Dear Friends through Christ:

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Bonnie. And Bonnie was broke. She was so sad because she didn’t have any money to buy her momma a Christmas present. “What am I going to do? Christmas is right around the corner. I have to give mamma something,” said poor little Broke Bonnie.

Well on Christmas morning, Bonnie had a wonderful idea. “I know what I’ll do,” she said, “I’ll wrap myself up in a pretty Christmas bow and give myself to mamma.”

So that’s what little Bonnie did. She tied some ribbon and a bow around herself, and ran into the living room and said, “Merry Christmas mamma, I give you Me!”

Did you know that’s what God did for us on Christmas morning?

Now the best present we can give to Jesus is the same present Bonnie gave to her mamma, “Jesus, I give you me!”

Giving ourselves to Christ Jesus is the heart of our faith!

If you look through the Bible you will find “believe/believer/believing” 272 times. “Pray/prayer/praying” is found 371 times, and “love/loving” mentioned 714 times.

There is no one reading this letter who would argue that believing, praying and loving aren’t critical pieces of our faith and our relationship with God. In fact we believe that God has given them to us as gifts.

So when we discover that the word “give/giver/giving” appears in Scripture 2,162 times, or more than three times as often as love, it is apparent that God wants to teach us about giving, wants us to understand that learning to give is a huge gift itself!

Why is that?

Because giving makes you more like God! As your imperfect pastor my goal is to help you grow in your faith—to grow in your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The promise to us is that as we do so, we become more and more like Jesus, shaped more and more into the image of God. That is what being a Christian is all about—Becoming Christ-Like!

God gives to you all the time. It is the nature of God to give. Everything you have, everything you do, everything you are, is a gift from God. So when you give, you actually become more like God, clothed in the very nature of Christ himself.

Giving draws you closer to God! Giving strengthens your faith!

Your relationship with God should be your first priority—not your leftovers. Jesus teaches us in Matthew’s gospel, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Constantly working toward tithing (10%) helps you do that. Because when your treasure is with God and God’s work, your heart will be closer to God. You will see God’s presence—God’s purpose in your life! The promise is that when you feel His love—your

Continued on page 2
life will be transformed—your faith will be strengthened! The Bible tells us to give and see what happens!

Like I said, there are more promises about giving than anything else in the Bible. Jesus talks more about giving than heaven or hell. He understands how money—what it symbolizes—control in our lives—and this control can mess up our relationship with God.

The journey of growing in faith through giving is a lot like the wrestling match Jacob had with God. Jacob struggled with his integrity, his relationship with his family, his relationship with God. Jacob wrestles through the night and Jacob thinks he has held his own. But finally, God touches him and he can fight no more. He’s a changed person forever. He starts becoming who God created him to be. He becomes Israel, the father of the people through whom God makes himself known.

When we wrestle with the issue of money and its place in our lives, what we’re really doing is wrestling with God. We may think we have him licked, but eventually God will touch us and we can fight no more. Hopefully, that touching will be in your lifetime. Because we will all stand before the throne someday and there will be no question of what is important. All will bow down! Folks that is no joke. My prayer is that God touch your life—Today! Last year we did our Stewardship drive a little different than most churches. Most of you received a Love Letter to God. Over 50 families made this commitment and I and the Lord thanks you very much!!

This year we are going to try the same approach. Within a few days, those who made pledges will receive them back in the mail—unopened. Then in few days later you will again be receiving two “Love Letters” addressed to God. I want you to pray and make your commitment. One of the letters will be placed in the envelope supplied and returned to the church during the Advent Season either in person or through the mail. This promise will be placed in one of the gift wrapped boxes by the altar.

This letter will remain unopened!

Remember your promise, your struggle is with God, not me, not the council, not even the church. Your promise is to your Maker and Redeemer who has given you everything. Toward the end of the year (2017) your pledge will be mailed back to you unopened so you may be able to honestly see where God stands in your life.

The important part of the process is for you to make a faith-filled commitment to God, write it down and then return one card.

This simple action may not show us how much money we may expect, but it will show us how many of our Saints and Sinners are committed to support the work of God’s Church in the year 2020.

The second “Love Letter” to God is also to be filled out. This letter should be kept in a place to remind you not only of your promise, but of all the many gifts the Lord has freely given to you! In this New Year, I hope and pray that we may all become more Christ-Like!

In Christian Love,
Pastor David Trexler
The Christian League Youth Group (CLYG)

“A bridge to Jesus for our youth in the community”

We are your people of the night, we long to see your newborn light,
Distant glimmer rising from afar! We await you, holy morning star!
For in our winter we are dead, lead us in hope to see ahead
the springtime and the gift that is to come. Come and save us, be
God’s only Son! – David Haas, People of the Night

To Those Who Wait,
Advent is once again upon us, ushered in with the reverberant echoes of
Isaiah’s voice announcing God’s Dream for the world. This Dream is
grounded in four texts from four chapters: Isaiah 2, Isaiah 11, Isaiah 35
and Isaiah 7. How is it that these ancient prophecies, first spoken to a
different people at a time and in a place so far removed from our own, still
retain their majesty and power?

Swords beaten into plowshares
Predator and prey living without fear
Desert lands becoming bubbling springs
A maiden’s womb which bears Immanuel

At their hearts, these four texts are about transformation, and we look forward to exploring them with the Christian
League Youth Group in the next month.

Each of us has favorite moments, and some dreaded ones, too, that we anticipate during the weeks leading up to
Christmas. Getting the tree, making the special recipes, finding “just right” gifts for each person on the list. During this
tradition-laden season it’s easy to simply put our heads down and turn on autopilot in an effort to sustain traditions that
have become central to our observance of the season. The Gospel texts challenge the “autopilot” mode by striking
provocative, evocative, and sometimes discordant tones; sounds which are meant to wake us up and call us back to
first things.

Advent hymns do similar work but do it in a way that is less strident and therefore more inviting. The hymn by David
Haas quoted above and below, is one example. “In our winter we are dead,” the words declare. If such a thing is true,
might we then ask which traditions we choose bring us closer to the season’s beating heart and “lead us in hope to see
ahead the springtime and the gift that is to come”?

While awaiting Immanuel, we discover the truth that he, “the living word, the saving voice” also “waits for us.” And
knowing this, we know that our waiting can be joyful rather than fearful. “Good News of Great Joy” is how the angels
first sang it to shepherds’ ears. And good news of great joy is, above all, what we long for still.

You wait for us, you are our choice, the living word; the saving voice.
Break the silence, listen to our call! Be our answer, new life for us all!
Give us new faith, give us the joy, as we await your Son, the Lord.
In our presence, child born of your breath, Savior brother; life that shatters death!

If you are interested, please join the CLYG in celebrating His light and our “blessings” in a pot-luck dinner with the
volunteers of the Food Pantry on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. We’ll be discussing “God’s
Dream for the World”, unveiling our CLYG T-Shirt design, and planning our December outing to Brevard Zoo.

Follow us on Facebook at https://m.me/loved1801/ or Instagram.com/clyouthgroup to hear of all our activities.

Waiting with you,
Pastor Curt
Cell: 321-626-4751

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES
Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30PM & 7:00PM

*Regular scheduled Worship services on
Sunday, December 29th will be at 9AM & 11AM.*
Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

As of the end of October, we had $21,136.08 in checking and $6,267.35 in savings ($6,266.81 in designated funds).

This church family has stepped up to the challenge of paying for the new AC in the sanctuary. As of writing this article, $21,507 has been contributed (This AC Fund is not reflected in the below chart). Any excess monies donated for the AC will be placed in the maintenance fund. Thank all that were so prompt in their fulfillment of their pledge. We have not received the bill for the AC but expect it in December.

Unfortunately, I feel I must report that our contributions to General Fund for October ($13,357.5) were down from September contributions ($16,035.22). I can only say that we took from Peter to pay Paul. As you can see from the chart below, that we had excess expenses in the amount of $4,503.24 in October. In my last report for September, our shortfall was $1,047.86.

In the next few weeks, our financial committee will be looking at the budget for 2020. Pray for the financial committee that we give careful and thoughtful consideration to preparing the budget to present to the congregation in February, 2020 at the Annual Meeting.

God bless you and yours during the upcoming Christmas season.

Your sister in Christ, Faye Schill, Treasurer

treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org

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### Treasurer’s Report

**October 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$13,357.50</td>
<td>$159,378.50</td>
<td>$166,666.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of Facilities</td>
<td>$2,909.00</td>
<td>$22,038.00</td>
<td>$37,500.00</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$16,266.50</td>
<td>$181,416.50</td>
<td>$204,166.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$20,769.74</td>
<td>$204,379.83</td>
<td>$204,608.70</td>
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Excess expenses for September  ($4,503.24)

Excess expenses YTD  ($22,963.33)

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

DITOTA, Bob & Gabi (38)  12/12
BACHTEL, Harvey (23)  12/20
BACHTEL, Pamela (23)  12/20
O’BRIEN, Mike & Charlene (51)  12/21
BAKER, Mark & Kelly (18)  12/22
MERCADO, Luis & Maxi (15)  12/25
PETERTSON, Curt & Susan (18)  12/29
SANDBERG, Roger & Beverly (46)  12/29

December 2019

DALE, Frederick  12/01  BADMAN-PATON, Lin  12/22
MOLESKI, Charlie  12/11  HOFFMAN, Susan  12/24
AMBROSE, Kaitlin  12/14  NEUMANN, Terry  12/28
BARR, Emily  12/14  BRUNNER, Cameron  12/29
DEMERS, JoAnne  12/16  BRUNNER, Victoria  12/29
ROBINS Sr., George  12/16  GRICE, Jennifer  12/29
WAINIKAINEN, Lindsay  12/19  SPRENGLE, Maryanne 12/31
LIATOS, Phyllis  12/20

Prayer Request

Susan Hildebrand
Gwen Newberry
Lori Deaton
V.B. & Lucinda Johnson
Ryan Dasinger
Mary Norwood
Larry Cannen
Jeanette Peterson
Gloria Jones

Rick Pellecchia
Bob Calarco
Tim Calvin
David Brunner, Sr.
Robert B. Elliott
Ann Beardslee
Maita Rodriguez
Don Hoffman

Eric Schwartz
Rebecca Leinthall
Maryanne Sprengle
Bob Rusco
Velma Lutz
Tonita Rodriguez
Al Faith
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<td>4th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<td>5th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Sunday of Advent</td>
<td>11:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Trecker</td>
<td>9:00 AM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Via de Cristo</td>
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<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>12:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</td>
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<td>New Year's Day</td>
<td>12:00 PM Service</td>
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**December 2019**
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  
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 and Thursday’s—5PM - 7PM. We service zip codes 32905 and 32907.

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

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 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.
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 Sunday mornings at 9:00AM. 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