

Happy Thanksgiving...

**Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter**
*Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!*
November 2020

***ECUMENICAL
THANKSGIVING
WORSHIP SERVICE***

Thursday, November 19, 2020
7:00 pm

LIVESTREAMED
on www.peacenb.org.

Hosted by Peace Lutheran, St. John's
Episcopal, & New Braunfels Presbyterian
Church



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A Message from the Pastor

Reformation

The church commemorates the Martin Luther and the Reformation on October 31st. 500 years ago the church took a hard look at itself and said, how might we be re-formed in God's image. Reformation is a continual process in which we are shaped by God



Music Program Staffing Changes

Our music program like many of the other ministries at Peace has had a hard time during the pandemic. Trying to mobilize people in a safe manner has been challenging to say the least.

Even before the pandemic, we have been trying to find a new path forward as a music ministry. In February we launched a couple of musical workshops with the intent of drawing our various groups together to develop a united direction as our dynamics have changed over the years. However, that work was stalled and never fully realized. Additionally, over the course of the past seven months several members have decided to leave Peace and a number of them were from the choir.

This past month we underwent some staffing changes in our music program. Carole Krueger, our Bell Director, and Walt Sparkman, our Choir Director, were let go of music program duties. These were very difficult and painful decisions. We extend gratitude for their years of ministry leadership. I encourage you to express your heartfelt thanksgiving to them.

What does this mean for Music Ministry?



Council is charging a Music Ministry Task Force to re-evaluate where God is calling us in an overarching capacity in this time and place as Peace Lutheran Church. Thank you to Cindy Thomas, Michelle Davenport, Gayle Morris, Shelley Simmont and Leslie Tippens for serving.

This body will take a deep dive and explore what our needs are both internally for those who are among us now, and for those who God is calling us to serve in the future.

As I write these words during the week of Reformation, I am reminded of Martin Luther's great witness, "*Semper Reformanda*" which means always reforming.

Things have life cycles. People have life cycles. Churches and their programs have life cycles.

What is important is not the perpetuation of any one program, but the mission that drives it. Music will always be an important part of our worship life together. But changes and reformation of that structure help foster the new seasons of life.

Please keep our music ministry in your prayers and stay tuned for more updates.

Peace,

Pastor Jake

Abundant Blessings

November Birthdays

02 Tommy Perkins
 02 Andre Guerin
 02 Beverly Anderson
 03 Olivia Hetherington
 04 Carol Ann Miller
 06 Bonnie Claycomb
 06 David Thomas
 08 Linda Hook
 08 Juliana Garcia
 10 Donna Braune
 11 Carole Krueger
 12 Helen Probst
 13 Arlene Wold
 14 Steven Willis
 15 Ray Martinez
 19 John Claycomb
 19 JoBeth Oestreich
 19 David Patterson
 20 Helen Bravenec
 21 Dorothy Ebert
 23 Margaret Weese
 26 Hattie Tippens
 27 Larry Kastein
 27 Nanci Witten
 28 Kerri Clausen
 29 Bob Schlabach
 30 Sharon Monroe
 30 Linda Ottmers
 30 Brenda Martin
 30 Brandy Huston
 30 Melissa Fain

Happy 90th!

On November 12th, Helen Probst will turn 90 years old. If you would like to send Helen a birthday card, please send to the following address:



Helen Probst
 Eden Hill Communities
 631 Lakeview
 Room 8036
 New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Happy 90th Birthday Helen!

Prayers

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

2021 Flower Chart

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. Your opportunity to donate a bouquet begins on November 1 when the 2021 Flower Chart will be posted on the front page of the Peace [website](#) along with the [link](#) to sign up. Please carefully read the instructions there. You may also write your dedication and pay through the site at that time if you wish or you can mail a check to Peace Lutheran. Kathi Anderson from the Worship Team is the coordinator. She can be reached at Ka1953@live.com or 210-6453-8855.



ALTAR FLOWERS

November Anniversaries

Jim and Cathy Boenig
 November 25, 1995

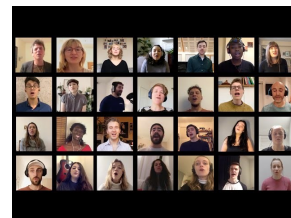
 John and Bonnie Claycomb
 November 26, 1967

 Chuck and Lupe Travis
 November 26, 2005

 Ted and Margo Woollven
 November 29, 1975

Virtual Choir Performance

The Southwestern Texas Synod Musicians are planning another virtual choir for **Christ the King Sunday, November 22nd**. 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 for more information. You do not have to be a choir member to participate. "Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!"



From the Desk of Deacon Andrew



Galatians

The Apostle Paul travelled great distances during his work as a missionary to the “Gentiles”, the non-Jewish people of the regions of Asia Minor, Achaia, and Macedonia. Although warmly received and cared for by the people he met in the region of Galatia, it appears that other missionaries followed behind Paul, teaching that in order for a person to become a Christian, he or she must first convert to Judaism and adhere to all Jewish laws and customs, including the dietary laws, and even the requirement of circumcision for male converts.

Upon hearing this news, Paul writes a very strongly worded letter to the Galatian Christians, questioning their vulnerability (“*you foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?*” Gal. 3:1) in being led astray by these missionaries. He also attacks the false theology (what Paul referred to as a “*perversion of the gospel*” Gal. 1:7) brought by these “Judaizers”. For Paul, the Galatian churches were in grave danger of abandoning the very gospel he had preached to them. He had to act quickly!

Some interesting aspects of Galatians:

- Length: Six chapters
- Authorship: This is one of seven undisputed letters by the Apostle Paul.
- Recipients: This letter was written to be circulated to several churches across a region of Asia Minor known as Galatia (hence the name of this letter). Galatia was a province in the Roman empire.
- This is an urgent pastoral letter written to a specific cluster of churches in a moment of crisis.
- Galatians is the only one of Paul’s letters that does not contain a “thanksgiving” section in the beginning. This was not a careless omission on Paul’s part – it was meant to communicate the seriousness of the situation and the sternness of his message.
- Paul indicates that his preaching to and conversion of people in Galatia came as a result of happenstance (Gal. 4:13-14). Apparently Paul became seriously ill when he was travelling through the region, and was nursed back to health by the people there. He remained with them and began to preach to them the same gospel message he carried to so many other places in his ministry. Clearly Paul developed a close relationship with the Christian converts in Galatia.
- Paul defends his authority to preach based upon the commission and apostleship given to him by Jesus himself on the road to Damascus (Gal. 1:11-24).
- This letter reveals how the early church struggled with the question, “how do you identify who are God’s people?” Central to this question is the tension between the role of the Jewish law (Torah) and the role of faith in regards to justification. For Paul, his answer was very clear:
“yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ”
 (Gal. 2:16)
- Paul emphasizes that none of his previous accomplishments, titles, status, and privilege mean anything to him now. Paul makes it clear that his identity is completely interwoven with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”

Stephen Ministry

So much of life is about being big enough, isn't it. Big enough to move from the car seat to the seatbelt, and then from the back seat to the front seat. To take a driver's test, to vote, to get married. We can spend our lives longing to grow up. All too often we don't mind growing up, we just don't want to grow old.



And yet here we are worrying about things we cannot control. As a child we wanted to rush things along, not wanting to stop. Then later when we are "old enough" we want to look for the brakes, to slow things down. There many times when we feel that we are not in control and it can be very frustrating. That reminds me of when one of my sons was a teenager, he would say that he just wanted a life. And here we all are looking for that "life".

Soon it becomes apparent that as age catches up to with us, our future is marked by more loss than by gains. In Revelation 21:3-4 "God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes". So as you are traveling through life, realize that you are not alone. God is always with us.

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.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry
Ron Podojil, Stephen Ministry

Noisy Offering

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

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 or Late 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, peacenb.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

To Go Plates Benefitting the SOS Food Bank

The Christmas Tea Committee will be selling to go plates to benefit the SOS Food Bank on Saturday, **December 5th**. There will be family meals and individual plates, as well as, a gluten free option. The meal will consist of lasagna, salad and breadsticks. This will be a drive up event, where you will be serenaded with Christmas music. You can sign up on Sign Up Genius or fill out a paper form available at the church. You can also contact any member of the tea committee: Patti Kassel, Beverly Giacoletti, Kathy Mosher, Ellie Woytek, Amy Tiemann, Brittney Brittain, Barbara Hodde and Donna Braune.



The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 22nd.

Finances

September 2020

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 104,622.28	\$ 24,100.50	\$ 36,436.28		\$ 92,286.50
Building Fund	\$ 32,343.13	\$ 179.98	\$ 0.00		\$ 32,523.11
Endowment Fund	\$ 6,850.84	\$ 304.43	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,155.27
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 126,195.48	\$ 7,679.99	\$ 0.00		\$ 133,875.47
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,772.49	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,773.20
Designated Funds	\$ 29,587.32	\$ 1,005.42	\$ 667.08		\$ 29,925.66
Total Funds	\$ 305,371.54	\$ 33,271.03	\$ 37,103.36		\$ 301,539.21



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

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 or
[Facebook.com/PeaceLute](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLute)



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