

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



Church Flooding

The church facilities suffered a water break during the winter cold snap. Even though our facilities were winterized, our fire emergency sprinkler system broke several sprinkler heads. We think pressure built up in the line due to freezing temperatures and the several spouts could not withstand the pressure. This resulted in several hours of water pouring from the ceiling.

Most of the ground was covered in water. The next morning the water line was shut off and furniture moved to avoid further damage.

We contracted ServePro who specializes in water damage and remediation. They are in the process of drying out, remediating, and repairing the damaged areas in the building. This includes saturated sheet rock and flooring.

Thankfully our insurance is covering most of the costs associated with the flooding. However, there may be some incidentals along the way. Please consider a special gift to the building fund to compensate for some of the repairs.



See page 5 “Worship Life”, for continued worship opportunities.



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A Message from the Pastor

Spring Thaw

Growing up in south Texas for most of my life, I can't say I am very familiar with snow. When the winter freeze came to Texas in February, it was incredible to see just how unprepared we are compared to northerners.



When the snow falls, the north is prepared with snow chains, and plows, and salt. When the snow falls in New Braunfels, we don't have any of that readily available. The city comes to a standstill.

I suppose we are becoming more adept at staying home and staying safe, but truth be told, I am weary of it. I'd very much like to thaw out and return to other places besides my abode. When the snow finally melts away and the ice is gone, we can see again the signs of new growth.

I believe seasons are important to our life cycle. The spring thaw follows the winter freeze. There are seasons of growth and seasons of hibernation. Perhaps the ice storm was a metaphor for our time of waiting. We find ourselves still in the season of Lent (which incidentally means "spring") still waiting for the snow to clear and the roadways to open up and to see people anew.



In the C.S. Lewis epic story, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, four children find themselves in an icy kingdom bewitched by an Ice Queen. It takes the roar of the lion (Jesus) to break the enchantment, warm the land, and bring people back to life who once were frozen.

The same is happening in our lives. We may feel stuck and frozen in, unable to move and live life on our terms, but the Lion is on the prowl. The roar of Easter is coming bringing the warmth of God's steadfast love thawing even the most frozen of places.

Peace always,

Pastor Jake

Abundant Blessings

March Birthdays

01	Maya Clark
04	Mike Stallings
04	Lydia Simmont
06	Theresa Stanley
06	Alysa Grimsley
10	Leslie Valentine
11	Kurt Andersen-Vie
14	Margot Roessing
15	Jeremy Thibodeaux
15	Lillian Morelock
16	Debra Mincemoyer
16	Kristyn Ladshaw
16	Alyssa Gonzalez
18	Lee Cabibi
18	Salim Khalil
20	Kevin Krauland
22	Verlene Saur
23	Madyson Kriley
24	Judith Spindt
24	Preston Stone
25	Nathan Krauland
26	O'Neal Weigelt
26	Janice Friesenhahn
26	Sandra Amori
27	Greg Mosher
27	Robert Oestreich
27	Jillian Wold
28	Norvin Roessing
28	Brian Tiemann
29	Sharon Monroe
31	Roger Gawlitza

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following members and their families:



- ✠ Michele Bauman at the death of her aunt, Rita Taliga Reshetar
- ✠ Nanci Witten at the death of her father, Albert "Bob" Aarlie

March Anniversaries

Raymond and Michelle Rappmund
March 1, 2014
Ron and Sharon Podojil
March 7, 1985
Michael and Marsha Dove
March 14, 2015
Tim and Rebecca Clark
March 16, 1996
Greg and Tina Butrico
March 22, 1986
Kez and JoAnna Wold
March 27, 1999
Andre and Holly Guerin
March 29, 2003

Prayers

Arlene Wold
Jim Boenig
Cathy Boenig
Dora White
Wil Voges
Lindsay Friedrich
Martin Franz
Michelle Rappmund
Ron Podojil
Rhonda Schmidt
Cody Smith
Helen Probst
Bob Schlabach

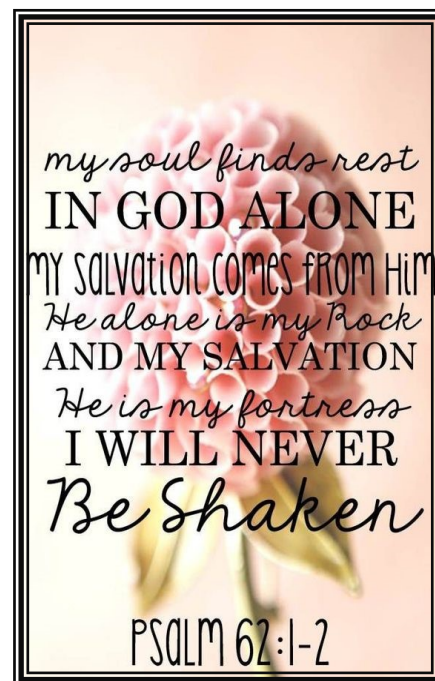
Word of God Come Down to Earth

Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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From the Castle

Diaconal Leadership

Deacons have been serving in God's kingdom for a very long time. In the New Testament, there are multiple references to Deacons serving in leadership roles in house churches. In more modern times, Deacons have served as nurses and/or teachers. The leadership roles of Deacons continues to expand and their unique God-given skills have continued to be the hands and feet of the kingdom. The ELCA, at its most recent Church-wide Assembly, voted to ordain Deacons as Ministers of Word and Service, serving as equal partners with Ministers of Word and Sacrament in Parish Ministry settings.



Of course, there are many venues where Deacons serve: hospital chaplains, spiritual directors, advocacy leaders, faith formation, information technology, prison chaplains, camping ministry and more.

Definitions of Diaconal leadership involve 'service', but in spite of their service in and to the world, it is not a subservient role. The role of a Diaconal Leader is determined by God's call to vocation using their unique skill set. Not just anyone can be a Deacon. It would probably not surprise you that I received my 'call' to Diaconal Leadership while attending a worship/music conference several years ago.

God is always on the move! God is always in relationship with God's created. It makes no difference if you are male, female, old or young. God calls people to be Diaconal Leaders in and among God's creation. Diaconal Leaders are willing to humbly empty themselves in service to God, as did Jesus when he died on the cross for our salvation. Following Jesus' example in a service of love to others.

Marianne Gould
Deacon Intern

Holy Week Schedule

Plans are still being developed for our worship opportunities during the most holy time of the year. Mark your calendars for those days and stay tuned for details.

4/1 Maundy Thursday

4/2 Good Friday

4/4 Easter



Holy Week

Important Information

Worship Life

While our building is being renovated, we are partnering with St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Canyon Lake. Just as they partnered with us in the beginning of the pandemic utilizing our sacred space, they have shown similar hospitality to open their doors and help us in our time of need. It is good to have wonderful neighbors to lift you up when you're hurting.

We expect to share worship life together during these repairs. Our covid cases are going down in the area which means we are approaching Phase 2 of regathering allowing us to utilize the building once again. My hope is that as the repairs are made, covid cases decline, and vaccinations are administered, we will have opportunities to worship in-person in the near future. Continue to lift up the leaders working on the restoration and safety protocols.

Worship opportunities include:

Sunday

8am Parking Lot Worship @ Peace

10am Livestream Worship (St. Andrew's site)

1pm Parking Lot Worship @ St. Andrew

Wednesday – prerecorded worship sent in the Wednesday e-blast and set to stream on Facebook Live and peacenb.org at 7pm.

Thrivent News

Did you know that Peace Lutheran is an enrolled organization to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars?

If you have a Thrivent membership you might be qualified to direct where Thrivent distributes a portion of charitable grant funds based on your participation. Thrivent Choice Dollars for last year must be used by March 31.



Also personal donations can be given for the Texas Winter Storms Response. The Texas Region will provide a \$1 match for every \$2 donated to several organizations. This match will run until the \$50,000 cap is met or until March 31. Any questions, please contact Michele Bauman at 512-618-1246.

Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox

How Lutherans Interpret the Bible Series



“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return empty until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:10-11

Our ELCA Constitution and The Bible

The ELCA Constitution has two foundational statements regarding the Bible.

First, there is a general statement (2.01) about the **Word of God**, which is understood in a threefold sense:

Jesus Christ (the incarnate Word)
The message of law and gospel (the proclaimed Word)
The Bible (the written word)

Second, there are specific statements in our ELCA constitution (2.02 and 2.03) about the Bible as being authoritative for the church's proclamation, faith, and life:

“This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.

The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.”

The Bible is the Word of God

When we say that the Bible is the Word of God, we are also saying that it:

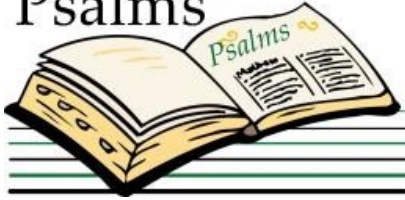
- ⇒ **Creates** a world in which the church lives
- ⇒ **Nourishes** us like food and drink
- ⇒ Gives us an **identity** as God's people
- ⇒ Gives us **language** – fluency in that language allows us to hear God more clearly and speak God's Word more effectively
- ⇒ **Shapes** our lives individually and together as the church of Christ.

Peace,
Deacon Andrew More

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

Bible Book of the Month

Psalms



The Book of Psalms

The Psalms have a special place in the prayer and worship life of Christians. Handed down from Judaism, the Psalms have become some of the most beloved and often quoted passages in the Bible. Perhaps you yourself have a favorite Psalm that has particular meaning to you. One of the reasons that the Psalms become so memorable and important to us is that they express an **incredibly wide range of human emotion and experience**. They are raw in their honesty. In the Psalms we find joy and sadness, confidence and doubt, tranquility and anger, celebration and lament. Indeed, we can relate to and find meaning in the Psalms because they are so “human”. Here’s some basic information as you spend time with the Psalms:

- Length: The Book of Psalms (also referred to as the “Psalter”) is the hymnal and prayer book of ancient Israel. There are 150 psalms in the Psalter, varying in length from a few lines to several pages.
- Authorship: The Psalms were written by numerous individuals and compiled over many years (even centuries) from older collections of lyrics.
- Name: The Hebrew (original) name for the Book of Psalms is “Tehillim”, which means “praises”.
- The word “Psalms” comes from the Greek work “psalmoi”, which referred to music played on a lyre or other stringed instrument, and later came to mean making music in any fashion.
- In imitation of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible), the Book of Psalms was divided into five books.

Book I:	Psalms 1-41
Book II:	Psalms 42-72
Book III:	Psalms 73-89
Book IV:	Psalms 90-106
Book V:	Psalms 107-150
- Most of the Psalms were written with a **liturgical function**, that is, to accompany rites or acts or worship in the Temple. The Psalms vary in terms of style, function, structure, and purpose. Several of the main types of Psalms include:
 - ⇒ **Prayers for Help/Laments**—express pleas for help by an individual or the community (or nation), often including:
 - * Call to be heard
 - * Complaints about God’s absence, the person’s suffering, and the role of oppressors
 - * Pleas for help
 - * Statements of trust in God
 - * Promises to praise God after the crisis is past
 - ⇒ **Hymns of Praise**—give witness to God’s love and grace through a call to praise God through worship
 - ⇒ **Songs of Trust**—in which an individual expresses their faith and confidence in God amid difficulties
 - ⇒ **Thanksgivings**—in which individuals express gratitude to God for deliverance in times of crisis
 - ⇒ **Sacred History**—in which some portion of the nation’s history and God’s dealings with it is recounted
 - ⇒ **Royal Psalms**—composed for specific occasions such as a coronation, royal wedding, or leadership
 - ⇒ **Wisdom Psalms**—which meditate on life and often include contrasts between the righteous and the unrighteous, the wise and the fool, God’s way and the world’s way.
- It is common for an individual Psalm to contain several of these various elements. It is helpful when you are reading and praying the Psalms to consider what type of Psalm style(s) it expresses.
- **When reading/praying/singing the Psalms, ask yourself questions like, “what is going on in this Psalm?” “What is the writer trying to express here?” “How does the writer seem to be feeling?” “How do these words speak to me?” “Where do I find myself in the words of this Psalm?”**

First Footing Homeless Shelter

First Footing is a collaborative effort seeks to establish and operate a short-term, hotel-based homeless shelter for adults, with the goal of becoming a permanent shelter. The program includes coordinated entry services for all community residents who are at risk of homelessness and/or have recently become unhoused.



1. Outreach- Provide both street outreach to unhoused community members, as well as service entry points for those most vulnerable to homelessness.
2. Shelter- Offer non-congregate shelter for homeless adults in a hotel setting with dinners and morning snacks provided. Shelter stays will be extended based on individual participation in case management services. Rooms can also be fitted to provide 24-hour COVID quarantines.
3. Case Management- Case management will be available to help individuals and families review risk factors that threaten housing stability and to develop and implement plans to improve health and sustainability. Case management will be available for shelter guests, as well as individuals or families who are experiencing housing instability and/or employment disruptions.
4. Other services- Additional services including assistance with job searches, permanent housing, health screenings, crisis intervention and mental health counseling, substance abuse recovery groups, linkages to spiritual support and guidance from the faith-based community, and assistance with overcoming obstacles to employment and housing, such as obtaining IDs, training, or benefits.
5. Aftercare- The program will connect participants to ongoing services in the community, develop and implement an aftercare plan that continues key concepts from the participant's original life plan, and assists the participant with change orders to the plan as needed.

First Footing opened at the beginning of February and operates out of the Howard Johnson at 201 TX Loop 337 in New Braunfels.

Mission Endowment Award

The Peace Mission Endowment is pleased to announce a \$5000 grant awarded to First Footing to help launch this vital initiative.

Peace's mission endowment fund furthers the mission of the congregation beyond the allocations of its general operating budget. It is regarded as an endowment fund, with the annual distribution shared with community and ELCA mission partners.

Current gifts may be given to the fund, and it is also designed to receive designated legacy (estate) gifts to the congregation. A mission endowment fund stewards these generous legacy gifts – both small and large – effectively, making the most of all that God has blessed us with.

A mission endowment fund gives confidence and assurance to members and friends considering a legacy gift to the congregation, as they know their gift will be stewarded wisely and will help the congregation expand its mission and outreach for years to come.

Members of Peace are invited to consider adding the congregation as a part of their charitable legacy plans. Deacon John Dellis, senior gift planner for the congregations in our synod through Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, is available to meet with members to discuss making legacy plans for family and loved ones, our congregation and other ministries of the church, and other non-profit organizations.

Meetings with him are at no cost, are confidential, and are at no obligation. Contact him at (830) 305-2758 or jdellis@lfsw.org to set an appointment to meet.

Church Council 2021

Don Hodde - President
 Lisa Harrison - Vice President
 Matthew Simmont - Secretary
 Megan Wenzel - Treasurer

Carol Franz - Member At-Large
 Hayden Kaufman - Member At-Large
 David Thomas - Member At-Large
 Amy Tiemann - 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:

Sunday, March 28th: Peaceful Piecers Quilting Fund

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.*****

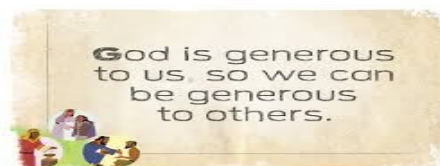
Early Parking Lot Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Live Stream Worship Service attendees can drop off donations in the church mailbox or mail their donation directly to the church. Please make your check out to Peace Lutheran Church and put Noisy Offering in the memo.



*****Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, 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.**

Finances January 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 80,905.49	\$ 49,484.54	\$ 30,229.36		\$ 100,160.67
Building Fund	\$ 34,011.90	\$ 135.55	\$ 0.00		\$ 34,147.45
Endowment Fund	\$ 8,186.88	\$ 248.76	\$ 0.00		\$ 8,435.64
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 148,133.26	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 148,133.26
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,775.37	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,775.88
Designated Funds	\$ 30,017.82	\$ 1,295.00	\$ 693.98		\$ 30,618.84
Total Funds	\$ 307,030.72	\$ 51,164.36	\$ 30,923.34		\$ 327,271.74



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
Sunday
8am Parking Lot Worship @ Peace
10am Livestream Worship (St. Andrew's site)
1pm Parking Lot Worship @ St. Andrew
Wednesday – prerecorded worship sent in the Wednesday e-blast and set to stream on Facebook Live and peacenb.org at 7p
peacenb.sermon.net or
[Facebook.com/PeaceLute](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLute)



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