



Volume 66
Issue 1

JANUARY
2025

The Olive Branch

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

Dear Friends through Christ:

Happy New Year! Welcome to the year of our Lord, 2025! May this year be filled with what the Advent Wreath and Candles promise Jesus will bring—Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace!

In the gospel of John 10:10, Jesus ever so clearly states his purpose. He says, *"I came so that you may have life and have it abundantly!"* That is my prayer for each of you in 2025, that you may have life and have it abundantly. What more is there? Hopefully, we have learned, through Scripture, that this abundant life comes through the Worship of God and the Service of Others.

Abundant Life = Worship and Service = Abundant Life!

We all have dreams and plans. In our minds, we all have some type of vision as to where we see ourselves in the future. It could be short term, it could be long term, it may be clear, it may be fuzzy, but we all have hopes or dreams as to where we would like to be down the road—in the future.

This dreaming my friends is a beautiful gift from God! Our ability to plan is what separates us from balance of mammals. Being able to vision gives us God-like qualities that we need to take very seriously. Each of us, in some form, have been given the responsibility to help shape and plan the future, not only in your individual lives, but also in the life of God's Church.

If we can begin to filter everything we do through the purpose of Jesus, offering abundant life through the Worship of God and the Service of Others, then Peace Lutheran will continue to be a bright and shining Lampstand in the community, bringing to others the purpose of Christ Jesus—Abundance of Life! Life filled with hope, love, joy, and peace!

Worship and Service = Abundant Life = Worship and Service!

Since abundant life comes through worship of God and service of others, that means, if you choose not to worship regularly and if you choose not to serve others, then how in God's good green earth can you expect the abundant life that Jesus offers? How can you expect the Advent gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace to be filled?

I don't know about you, but this year I truly desire some of that abundant life that Jesus offers. I really, really want the Advent promises of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace! Don't you? Then, please, make the worship of God central to your weekly routine. Please, make certain that service to others is a theme in your daily life.

Give the reigns to God and Jesus promises He will give to each You—Abundant Life!

Happy New Year!

Rev. David L Trexler

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Pastor:

Senior Pastor—David Trexler
Cell Phone— (321)289-7115

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Websites:

www.peacelutheranpb.org
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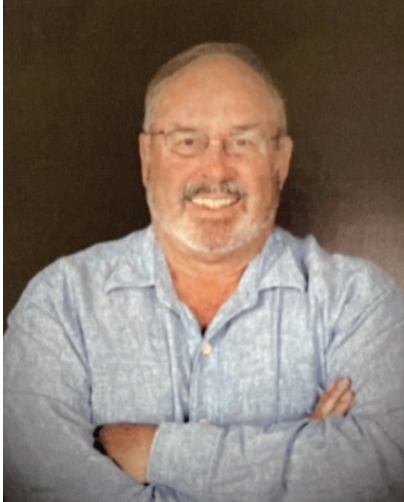
Staff:

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

Remembering Tom Accola, Council President



We have all been saddened by the sudden passing of Tom, our Peace Council President. Under Tom's faithful leadership, we have all striven to do our best for this church and to stay within the budget. Our council meetings start and end with prayer for the church and for each other, but there was room in between for stories. Tom would tell us about his trip plans to go to London for the Coronation, to go to Colorado to see family, to go fishing, to go to Germany and visit the Christmas markets or to go to Hawaii with Brenda.

The business of our meetings was dealt with in a way where the mood stayed light and joyful. You see, Tom led us in doing the Lord's work. Now Tom has laid his burden down and rests in the arms of the Lord and all we can say is well done good and faithful servant.

We will miss you.

Our council has several members who are retiring and we need to add some new members. Please consider if serving on council is a way that you would like to serve. We meet once a month for about 2 hours to discuss and make decisions about the life of this church. If interested please talk with Pastor or any of the council members.

Elections will be held at our annual meeting on February 23, 2025.

Gabriele DiTota
Acting President



Fellowship

A poster for the 'SUPERBOWL OF CARING' event. It features a football and a helmet. The text reads: 'WHO WILL IT BE? WHO WILL WIN THE 2025 SUPERBOWL? OUR FOOD PANTRY! BRUSH UP ON THE NFL STANDINGS AND PLAN TO ROUT ON YOUR FAVORITE TEAMS. THE TWO TEAMS THAT GO TO THE SUPER BOWL WILL BATTLE IT OUT WITH OUR SOUP POTS. YOUR DONATION/VOTE FOR THE WINNING TEAM WILL HELP SUPPORT OUR FOOD PANTRY. JOIN IN ON THE FUN!!! SUNDAY FEB. 9, 2025'.



- ◆
- ◆
- ◆ Grateful to all 19 people who showed up to the NEW YEARS EVE bunco/poker party.
- ◆ We all had a great time and ate our fill of Pastor's delicious chili.
- ◆
- ◆ **Terry Zrutskie** was the big winner at Bunco!
- ◆



PRAYER SISTERS FRIENDSHIP TEA SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH



10:00AM

We will gather for a Prayer Sister Tea on Saturday, February 15th and all of our current Prayer Sisters will reveal their identity. If you enjoy supporting other women of faith through prayer, you may consider being a Prayer Sister. The only requirement is that you pray for her. It is a secret and the comfort you receive from lifting up another woman in prayer cannot be explained.

Anyone wishing to have a Prayer Sister, will receive one during the tea. If you cannot attend the tea, let Sandy Trexler know, and you can receive your Prayer Sister at a later time.

Please fill out a Prayer Sister form found in the Narthex or ask Sandy for one. Make sure to return it to her prior to the Prayer Sister Tea. If that is not possible, let Sandy know and arrangements can be made.

"If you plan to attend, please sign up so we can plan for refreshments"



Extra! Extra!

NEWSLETTER

Beginning in February 2025, our monthly Olive Branch Newsletter will no longer be mailed out.
(It will only be mailed to those who are not able to attend church services.)

Peace members will get a copy sent to your emails and it will also be available on our website.
For your convenience, we will have some printed and placed on the table in the Narthex every month.

Treasurer's Report for January 2025

Happy New Year to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

November was a wonderful month for our finances. A couple of people gave QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) amounts most which of went into the General Fund.

We also received money 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 \$26,082.42 at the end of November.

Many people give to the Roof Fund, Food Pantry, Memorial Fund, Children's Hunger Project, VBS, etc. on a regular basis just by adding that extra amount to your one check and designating the separate funds on your envelope.

The contribution envelopes are on the narthex table for members. If you are not using envelopes now and wish to, please speak to the undersigned or send an email that you would like to use envelopes in 2025. Your tax statements will not be available until after the New Year.

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.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report of General Fund for November 2024

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Contributions	\$23,876.37	\$190,051.99	\$172,440.62
Loose Contributions & Other	\$214.00	\$7,467.60	\$8,897.24
Use of Facilities	\$14,310.00	\$62,846.11	\$48,583.37
Total Income	\$38,400.37	\$260,365.70	\$229,921.23
Expenses	\$18,504.10	\$225,224.99	\$229,921.12

Excess Income for November 2024: **(\$19,896.27)**

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

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$4,319.95 for new Air Conditioners and other projects. God bless all who give freely of their time, tithes and talents.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTES

I have lost more than one counter this year. If you would like to serve, please speak to me after church or email me. It's at the most 2 hours of time, usually on Mondays.

Faye Schill, Financial Secretary
treasurer@peacelutheran.org

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.

January

ANNIVERSARY

Scherer, John & Cayla (5)	1/03
Trexler, David & Sandra (38)	1/03
Pellecchia, Rick & Henrietta (57)	1/20
Edwards, Wesley & Molly (11)	1/26
Neumann, Ed & Terry (60)	1/30

(numbers of years married)



January

BIRTHDAY

Forrester, Viola	1/01
Rosales, Samantha	1/05
Bradley, Theresa	1/07
Macias, Julia	1/07
Anderson, Sherry	1/18
Arndt, Steven	1/21
Fregoso, Skylar	1/24
Mitchell, Ronald	1/24
Scherer, Emma	1/25
Barnett, Yonna	1/30



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

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	31 New Year's Eve 9:00am FOOD PANTRY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 1:00pm New Year's Eve Blanco/Prayers 6:00pm CODA	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2025 Office Closed! 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Stamp Club FH	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	4 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 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	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	8 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	9 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	10 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	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 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	14 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	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	16 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	17 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
19 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	20 Martin Luther King Holiday - Office Closed 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	22 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice 7:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	24 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:30pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	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 3:00pm Iglesia de Cristo Ebenezer Church - FH	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 6:00pm Vista Oaks HCA Meeting - 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 - FH	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

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Dated Material:

January
2025

Return service requested

Phone: (321) 727-3131
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Email: office@peacelutheranpb.org
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 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

