

Volume 65
Issue 6

JUNE
2024

The Olive Branch

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

Dear Friends through Christ:

Last month in the newsletter I mentioned that one of the benefits of Christianity is that Jesus instructs us to address the God of Creation as if we are addressing a Loving Parent. Jesus says, "When you pray say, "Our Father." We can talk to God as a Daddy. Therefore, we all need to find a place, any place where we can have those long and sometimes difficult conversations with our Father in Heaven. And folks, for me, the time and place is standing on the shores of the great Atlantic ocean, the second largest Baptismal Font in the world, walking the shallows and hunting for Baptismal shells. Here I have some of the longest and strangest conversations with my heavenly Father. That's right! Yes, I talk to God constantly, especially on vacation and not ashamed of it. Some may think I'm crazy, but that's fine. Because over the years I am absolutely convinced that God talks back. The Spirit of God speaks to our inmost being! God speaks to our heart and minds! Can I listen? Do I obey?

Well, this year at the beach I promised God that my heart and mind would be open to listen and do whatever You needed me to do. Allow me to share one of the craziest "God Moments" I have had in quite some time. It's sort of like an episode of the Twilight Zone!

Sandy and I left for Ocean Isle, NC at 4 AM Wednesday morning, May 15th. You see, low tide happens at 8:40 PM on that day, and the only time one can find shells is at low tide. So, if we can get there early, there would be enough time to unpack, go grocery shopping, that way I can head to the point about 6:30 PM. The tide would be low enough to get where I need to be, and I would have almost two hours of daylight to search the shallows, starting our vacation with what I love to do most—hunting for Baptismal shells and talking to God.

I have one of those personalities that doesn't show a lot of emotions, but getting ready to take that walk, inside I'm like a little kid in a candy store. It is now 6:35 PM, Sandy, Ginger (our dog), Donna (my sister) and Skylar (her dog) are ready to start our vacation! My daughter and her husband show up later. (Thank you blessing us with this opportunity)

We had walked about ½ mile and now some heavy clouds start rolling in. It began to rain and then a little harder and little harder. Donna and Sandy had the sense to turn around and head back, but no, it looked like over the horizon the weather cleared a little. So, I put my head down and walked straight into the wind and rain toward my oasis. (Good thing I wore a shirt and a hat, cause that rain stung.) The whole time I'm walking, I'm just talking away. Yes, I had told God that I am open to His Will, but I gotta know what that Will is? You see, Peace Lutheran is the longest place I've ever stayed put anywhere, at any time of my life. Usually, something comes up about every four or five years and I feel called to move along. Yet even after six hard but good years at Peace, I still wonder what I should be doing next. I was hoping a trip like this might clear some cobwebs. I also said, "Since I am willing to listen, Lord. It sure would be nice find a whole bunch of shells this week. That one should be easy for You. Of course I enjoy it, but I give them away to glorify Your name. Sure would be nice, Lord!"

Remember when I wrote it looked like it might clear up? Well, it did! The very first shell I found was a beautiful giant conk, I'll show it to you on Sunday, but that was only the beginning. In front of me lie five huge Conkle Shells (Baptismal Symbols), and to my left a couple more, just sitting there in the open. Incredible! I started thanking God like a little child thanks his daddy for a great unexpected gift.

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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

As I walked that point, standing ¼ mile from any shoreline, surrounded by water on all four sides, picking up shell after shell, I found myself thinking of all the good things we have done at Peace, all the challenges we have face, and how bright our future could be.

Since this conversation with God seemed to be going quite well I found myself asking for specifics, like what can I/we be doing? The answer I was listening for would hopefully be something we could do here at Peace. I listened, but in my mind I hear or imagine, "Write a letter." I'm like, "Fine, I like writing letters. You know they are a lost art. Hard to fit together a good letter, but persuasive if done right. What do want me to write, Lord?" Again I imagine hearing, "Write the same letter to two different people." Now, I just got to see where this leads, so I ask, "What two people?"

You do realize the mind is a funny thing because the names that popped into my head were Donald Trump and Joe Biden. (no titles were given). Now it's simply weird. The very first words out of my mouth were, "Why? What good is that? Nobody is going open, much less read. Why? What the hell would I say anyway? This is stupid. Stop playing with my mind!"

Remember, how I wrote that the weather cleared up? Well, once I started questioning whatever I heard/imagined, nature had something more to show me. I'm standing on a sandbar, soaking wet, when God graced me with one of the greatest spectacles of wind, rain, and lightning that I have ever personally witnessed. The next ½ hour or so were some of the most exhilarating moments of my 68 years of existence. Folks, God is awesome!!! I was in awe!!!! I don't think I was scared, but I did figure if I agreed to write the silly letter, then surely God would have no reason to electrocute me. After all, it's not that big of a task. Just write a letter. So, I took my hat off, looked straight into that wind and rain and said, "Ok, ok, I will write your letter to President Trump and President Biden, even though I still have no idea why or what you want me what to say."

Within just a couple of moments, the wickedness of the storm passed. I'm not dead and not one more shell can fit in my bag. I thanked God repeatedly for the special experience and display of His Majesty. The storm began to break in the west, the sun made his final presence known for the day, and as I turned east to make the long walk home, carrying a 15# bag of shells, in front of me, due east was the most perfect rainbow, with all the colors, surrounded by dark clouds above and almost white one in the center.

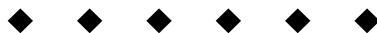
On the walk back, I couldn't help but reflect on the past couple of hours. I have come to the conclusion that right now I am where I am supposed to be, Peace Lutheran Church. Why? Because we have a lot of work in front of us. Plus now we have hundreds and hundreds of Baptismal Shells to share with our loved ones and friends who are searching for someone to talk to, someone who will listen, and someone who speaks to our innermost being. Every single person who reads this letter should make a special effort to find a place, any place, find the time to have long and sometimes difficult talks with your Father in Heaven. Ask God, Jesus anything, everything and often. Keep at it. Then listen. Listen with your heart and mind as to what God desires. Like I said, I am quite convinced that sometimes God talks back.

What is God calling you to do? You will never know unless you ask your heavenly Father! Then are you willing to listen? And finally, are you willing to obey?

Again, thanks for the vacation. Gotta go write a letter to Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Wish me luck!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Trexler



The Peace Lutheran Church walk with Christ continues! Here we are, nearly halfway through the year, eagerly anticipating Vacation Bible School, the August arrival of Lifeline Academy students on our campus and the late summer/fall activities that lead up to the holiday season. Each time I put pen to paper for these Olive Branch notes, I want to begin with, "It's an exciting time for our church!" I feel that way every time I drop by the office, enter the Sanctuary on Sundays, or prepare for a council meeting. Since I joined the council in February 2019, each month has presented a different challenge, a new opportunity.

The improvements to our church continue, with the conversion and upgrade of our unused space to schoolrooms. We work through the onerous process of replacing our roof and dealing with ballooning property insurance premiums. Dealing with the everyday issues that every Florida property owner faces isn't easy. How blessed we are to have a pastor, church staff, and church council that have the patience, determination, and spirit of cooperation to get the job done! The results: we've established PLC as a place where we can more freely gather to worship, break bread, spread God's word and share his grace with others.

Community-focused activity progresses daily on our church campus. Meals on Wheels and Alcoholics & Narcotics Anonymous members reaching out to each other. Our amazing Food Pantry serving individual and families. In Season ministry and soon Lifeline Academy members come and go.

What an exciting time for our church, indeed!

Tom

Extra! Extra!

Vacation Bible School



JUNE 24 - JUNE 28TH

9:00AM - 12:00PM

AGES: 4 - 12



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH/IN SEASON MINISTRIES/LIFELINE ACADEMY

1801 PORT MALABAR BLVD NE
PALM BAY, FL 32905
(321)727-3131



Register at: www.peacelutheranpb.org
or pick up registration form at Church office
8:30AM - 12PM /Monday - Friday

AGES 4 - 12 (Limit is 75 children)

FREE!!!



Use QR code for registration form



VBS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We will be having a VBS Volunteer Get-together Lunch on:

June 8th at 10:00 AM.

If you would like to Volunteer for VBS this year, please come to the Fellowship Hall at 10AM and see **Faye Schill** or **Deb Baumung** for details.



Whenever there is a holiday on a Monday, Second Harvest closes and doesn't pick up the produce that we love to give out on Tuesday. We take this rare opportunity to close the food pantry also and give our amazing volunteers a chance to take a day off. So we were closed on May 28th.

With 52 weeks in a year's time, our dedicated group seldom takes time away, so having time off and not getting to the pantry at 6:00 am to set up on a few Tuesdays is a treat. There is still WaWa, Einstein bagels and other food to pick up, so some are still working their same routine on other days during the week.

We want to thank all the church members that faithfully picked up the Panera Bread donations for so many years. The community that the Food Pantry serves will really miss the bread. Our volunteer's time is already spread pretty thin throughout the week and we couldn't figure out how to make it work to help pick up on Friday nights.

Thank you to all who support the work of the Food Pantry outreach to the 32905 and 32907 community. We thank you for your donations. We are open Tuesdays from 9 to 11.

Treasurer's Report

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

As you can see below, our expenses outpaced our income by \$2,509.84. We continue to be in the black in our YTD. One-half of our property insurance (\$12,907) and one-half of our liability insurance (\$1,417.50) was paid in May. We will pay the remainder in June.

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 \$10,852.71 at the end of April. We have three quotes for new roofs on Peace Place and the Sanctuary. You will soon see a thermometer (by popular demand) in the narthex showing what is needed for a new roof when the decision is made what roofing company we will hire.

Leslie Leazer is training and most hopefully will be affirmed at our next congregational meeting.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds for April 2024

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$13,779.00	\$108,783.62	\$62,705.68
Loose Contributions & Other	\$1,822.15	\$3,746.11	\$3,255.36
Use of Facilities	\$2,425.00	\$21,090.00	\$17,666.68
Total Income	\$18,026.15	\$133,620.33	\$83,607.72
Expenses	\$20,535.99	\$75,153.12	\$83,607.68

Excess Income for April 2024: **\$2,509.84**

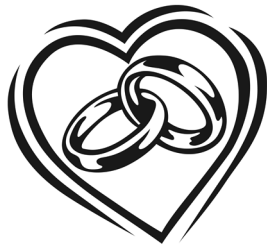
The General Fund account is used for regular expenses (utilities, salaries, lawn care, insurance, mortgage, etc.)

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$9,019.95 for new Air Conditioners and other projects.

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.



BRADLEY, Theresa & Scott (29) 06/10
 ARNDT, Steven & Luisa (41) 06/11
 FLAHERTY, David & Janet (41) 06/11
 LAPLANTE, Christian & Dina (17) 06/13
 GARCEA, Elizabeth & Gary (49) 06/14



(numbers of years married)



SMITH, Scott 06/01
 MITCHELL, Judy 06/04
 TROTTER, June 06/09
 BRADLEY, Scott 06/13
 COOK, Sally 06/13
 RAMSEY, Sue 06/13
 GOODWIN, Leonora 06/18
 COTTON, Rosita 06/19
 SCHILL, Faye 06/19
 O'BRIEN, Charlene 06/28



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

.June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	31 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	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 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	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	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	8 10:00am VBS Volunteer Meeting and Lunch - FH 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	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	11 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	12 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	14 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
16 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	17 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	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	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	24 9:00am Vacation Bible School 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	25 NO FOOD PANTRY 9:00am Vacation Bible School 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	26 9:00am Vacation Bible School 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 9:00am Vacation Bible School 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	28 9:00am Vacation Bible School 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
30 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 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	4 July 4th Holiday - Office Closed 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	6 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.

**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,
 Ft. Leavenworth, KS

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

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Dated Material:

June 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
8:45AM—Sunday School
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 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

