



**Come Share God's Love
FEBRUARY 2026**



CHOIR



BELL CHOIR



LENT



BEAUTIFUL SCULPTURES MADE FROM OLIVE WOOD FROM BETHLEHEM. A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY BACK TO THE ARTISANS IN BETHLEHEM THAT HAVE HAND CRAFTED THESE GORGEOUS PIECES



OUR MISSION:

To equip disciples of Jesus Christ for ministry and mission.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am Sunday (Livestreamed on YouTube)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



2026 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Pastor Andreas Stein

Tom Brusegaard - President

Linda Clinton - Vice Pres

Janet Carter - Secretary

Shawn Ray - Treasurer

Robert Wilbrandt

Gayle O'Hern

Craig Reitan

Krystin Chisholm

Lauree Menk

Mark Gillespie

I am blessed and honored to be called as your new Council President. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My wife, Myrnell, and I have been attending Peace for about 10 years. We soon became Associate Members and 4 years ago we transferred our membership from our church in Minnesota to join Peace as full-fledged members. We split our time between Fort Myers and Maple Grove, MN.

We were both born and raised in North Dakota and have been lifelong Lutherans. We were confirmed, married and had both of our daughters baptized in the same church – Calvary Lutheran in Grand Forks, ND. No matter where we moved, we have always become very involved in the Lutheran church in our community from Grand Forks to Thief River Falls to Duluth to the greater Minneapolis area. Our time living in Germany afforded us the opportunity to become involved in the military chapel and meet many people from different Protestant backgrounds.

When we started coming to Florida, we were guided to visit Peace and found the people, the music and the message to be warm and welcoming. I have served on the Council as the Property Management contact and this past year as Vice-President. Since we live close to the church, I can be found here either working on property issues, projects or serving in other ways. At the Saturday evening worship service, I'll either be setting up your chair, handing you the bulletin or ushering you up to Communion.

If we haven't already met, I look forward to making your acquaintance. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I am here to serve the Lord and you.

In His service,

Tom Brusegaard



We do not have to look far to notice it. We live in a world that feels torn apart in so many ways. Conversations are sharper. Trust feels thinner. People are quick to assume the worst. And even when we try to stay steady, all of that tension has a way of getting into us.

It leaves many of us feeling torn, too.

Some days we carry the weight of it in our bodies. We feel tired before we even begin. We feel emotionally short on patience. We feel spiritually distracted. The news cycle keeps spinning, and the voices around us can be so loud, so certain, and so grim. It is tempting to join them. It is tempting to say, "Everything is terrible," and to assume, "It will only get worse." That kind of language spreads quickly because it sounds realistic. It sounds strong. It sounds like wisdom.

But it is not the voice we are called to carry.

We are called to be a Gospel people. Good news people. Not naïve people. Not people who pretend hurt is not real. The Gospel never denies reality. It refuses to let reality have the final word.

That is exactly why our Lenten theme matters this year: **Filled with the Holy Spirit.**

We cannot be the voice of good news in a draining world by sheer willpower. We cannot be steady, gracious, and courageous just by trying harder. The truth is, this world drains us. It drains our joy, our compassion, our spiritual clarity. If we only absorb what is around us, we will eventually sound like what is around us.

But God does not only call us. God fills us.

That filling is not a personality trait or a vague feeling. It is a gift. And one of the most direct ways God pours His Spirit into our hearts is wonderfully simple: **prayer.**

Prayer is not our way of informing God what is happening. God already knows. Prayer is not a last resort when we run out of options. Prayer is where we breathe again. It is where the noise quiets down long enough for our souls to remember what is true. It is where we stop rehearsing fear and start receiving peace.

In prayer, we are not just asking God to do something out there. We are asking God to do something in here.

Lord, fill us.

Fill us with what we do not have on our own. Fill us with patience when we are quick to snap. Fill us with compassion when we are tempted to label people and move on. Fill us with courage to live differently in a world that rewards outrage. Fill us with hope that does not depend on headlines. Fill us with love that is stronger than exhaustion.

This Lent, I want to invite you to see prayer as more than a religious habit. See it as the place where God restores you. When the world tears at you, prayer stitches you back together. When the world drains you, prayer is where God fills you.

Rev. Andreas Stein



“Super-Flu”

The map on the news indicates Florida is experiencing a dramatic increase in cases of the flu, as indicated by hospital admissions and office visits. If you received the vaccine, you may not be protected from this strain of the virus, but if you become infected, you should experience milder symptoms. We are all familiar with the drill: wash or sanitize your hands frequently, avoid crowds, good nutrition, rest. If you don't feel well, please stay home and care for yourself.

Last year, I told you about **Dispatch Health (239-322-3434)**. Dispatch provides same-day urgent medical care in the comfort of your home. Think of this as urgent care that comes to your door rather than you leaving your bed when you feel your worst to go to a physical facility. According to their literature, most insurance is accepted, including Medicare and Medicare Advantage. Dispatch Health is for urgent but non-life-threatening injuries or illness. They are open 8:00 AM-10:00 PM, seven days a week, including holidays.

ROMEOs & Juliets and Friends will celebrate Valentine's Day on February 11 in Good Samaritan Hall. Pizza Lunch will be served at 12:00; Dave Slick will entertain us on his accordion. We invite everyone to join us, with a special invitation to all families with a loved one who lives with dementia. Would you enjoy serving our guests? RSVP Marilyn at parish-nurse@peaceftmyers.com if you plan to attend or wish to help serve our guests.

Also on February 11, at 1:00, we gather in the Jericho Room to color pre-printed pictures for Colorful Ministry. We then mail these works of art to those who are homebound or have moved away from Ft Myers. Coloring is a soothing, meditative act requiring more skill than you would imagine! Join us in fellowship and conversation. Simply show up; Peace provides the pages and colored pencils. Feel free to participate in both activities.

Thursday, February 19, at 9:30, Lee Health will present a six-week-long program, Managing Your Chronic Illness. Open to the public, a similar program was well received last year. We meet in the Jericho Room where Sandy Chavanne leads us through a program of self care, exercise, meditation, and pain management. The class concludes at 11:30. Bring a friend. Please Register at Lee Health 239-424-3121. Space is limited to 12 participants, so call early.

Marilyn

“I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it. We are in charge of our attitudes.” Charles Swindoll



If you would like someone added to the prayer list, please email Marilyn at parish-nurse@peaceftmyers.com. Names will stay on the list for one month unless noted otherwise.

Volunteer Coordinator January 2026

MUSIC MINISTRY



I hope everyone had a nice holiday season and enjoyed time with friends and family. Lent will soon be upon us. I always feel like Ash Wednesday comes way too soon after Christmas and the new year. This past Sunday (1/11) composer/conductor and member of Peace, Gary Walth led the choir in his beautiful a cappella piece called "Lullaby." It is always special when the composer of a piece leads their own music. We are blessed to have Gary and his wife Cathy a part of the music program.

Nic

Stewardship

Denny Kneller, Stewardship Committee

Dear Brothers and Sister of Peace Church,

Happy Valentines Day! The month of February marks a time of love and commitment to our loved ones.

It also marks a time when our congregation is at the height of our stewardship campaign. Please mark your calendars for February 15th for our Peace Potluck! Three weeks before the potluck you will see a signup sheet in your church bulletin and in your email inbox. Please fill it out and return it a week before the potluck so we have an estimate of attendees and food items. We kindly ask you not to bring desserts because there is always an abundance of desserts. There will be dessert, but by special request; thank you in advance for your cooperation. All are invited including visitors and I encourage you to prayerfully consider what part Christian Stewardship plays in your faith. It will be a morning of fun, food and fellowship and we'll talk about how God is working in our church and outside our four walls. When we give to the church, we're not just supporting a building. We're supporting a ministry.

Pastor Andreas said it best in his stewardship appeal letter in January. "We give because God is working among us". On behalf of the stewardship committee, we thank you for your faithful generosity!

Denny Kneller, member of the Peace Stewardship Committee



Gladiolus Food Pantry

Our "Souper Bowl" Soup collection has started! We will be collecting soup up until Super Bowl Sunday February 8th. Bring your soup donation and place them on the tables for your team of choice AFC or NFC! You can vote for the conference team of your choice and predict which conference will win the Super Bowl! Of course the real winner will be the food pantry with your generous donation. Thank You!

We gathered for our monthly "bag it" assembly on Tuesday 1/13 at 10AM. We had 17 come to join us! It made light work of stuffing 4,000 bags! Our bags of opened bags are so much appreciated by the food pantry. This offers our guests and volunteer shoppers the ability to move through the pantry so much faster. That means less waiting time out in the parking lot for the guests coming to our community choice pantry each week. Come for fellowship while working on a service project for our community. Our next time to meet will be February 10 in GSH at 10AM



Small Group Fellowship-Starting Soon:

Looking to meet some new people and have fun times with fellow Peace members and friends? **Let's Do Dinner (or Brunch/Lunch)** is for everyone interested in doing that! Groups share a meal and spend time together in Christian fellowship!

To sign-up, contact Valerie Kneller at 952-239-2679 or at valzee@aol.com. A registration link is also on the Peace website.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre-

Reserve your tickets for a fun night out, which includes dinner and a musical show! See "**Fiddler on the Roof**" on Friday evening, January 30, 2026 at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. The Buffet Dinner service starts at 5:30pm and ShowTime is 7:30pm. Tickets are \$88 per person, \$176 per couple. Sign-ups end Sunday, Janu-

Peace Book Club

Book Club meets November through April on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:30am to 11:30am in the Peace Library. If you enjoy reading and discussing books, please join us to share your thoughts and opinions. A copy of selected books

*February 10: *The Frozen River* by Ariel Law-

"In this historical-fiction novel set in 1789 Maine, Martha Ballard, a mid-wife and healer, finds herself at the center of a scandalous murder mystery when the

*March 10: *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd

"Follows a fictionalized Galilean scribe named Ana who becomes the wife of Jesus during the lost years (from age 12 to 30), focusing on his humanity and commenting on the silencing of women across history and literature."

Happy Birthday!



Renee Degelau	02/01
Rita Michaelson	02/01
Lisa Ekstrom	02/02
Lizz King	02/02
Patricia McLeod	02/03
Virginia Hanley	02/04
Ronna Cline	02/05
Richard Nicely	02/05
John Hirsch	02/06
Jayne Groll Ray	02/09
Rich Heinrich	02/10
Edith Phillips Berg	02/12
Paul Merline	02/12
Danielle Lewis	02/13
Marilyn Rude	02/14
Dr. Steven Jenson	02/15
Larry Lundeen	02/16
Sandra Ruff	02/17
Polly Woodring	02/17
Dan Lewis	02/18
Jo Durben	02/22
John Dalen	02/25
E. Ruthann Stinson	02/26

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PEACE FACEBOOK PAGE: [Facebook.com/peaceftmyers](https://www.facebook.com/peaceftmyers)

PEACE YOUTUBE FOR LIVESTREAM: www.youtube.com/@peacelutheranchurch372

WEB RESOURCES: Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA Florida Happenings,
www.fbsynod.org, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, National News, www.elca.org

STAFF:

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Nic Steltzer - Director of Music music@peaceftmyers.com

Marilyn Kranich, Parish Nurse, parishnurse@peaceftmyers.com

Jim Krueger, Financial Secretary, financial@peaceftmyers.com

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Synod Parish Deacons: George Avery, Lizz King

Shawn Ray Treasurer, financial@peaceftmyers.com

Javier Ortiz, Custodian

Sarah Houghton Parish Administrator, admin@peaceftmyers.com

Dove Tales submission deadline is the 15th of each month to

media@peaceftmyers.com. Please send your pictures, articles, and upcoming events! We are always looking for pictures of church happenings, be sure to add a caption when you submit a picture.

Take out your phone, snap a picture, and send it in!

Thank you!

We would love to hear from you.