Pastor’s Message

Did you realize New Year’s Day is not a “religious holiday”? What’s up with that? It should be!

The book of Genesis gives us the story of Noah and the Ark. God is actually sorry that he made humankind because of all the evil in the world and the text says, “It grieved him to his heart.” (Gen 6:6) Next comes the flood and some may think of it as God destroying the earth, but we should see this action as God using cleansing waters to destroy evil and recreate the earth with a chance at redemption.

In Genesis 8:13 the text states, “In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth.” That sounds like New Year’s Day to me! A new creation has begun on January 1st, where we begin to live out our baptism, where the waters again wash away the evil of the past, and we now begin to worship God through our daily life. We do this by simply being kind to one another and taking care of His glorious creation—so God’s heart will grieve no longer. That is what I call a “religious holiday.”

During this religious holiday, many of us make New Year Resolutions—you know—lose a few pounds, spend more time with kids or grandkids, get in shape, quit whatever and on and on. We resolve on our own to become a new creation. Yet we don’t have to face these resolutions by our lonesome. God re-creates each of us through the waters of our own baptism each and every New Year, each and every day. Listen in your heart the words found in one of our Baptismal Prayers:

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the water at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valley to refresh and satisfy us and all living things. Through the water of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.

Through the story of Noah and the Ark, God makes a resolution—a promise that the flood will never again overwhelm us and the deep will not swallow us up. Today, because of Jesus Christ, the evil of our past has been destroyed and the promise of our future is glorious. Now the greatest New Year’s resolution we can make in 2019 is to keep the promises we make to God through our baptism:

To live among God’s faithful people
To hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper
To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Live out your baptism and every day in 2019 will be a blessed one for you and your family!

Happy New Year,
Pastor David Trexler
**Love Letter to God**

Matthew 17:5-6  *The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey you.’*

Don’t we all at some time or another have the same request as the disciples? “Increase our faith!” Yet the Lord will always respond in a similar manner. “Use what little faith you have and amazing things can happen.” Yet always remember, faith is not simply believing a religious statement to be true. Faith is the response of our whole being, when God graciously offers to accept you as His child.

During the month of December, all Family Members of Peace received a Stewardship packet, outlining the importance of giving our time, talent and treasure to the Lord. If you have not responded, please do so, by either mailing them to the office or dropping them into the offering plate.

Please remember the promise is between you and God. The envelope will be returned to you late this year—unopened—so you can see how your relationship is growing with your creator—a God who does amazing things through your faith.

This simple response helps Peace Lutheran by knowing how many of our family members are going to support the church’s ministry. But more importantly, our faith filled response is one of the greatest and most rewarding experiences, knowing that we put a smile on Christ’s face by keeping our promise to His Father.

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**Calling all Able or Willing Bodies!**

**Saturday January 12th from 9AM to 1PM**

As you may remember a few weeks ago, the Family of Peace Lutheran voted 64-4 to refinance our mortgage to do a few needed repairs. I mentioned at this gathering, this was only the beginning. Much more work needs to be done. Here is one of those times.

On **Saturday, January 12th from 9AM to 1PM**, we will have a giant dumpster sitting in our parking lot. We need as many able bodies to help fill that thing up with all kinds of “stuff” taking up space at our beautiful church. Lori Search will be in charge of the work detail.

So put on some old clothes and let’s have a clean-up party. Lunch will be served.

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**2019 Envelopes**

Due to the fact that there were a number of unused envelope numbers from last year, we have decided to order less this year. That means that some numbers will change. However, don’t worry, our professional counters are on the job and will make sure the transition goes smoothly.

At the same time if you didn’t pick up your envelopes last year but still continued to give, you will be assigned a virtual number for accounting purposes. You can contact the office or Faye Schill to get that number for your checks. Again, don’t worry we will recognize your contribution and record it accordingly.

You will receive an email or paper statement in early January 2019 for 2018 contributions.
Did you realize in less than two months, Peace Lutheran has earned close to $400 to feed the poor? The great thing about this amazing program called Scrip, is that we are able to do God’s work while we go about our daily routine. We are going to shop no matter what. We might as well serve the Lord in the process. I wish I could convince everyone the spiritual value of participating.

All it cost is a tiny bit of effort. It’s like God has blessed me with being able to buy things I need, now I say “Thank You” by offering a small portion to those less fortunate.

If you haven’t given it a whirl try it!

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REVELATION CLASS
Revealed Knowledge—By GOD

Has Your Robe Been Washed?

**WHEN:** (Three Opportunities)
- Sunday February 10th from 3:00PM to 4:30PM
- Monday February 11th from 11AM to 12:30PM
- Monday February 11th from 6:00PM to 7:30PM

*Class will run Eight consecutive weeks.*
*Pick the day and time that works for you.*

**WHERE:** Peace Lutheran Church
1801 Port Malabar Blvd. NE
Palm Bay, FL  32780

**COST:** No charge—simply bring an open mind!
Readings will be provided

Experience one of the greatest pieces of Literature ever written in a fresh meaningful manner! Come and open your imagination to a gorgeous picture book, revealing mysteries of human existence. Revelation will take you places no one has ever been, places so strange and remote many hesitate to go.

**The Apocalypse series has been taught by Rev. Trexler around the country and various universities.**
**Any questions call 321-727-3131**
Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

As you can see below, we are in the year to date deficit at the end of November of $6,586.35. This includes a transfer in November from Savings to Checking of $3,600 and a funds transfer from Tutoring Program of $517.55, making our year to date deficit of $35,703.90 (Transfers from Savings $28,600 + Transfer from Tutoring $517.55 + Year to date deficit $6,586.35 = $35,703.90). This leaves a total of $71.61 in our savings for general use.

Please watch the table in the Narthex for your 2019 envelopes. Please note that some of your numbers may have changed to cut costs. Many of you that didn’t use your envelopes in 2018, may notice you didn’t get a new box of envelopes for 2019. You will still be assigned a number (which may be different in 2019). Be assured you will always be given credit for your offering. Also in the middle of January, your contribution statement will be on the table in the narthex or emailed to you. If you see any discrepancies please contact the undersigned immediately and I will research the problem. If you are new to the church and want to receive envelopes or a contribution number please sign the sheet by the new envelopes in the narthex with your name and telephone number and I will call you.

By the way, you only need to write one check if you give to multiple funds. Just write on your envelope or check memo section what funds you want credited, example; FP – Food Pantry, CHP – Children’s Hunger Project, Bldg Maint - Maintenance, Memorial, Newsletter, etc. Regardless of what Pastor David says, there is not a special fund for the pastor’s salary.

Continue praying for Peace Lutheran of Palm Bay, our ministries, and your faithful treasurer.

Your sister in Christ,

Faye Schill, Treasurer

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<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>YTD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$13,595.48</td>
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<td>Use of Facilities</td>
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<td>Transfers from Savings</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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Month $506.52

Year to date Deficit $(6,586.35)

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**Church Council**

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<td>Steve Cotton President, Outreach—2/2020</td>
<td>Chris Ambros—Fellowship</td>
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<td>Lynn Bender</td>
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<td>Terry Zrutskie</td>
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January Anniversaries

TREXLER, David & Sandra (32) 01/03
LEINTHALL, William & Becky (17) 01/05
PELLECCHIA, Rick & Henrietta (51) 01/20
NEUMANN, Ed & Terry (54) 01/30
JAMES, Katie & Ryan (15) 01/31
RUSCOE IV, Robert & Yvonne Burns (18) 01/31

January 2018

SANTOS, Nico 01/09 EGGERT, Marlene 01/21
MINTON, Debbie 01/13 MITCHELL, Ronald 01/24
SANDBERG, Roger 01/15 AMBROSE, Brennan 01/27
ANDERSON, Sherry 01/18 ANDERSON, Nathan 01/28
THOMPSON, Lona 01/18 SANDBERG, Connor 01/28
RIZZO, Joseph 01/19 BARNETT, Yonna 01/30
ARNDT, Steven 01/21

“For I will restore you to health and I will heal you of your wounds, declares the LORD”
Jeremiah 30:17a

Susan Hildebrand  George Sigrist  Rick Pellecchia
Gwen Newberry  Maita I. Rodriguez  April Smith
Lori Deaton  Larry Cannen  Karen DiCroce
V.B. & Lucinda Johnson  Tonita Rodriguez  Bob Calarco
Elizabeth Nash  Jeanette Peterson  Beverly Jacobs
Ryan Dasinger  Pat Rizzo  Enid Rodriguez
Mary Norwood  Gloria Jones  William “Bill” Laser
Gary Snow III  
Robert B. Elliott

Please keep in your prayers: Steve Barnett on the passing of his mother, Martha Marsh and for Bob Richard and family on the passing of his wife, Carolyn Richard.
An exciting December closed out 2018 for our Christian League Youth Group. Plans and goals for reaching more Youth in the New Year is taking shape.

We hope you heard about our Thursday, December 6th and December 20th meetings with the celebration of Emmanuel. We talked about the significance of Advent and the Advent wreath and had a group discussion about our most favorite "present." It’s interesting to hear from His youth how “God is truly with us.” With youth present from St Paul Lutheran, Risen Savior Lutheran, New Hope Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, we raised His hope, His faith, His joy, His peace, and most of all His love all month in a celebration of our Glorious Father’s coming to be amongst us. His Light is in the youth.

In December, our Youth Group “fundraiser” T-Shirt sale began. We pray for your support and that you’ll purchase a shirt. The proceeds will help raise money for social events with at least 10% of the money raised planned for a cause that will assist our community (i.e., Peace Lutheran Food Pantry, Risen Savior Lutheran Church Food Distribution Drive, Brevard Sharing Center, Gifts for needy children).

Our January meetings will celebrate “Epiphany” with a feast of the ‘shining forth’ or revelation of God to mankind in human form, in the person of Jesus Christ. As we know, Epiphany comes from a Greek verb meaning “to reveal,” and all of the various events celebrated by the Feast of the Epiphany are revelations of Christ to man. You’ll be invited to a Pot Luck “Feast” with the Youth, as we encourage the youth to search for Jesus, in each other. As part of Epiphany, each of us will give one-another a gift that shows how they found Jesus in each other. Maybe you’ll consider attending our feast?

We’ll also be talking about the ideal king, thinking and hearing the psalmist whom writes: “May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.” (Ps 72:6). And in David’s hymn of praise, Psalm 68, extols God who “rides upon the clouds;” the “Father of orphans and protector of widows” who sends rain in abundance, restoring the heritage of his chosen ones; the “Rider in the ancient heavens” whose “power is in the skies.”

Speaking of rain, sacred traditions with water at their centers can be found among peoples all over the world, including our own. In the Western church, the first Sunday after the Epiphany is celebrated as The Baptism of Our Lord, and the appointed gospel takes us to the waters of the Jordan, where people have traveled in schools to receive John’s baptism of turning. When Jesus comes to be baptized, John is taken aback at first and suggests their roles ought to be reversed. But after receiving reassurance from Jesus, John immerses him in Jordan’s waters. Then, the Spirit of God like a dove, and the Voice from on high: “This is my Son, The beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:13-17) Ever since this encounter, baptism has been the headwaters of the Christian story, a sacred sign that we our bound to God, that we journey with Christ, and like him are companioned by the Holy Spirit.

From the moment countless eons ago when Earth’s molten surface began to cool, and the heavy vapors of H2O that surrounded her young atmosphere began to condense, giving birth to rain, the One who called it all into being has been waiting, patiently, for the opportunity to call you to new life through these waters. Never doubt for one moment that you were meant to belong, to be bound as, St. Patrick sang, “to the strong name of the Trinity, the Three in One and One in Three.” And when you see snow pilling up in the mountains around our world; when you watch the raingardens at Peace receive the sky’s liquid offering; when you muddle or drive through puddles, cross creeks, or rivers, and venture on, over, or around the Atlantic Ocean, remember that these waters, which once fell as rain and will again, are all signs, constant and true, of God embracing and blessing you.

Please “come and see” and join us during one or both of our upcoming meetings: **Thursday, January 17th & 31st, 6pm**, at Peace Lutheran Church.

Walking with you,

Paul Shwiner / Pastor Curt
Cell: 321-626-4751
Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke? If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the below symptoms, call 911 right away. It is important to seek medical treatment immediately.

- Sudden Numbness
- Difficulty Speaking
- Severe Dizziness
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Loss of Vision
- Sudden Intense Headache
- Brief Loss of Consciousness

Protect your health by participating in the Life Line Screening health screenings that will be at Peace Lutheran Church on Monday, January 7, 2019. Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke.

Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package, which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation. In order to register for this event and to receive a $10 discount off any package priced above $129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979

The idea is to spread the Love of God and the stories of the Bible through short entertaining messages over the phone.

One simply calls 321-727-1048 and they hear a different story everyday about Flip the Flea, Dirty Windows, Phillip the Pig, and many other strange concepts and characters, all sharing a theme from Scripture. Granted some may seem a little off of the wall, but what better way to reach out? After all, aren’t most of us a little off the wall?

Your task is to not only use the service, but share this ministry with those around you.

Gotta go. Bye now. Seeeee ya tomorrow!
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Check us out on Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Church
Give us a and get updates, spiritual messages, events and any changes.
Or visit us on our website www.peacelutheranpb.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.

Thank you for your contributions!

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!

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
Cpt. Nathan Schill, Ft. Jackson, SC
USN FC3 Stephen Weaver, USS Dewey
Joe Trammell, Army, Ft. Campbell, KY
Navy Chief Sean Patrick Goguen, Norfolk, VA
USN Lt. Laura Towle, Norfolk, VA
USN Lt. David Towle, Norfolk, VA
1st Lieut. Tanner Johnson—Army, E. Africa
USN Tyler J. Azevedo—USS Harry S. Truman

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—9AM -11AM ONLY. We will reopen again on Thursday’s beginning November 1st!!!** We service zip codes 32905 and 32907.

Thank you to everyone who has been giving towards the food pantry. It truly makes a difference in our community.

Did you know that every time you order from Amazon you can make a contribution to Peace Lutheran? AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Peace Lutheran Church every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Peace Lutheran Church.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will then be asked to pick your charitable organization. Make sure to pick Peace Lutheran Church in Palm Bay, FL. You may also want to share with your children and grandchildren as well when making their purchases on Amazon.com.

It may be helpful to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

**PANERA BREAD**

We need people to pick up at Panera Bread beginning in January 2019. If you are able to do so, please sign up in the Narthex or call the office for more information at (321) 727-3131
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**—Sing to the Lord at 11am each Sunday, practice 7pm Wednesday evenings.

**Bell Choir**—Call Cindy Wagman to learn more about our choirs 676-3849.

**Peace Band**—Practice at 7pm on Thursday evenings. Come and try out.

**Money Counters**—Teams of two people working for one month at a time. Call church office if interested.

**In the Nursery**—Betty Sheller is our Nursery Attendant in the nursery for your children. If you are a parent leaving your children in the nursery during services you are welcome to join with them in caring for our little ones 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 676-3849

**Call Committee**—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