

# Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Love God, Love People,  
and Serve the World!

October 2020

## Sweet Hour of Prayer

*Prayers  
should  
be the key  
in the  
morning  
and the  
lock at night*

Peace Lutheran Church will have a weekly Prayer Group starting on Monday **October 5th**, at 9:00 am. via Zoom. We will have a devotion, share prayer requests and pray over each request. The group will be led by Becky Voges. If you would like to be a part of the group, please email Becky ([beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com)) and she will send the zoom link. All prayer requests will be confidential.

## Christmas Tea



Due to COVID-19, this year, the Christmas Tea Committee regrets that we will not be able to host the Tea. Since we have collected can goods for the SOS Food Bank in the past, this year we will offer Meals To Go. All proceeds will go to help the SOS Food Bank. We will offer single meals or family meals. More information to come at the end of October.



Christmas Tea Committee



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## A Message from the Pastor

### Rejoice and Regather

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, and his mercy endures forever!*  
*Psalm 118*

That's one of the most repeated verses scattered throughout several Psalms.

There are times in life to give thank and exclaim God's blessing. It feels like that's been hard to do over the last six months. But this month we have reason to give thanks.



Our church council has determined we have entered phase two of our regathering process meaning we have an opportunity to move into in-person worship.

We have set a regathering date of **Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>**. So mark that time on your calendar.

Our worship options in Oct include:

- 8am Parking Lot Worship with in-person communion.
- 10:30am in-person worship with communion
- 10:30am livestream worship with virtual communion (gather bread and wine/grape juice in home)

There are measures in place to keep us socially distanced.

Seating arrangements will be spread out and masks will be used while indoors.

Our regathering chart has been modified to reflect the state's guidelines looking at total Covid hospitalizations in the region remaining under 15% of hospitalized patients.

Our church sanctuary capacity for regathering allows us to include 50% of our worship space to include social distancing measures ensuring safety precautions.



You may be ready to return in-person or you may not be. Both are holy decisions to be prayerfully considered and respected. Remember that covid has not gone away, but our region has significantly decreased in hospitalizations.

Ultimately, what matter most is that we are the baptized, God's beloved children and that's what's important.

We have a chance to remain connected in worship to God and to one another as God's people that we might be sent out into the world to share that message of love.

You are loved and always a place of belonging in God's kingdom whether you choose to be in-person or choose to worship from home.

Know that whatever decision you make, God is going to walk with you.

Continue to pray for our leaders making these preparations, for our church that we might be united in this critical time, and for our world that still needs God's hopeful grace in challenging time.

And whether we continue to worship online or in-person, let always give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures forever!

Peace,  
**Pastor Jake**

## Abundant Blessings

### October Birthdays

01 Merle Cavanaugh  
 02 Jessica Ralph  
 04 JoAnn Schlabach  
 04 Marianne Gould  
 06 Rick Smith  
 06 Nathan Pfeil  
 07 Melinda Sohn  
 07 Kyle Braune  
 07 Stella Salas  
 08 Martin Mayer  
 08 Dayna Miller  
 08 Brody Johnson  
 08 Brian Peebles  
 08 Clayton Smith  
 09 Dora White  
 09 Barbara Doleshal  
 10 Walt Sparkman  
 11 Cathy Boenig  
 11 Madison Clark  
 11 Emma Armstrong  
 12 JoAnn Mayer  
 12 Becca Clark  
 13 Jack Ralph  
 13 Erika Braune  
 13 Brittney Brittain  
 13 Kate Miller  
 13 Braden Kriley  
 15 Susan Briner  
 16 Steel McCoy  
 18 Robbie Heatherington  
 18 Daylin Tiemann  
 19 Steven Anderson  
 20 Matthew Simmont  
 20 Parker Kaufman  
 21 David Lange  
 21 Eric Dickman  
 24 Lavern Kistner  
 24 Kristen Mosher  
 25 Bobby Laughlin  
 25 Tana Bonner  
 25 Tim Clark  
 25 Katherine Mosher  
 26 David Heise  
 27 Jackie Ullrich  
 27 Landry Hausmann  
 27 Riley Hausmann  
 29 Jake Fain

### October Anniversaries

Charles Cheek and  
 Peggy Stone Cheek  
 October 8, 2010  
 Brian and Amy Tiemann  
 October 4, 2008  
 David and Ann Keeler  
 October 7, 1966  
 Fritz and Janice Friesenhahn  
 October 8, 1966  
 Sharky and Beverly Anderson  
 October 8, 2016  
 Russel and Carole Krueger  
 October 9, 1976  
 Antonio Rosales and  
 Raquel Gordillo  
 October 10, 2012  
 Rick and Angie Thomas  
 October 14, 1995  
 Christopher and  
 Rebekah Wieting  
 October 20, 2007  
 Roy and Lindsay Friedrich  
 October 22, 2005  
 Mitch and Cathi Fain  
 October 23, 1982  
 Andrew and Kristyn Ladshaw  
 October 29, 2016

### Blessings from Bernice

Bless me Heavenly Father.  
 Forgive my erring ways. Grant me  
 strength to serve thee. Put purpose  
 in my days. Give me  
 understanding, enough to make me  
 kind, so I may judge all people  
 with my heart and not my mind.  
 Teach me to be patient in  
 everything I do, content to trust  
 your wisdom and to follow after  
 you. Help me when I falter and  
 hear me when I pray, and receive  
 me in thy kingdom to dwell with  
 thee some day.

God's blessings and much love,  
 Bernice Lenz

### Prayers

Alvin Bravenec  
 Chuck Travis  
 Martin Mayer  
 Ron Podojil  
 Rhonda Schmidt  
 Cody Smith  
 Helen Probst  
 Bob Schlabach

### In Sympathy

† Our thoughts and prayers go out  
 to Gayle Morris on the death of  
 her father, Eugene Markert.

### Flower Donations Needed

Each Sunday a beautiful arrangement  
 of fresh flowers, donated by members  
 and friends of the congregation,  
 adorns the cross in the chancel area of  
 Peace Lutheran Church. A contract  
 with "[Petals To Go](#)" Florist in New  
 Braunfels assures timely delivery,  
 quality, and consistency in the  
 arrangements at a very reasonable cost  
 of \$40 per arrangement. Flowers may  
 be donated for occasions such as  
 birthdays and anniversaries, in honor  
 or in memory of a loved one, or  
 simply "*To the Glory of God!*" Open  
 dates for 2020 are listed in this [sign  
 up form](#). (Dates for 2021 will be  
 available when the new Peace website  
 debuts later this month.) You can  
 mail a check to Peace Lutheran  
 Church office marked "Flowers"  
 (and include the date) or you can  
 donate [electronically](#). The  
 arrangement may be taken after  
 worship on Sunday or picked up at the  
 church during office hours the  
 following week. [Kathi Anderson](#)  
 (210) 643-8855 is the Flower  
 Coordinator for the Worship  
 Team. [Sign up now!](#)

**If you do not have access to a  
 computer, please contact the church  
 office and they will sign you up.**

## From the Desk of Deacon Andrew



### Off-The-Screen Faith Activities

We have certainly learned how to utilize technology as a helpful tool to navigate our work, school and family lives through this pandemic. But sometimes it is nice (and necessary) to step away from the computer. Here are five ideas to practice faith that don't involve sitting in front of a computer screen. Thanks to our friends at [buildingfaith.org](http://buildingfaith.org) for compiling these and many other great ideas! What other ideas can you think of?

- ◆ **Home Altar**—Set up a space in your home and decorate it with meaningful items such as a cross, candles, photos of loved ones, special faith objects, a bowl of water (baptism), etc. Use this as a place for devotions, Bible reading and prayer. Remember, where God is present, home is church, too!
- ◆ **FAITH5**—Gather in person with at least one other person to share your highs and lows, read a Bible passage, talk about faith, pray for each other's highs and lows, and then bless each other. Simple but powerful!
- ◆ **Pandemic Pen & Prayer Pals**—Pair up with someone else in the congregation and sent notes back and forth encouraging each other during this challenging time. This is a wonderful cross-generational activity, with older adults and children writing each other. Think of someone who could use a prayer pal!
- ◆ **Gratitude Chain**—Remember those paper chains you made in school? Each day write at least one thing you are grateful for on a strip of paper and create a gratitude chain to remind you of God's blessings.
- ◆ **Painted Prayer Rocks**—Take a smooth rock and write (paint pen works best) a Bible verse, prayer, or message of hope and encouragement on it (something like, "God loves you", "Keep calm and trust God", "Don't be afraid—God's got this"). Place the rock in a public place for someone to find. It will make their day!

### Peace Dialogues

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."*  
Colossians 3: 12 – 15



You are invited to join in our next **"Peace Dialogues"** on **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, following the late service, from noon to 1 p.m.**

During our first two Peace Dialogues sessions, in August and September, we discussed and practiced what it means to be in healthy and grace-filled dialogue with one another. Even if you missed one or both of our first two sessions, you are still invited to join us. During our upcoming Peace Dialogues, through graceful engagement, we will explore and ponder various topics and issues that are a part of our world today. During our graceful engagements, we will listen, share, and reflect on our own and each other's stories and convictions.

We will not debate. We will not assume that everyone thinks the same. We will not try to change each other's opinions or beliefs. Participants are invited, but not required to share their thoughts. Participants may choose to listen only.

During our Peace Dialogues, we will strive to be true to ourselves and to be loving and gracious to one another. In doing so, we hope to grow closer to one another, closer to God, and therefore become better versions of ourselves. All this we do as we strive to love God, love people, and serve the world!

We will send the Zoom link out in the weekly eBlast prior to our Peace Dialogue. Alternatively, to find the meeting online:

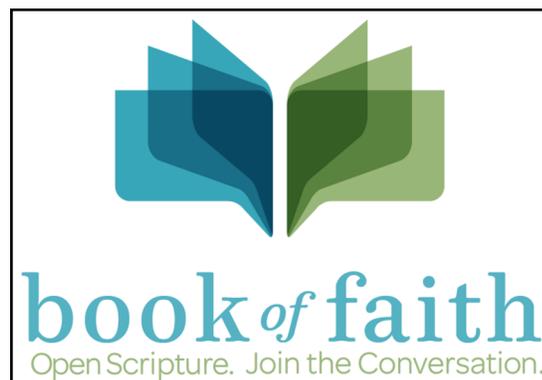
Go to [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)  
Click "Join a Meeting"  
Enter meeting ID: 874 5585 9673  
**Dial in: +13462487799**

## From the Desk of Deacon Andrew



### Martin Luther says.....

"Let's read our Bibles and learn more about God's word together! Spend time this month with



## 2 Corinthians

- Length: 13 chapters
- Author: This is one of the seven undisputed letters by the Apostle Paul
- Recipients: The church at Corinth, the capitol city of the Roman province of Achaia. Paul himself founded the Christian church in Corinth during his missionary journeys. According to Acts 18:1-11, Paul stayed at Corinth for a year and a half after he started the new Christian church there.
- Remember as we read Paul's letters, we are literally reading 1st century mail between an individual and a Christian community.
- Even though it is referred to as 2 Corinthians, many scholars believe that this writing was not originally a single letter, but rather a compilation of several letters between Paul and the church in Corinth.
- Paul's relationship with the church in Corinth had apparently deteriorated during the time after 1 Corinthians was written. It seems that during Paul's second visit to the church in Corinth, something had occurred that caused some strain in his relationship with them. The visit then that was announced back in 1 Cor. 16:5-7 did not happen as planned, and it seems that the Corinthians felt that Paul had vacillated in his plans (2 Cor. 1:15-23). Much of this letter deals with the crisis in confidence between Paul and the Corinthian community.
- Paul was concerned that making another visit to Corinth in person might make the situation worse (2:1). Instead of going to them in person, Paul wrote a rather severe letter written "out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears" (2:4). This letter, delivered by Titus, is now lost to us (although some scholars believe that chapters 10-13 may actually include parts of this "severe" letter). Paul was so worried about the effects of this letter (7:8) that he decided to go to Corinth before receiving their reply. On his way to them he met Titus, who delivered a reassuring report from the Corinthian church (7:13). Out of gratitude and in preparation for his third visit to Corinth, Paul wrote the letter we have before us.
- This letter can be broken into several broad sections:
  - Chapters 1 - 7: Paul defends his ministry against charges that he is bold when writing letters, but weak when speaking face to face. He makes it clear that his boldness and boasting come only from his faith in Jesus Christ, not from self-conceit.
  - Chapters 8 & 9 concern the topic of the collection for the Christian church in Jerusalem. Paul appeals to the example of Jesus who was willing to sacrifice for the sake of others.
  - Chapters 10-13 are a vigorous defense of Paul's ministry against the "super apostles", rival missionaries who have impressed the Corinthian Christians and are critical of Paul.
- Because so much of 2 Corinthians is written as a response to the words and feelings between Paul and the church in Corinth which are not recorded in this letter, it is sometimes difficult to follow Paul's arguments. What it does reveal to us is the complicated and sometimes messy reality of ministry in the infant first century church, as well as Paul's deep concern for the churches he established.

## From the Castle

### Luther: 1<sup>st</sup> Living Best Selling Author

During the Medieval ages, university professors of Theology, Law, Medicine and the Arts were required to post theses in prominent places on subject matter for their students who would debate or defend these statements in order to obtain their degrees.

**Martin Luther's 95 Theses, nailed to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in October of 1517, were actually written in Latin, a language unfamiliar to most people. When asked if Luther wanted these to be published, he declined saying they would be too confusing for the common citizenry. However, scholars immediately began to write to each other discussing Luther's points and forwarding them to others. They were not actually translated into German until the spring of 1518.**

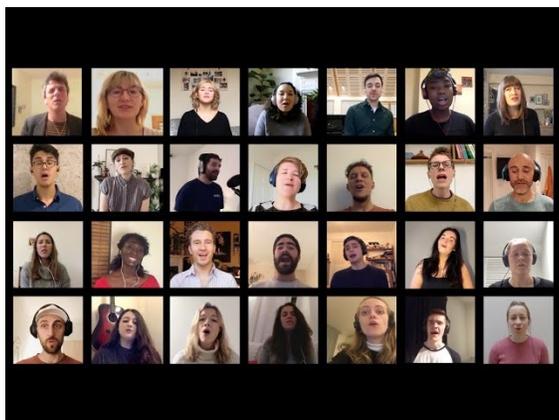


The idea for these 95 theses began as a sermon delivered by Martin Luther on January 16, 1517 entitled "Disputation for Clarifying the Power of Indulgences" in which he expressed concern about the selling of indulgences by the Catholic Church as a means of forgiving sins and became the framework of what is called the Lutheran Reformation. Remember, at this time, Luther was Catholic. When people went to the priest for confession (either personal or communal), the priest would offer to lessen or even remove their sin by doing some really good deed or paying a large 'donation', or indulgence, to the church. The church was indulging the sinner. Luther felt that in paying indulgences, remorse for one's sins was removed from the process. Luther himself, struggled with sin. In fact, he wanted to confess his sins so often that priests would often turn around and go the other way to avoid having to listen to his very long list.

What did get the attention was a sermon given in the spring of 1518 and sent to the Archbishop entitled "Indulgences and Grace"! It was only 20 paragraphs, which was quite short for Luther's sermons. Notes from this sermon were copied on the Gutenberg printing press and distributed throughout Germany and the surrounding countryside, making Martin Luther the first living best-selling author...and the founder of the Lutheran Church.

**Marianne Gould**  
Deacon Intern

## Virtual Choir Performance



The Southwestern Texas Synod Musicians are planning another virtual choir for **Christ the King Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**. If you would like the opportunity to record your voice for this offering, we will be singing ELW # 854. If you are interested in joining us in a virtual recording, please contact Marianne Gould at [marianne@peacenb.org](mailto:marianne@peacenb.org) for more information. You do not have to be a choir member to participate. "Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!"

## Life Groups

### Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

We are evaluating how to best create small group ministry in these times.

Stay tuned for ways to be engaged and continue to not only hear the message of Unafraid, rather to study and walk with others deepening your faith and building a stronger community united in God's love.



- 9/20 – Understanding and Encountering Fear
- 9/27 – Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics
- 10/4 – Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness
- 10/11 – Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances
- 10/18 – Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord

Life Groups are meant to foster a deeper faith as we explore what it means to live as God's people together. This Fall we will offer online options to join groups.

## Service Ministry Team

### Lutheran World Relief Update

THANK YOU! Because of the generosity of members and friends of Peace who gave to the August school supply drive, we were able to complete 100 school kits. This will be added to the 100 school kits completed last year. In January and February, we had a baby items drive. 36 baby care kits were completed using the Thrivent Action Team money (\$250.00). The Peaceful Piecers have over 700 finished quilts to send. We pray that all of these can be sent in 2021. Thank you, everyone!



### SOS Food Bank "Thank You"



A big "THANK YOU" is given to Alison Hock for serving as our faithful leader at the SOS Food Bank for over the last 9 years. She is such a loving, giving servant of God doing His work to help others. As a "thank you" to Alison, the Service Team is asking friends and members of Peace to honor her service by donating to the SOS Food Bank in honor of her. Contributions can be sent to SOS Food Bank, P.O. Box 311032, New Braunfels, TX 78131. A "Basic Bag" of food costs approximately \$20.00. We also give "Thanks" to all of the volunteers who have worked with Alison through the years.

## Stephen Ministry

### Isolation

At times it looks like there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we pray that it is not a big truck or a train heading towards us, or see clouds that could be bringing that much needed rain, but they move to the next county. Sounds upsetting, but it is all too true. I know it has been some time since we have been to church, I mean physically in the church for a service or to visit with our friends. We are finding different ways to connect virtually with the church and members of the congregation. I know it is nice but not the same.



This social isolation does have its drawbacks and can lead to other problems. (anger, depression, impatience, frustration and social withdrawal). These have been some very difficult and lonely times. It may feel frustrating, and we may not know where to turn next. Do not give up hope. "Great is our Lord and mighty in Power, His understanding has no limit" (Psalm 147:5). So yes, talk with our Lord, He is always listening and we need to be patient for his response.

The Stephen Ministers are here to help through these difficult times. If you are experiencing problems and you feel like you are going down for the count, remember that you are not alone. Consider talking with a Stephen Minister. If you would like some help, contact Pastor Jake or one of our Referral Coordinators, Bill Purcell or Cathy O'Shea, at 210-846-3315. For more about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages at [www.peacemb.org/Stephen-Ministry](http://www.peacemb.org/Stephen-Ministry)

## Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering is back! Peace will be collecting donations for the following Noisy Offering Sundays:

**October 25th: Peace Mission Endowment Fund**  
**November 22nd: UpBring/Lutheran Social Services**  
**December 27th: Habitat for Humanity**

The Noisy Offering will be collected a little differently though. **We will not actually collect coins, rather, we will collect cash and/or check donations.\*\*\***

Early Parking Lot Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Live Stream Worship Service attendees can drop off donations in the church mailbox or mail their donation directly to the church. Please make your check out to Peace Lutheran Church and put Noisy Offering in the memo.

**\*\*\*Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, [peacemb.org](http://peacemb.org), and click on the Ways To Give Tab. Choose Online Giving and follow the instructions. Please remember to designate Noisy Offering in the memo.**

Thank you for your continued support.

## Church Council

Patti Kassel - President  
 Don Hodde - Vice President  
 Brenda Martin - Secretary  
 Amy Tiemann - Treasurer

Becca Clark - Member At-Large  
 Matthew Simmont - Member At-Large  
 Matt Tippens - Member At-Large  
 Forrest Willis - Member At-Large

## *Living Generously: See a need? Learn more about how you can make it happen!*

Join us **October 29th** for a webinar with Thrivent. This is for everyone: members of Thrivent as well as those who would like to learn more.

Did you know Thrivent has distributed more than \$370 million through Thrivent Choice charitable grants in the last ten years? Did you know you could have a voice in determining where that money goes?

Action Teams are a great way to fund ministry events. Do you see a need in the church or the community and you would like to help but you need a little kickstart?

Did you know eligible Thrivent members can apply for two Action Team grants each year?

There are some of us who are members of Thrivent but are not aware of the opportunities to direct charitable outreach funds Thrivent distributes each year.

Imagine the possibilities if we work together to put our ideas and resources together! Not a member of Thrivent but have ideas? Let's collaborate and make it happen!

Bradley Dean with Heart of Texas Thrivent will be presenting. Some of you have met Bradley at Peace. He and his dad, Danny, provided meat and supplies for our last church picnic.

**Save the date, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. More questions? Contact Bradley's office at 210-735-1130 or Robbi Will at 210-412-7573.**

## *Finances*

### August 2020

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 101,331.58	\$ 35,059.04	\$ 31,768.34		\$ 104,622.28
Building Fund	\$ 30,598.48	\$ 1,744.65	\$ 0.00		\$ 32,343.13
Endowment Fund	\$ 6,536.48	\$ 314.36	\$ 0.00		\$ 6,850.84
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 126,195.48	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 126,195.48
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,771.76	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,772.49
Designated Funds	\$ 28,977.32	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 470.00		\$ 29,587.32
Total Funds	\$ 299,411.10	\$ 38,198.78	\$ 32,238.34		\$ 305,371.54



There are several giving options at Peace: Offering Envelopes; Online Giving (Website); AmazonSmile Program; Bank Drafts. If you would like more information on any of the options listed above, please give our Financial Administrator, Valerie Wood, a call at 830-620-0618.



Peace Lutheran Church  
1147 S. Walnut Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
Web address: [www.peacemb.org](http://www.peacemb.org)

830-609-8359 - Valerie Wood  
830-312-8797 - Pastor Jake Fain

Temporary Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Worship Services  
Sundays  
10:30 am with  
[peacemb.sermon.net](http://peacemb.sermon.net) or  
[Facebook.com/PeaceLute](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLute)



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