



Dear Friends through Christ:

Did you know a person can ask about any earthly question, and have that question answered by a phone. Think about that—by a phone! With the advancement of artificial intelligence or AI, in a few years, humans will have unlimited access to all earthly knowledge at their fingertips. People will have answers to everything!

Well, almost everything. What about “heavenly knowledge?” Can you find answers to heavenly questions on your phone even with the advancement of artificial intelligence? No, we must leave the unanswerable questions to religion. You see, religion tries it hardest to give heavenly answers and real intelligence or RI—knowledge about God, humanity, and nature.

Last month I wrote about all good news and how excited I am to have Dr. Cooks and Lifeline Academy coming to Peace. Here I will have the opportunity to teach a college credit class entitled World Religion. But to teach, I must first have the earthly knowledge of each religion, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism. I’ve purchased four books from top scholars that I must now put in a language that makes sense, to me and to students. When I have completed this course, Peace will be the first to hear the many answers given by the different religions of the world, all searching for God, all searching for answers to the unanswerable.

Some might have a problem with a pastor teaching World Religion. However, it is the only religion class that can be taught in the Florida school system, and I really want to reach our youth, somehow, somehow. Also, it gives me the opportunity to ask the unanswerable questions and show how each religion tries to answer the unanswerable. Through this process, hopefully, they will conclude Christianity offers a few answers other religions cannot. So, let’s do that. Let’s look at a couple of answers that will enable us to boost our heavenly knowledge and then boast about our faith in Christ Jesus.

Many of you know I love to fish! To stand at the shore of the second largest baptismal font on earth, with my feet in the water, just talking with God for hours upon hours is Priceless. I raise my concerns, my joys, my fears, my hopes. I give thanks for all the beauty. I confess my sin. I ask for forgiveness. I ask for favors. And I ask questions, so, so many questions...

Right there, what I just said is a dramatic difference in our Christian faith. Folks, you have a God that you can talk with! That fact is different than the rest. It is a fact because I do it all the time. The eastern religions of Hinduism and others teach of an impersonal God, one who doesn’t get involved with creation. In Judaism and Islam, God is only going to speak with a certain chosen prophets, priests, or whatever. But Jesus, Jesus comes and teaches us to pray (have conversation) with God, as a Father. Jesus teaches, you are a child of Almighty God, and a child can have conversation with Dad. Jesus gives us the gift of having a personal relational relationship to our Creator.

That small, important gift only comes through Christianity! Man, I’m sure glad about that, cause I don’t know what I would do? Who in the world would I talk to all day long at the beach, and basically every day, all day? Jesus gives us the gift of a God whom we can talk with, about anything, anytime. What a blessing! Take advantage of that blessing.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor’s Message	1—2a
Council President News	2b-3a
Extra! Extra!	3b
Treasurer News	4
May Birthdays/Prayer/ Anniversaries	5
May Calendar	6
Bits and Pieces	7

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

Yet, if I am to raise my concerns, confess my sins and ask questions, it would seem rather pointless if I did not listen for some type of response or sign. So I wait, with patience, with an open mind, my feet still in the waters of baptism, my finger on the line, waiting for a nibble, watching the surfers and the pelicans paint the waves, while the dolphins play behind them. It doesn't matter what I catch that day because something always catches me.

Christianity is the only religion showing us repeatedly how God answers those questions, those prayers, those conversations through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Almighty touches our hearts and minds, guiding us every step of the way, if we so desire. None of the world religions have a doctrine of the Holy Spirit in way that makes this gift so useful to the everyday person and good for the entire creation. In Christianity, the Holy Spirit is available to every single human being on earth, in the name of Jesus. Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And finally, the last bit of heavenly knowledge I would like to share, is a knowledge that sets the Christian faith apart in a unique and powerful way. Christianity shares the gift of forgiveness! Sin is part of our lives and the guilt that sin brings can keep a person from living the abundant life our Lord offers. Jesus forgives sin! That why "they" killed him. Other religions of the world have no answers to sin, other than to say you must quit and those sins will be dealt with in the next life, which is little or no comfort to me.

Yet, comfort comes when I'm done with my little fishing excursion, when I've had my little talk with God, because I know in my heart and soul that right now I have a clean slate, fresh start with my Creator. That's what called, "Using your Baptism." My past has no bearing on my eternal future, none, whatsoever, because Jesus gives us the gift of forgiveness!

So while we may have access to all earthly knowledge at our fingertips, this month when you find yourself asking heavenly questions, put away your phone, open the Bible and come to church, because the only answer you will ever need cannot be found in earthly knowledge, but simply found in the heavenly name of Jesus.

Three outstanding gifts being offered only through the religion of Christianity. As Christians, how do we keep this good news to ourselves? It just seems wrong not to share with our friends and family. Jesus offers a personal relationship with your Creator, a God whom you can talk with anytime about anything. Jesus offers the gift of the Holy Spirit to help answer your heavenly questions and guide your earthly life. And finally, Jesus offers what no other religion is willing to offer or proclaim—the forgiveness of sin and eternal life—in His Name.

May the One seated upon the Throne; the Slaughtered Lamb; and the All-Encompassing Spirit, bless you now and forever!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Trexler



Our church is experiencing something of a revival as we pass from winter to spring: Sunday attendance is slowly increasing; our finances have temporarily stabilized, thanks to generous members. Hopefully, summer's approach and the return of our snowbirds to northern climes won't reverse these trends. Challenges remain, such as negotiating for a new roof with our insurer and roofing companies. We know God is good, and He will see us through.

The title of a recent WSJ essay caught my eye: "The Mental Health Benefits Linked to Going to Church." The author, Clare Ansberry, cites a growing body of research linking active religious practice—i.e., going to church—to mental well-being.

Eureka! Yes, the "experts" reason that places of worship can provide community and belonging, countering isolation and loneliness. Declining regular attendance at services across nearly all faith denominations coincides with rising rates of depression and anxiety. Young people in particular have low rates of church attendance and report often feeling lonely and anxious.

continue page 3

Byron Johnson, a social science professor at Baylor University, co-directs a study on what makes people flourish. He and fellow Harvard/Gallup researchers found that those attending religious services weekly had higher “flourishing” scores than those who never attend.

A global online survey by Sapien Labs found that countries with the lowest mental well-being scores have lower levels of active religious practice, such as attending services, practicing rituals or prayers, and reading scriptures.

“Religion provides a framework for coming together regularly, but you can’t just show up to benefit”, says Tara Thiagarajan, Sapien Labs founder. “You have to actively participate. When people are more socially engaged, they tend to feel more love for others, which enhances mental well-being-- the ability to handle adversity and function productively.”

This is interesting, validating info for those of us filling the pews at PLC every weekend, supporting our beloved church with time, toil and tithes. However, the point here is not to sit back, and count our blessings while we bemoan the Insanity of modern society that denies these blessings to others.

Yes, we are blessed!

Pass it on!

We are counting on Christ, and He is counting on us!

Tom

Extra! Extra!

The date for VBS is set for **June 24 through June 28.**

Flyers will be out soon to sign children up.



We do need volunteers to escort the children, help register, sign-in and sign-out, prepare snacks and help keep the children safe. We will also use teachers from In Season Ministries and Lifeline Academy.

This is an very important outreach to our neighborhood and community.

If you want to help, please email **Faye Schill** at treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org. **Deb Baumung** and I will be co-chairs this year. Thank you **Deb**.



Panera News

It is with regret that I am announcing that after 20 years of collecting donations from Panera Bread on Friday evenings, we are going to have to turn this privilege over to another organization. We have been able to donate the bread products to our own food pantry and the CITA Rescue Mission in Melbourne, occasional cookie donations have been used by Meals on Wheels and Peace Lutheran has benefited by having pastries for our coffee hour on Sunday mornings. However, there are only 3 families that are regularly signing up and all 3 are not be available in the summer.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to **Carolyn Tarkka** for single-handedly picking up donations for the last two summers. Also, a special thanks to **Terry and Jude Zrutskie** and **Steve and Yonna Barnett** for their consistent volunteering for this mission. If this ministry is calling your name, please let me know before I inform Panera that we will no longer be accepting their gracious donations. Otherwise, May 19 will be our last pick-up.

Cindy Wagman

Treasurer's Report

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

As you can see below, we are in the black again this month. Our contributions for March do not include Easter, as this was counted and deposited in April. We still have a cushion when it's time to pay the property and liability insurance at the end of May.

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 \$9,402.71. You will soon see a thermometer (by popular demand) in the narthex showing what is needed for a new roof.

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 March 2024

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$9,550.00	\$95,004.62	\$47,029.26
Loose Contributions & Other	\$673.00	\$1,924.56	\$2,426.52
Use of Facilities	\$14,445.00	\$18,655.00	\$13,250.01
Total Income	\$24,668.00	\$115,594.18	\$62,705.79
Expenses	\$19,362.16	\$36,212.34	\$41,803.84

Excess Income for March 2024: **\$5,305.84**
(Total Monthly Income less Monthly Expenses)

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.



BICKFORD, William & Lori Stottlemire (7) 05/01
 HOLZER, Robert & Karen (50) 05/04
 FERENZ, Ed & Clare (27) 05/09
 WAINIKAINEN, Paul & Donna (42) 05/29



(numbers of years married)



STOLPE A., David 05/01 HOLZER, Robert 05/17
 DUCOTE, Mitcheal 05/04 ZASTROW, Debbie 05/21
 TREXLER, David 05/05 FERENZ, Clare 05/23
 PADULA, John 05/11 TALLAU, Brita 05/24
 PELLECCIA, Richard 05/11 SORENSON, Elaine 05/26
 HATON, Nancy 05/13 MOLESKI, Debra 05/29
 DITOTA, Bob 05/16



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

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:30pm Turkey Creek Assoc. - FH	30 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 - WW Room	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	4 10:00am Minister Friendship Luncheon - FH 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
5 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	7 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 - WW Room	8 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	10 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	11 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
12 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	14 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 - WW Room	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	17 9:00am Meals on Wheels Luncheon - FH 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:45pm Panera Pickup	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm NO SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP
19 PENTECOST SUNDAY 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Cindy's Recital - Sanctuary	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	21 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 - WW Room	22 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA 6:00pm Turkey Creek Mtg - FH	24 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	25 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
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 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:00pm Women's Via de Cristo - WW Room	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm CODA	31 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	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.

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

NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE FL
PERMIT 144

Dated Material:

May 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—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 321-830-4207

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

