

Volume 65
Issue 3

MARCH
2024

The Olive Branch

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Message	1—2a
Council President	3a
Prayer Sister Tea/ Easter Breakfast	3b
Holy Week Schedule	4
Food Pantry News	5
Treasurer News	6
March Birthdays/Prayer/ Anniversaries	7
March Calendar	8
Bits and Pieces	9

Dear Friends through Christ:

I really do not worry about my future or the future of Peace Lutheran. Sure I/we will have our share of struggles, which is simply the nature of being church and life itself. However, I hope you are beginning to learn that if Christ Jesus remains in center of the Lampstand, the Church and those inside will be united and indestructible. God will always provide.

But what does it mean that Christ Jesus must remain in the center of Peace Lutheran Church? It means our focus must be upon Word and Sacrament, and everything we do as church must center around the teachings of Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection—i.e. The Cross. We should be different than the world because we are the body of Christ—i.e. The Church.

In our series entitled "It Is Enough", we just read about seven individual churches, each having their own set of struggles, but over and over we hear a loud voice to repent—turn back to God—and keep Christ Jesus in the center of their Lampstand. Over the next few weeks, we are going to hear from the four riders of the Apocalypse, who have been riding out since Adam and Eve and will continue to do so until the end of time. The gospel of Jesus Christ on the white horse has been riding out

since Adam and Eve, proclaiming, "Take care of this glorious creation, including each other. Trust that God has your best interest at heart." But because we do not listen, we encounter war and terrorism riding out on the red horse. We see economic injustice riding out on the black horse, all leading to death, riding out on the pale green horse. Folks this has been happening since the beginning. It is happening now, and the riders will be here tomorrow. Christian and non-Christian will experience these trials, but the true Christian will never experience the end times, if and only if your robe has been washed in the blood of the Lamb—if you have accepted the forgiveness offered from the Cross, your robe has been washed. Now evil, the dragon in Revelation doesn't have to be part of your life right now, today.

We are going to see how God uses nature; the rivers, oceans, ground, and air to warn us that things are going amuck. (Remember how Jesus controlled nature?) But according to the book of Revelation we will not listen, and the end times will come. Yet please, please remember those have their robes wash will instead be worshipping at the throne of God. Accept the forgiveness and start again, daily.

Next we are going to see how evil, the dragon, Satan, the devil best performs her damage. The dragon will give its power to the magnificent beast from the sea and the powerful beast from the earth. The beast from the sea are simply any human institutions that come to power out of the chaos of whatever time. The beast from the earth are the messages that spew forth from whatever human institutional power—political or religious. Eventually, over periods of time our institutions and their messages end up creating our culture and according to our vision, this "whore" is who most humans will end up trusting. The whore is the one most will end up worshipping.

We are going to learn the importance of the Lampstands here on earth, because as long as we are living in the presence of the "two witness," the Jewish belief in One God and the newly found Christian belief in Christ Jesus, as long as the Church focuses upon Word and Sacrament and Christ remains in the center, there is still hope for the world. The whore and the beasts will forever compete with the Lamb and its message for as long as humanity exist. However, when the two witnesses no longer exist, it now makes perfect sense that we have reached the end times.

Continued on page 2

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

We have returned to days of Noah, when no one knew God, and we will see that these days are not pretty!

But please, please try and remember, as we will be reminded throughout Revelation, any question of God's ultimate goodness has been answered through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We as Christians should have no fear about our eternal destiny. Late in our series of It Is Enough, we will see that heaven is more than we could imagine, but it sure is fun to try.

Like I said, I do not worry about my future because I know that my robe has been washed in the blood of the Lamb. I do not worry about the future of Peace because Christ Jesus is always going to remain in the center of this Lampstand. Now we must take this message to the people we care about. We are the body of Christ—the Church. We keep the world alive!

PS: In Revelation, worship plays a vital role for all who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb. The

season of Lent and Easter give us multiple opportunities to fulfill our purpose. Wednesday Lenten worship, at 6:45PM, studying "What the Heck Is A Lutheran?" Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at Noon and 7PM, where the Bible comes together with the Passover, the Lord's Supper, and the washing of feet. On Good Friday, March 29th, again at Noon and 7PM, you have the opportunity to say Thank-You to Jesus Christ for giving up his life for your salvation. Wow! Then on Easter morning, March 30th, at 6:30AM we will begin with a beautiful sunrise service, followed by an Easter breakfast, served from 7:30AM to 9AM. At 10AM, I hope we can fill our sanctuary with a grand worship, celebrating Christ victory over death, where none of us worshipping, no longer need to worry about our future because He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

In Christian Love,

Pastor Trexler



New Church Picture Directory



Last call for the new church picture directory. We will work with what we have by March 15th. If we haven't gotten your picture, new address, new phone number, or email address, you can still be included by sending a picture or updates with your information to office@peacelutheranpb.org. We would appreciate a nice horizontal picture of you and/or your family.

Faye Schill will be trying to get those new members pictures in the next two weeks. Jacqui is working hard on getting the pictures and information arranged and ready to publish.

Jacqui Robinson and Faye Schill



Preparing for our recent congregational meeting, my thoughts turned to the past five years—my time as your council president. Church leadership struggled for solutions to the crises we faced during that fraught period. Each time, God provided an answer. COVID isolation—we increased our outreach through means other than in person services. When we were able to meet again in person, we modified sanctuary services and implemented extra protections to keep people safe. We miraculously sold our excess property, helping us weather a precipitous drop in contributions.

I considered the amazing people and events that define who we are. Our pastor, church staff and council. Our music makers, altar guild, worship assistants and ushers. Our fantastic volunteers: they do so much of the work to keep our campus trim and safe. Our remarkable food pantry—reaching out beyond our congregation to serve our community. The special services and events during Lent and Advent. The efforts to keep our sanctuary adorned as appropriate for the season. The arduous work accomplished, mostly by volunteers, to make our excess space a functioning, leasable schoolhouse.

So, are we done? Can we just get back to being a normal, stable Sunday-to-Sunday church? The answer came quickly in the scripture reading prior to our Feb 25th congregational meeting—the angel’s message to the church in Sardis from Revelation 2: “Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.”

God continues to have high expectations for His lampstand on Port Malabar Road in Palm Bay, Florida. We are obliged to keep the lamp burning brighter and brighter. That’s only going to happen if we grow in faith and increase our commitment to God’s purpose.

After hearing our plans for this year—especially the leasing of our excess floor space to Lifeline Academy-- are you as excited and optimistic regarding Peace Lutheran Church’s future as I am?

Bless you all!!
Tom



Prayer Sister Tea



Our Prayer Sister Tea will be held on March 16th, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We will reveal our previous year’s Prayer Sister and be blessed with another sister to pray for in the upcoming year.

If you are unfamiliar with Prayer Sisters, the only thing you are asked to do is pray for a woman of the congregation for the next year. It is done in secret, so we are all unaware of who is praying for us for the year.

If you would like to participate, talk with Sandy Trexler or fill out a Prayer Sister form found in the church Narthex and return to Sandy or the church office.

(You do not need to attend the Tea to receive a Prayer Sister.)



Easter Breakfast

Easter is March 31st. We will host our **3rd annual Easter Breakfast** after the Sunrise Service, approximately 7:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Pancakes, Eggs, Potatoes, Fruit, Coffee and Juice will be served.

Come join us in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday
March 24, 2024
10:00AM



Maundy Thursday
March 28, 2024
12PM & 7PM



Good Friday
March 29, 2024
12PM & 7PM



Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024
6:30AM- Sunrise Service
7:30 - 9:00AM - Breakfast
10AM - Worship



Peace Lutheran Church * 1801 Port Malabar Blvd NE
Palm Bay, FL * (321)727-3131
Pastor David Trexler
Website: peacelutheranpb.org

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!



Dear Members of Peace:

I humbly come before you all today to thank you for your continued support of our food pantry. I thank all who always think of us with each check or donation that you make. Your support is how we are able to continue to feed the 40-60 families that come through our little pantry each week. Each family consists of between 2 and 9 people that they are feeding. We have everyone from seniors, young families, homeless, living in their cars, to newly unemployed. No, we don't want to be the only source of their nutritional needs, but to try and help make what they have go just a little further.



With the money we received from you last year, we provided 26,592 meals. We purchase all our food through Second Harvest Food Bank. We pay \$.19 per pound for food. I try and purchase more meat than anything as that its some of the most expensive part of everyone's food budget. We get some very nice produce every week. Thank you to those who volunteer to get the Panera Bread picked up, we are able to give that out as well. We also are able to get the leftover WaWa sandwiches and pastry's that are a welcomed treat along with having a hook-up for Einstein's Brothers Bagels.

Everyone is welcome to come by on any Tuesday morning and see all of our volunteers' shining faces. Almost all of them have been there for over 5 years without fail.

We recently had to relocate to the small rooms that used to be where it all first started, a little tough going from about 800 square feet to about 150, but God is always on our side and he is proving thru us that it only takes a mustard seed of space to fill the hearts and bellies of so many.

Again, THANK YOU! I appreciate all of you who donated to this wonderful mission. GOD IS GOOD!

Faithfully yours,
Lori Search

Treasurer's Report

Blessed Lenten Season to all members, visitors, and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.

As you can see below, our income outpaced our expenses by \$237.46 for the month of January 2024. We were under budget in our expenses. Yeah! Our thanks to all who contribute and give with a joyful heart. God bless you.

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. Even if this offering is \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 over your regular tithe it will eventually be enough. The Major Repair Fund/Roof Fund stands at \$8,542.71 at the end of January 2024. We are getting quotes from several roofing companies. If everyone gives a little (what they can afford) we will get a new roof. Every time we have heavy rain, we'll have problems until we get the roof replaced. Prayers are needed.

Please keep Peace Lutheran Church members and finances in your prayers. The undersigned appreciates your prayer. I am deeply humbled by your confidence and trust. (However misplaced). You are an awesome church family.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

Treasurer's Report of General Funds for January 2024

	<u>January</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$14,413.64	\$15,676.42
Loose Contributions & Other	\$599.00	\$808.84
Use of Facilities	\$2,075.00	\$4,416.67
Total Income	\$17,087.64	\$20,901.93
Expenses	\$16,850.18	\$20,901.93

Excess Income for January 2024: **\$237.46**
(Total Monthly Income less Monthly Expenses)

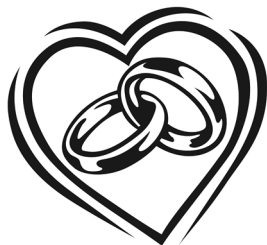
The General Fund account is used for regular expenses (utilities, salaries, lawn care, insurance, mortgage, etc.)

The Building Maintenance Fund stands at \$13,574.95 for new Air Conditioners. We do need to replace one A/C in the Education Building in the very near future.

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.



MADDEN, Louis & Stephanie (20) 03/02
 HATON, Charles & Nancy (45) 03/16



(numbers of years married)



ROBERTSON, Sylvia 03/10
 TARKKA, Carolyn 03/19
 DUCOTE, Ginger 03/22
 MARCUS, Barbara 03/22
 DITOTA, Gabriele 03/23
 SCHILL, Larry 03/25
 BURNS, Yvonne 03/27
 NEUMANN, Ed 03/31
 PATELSKI, Steven 03/31



Kris Friant	Ariel Cook	Gary Witter	Paul Bickford
George Robbins	Manuel Rodriguez	Carolyn Tarkka	Frank Miller
Don Hoffman	David Flaherty	Helga Bromm	Sally Cook
Lori Deaton	Viola Forrester	Phyllis Dale	Suzie McKeny
Ryan Dasinger	Gary Gossett, Jr.	Bill & Nancy Love	Megan O'Neal
Rick Pellecchia	Dan Rank	Christian LaPlante	Lou Madden
Ann Beardslee	David Pinkerton	Matt Parks	Allison Patton
Jacqueline Darby	Maliaka Singleton	Betsy Witter	Michael Adams
Debbie Parks	Pastor David & Sandy Trexler	Karl Bromm	Kim McGibney
Matt Parks	Michael Roy Brown	Carleen Loneski	Nathan Schwartz
Enid Rodriguez	Denise Thomas		

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 11-15am Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	26 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	27 9:00am BROWN BAG BUNCH 12:00pm BROWN BAG BUNCH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:30pm Women's Via de Cristo - WWV Room	28 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:00pm CODA	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club 8-45pm Panera Pickup	2 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
3 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	5 9:00am BROWN BAG BUNCH 12:00pm BROWN BAG BUNCH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:30pm Women's Via de Cristo - WWV Room	6 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Fairways of Brevard HOA - FH	8 9:00am Garden Club 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8-45pm Panera Pickup	9 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
10 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	11 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	12 9:00am BROWN BAG BUNCH 12:00pm BROWN BAG BUNCH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:30pm Women's Via de Cristo - WWV Room	13 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:00pm CODA	15 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8-45pm Panera Pickup	16 10:00am Prayer Sister Tea - FH 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
17 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	18 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	19 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION - FH 5:00am (FH - ONLY USED FOR ELECTION) 9:00am BROWN BAG BUNCH 12:00pm BROWN BAG BUNCH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:30pm Women's Via de Cristo - WWV Room	20 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:45pm Lenten Worship 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8:00pm CODA	22 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8-45pm Panera Pickup	23 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
24 PALM SUNDAY 8-45am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	25 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	26 9:00am BROWN BAG BUNCH 12:00pm BROWN BAG BUNCH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:30pm Women's Via de Cristo - WWV Room	27 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm WORSHIP SERVICE	29 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 12:00pm WORSHIP SERVICE 7:00pm WORSHIP SERVICE 8-45pm Panera Pickup	30 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 5:00pm Saturday Night Casual Worship
31 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30am Sunrise Service 7:30am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Easter Worship Service 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	1 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch	2 9:00am BROWN BAG BUNCH 12:00pm BROWN BAG BUNCH 6:00pm CODA 7:00pm Men's Via de Cristo 7:30pm Women's Via de Cristo - WWV Room	3 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 2:00pm Stamp Club FH 6:00pm CODA	5 12:00pm Brown Bag Bunch 8-45pm Panera Pickup	6 9:00am In Season Ministry Tea Party - FH 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,
 Co. Ft. Hood, 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:

March 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 mailings, preparing Welcome Packets, etc.

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

