

The Olive Branch

Volume 60 Issue 5

MAY 2020

Peace Lutheran Church...

A Life-Changing Community, Sharing Christ's Love!

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Of Special Interest

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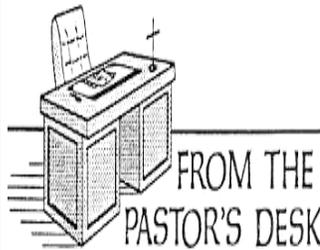
www.peacelutheranpb.org
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranpb.org
Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Palm Bay

Staff:

Jacqui Robinson, Office Administrator
Cindy Wagman, Choirs
Lorry Held, Praise Band
Sally Cook, Pianist

Volunteer Staff:

Faye Schill, Treasurer
Curt Peterson, Youth Pastor
Paul Shwimer, Youth
Lori Search—Food Pantry
Charlene O'Brien—Food Pantry
Danielle Shwimer—Campus Maintenance



Dear Friend through Christ Jesus:

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Sorry for the length of this letter. I have too much time on my hands. This has been a strange, almost surreal month. Just look at last month's newsletter. It dealt with all the things we desired to accomplish in the near future. Now I feel like we're living in a dream and who knows what our community or our world will look like when we finally wake up.

How long will it be till I can go and watch the Chicago Bears play any of the Florida teams? How long will I be wearing this stupid mask and walking the wrong way down the grocery aisle? When can we go out and eat with family and friends at our favorite restaurant? When can we visit the sick and shut-in? But the one that could drive me crazy, if I let it...is when can we worship together as the Family of God and what will that worship look like?

So many questions and truthfully no solid answers.

Focus on Romans 8:28, "God works through all things for the good of those who love him."

I realize our governor has never officially closed the churches and for some states, including Florida, they are targeting a May 1st as a date for reopening. For Peace Lutheran, I feel this date is risky. We do have an older population and I'm not certain we have the confidence to venture out. Personally, I would like to wait at least until May 17th, and see what happens when others rush to our new normal and prayerfully, we don't see a spike in this wicked virus that seems to spread so quickly with so much ease. I do not want to take the chance of one single saint and sinners getting sick because we are in a big hurry or too stubborn to heed advice of the medical community.

We will open with two services, 9 & 11, so we can spread out. Peace will continue with online worship for those who are not yet comfortable getting out.

Right now, *Jacqui (Administration), Faye Schill (Treasurer), Tom Accola (President), Lori Search (Social Ministry)* have all been working hard to make sure Peace remains operational. A huge thank you to these saints. Tom and I have been recording the Sunday messages, trying our best to make our worship as enjoyable and meaningful with the resources available.

While being locked behind closed doors, like the disciples, I have tried to speak with most of our members, checking on their well-being and hoping to get to know most you a little better. Quite interesting.

God does work through all things for the good of those who love him!

...Continued on page 2

The week following Easter I shared a message where Jesus came to the disciples behind locked doors out of fear and His first words to them was "Peace be with you!" His second words were "Peace be with you!" When Jesus finally saw Doubting Thomas His first words to Thomas were, "Peace be with you!" I would like to share again briefly how this beautiful text becomes alive today.

As I mention at the beginning of the letter, this month was strange.

There is of course the virus, forcing us to worship via internet. I could spend my time worrying about all of you, or panicking over the church's finances, but I don't.

Then on March 24th I dropped off my only son, Noah at Parrish Hospital because he could not breathe. First thought was the virus, and while it was not, he did flirt with death. Sandy did not see Noah for the next two weeks. Sandy and I could have freaked out, but we didn't.

Because of the nature of Noah's illness, Sandy was sent home from UCF and both of us were tested. As we waited a week for the results, we could have been eaten up with anxiety, but that was not the case.

About the same time Noah entered the hospital, Sandy's mother, Pat was admitted to different hospital outside Chicago with a weird kidney disease and a horrible predicted outcome. Again, Sandy and I, mostly Sandy could have fallen apart, but we did not.

Why?

Sandy and I are learning through our journey that so much of what happens in life is totally out of our control. There is nothing I can do about the virus, Noah, testing, or Pat, so why in the world should we allow these unexpected events to worry, panic, freak out, cause anxiety, or fall apart, especially since we can't control the situations? After all, so much of our existence is totally in God's hands, and folks that is a whole lot better than being in my hands, because I will screw stuff up.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

However, there are things I can and should do, like call and check on as many parishioners as I can. I can learn how to record our messages and do the best I can, so we at least are blanketed with God's Word. I can and must drop down to my knees in prayer and pray my heart out. I can read and study Scripture during this down time.

When I let go and let God take over, when I do the things I can and must do, then the Risen Christ comes into our home and says, "Peace be with you!"

Our parishioners seem to be good; our church finances aren't horrible (don't forget to donate); Noah came home Easter Sunday; we tested negative for the virus and my mother-in-law is miraculously doing good on an experimental drug. No worry, no panic, No freaking out. No anxiety. No falling apart.

The Risen Christ comes into our home and gives us Peace.

I hope and pray He does the same for you!

"God works through All things for the good of those who love Him.

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

**In Christian Love,
Pastor David Trexler**

PS-Don't get me wrong I do worry. My 24-year-old daughter bought a Great Pyrenees puppy that could end up weighing 150 lbs. I worry I might end up with this monster.





OUR COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

These are challenging times for our world, our nation, our community, and our church! Pastor David installed a dedicated and enthusiastic new council as we met Saturday (with elaborate precautions for social distancing). Our first major decision was to suspend services temporarily: we then went to work on how to keep our worshippers in the loop during the national emergency. We even established some longer term goals: how do we grow PLC into a more welcoming and outward-looking church?

You've already seen the short term results: services and sermons on our Facebook page and website; email updates and phone calls to each PLC worshipper. Please keep your tithes and offerings coming! We're OK for now (see Treasurer's update), but that will quickly change if the funds that keep our church staff and property going dry up. Stay in the loop by frequently checking our PLC website and Facebook page (for those with internet service). Call Pastor David, myself or any council member with any needs or concerns.

The COVID-19 crisis comes at a watershed moment in PLC history: we will awaken to a much-changed world when the crisis ends. We must be prepared for a new beginning; the future of our beloved church will be determined by our actions during the coming weeks and months. We have so much to offer a community that will emerge from this crisis in great need of active faith.

I close with two 'asks':

- Remain open to new ways of doing business as we explore the role of PLC in a 21st Century Lutheran Church. Food and shelter needs are increasing; social norms are shifting and family cohesion is falling; how do we best make our Christian faith relevant in this new environment?
- Take care of yourself and be considerate of those around you! Be reasonable. Be realistic. Be responsible.

Tom Accola, PLC Council President

FOOD PANTRY ALTERNATIVE



Our Food Pantry opened on Tuesday, April 28th, and for now, we will only open on Tuesday mornings, from 9am -11am. In addition, ALL Brevard school children to age 18, are now able to pick up bags of food at several neighborhood school locations, Monday—Friday, 10:30-1:30pm. They simply pull up, pop the trunk and the bags are placed inside with friendly familiar smiles and greetings, no questions asked. They are given 2 Breakfasts and 2 lunches for each child in the car and they can go back each day of the week for the same for as long as school remains out. Each bag includes fresh fruit, milk, cheese, cereal, peanut butter, cups of fruit and applesauce, yogurt, etc.... enough for 4 meals. I imagine some families will also make the rounds to several schools.

My 3 year old grandson got his bags today and when he unpacked them he was all smiles. It was something familiar from each day at school that he recognized. My daughter took pictures of him with his smiles and his food. It was quite a bit. Enough for weekends too.

Lori Search from our PLC Council, has been able to get meat and non-perishable foods for our pantry...but in the meantime, many of the children that we will be serving, will be getting good food as well at the schools...considering that they only come one time a month to us for whatever we might have.

So....the children are being fed!

Charlene OBrien

Treasurer's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Peace Lutheran Church,

Someone recently asked me what we had done to make God so angry with us (COVID-19). I don't think He's angry at Peace Lutheran or the world, but he is trying to get our attention. Maybe He wants us to realize what is important; worshipping our Triune God, being with our loved ones, communing with our church family, and taking care of those around us.

It looks like we are doing well financially at the end of March. Unfortunately in May, Peace will have the beginning of our property taxes due. Last year we made a large payment of \$2,786.44 in May and 11 payments monthly of \$1,173.18. I anticipate that it will be about a similar amount again.

I am happy to report, members have stepped up to the challenge of not meeting weekly. Most of you have made sure your offering is counted either by mailing your check (someone always picks up the mail at the church office), dropping it off to the church on Monday morning, paying through your bank or by using the donation arrow on our Facebook page. (Those of you that used the donation arrow on Facebook are donating to Peace through PayPal. **Note: PayPal takes 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction). All of these methods work for me.**

If you would like to begin using the Simply Giving option (Note: Simply Giving charges Peace approximately \$8 a month for \$1,200 in donation which is .6%), just ask me for the form and I'll e-mail or mail it to you.

Please don't send cash through the U.S. Mail.

God will see us through this crisis and we will be stronger in faith and more able to meet the other challenges of caring for our church, social ministries, and one another.

Keep Peace Lutheran Church's brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

Your sister in Christ, Faye Schill, Treasurer
treasurer@peacelutheranpb.org
office 321-727-3131

March 2020

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Contributions	\$14,508.98	\$54,969.89	\$51,200.01
Use of Facilities	\$3,260.00	\$10,069.00	\$9,975.00
Total Income	\$17,768.98	\$65,038.89	\$61,175.01
Expenses	\$18,195.33	\$61,781.35	\$61,175.01

Excess Expenses for March 2020 is: \$426.35

Excess income for the Year is: \$3,257.54

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

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!



HARMON, Joe & Barb (42) 05/09
 DEMARSE, SR., Thomas & Janice (55) 05/15
 MILLER, Brenda (54) 05/17
 RODDY, Mike & Diane (40) 05/17
 SANDBERG, Kevin & Amber (15) 05/21
 SANDBERG, Kenneth & Kate (19) 05/26
 WAINIKAINEN, Paul & Donna (38) 05/29
 ANDERSON, Jeffery & Linell (38) 05/30

*(Years)

SIENKIEWICZ, Jamie 05/02 NORWOOD, Mary 05/12
 ANDERSON, Jordan 05/03 HATON, Nancy 05/13
 DUCOTE, Mitcheal 05/04 LEINTHALL, Becky 05/14
 SOUCY, Nancy 05/04 RAKEBRAND, Elaine 05/14
 TREXLER, David 05/05 SANTA MARIA, Vernell 05/14
 RING, Morrigan 05/06 DITOTA, Bob 05/16
 SORENSON, Mel 05/06 RING, James 05/16
 JAMES, Katie 05/07 RING, Mary 05/16
 NELSON, Ronald 05/07 ZASTROW, Debbie 05/21
 DREHER, Shane 05/09 O'BRIEN, Michael 05/26
 AMBROSE, Heather 05/10 SORENSON, Elaine 05/26
 PELLECCCHIA, Richard 05/11 MOLESKI, Debra 05/29
 COOPER, David 05/12

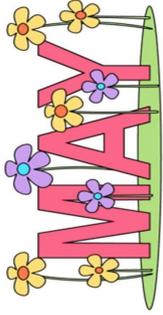


Susan Hildebrand
 Gwen Newberry
 Lori Deaton
 V.B. & Lucinda Johnson
 Ryan Dasinger
 Mary Norwood
 Larry Cannen
 Jeanette Peterson
 Gloria Jones

Rick Pellecchia
 Tim Calvin
 David Brunner, Sr.
 Robert B. Elliott
 Ann Beardslee
 Maria Rodriguez
 Marlene Eggert
 Don Hoffman
 Eric Schwartz
 Betty Sheller

Rebecca Leinthall
 Maryanne Sprengle
 Bob Rusco
 Velma Lutz
 Tonita Rodriquez
 Al Faith
 Emily Gossett
 Mark & Cathy Butler
 Ann Mease
 Theresa Bradley

Mike Roddy
 Gary Gossett, Jr.
 William (Bill) Thomas
 June Trotter
 Ron Nelson
 Deb Moleski
 Frank Thompson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 NO WORSHIP SERVICES	27	28 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY	29 9:30 AM NO Weight Watchers UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	30	1 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	2
3 NO WORSHIP SERVICES	4	5 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY	6 9:30 AM NO Weight Watchers UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	7 2:00 PM NO Stamp Club FH	8 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	9
10 Happy Mother's Day! NO WORSHIP SERVICES	11	12 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY	13 9:30 AM NO Weight Watchers UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	14	15 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	16
17 WORSHIP SERVICES BEGINS 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service	18 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - - AA	19 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	20 9:30 AM NO Weight Watchers UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	22 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	23 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
24 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	25 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	26 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	27 9:30 AM NO Weight Watchers UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	29 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	30 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA
31 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	1 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	2 9:00 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA	3 9:30 AM NO Weight Watchers UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 2:00 PM NO Stamp Club FH	5 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA 9:25 PM Panera Pickup	6 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bunch - AA

Bits & Pieces

Check us out on Facebook @ Peace Lutheran Church



Give us a LIKE and get updates, spiritual messages, events and any changes.

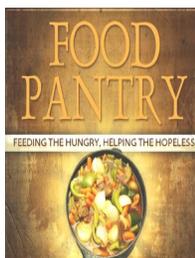
Or visit us on our website
www.peacelutheranpb.org



**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	USN FC3 Stephen Weaver, USS Dewey
John Bedford, Iraq	
Kristen Hall AF, Iraq	Navy Chief Sean Patrick Goguen, Norfolk, VA
Capt. Brian Nailing, Co. Ft. Hood, TX	1st Lieut. Tanner Johnson—Army, E. Africa
Maj. AD Dennis Peoples, Rock Island Arsenal, IL	USN Tyler J. Azevedo—USS Harry S. Truman
Cpt, Nathan Schill, Ft. Jackson, SC	

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.**
 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 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.

Dear Peace Lutheran family,

Just like my cancer, the "Pandemic", is a major inconvenience & I'm wondering if you are as "Over It", as I am? This brings me to this piece I am writing for our newsletter - I need an outlet, so bear with me.

"Desperate Times call for Desperate Measures", and feeling desperate some days, I am testing my writing skills before I "TRY" & publish my book "Limping Thru Life & Loving It". Are we in this together? The T.V. tells me we ARE, but do you play: Hide-n-Seek with your cat? Talk to your dog(s) & answer? Do lots of laundry (because there's no shortage of detergent)? Go "In Search of..." TP, HAND SANITIZER, PAPER TOWELS? In spite of all that we ARE TOGETHER in our HOPE & FAITH & we don't have to wear a mask to pray.

My husband, Charlie & I are holding our own & surviving 24-7 togetherness. It helps he works a few days a week & hank Heaven because 24-7 is a lot of space sharing. After 40 years, we've developed our own patterns & they have us stumbling over each other. I'm sure you know or have heard of my 2 Border Collies, Tyler & Reba. Yes, Tyler's the one who loves communion & is now vying for The Blood of Jesus~ wine.. He was by my side when I joined PLC 4-19-19 & I guess he feels entitled. They are taking full advantage of our 24-7 living & have Charlie wrapped around their paws. They love to wake him up at 2 a.m. & he falls for it & out they go. I tried to warn him of their manipulation, but he doesn't listen & I say NOTHING because it actually amuses me & I continue to sleep.

There has been good & inspiring with ISOLATION : EASTER SUNDAY, Pastor Trexler & Sandy are never disappointing & speak sincerely from the heart. We took their communion suggestion & nearly had to call 911. I'm sure it amused the Heavens w/ our paper Black Box Pinot Noir & 2" round Cuban Wafers that could choke a horse & nearly did me in as Charlie insisted we take it all at once. This was where 911 was almost needed as I coughed, & gasped. I darn near chugged the remaining wine, but thought better of it & prayed...crisis averted "Thank you God". Though not the most elegant communion, it was all ours & one we'll never forget. God is Good & I'm certain He understands my quirkiness.

I sincerely hope you are "finding your way" thru this Pandemic with your deep FAITH, HOPE & PRAYERS. May you take heart & find for smiles within your trials.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!
 ~ Deb Moleski, Charlie, Tyler & Reba

Peace Lutheran Church
1801 Port Malabar Blvd N.E.
Palm Bay, FL 32905

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PALM BAY
The Olive Branch
Dated Material – May 2020

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Phone: (321) 727-3131
Dial-A-Story: (321)727-1048
Email: office@peacelutheranpb.org
Website: www.peacelutheranpb.org

Return service requested

Senior Pastor: David Trexler

Youth Pastor: Curt Peterson

Worship Service

9:00AM & 11:00AM



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.

