is a dialogue with the bookends of Scripture, and it is enough to know God and understand humanity. It is enough to see our past, our present and our future. Buy the book! It's knowledge will come in useful because "it is enough."

Through that series hopefully we learned that when our Lampstand (Peace Lutheran) keeps the Lamb (Christ Jesus) in the center of our teaching, God will always provide, and the Lampstand will always shine. This year those of us who gave of our time, talent and treasure got to see God's work through our Hands. This year was a fun year to watch some of our hard work yield heavenly fruit.

The stars fell in place where all the city officials agreed Peace Lutheran could serve as a Christian School! Praise the Lord! As I write, there are about 70 or so middle school and high school youth meeting in building C. By next year Lifeline Academy will be shaping over 100 young minds. Praise the Lord! **Dr. Cooks** is a delight to work with and the kids are energizing to be around. Here soon, my plans are to host a weekly chapel and offer religion classes.

Lifeline Academy generates \$48,000 per year, funds that we need to offset our budget deficit. Therefore, this year 2024, was the first year Peace Lutheran has been on the plus side financially or in the black since I have arrived! Praise the Lord! We now actually have a few funds to fix a few things and if we keep the trend going, we can do even more ministry, and the year 2024 brought a few new ministries to Peace, other than just the school.

We now host a Spanish speaking service and Bible studies are being offering through Ebenezer Church, with **Pastor Luis Herrera** as their shepherd. Also this year we began hosting a program called CODA. It tries to help people who are addicted to more than one harmful addition. They meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Finally, Peace closed out 2024 by serving as a "Cold Night Shelter." Here we opened our fellowship hall to the homeless when the temperature falls below 45 degrees. Through Love Inc., and Brevard Homeless Coalition we serve dinner, have Bible Study, watch a movie, sleep on mats, serve breakfast and send them on their way with love, prayers, and bus ticket. Just this past Sunday (01/26), **Sandy** and I cooked breakfast for eighteen homeless in our fellowship hall. Serving the homeless is a difficult but rewarding type of ministry. Thank you for your support!

So, if you add these three new ministries to what we already do to serve our community, I genuinely believe Christ will continue to shine brightly in our Lampstand and Peace Lutheran will be fine. Not only do we offer a wonderful worship experience and outstanding Bible Studies, we now host four different worshipping communities at Peace Lutheran. (How cool is that?) Our VBS this year attracted over 50 area kids. Our food pantry gave away over \$350,000 worth of meats to those who need it. Meals On Wheels serves over 250 elderly and shut-ins meals, five days a week. AA has saved many more lives than my sermons and they meet here every day.

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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

If you live in the area and desire to vote, then you will come to our beautiful campus to cast that vote. (Thanks to all who keep Peace looking so beautiful.) There are probably close to 20 different community groups that use our facility to do their ministry and trust me, if you show up at Peace Lutheran Church during the week, pretty much any time of the day, we are not only busy, Peace is busy doing the Lord's work! Thank you!

This year I did something I've never done...I had a massive heart attack. I had heart attack and I'm OK because of my Faith in God. I'm no longer afraid of dying, but instead, I'm consumed with what can I do here and now to serve Him. But then I realize, we serve Him by loving others, and the best way I know how to love others is by sharing the gospel of Christ Jesus—Share with them my faith, in word and deed.

That my friends is my prayer for 2025; Don't be concerned about dying but consumed with love! I hope and pray that we not only continue doing the ministry of our Savior, but I also hope and pray that each of us will be consumed with sharing the gospel of Christ Jesus with others. I challenge everyone reading this letter to start thinking about people in your life whom you love, whom you genuinely want what's is best for them, and then I challenge you to invite them to worship! I challenge you to share your faith!

Do this and next year I'll be writing how in 2025 we did something that has never been done. Our attendance doubled!

In Christian Love,

Pastor David Trexler

PS: Immediately after writing an annual report, our wonderful office manager, **Jacqui**, informed me I needed to write an article for the February Newsletter. I very politely responded, "No, I don't, because right here is a perfectly good letter informing everybody that we happen to know, exactly what we do, and how important this work is to our community. Our newsletter reaches a whole lot more people than the ones who read our annual report. This Good News needs to be shared with as many people as possible. So in a couple of weeks when you receive the annual report, you can read it again, in context of our budget and see quite clearly that Peace Lutheran does good work. So go ahead, boast! But boast in the Lord!



Happy February!

February is when we hold our Peace Lutheran Church annual meeting. This year it will be held immediately after our church service on **Sunday, February 23rd**. This is a time to gather and to review our budget and the state of our church. It is also a time to elect new council members to help guide the church into the future.

The council has been working on some changes to the Peace Lutheran Church Constitution and By Laws to remove some verbiage that is outdated (example we no longer have a preschool) or to bring the Constitution and By Laws in line to the current way we are governed. Some members may remember that at one time there was a covenant that members were required to sign. Soon after **Pastor Trexler** assumed his Call here at Peace, that requirement was rescinded but the Constitution and By Laws were not amended. The council plans to present the amended Constitution and By Laws for a vote and for adoption at the annual meeting.

We have a beautiful church and a well maintained campus! All the buildings on our campus are in use for various ministries. The rents that we collect are added to our budget as income and this added revenue will allow us to present a balanced budget. We have had some lean years, including during the pandemic, but with God's help we seem to be on the other side. We will need to address a major expense this year: the roofs. The church council is working with an independent appraiser to negotiate with our insurance company and as soon as we hear that they have reached a settlement we will talk about next steps.

In the meantime, during this season of Valentines, love God, and love your neighbor!

Gabriele Di Tota
Acting President

Fellowship



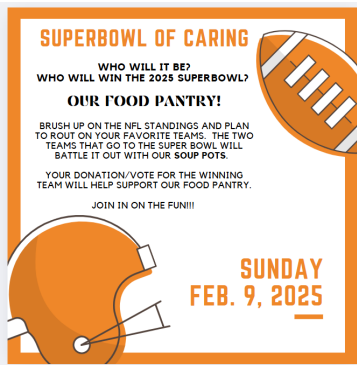
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 23, 2025** after the 10AM morning Worship service.

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

We will have a Pot Luck lunch after the meeting.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Super Bowl Sunday, February 9th, we will be continuing our annual tradition of supporting our Food Pantry with some fun type wagering.

There will be two soup pots located in the narthex, one for the Philadelphia Eagles another for the Kansas City Chiefs. You will vote with your \$\$\$.

All monies go to the Peace Food Pantry. As many years as we have been doing this, only twice has the team with the most money lost.

So, root for your team, help the less fortunate and have fun!



Saturday, February 15th at 10:00 am, we will be hosting the annual **Prayer Sister Tea**. Anyone who had a prayer sister last year will reveal who they were praying for, and all who want a new prayer sister will receive one. It is not necessary to attend the Tea in order to receive a prayer sister, it's just fun.



If you would like a prayer sister, fill out the form found in the narthex or see Sandy Trexler. Also please sign up on the board in the narthex and indicate if you will be attending the Tea or not.

For anyone who is not familiar with Prayer Sisters, there is no commitment other than praying for the person you have been given. It is done in secret, so they will not know until next year at the tea. In turn someone will be secretly praying for you and your requests. This ministry is truly rewarding and is an important part of the women of Peace Lutheran.

Food Pantry News

New Year's Greetings! The Food Pantry said goodbye to 2024 as we finished serving a total of 2600 families for the year. WOW As the 9 faithful volunteers show up every Tuesday morning at 6:15 and set up, we don't even imagine that we make this much of an impact over a year's time. As God blesses us, we try to bless others.

Each week we are provided with a variety of goods to distribute. Like Forest Gump's box of chocolate...we never know what we will get or how much. Fresh produce of all kinds, meat, canned goods, eggs, non-perishables, pet food, new clothing, shoes, toiletries, cleaning supplies and even kids toys....every week is a little different. Most items we pay 20 cents a lb or less for, some are donated, and others are gathered through volunteer service.

We continue to pick up the WaWa sandwiches, pastries and Einstein bagel donations four times a week. We thank these 2 companies for their continued generosity.

In October, we implemented a computer system to tally our numbers each week. From the individual information we get from the clients, we are seeing that the majority we serve are seniors that need our help. Many have food insecurity.

We are able to open each week because of the financial support we get for the Food Pantry and the help we get from Second Harvest. We thank you and we hope to continue serving for another year where there is need.

Happy 2025 to all!

Treasurer's Report for February 2025

God's blessings to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

During January we received another check from the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) which was filed November 2023. That money was placed in the Roof Fund for the time being. The Major Roof Fund stands at \$27,142.42 at the end of December.

Please pick up your contribution envelopes and tax statements on the narthex table. If you feel there are discrepancies, please bring it to my attention.

I continue to work with Wes Edwards to take over the Treasurer's job. Wes has worked for the IRS and is currently in a private accounting firm.

Please attend the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held on February 23, 2025. New Council member will be voted in and Wes Edwards will be affirmed by the congregation as your new Treasurer. As members of Peace Lutheran Church, we should give these people our full support.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Fund for December 2024

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Contributions	\$15,506.00	\$205,557.99	\$188,117.00
Loose Contributions & Other	\$826.00	\$8,429.71	\$9,206.00
Use of Facilities	\$14,860.00	\$77,570.70	\$53,000.00
Total Income	\$31,192.00	\$291,557.70	\$250,823.00
Expenses	\$19,641.55	\$245,115.15	\$ 250,823.00

Excess **Income** for December 2024: **\$11,550.45**

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

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

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.

february anniversaries

ROSALES, Samantha & Marcel (3) 02/12

(numbers of years married)



February BIRTHDAYS

SCHERER, John 02/02

ADILOFF, Mary 02/03

COTTON, Steve 02/11

GARCEA, Elizabeth 02/20

GARCEA, Gary 02/20

BARNES, Jeffery 02/22

HANSEN, Mardelle M. 02/24



Lori Deaton	George Robbins	Viola Forrester	Wanda Pinkerton	Evelyn Rodriguez
Ryan Dasinger	Don Hoffman	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Betsy Witter	Yvonne Burns
Rick Pellecchia	Betty Sheller	Gary Witter	Karl Bromm	Marion Elliott
Jacqueline Darby	Tonita Diaz	Carolyn Tarkka	Paul Bickford	Mardelle Hansen
Debbie Parks	Theresa Bradley	Helga Bromm	Suzie McKeny	Sherry Anderson
Matt Parks	Gary Gossett	Phyllis Dale	Lou Madden	Cristina Elliott
Enid Rodriguez	Deb Moleski	Bill & Nancy Love	Michael Adams	Megan O'Neal
	June Trotter	Christian LaPlante	Sylvia Elliott	Rafael Rivera
	Ariel Cook	Matt Parks	Sophie & Family	Karen Holzer
	David Flaherty	Brenda Accola	Lori Deaton	Patricia Hall
	Jose Rafael Rivera			Denise Thomas



February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Vista Oaks HOA - FH	28 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	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	31 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
2 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Waterstone HOA - FH	4 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	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	8 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
9 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	11 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	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	14 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	15 10:00am Peace Prayer Sister Tea - FH 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 4:00pm In Season Valentine's Day Event 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
16 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	17 President's Day - Office Closed 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	18 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	19 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	22 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
23 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	24 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	25 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	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church	1 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:

February
2025

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

