

*Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
January 2021*



Prayer Journey

Jesus tells us in the Gospels that the greatest commandment is:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength.”

Have you ever wondered HOW in the world it is possible to love another that much, with every fiber of your being, when that “other” cannot be seen with your eyes, heard with your ears, or felt with your hands? I most definitely wondered this! After decades I learned (like many others I’m sure), that it requires a daily prayer discipline, including a time to talk and a time to listen, as well as an ongoing conversation in my mind with the Lord throughout my day. I found that almost every book I’ve read on prayer recommends these elements: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (ACTS). It prevents our prayers from simply being a “wish list.” Keeping a written prayer journal is a necessity. There is nothing more powerful than looking back at a prayer request and realizing a profound answer to that prayer which took years in the making.

If you are interested in achieving this greatest command from our Lord God, Peace Lutheran has opportunities for you to consider.

- Become a member of the **Prayer Chain** where you can receive an emailed confidential prayer request from Becky Voges (830-625-1666), for you to offer a prayer at any time you are able.
- Join the **Sweet Hour of Prayer** any Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. led by Becky Voges through a Zoom gathering of folks including a short devotional, and then a time to ask for prayers for members at Peace, for yourself or your loved ones and friends. When a family member is facing a physical, emotional or spiritual crisis and desperately need the Lord’s saving grace, fellow members offer silent prayers on their behalf. If you feel a need to ask for any prayers, for our congregation, our community, our country and world, this is for you.
- If you would like to learn more about beginning a prayer journey to experience God firsthand in your life, tune in to the **Wednesday E-blasts in January** with Pastor Jake and Terry Westerman, a new member and Deacon from Christ Lutheran in San Antonio.

Expanding your prayer practices is an opportunity for a deeper and more personal relationship with our Lord.
Terry Westerman



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A Message from the Pastor

A New Beginning

In mid-December, the FDA approved the first vaccine to be shared in the US. A second one followed shortly thereafter. As this is being written, trucks are being loaded and distributing precious vaccination materials throughout the country.

Our frontline workers are lining up ready to receive this gift of inoculation protecting them from the deadly disease. Nursing homes are gearing up to receive the vaccine. Others will follow throughout the year as we restore the health and wholeness of society.

We still have a long road ahead of us. News of the vaccine does not mean that it's already here. It's going to take some time.

I imagine that must be similar to what the gospel writers meant when proclaiming gospel – “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.” (Mark 1:1) The kingdom of God is near. Unto us is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

Much of what it means to be a Christian is to know the good news is here, but also to await with eager anticipation and share the good news that is coming in its fullness.

We have not yet seen the full glory and saving power of God, but it is being revealed as the world is being restored and made whole again.

Many of us may want to merely get back to normal and have life go on the way it was. But my hope is that we are changed by the good news that is coming into the life of the world. I hope that as you look back on 2020 and recognize how difficult it was, you might also witness the moments in which God was transforming it. Every moment you experienced grace and kindness and love, those can draw you into a deeper way of being God's holy people. Through recognizing our vulnerability and just how much we depend on a saving God, we discover how powerful God's love really is.

What's more, we discover how God calls the church to be the front-line workers to distribute the good news to a hurting world. I hope this time realigns us in mission focusing all of us on our place in God's kingdom that is coming.

As we work together as God's holy people, let us look with anticipation that God is indeed healing the world and where we might find our places as people who are called to bring healing to people who are lonely and hurting and lost.

God's Peace,

Pastor Jake



Abundant Blessings

January Birthdays

02	Lynda Willis
03	Rory Martinez
04	Joan Crowell
04	Landon Garcia
06	Hayden Kaufman
07	Kim Edwin
08	Kelly Benedict
08	Brett Kriley
11	Elva Wenzel
11	Michelle Rappmund
12	Andrew More
13	Carl Mincemoyer
13	Nate Fain
14	Erich Weese
14	Mary Mielke
14	Heather Salas
14	Jacob Johnson
15	Becky Perkins
15	David Oestreich
15	Karen Patterson
15	Maria Haiyasoso
18	Jean Pfluger
20	Vicki Hillmer
20	Trice Kastein
20	Cody Miller
22	Michelle Davenport
24	Anita Hill
25	Cody Smith
26	Linda Lange
26	Heidi Stone
28	Jeannie Kawazoe
28	Lindsay Friedrich
29	Darcy Mittelstaedt
30	Stephen Clark
30	Bill Purcell
30	Marsha Dove
31	James Huston

In Sympathy



- † Our thoughts and prayers go out to Lupe Travis and her family at the death of her husband, Chuck Travis. Chuck passed away on December 1st.
- † Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Arlon Bartels, who passed away on December 9th.

Prayers

Lewis Westerman
Dora White
Wil Voges
Lindsay Friedrich
Martin Franz
Michelle Rappmund
Ron Podojil
Rhonda Schmidt
Cody Smith
Helen Probst
Bob Schlabach

December Highlights from the Service Ministry Team

A HUGE “THANK YOU” to everyone who took an Angel from the Upbring Foster list on the sign-up genius. We sponsored 40 children in the program. You, the friends and members of Peace, are so very generous.



Also, members of Peace rang the bells for Salvation Army at Granzin’s Meat Market on Saturday, December 5th. Thank you to those volunteers who gave their time.

January Anniversaries

Carl and Debra Mincemoyer
January 7, 1994
Brent and Missy Paullus
January 11, 1992

Last, SOS Food Bank is a need in the community. “Thank you” to all of our wonderful volunteers who volunteer the 2nd Monday of the month from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Since Alison Hock stepped down in September, Becky Krogness has been the temporary leader. We need a permanent leader. If you would like to be the leader of the team from Peace, let Becky Krogness (830)221-6445 know or Pastor Jake.

From the Castle - What is Church?

Without question, attendance at worship services across North America and Europe have been dropping. You often hear Christians moan, “The church is dead. The church is dying.” Especially in this time of pandemic, all too many people are under the impression that religion will never hold the revered place in people’s lives as it once did. And my response? Thank goodness!

The Church is not, nor has it ever been, a building! True, many of us have gotten lazy in thinking that God and Church can only be found in the confines of an established brick and mortar site. We seem to have forgotten that the Church is not a building and never has been. The Church is the people! We are the Church!

Matthew 18:20 says, “Where two or three people are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” I suggest that even when you are the sole person living alone, you are still Church! God is still there! God is with you, around you, inside you and part of your very being. You are the Church!



So, my question to you is this...How are you, in this time of pandemic and social distancing, being Church in your world? How are you and God getting along? How is your relationship with God? How can that relationship be improved? Is it imperative for you to be inside the walls of a church to be Church...to be with God?

Jurgen Moltmann, in this book *The Church in the Power of the Spirit* writes: ubi ibi ecclesia. Where Christ is, there is the Church. Not where the church is, there is Christ. The church building is only one tool in the Holy Spirit’s tool box.

Marianne Gould,
Deacon Intern

Important Information

Flowers 2021

Signing up for flowers will look a little different in the new year. There will not be a chart in the Narthex; we will utilize a Sign Up Genius online.

Visit the Peace website at www.peacenb.org. Scroll to the bottom and click on the Flower Button. This will take you directly to the Flower Sign Up Genius.

Please review the available slots, click on the date to sign up, then scroll to the bottom and click the Submit and Sign Up Button. Enter your dedication, name(s), and email. Click the Sign Up Button Now.

Cost of flowers is \$40.00. Make checks payable to Peace and mark "flowers" in the memo. Contact the church office if you need any assistance.

Thank you!
Worship Ministry Team



Peace's Annual Congregational Meeting

1/24 Sunday @ 2pm

- **A Look Back at 2019**
- **Election of New Council Members**
- **Budget Approval**
- **A Vision for 2021**

Informational Meetings

These meetings include a recorded presentation and a Q and A session. If you miss the virtual meetings you can still view the recording of the presentation.

1/9 9am Saturday

1/12 7pm Tuesday

Our annual meeting will be hosted via Zoom. You can call in using your phone or a computer internet connection. For technical support please contact the church office.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89472903587>

Meeting ID: 894 7290 3587

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox

“How Lutherans Interpret the Bible”



Lutherans believe the Bible is the Word of God. We believe that God continues to speak to the community of faithful believers through scripture and that what the Bible reveals about God's will is authoritative for our lives. To fulfill this role, the Bible must be interpreted from a humble perspective that allows scripture to inform and transform the reader's own viewpoint.

Here's a brief summary of key points from this excellent video series featuring Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell identifying and unpacking some of the typical and traditional ways that Lutherans approach and interpret the Bible. We will be doing a series of short videos on each of these points to explain these in more detail and posting these videos to our church webpage in 2021 for everyone to access, so stay tuned!

Sola Scriptura: (Scripture Alone): The Bible is the “only rule and norm” according to which doctrines are to be established and evaluated. The Bible has unique authority as God's inspired and revealed truth to us.

Contextual Interpretation: We ask about the literary context of the book in which individual passages are found and about the historical context of the situation they were intended to address.

Plain Sense of the Text: Scripture passages are to be understood in the sense that would have seemed obvious to their original readers (metaphorical, literal, etc). We do not impose secret messages or codes on the Bible.

Principle of Analogy: We apply scriptural teaching to our present lives by asking how situations in the modern world are comparable to those in the biblical world, even if they are not exactly the same.

Scripture in light of scripture: We try to reconcile what is said in one part of the Bible with what is said in other parts of the Bible, trying to be faithful to the entire Bible. We do not pick some parts and leave others alone.

Scriptural priority: Some things in scripture are more important than others. The goal is to find the “heart” of scripture, the overall message in light of the broader themes.

Law and Gospel: The Bible speaks both law (that which accuses us and judges us) and gospel (that which comforts us and saves us). Law reveals our need for God's love, grace and mercy. Gospel proclaims those to us.

Theology of the Cross: The death of Jesus Christ is the focal point of scripture, revealing God's love for us and God's expectation for how we are to love and treat others.

Justification by grace through faith: we are reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are saved by God's grace alone, not by anything that we do or say.

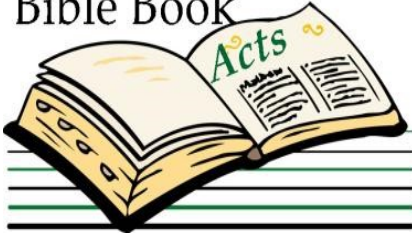
Binding and Loosing: The Church is called to recognize when biblical law applies and when it does not through conversation, discernment, and dialogue. We search the Bible to find God's justice, mercy and the gift of faith.

Public Interpretation: The interpretation of scripture is a public act rather than a private one. The Bible presents God's word to the Church as a whole, and the meaning of scripture for each of us as individuals is to be found by seeking application of its universal message to personal situations.

Hopefully considering these concepts will inform, deepen, and strengthen your time with God's Word!

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

January's Bible Book



Acts



The book of Acts is sometimes referred to as “The Acts of the Apostles”, because the book details the ministry of the early followers of Jesus following his resurrection and ascension. If you have a study Bible, take time to read the introductory notes at the beginning of Acts.

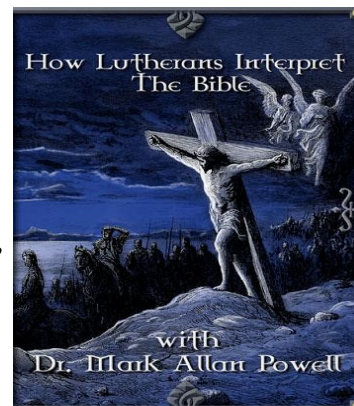
Some interesting aspects of Acts:

- Length: 28 Chapters
- Authorship: Acts was written by the writer of the Gospel of Luke. Many scholars today refer to the two works as Luke-Acts, acknowledging their shared authorship and that the two are sequential volumes of a single literary project.
- Date: Acts was probably written late in the first century C.E. It is likely, but not certain, that the writing of Acts followed that of the Gospel according to Luke, which usually is dated between 75 and 85 C.E.
- Luke-Acts 52 chapters combined occupy a full quarter (28%) of the New Testament.
- Acts reflects Luke’s emphasis on the early church as a missionary community, spreading the gospel to areas beyond Palestine, and to the gentiles (non-Jews).
- Luke also addresses Acts to “Theophilus”, and picks up the story right where he left off with his gospel (“in my former book”).
- Luke seems to be writing as a combination of historian, biographer, and theologian.
- In Acts we find the “birth of the church” at Pentecost (Chapter 2), and the coming of the promised Holy Spirit upon Jesus’ followers. It would be fair to alternately title this book “The Acts of the Holy Spirit”.
- The story of the first Christian martyr, Stephen, is found in Acts 7:54-60 (killed for his faith in Christ).
- Acts reveals the first crisis of the early church: How are gentiles (non-Jews) to be incorporated into the church? Do they have to convert to Judaism and obey all the Jewish purity and dietary laws? (Chpt. 15)
- In Acts we meet the apostle Paul, and hear about his former life as a Jewish Pharisee (Saul), persecutor of the early followers of Jesus (8:1-3, 9:1-2), his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus (9:3-30), his early ministry in Antioch (11:25-30), his missionary journeys throughout Asia (chapters 13-20), and his arrest and trial, leading to his eventual imprisonment in Rome (chapters 21-28).
- There are many speeches found in Acts made by followers of Jesus. These speeches give us an important window into how the early Christian community described and defended its faith in Jesus Christ as the messiah, the Son of God, in whom all of scripture is fulfilled.
 - ⇒ **Peter’s** speeches to the crowd at Pentecost (2:14-39), to Jewish onlookers in the Temple (3:11-26), before the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem (4:8-20), to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem (15:7-21)
 - ⇒ **Stephen’s** speech to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem (7:1-53)
 - ⇒ **Paul’s** speeches in Pisidian Antioch (13:13-41), in Athens (17:22-31), to the Ephesian elders (20:17-35), to the angry crowd in Jerusalem (21:37-22:21), before governor Felix (24:10-21), before King Agrippa (26:1-23)

Seekers and Sponges

Seekers and Sponges SS Class just finished a seven week video series called "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" by Dr. Mark Allan Powell. Here are a couple of comments by the class members:

I found the series to be informative and I learned so much from the video and comments made by other class members. It was a wonderful hour spent on Sunday mornings and I've already spent time dusting off my Bible and putting into practice some of the things I've learned. Thank you Deacon Andrew. I'm sure we could arrange to have another class on this series if some of you are interested. Ceretta



"For nearing two decades 'Seekers and Sponges' frees us quite different Peace members and guests for heartfelt listening and speaking as we search for our personal and congregational ways in following Jesus. No other qualifications required." David

"As a long time Lutheran I learned so many new things about binding and loosing, the ways Parables are interpreted throughout the world, and looking at the common sense of Scripture. Highly recommend for all to watch these videos." Jane

Jesus invites..

"If you continue in my word you are my disciples indeed and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free". I experienced "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" a treasured companion and spur on the road of continued growth in relationship with God, self, others, and creation. Stimulation for the heart and mind and Spirit. Recommended without reservation. Charles P.

Watching and discussing Dr. Mark Allen Powell's "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible" with our Sunday School class really gave me a lot of tools to enrich my reading and study of the Bible. I joined the Lutheran church from a different faith tradition in my 20's and though I attended an adult confirmation class, we didn't cover the interpretation of the Bible in depth as this series of lectures did. Personal study and group discussions are an important way to grow in faith and service. I would recommend all our members view this series. Michele B.

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

Noisy Offering

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

January 24 Winter Shelter in New Braunfels

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**

Finances

November 2020

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 77,064.48	\$ 35,146.90	\$ 29,434.15		\$ 82,776.93
Building Fund	\$ 32,684.65	\$ 173.12	\$ 0.00		\$ 32,857.77
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,519.03	\$ 324.26	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,842.29
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 133,875.47	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 133,875.47
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,773.93	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,774.64
Designated Funds	\$ 30,460.66	\$ 880.00	\$ 1,554.43		\$ 29,786.23
Total Funds	\$ 287,376.92	\$ 36,524.99	\$ 30,988.58		\$ 292,913.33



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.peacenb.org

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

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

Worship Services
Sundays
8:00 am Parking Lot Service
10:30 am In Person or with
peacenb.sermon.net or
[Facebook.com/PeaceLute](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLute)



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