



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

Holy Week Schedule

For Holy Week, we will not be at St. Andrew Lutheran in Canyon Lake.

4/1: Maundy Thursday – Join us on Zoom at 7pm for a celebration of the Last Supper. Jesus celebrated the Jewish Passover remembering liberation from slavery and oppression. He shared a special meal remembering God’s divine mercy and became the Passover Lamb which frees us from sin and death. You may log into Zoom with the community or celebrate this service in your own homes. A copy of the service can be found [HERE](#).



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89472903587>
Meeting ID: 894 7290 3587
Log in by Phone:+1 346 248 7799

4/2: Good Friday – The Stations of the Cross commemorate the various places Jesus traversed during his passion. We are meant to journey with him on that fateful night taking in the depth of his suffering and reflecting on the wonder of the Crucified Christ. A pre-recorded service will be shared on our various platforms at 7pm on Good Friday. In addition, an outdoor interactive worship will be shared from noon to 1:00 pm. You may come and go during that time.

4/4: Easter – 10am in-person and online content available. *No 8am parking lot worship.* We celebrate the highest holy day of the year, the resurrection of Jesus, with the opportunity to continue to gather in homes and view online or come to the church front lawn and bring your own chair and a mask. Both worship opportunities will be simultaneous recognizing we are all worshipping together whether online or in-person.



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A Message from the Pastor

Regathering for Worship in April

April is here! We are a year into the changing pandemic times and approaching our second Holy Week in this strange setting.

The good news is that our covid case count has come down from the 15% hospitalization rate in the region for over a month which means we can begin the next leg in our in-person regathering as a faith community. The bad news is that because our church building is under renovation, we don't have access to it.



Therefore, beginning April 4th, Easter Sunday, we will host worship on the outside lawn of Peace Lutheran Church AND livestream. Although Easter will include a pre-recorded worship in addition to the outside in-person option, we will begin worshipping outside at **10am each Sunday** livestreaming the outdoor, in-person worship.

Bring your own lawn chair for Easter service or tune in like normal logging into the [Peace Facebook Page](#) or <https://www.peacenb.org/live>. For those without chairs, we'll have some handy and spread out. Masks are still required for in-person activities. For the outdoor worship after Easter, you do not need to bring chairs. These worship services will be in the back parking lot.

Note: for any inclement weather, the outdoor service will be automatically canceled, and an in-door livestreaming worship will commence with a handful of worship leaders.

This will be our practice until the building is ready to use once again.

The 8am Parking Lot worship continues for folks to gather in their cars. The only Sunday we are not having the 8am parking lot is April 4th. The Parking Lot worship will NOT be canceled for inclement weather.



Peace always,

Pastor Jake

Abundant Blessings

April Birthdays

02 Alvin Bravenec
 02 Rebekah Wieting
 04 Bruce Thatcher
 04 Kathy Mosher
 04 Missy Paullus
 05 Debbie Bell
 06 Jim Boenig
 07 Terry Westerman
 08 Emily Khalil
 09 Emma Fain
 12 Christopher Briner
 14 Ann Keeler
 16 Jane Moeller
 16 Ruben Butrico
 17 Jace Kaufman
 18 Matt Tippens
 19 Lindsay Krauland
 21 Linda Fitzgerald
 24 Hunter Grimsley
 25 Courtney Peebles
 25 Lukas Tippens
 26 Bradley Thomas
 26 Alise Davenport
 27 Camryn Wilkie-Dickman
 28 Marlene Karabinus
 29 Brandie Luce
 30 Helen Lieck
 30 Xander Khalil

April Anniversaries

William and Linda Fitzgerald
 April 1, 1972
 Lee and Chris Cabibi
 April 6, 1974
 John and Patti Kassel
 April 7, 2001
 Brody and Shannon Johnson
 April 22, 2000
 James and Brandy Huston
 April 24, 2004
 Jim and Beverly Giacoletti
 April 27, 1984
 Jim and Judy Johnson
 April 28, 1967

Prayers

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

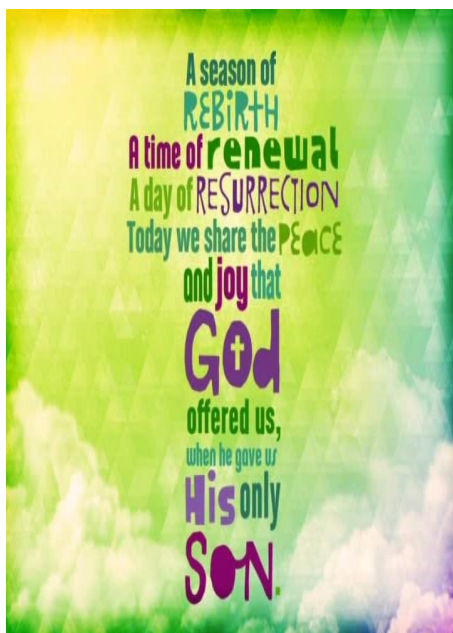
First Footing Homeless Shelter

The First Footing Homeless Shelter is in need of Queen and King size sheets and bath towels (new or gently used).

If you would like to purchase through Amazon, Serve Spot has provided the following Custom Wish List:
<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/1XRCS3K71D1XW/guest-view>

Please drop off your donations at :
 McKenna Center
 801 W. San Antonio Street

Please contact Kellie Stallings at 830-743-1330 or kellie.r.stallings@gmail.com for more information.



From the Castle

Foot Washing...the 3rd Sacrament? Diakonia

Before you start calling me a heretic...consider this. In a book entitled *Wilhelm Loehe and North America*, by the Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean of Wartburg Theological Seminary, the author states, "Jesus Christ is a diaconal minister. One of the most apt and accurate descriptions of the ministry of Jesus Christ is the ministry of Word and Service. From many angles the New Testament testifies to the servanthood of Jesus."



Jesus came to serve others. In John 13:12-17, we read a description of his tender act of washing the disciples' feet. Jesus invites his followers to ministry by washing each other's feet. The basin and towel are signs of Word and Service, the ministry of a Deacon.

Jesus continually sought out and raised up those forgotten, written off, oppressed people, existing on the margins of society and connected them to God's promises. Jesus identified and satisfied those in need. This too, is an attribute of diaconal ministry... connecting the world to Christ and Christ to the world.

Professor Nesson goes on to say, "As the New Testament makes clear, Word and Service ministry is not only the ministry of Jesus Christ, it is the ministry Jesus Christ entrusts to the whole church."

According to Lutheran theology, a sacrament is ordained by God, whereby the treasures of the Gospel (forgiveness, eternal life, salvation) are offered in a visible created means. Jesus himself, washed others feet, in service to all, through the use of created means (water, bowl, and pitcher). Imagine how this attitude of servanthood would change 'the church' and its ministry if foot washing was raised to the level of a sacrament!

Marianne Gould
Deacon Intern

Important Information

Building Update - Progress Report on Water Damage

Over the past 5 weeks, Servpro has been hard at work removing all the damaged drywall and exterior wall insulation throughout the entire facility, 12” off the floor. In addition, all lower cabinets were removed due to the wood swelling from standing water. We also had to tear up the sound booth and the riser for the altar to access the sheetrock. Because the water was standing throughout the building, it caused many of the floor tiles to start to buckle. The water that was expelled from the fire suppression system was classified as a level 3 contaminate. This is a very serious classification and helped justify the removal of all the flooring. The water had been stagnant within the piping for 30 years.

We were very fortunate that none of our electronics were damaged, including the organ and piano. Because our sanctuary chairs were solid hardwood, they will be cleaned and disinfected once all the construction is complete. Right now, the entire contents of the facility have been wrapped, boxed, and are being moved into 2-40’ storage units that have been placed in our parking lot.

We are working very closely with a general contractor and the insurance adjuster. Our hope is that we are only a few days away from being able to start reconstruction. All the flooring will be replaced, new carpeting installed on the altar riser, and all the rooms will be painted once the sheetrock has been replaced. We will be expanding the cabinetry in the fellowship hall, replacing all the kitchen, classroom, and sacristy cabinets to match, as well as looking into adding shower facilities in the back restrooms.



We have some minor electrical work that is outside the scope of the insurance claim. However, all the lighting fixtures will be upgraded to LED as most of the fixtures will be replaced as the humidity damaged the ballasts in most of the lights and caused several of the breakers to weaken.

Although a timeline has not yet been finalized, I estimate that it will take at least 2 months or more to complete all the work. More updates to follow...

John Kassel
Property Ministry Team Chairperson

Flowers 2021

Signing up for flowers will look a little different this 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 check payable to Peace and mark “flowers” in the memo. Contact the church office if you need any assistance.

Thank you!
Worship Ministry Team



Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox

How Lutherans Interpret the Bible Series



If there were bumper stickers back in Martin Luther's day (maybe to place on your family wagon), one of those would likely have been the Latin phrase "sola scriptura", which means "by scripture alone." But what exactly does that phrase mean, and why was this such a big deal to Luther, and to us as Lutheran Christians?

Martin Luther believed that Christian church's teaching, proclamation, and doctrine be grounded firstly and ultimately in the Bible. Luther was suspect or even critical whenever he sensed that this was not the case in church teaching or practice. For Luther, everything was subordinate to the Word of God, found in the Bible. This included the historical church councils, confessional writings, doctrines, practices of the church, and certainly papal/church authority. Luther believed that **scripture alone** was the sole authority for Christian faith and practice, and the only source and norm by which church doctrines were to be established and evaluated. Luther's outspoken and unwavering insistence on this belief was at odds with Rome, resulting in his eventual trial and excommunication from the Roman Catholic church in 1521.

So does this mean that Lutherans only believe things that are found in the Bible? No, that would be going way too far! There are a great many things that we know to be true that are not found in the Bible (science, mathematics, history, geography, etc). We acknowledge that the Bible is not primarily concerned with such things.

Secular or pagan philosophers say that there are two primary sources of truth:

1. **Human experience**—we know a thing to be true because our observations and experiences teach us that it is.
2. **Reason**—we know a thing to be true because it is logical and rational.

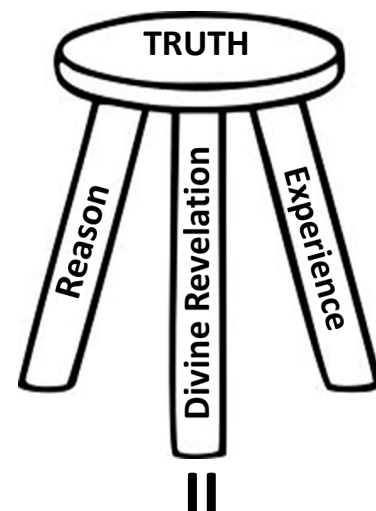
As Christians, we say there is more. We respect the validity of sound reason and the legitimacy of human experience. However, we also believe that are things in life beyond human experience and reason, and that there is a third source of ultimate truth:

3. **Divine Revelation**—we know a thing to be true because God has revealed it to be so.

Consider the following illustration of a three legged stool representing TRUTH:

Lutherans say that it is **the Bible alone** (not popes or church councils or doctrines or traditions or church practices or teachings or any other writings) that has **unique authority** as the only source for knowing divine truth that God reveals to us.

That is what is meant by the phrase, "**sola scriptura**".



"My conscience is captive to the Word of God"

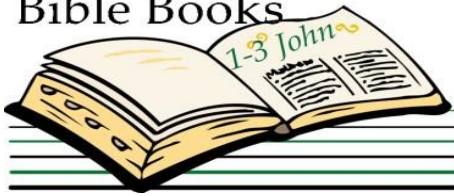
- Martin Luther, 1521

Scripture

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

April's Bible Books

Bible Books



1st, 2nd, & 3rd John

The letters of 1-3 John are three distinct writings that have been grouped together in our Bible due to early church tradition that they were all written by the author of the fourth gospel. All three writings indicate that there is conflict within the church community, though the conflict is different (although perhaps related) in each.

Some interesting aspects of 1st, 2nd & 3rd John:

- Length: 1 John is five chapters, but both 2 John and 3 John are a single page (one chapter) each. They are the two shortest “books” in our Bible and are classic examples of ancient Greco-Roman letters. 1 John, which does not have the same epistolary structure of 2 and 3 John, is less like a letter and more like a sermon exhorting the hearers to remain faithful to the teachings in which they have been instructed.
- Authorship: Most modern scholars conclude that they were written by either one or two people who belonged to the Johannine community of early Christian churches, but not necessarily by the writer of the fourth gospel. Both 2 John and 3 John are written by someone who refers to himself as “the elder”.
- Date: Some time after the writing of the Gospel of John, towards the end of the 1st century CE.
- In 2 John, the “elect lady” (v.1) and the “elect sister” (v.13) are likely honorific titles for two of the Johannine congregations, rather than referring to specific individuals.
- 2 John is written for a collective audience of hearers, whereas 3 John appears to be written as a personal letter to someone referred to as “Gaius”. The names Gaius, Demetrius, and Diotrephes make it clear that there were gentiles (majority?) within the Johannine community.
- 1 John addresses a serious schism from within the Johannine community which threatens the orthodoxy of its teachings and the integrity of its membership. Some members have already departed (2:19), and so the writing focuses on encouraging those who remain to strengthen their faith in God and their relationships with each other.
- Clearly, many themes of the Gospel of John are reflected in these three letters:
 - ⇒ Distinctions between light and darkness, truth and falsehood, the community and the “world”, life and death
 - ⇒ The pre-existence of Jesus from “the beginning”
 - ⇒ Believers in Jesus being born “from God” / “from above”
 - ⇒ The importance of abiding in God’s / Jesus’ love
 - ⇒ Having love for one another, caring for one another, praying for one another as an imitation of the unity found in God (“Beloved, if God so loved us, so we also ought to love one another”).

*Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is from God,
and whoever loves has been born of God
and knows God.
Anyone who does not love does not know God
because God is Love*

~ 1 John 4:7-8

A Letter From Serve Spot

Dear Peace Lutheran,

I love that God brings beauty from ashes and good from pain and sorrow. The last 12 months have been a year of loss and change and sorrow. When we think it can't get any worse, we learned to bite our tongues as we learned that it could get worse. I can only imagine many of you have lost health, friendships, "normalcy", and possibly even loved ones due to the pandemic and its major tsunami effects on the life of our world. I am so sorry to hear about your water damage to the church building.



I want to bring you some good news that has come out of 2020 due to God's working in our community and through your generosity!

Last summer, the Peace Lutheran Endowment Committee selected Serve Spot as your grant recipient. That gift toward marketing our website (www.servespot.org) has snowballed into blessings for so many in our community. Your confidence in this site and the vision Serve Spot has for New Braunfels launched us into a jaw dropping season of awe as we watch the Lord at work. Let me tell you a few stories...

First, we launched Serve Spot to New Braunfels in October 2020. Then you supplied funds for us to create a **2 minute video** to educate our community on our goals and services. "What is Serve Spot?" can be found on our main page www.servespot.org. This has been very helpful in communicating the purpose of the site and how it can help our community.

First Footing Shelter Partner Congregations: The Serve Spot team learned that the First Footing Shelter had all of the moving parts needed to launch in early 2021 except financial support. We informed the "Big C" Church of New Braunfels of the need and built a team of 10 congregations (yours included) who financially support the shelter (\$75,000 and counting!) and are hands on helpers with immediate needs of shelter guests (think breakfasts, boots for a new job, fostering a homeless guest's dog, etc.). The shelter saved lives during "Snowpocalypse" giving shelter to those who did not have protection.

Boosting the work of our area nonprofits:

- ♥ Our local foster/adoption support nonprofit CEO Jenni Lord of **Chosen**, was featured on a podcast and received a \$25,000 grant through Serve Spot connections. Listen to this podcast here: <https://legacycollective.libsyn.com/chosen>. We nominated another nonprofit for a similar grant through Legacy Collective and will continue to do so with area nonprofits.
- ♥ We have been meeting with multiple **nonprofits**, connecting them to one another with resources, ideas, and using one another so they don't need to "reinvent the wheel". Meals are being provided, speakers to educate one another's volunteers, and marketing are all being shared through these connections.
- ♥ Our **Facebook** ads (thanks to your funding) have been seen by over 20,000 people in the last 4 months.
- ♥ Our **website** that includes a directory of care and volunteer portal has seen a continued increase in views each month due to marketing. We're seeing over 400 visitors per month.

National Impact: Serve Spot is on a team of 90+ cities across the country who are working on loving our cities well. New Braunfels is not alone in our dream to unite and serve our neighbors more effectively! New Braunfels is to be featured in a book about cities coming together in unity to love and serve their neighbors this year through this organization, Love Our Cities (book with same name). To learn more about Love Our Cities go to www.loveourcities.org

Unity Matters to God. Let's keep following His lead and be a part of his work in New Braunfels!

Thank you again for your support of Serve Spot!

Kim and the Serve Spot Team

Want to stay connected?

Sign up for our newsletter at info@servespot.org subject line: newsletter
Or follow us on social media <https://www.facebook.com/servespot>

Family Easter Celebration



*Calling all families with children
elementary school age and younger!*

Join us on Saturday, **April 3rd @ 11:00 am** on the church lawn for an outdoor family Easter celebration featuring an Easter egg hunt, singing, Easter crafts and other activities!

We will also have a picnic lunch with hot dogs and hamburgers, so come hungry and ready for fun!

Contact Deacon Andrew for more information at [deacon @peacenb.org](mailto:deacon@peacenb.org).

Winter Wonderland



The winter storm in February was a rarity for Texas and the New Braunfels area. Hoping that everyone has survived the unusual weather. It can be very trying, with the cold temperatures, the ice and the snow. Capped off by the alternating electrical power and then don't drink the water. Also let us not forget about Covid. Anyway, it looks like everything is almost back too normal. That also depends on who is defining normal. I am hoping that everyone is doing okay.

From our Daily Bread (February 24, 2021), "The hurt of feeling alone isn't new to our day. The pain of isolation echoes off the pages of Ecclesiastes. The book captures the sorrow of those who seem to lack any meaningful relationship. The speaker lamented that it is possible to acquire significant wealth and yet experience no value from it, because there is no one to share it with."

From Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better off than one, because they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls it is just too bad, because there is no one to help him."

So if you are feeling alone or isolated as result of the recent storm, or because of Covid. Contact the Stephen Ministers. Call Pastor Jake or our Referral Coordinator, Bill Purcell 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 Minister

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, April 25th: UpBring

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.*****

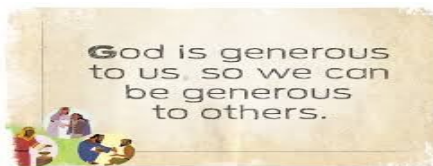
Early Parking Lot Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Live Stream Worship Service attendees can drop off donations in the church mailbox or mail their donation directly to the church. Please make your check out to Peace Lutheran Church and put Noisy Offering in the memo.



*****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 February 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 100,160.67	\$ 24,560.68	\$ 30,874.36		\$ 93,846.99
Building Fund	\$ 34,147.45	\$ 123.40	\$ 0.00		\$ 34,270.85
Endowment Fund	\$ 8,435.64	\$ 153.46	\$ 0.00		\$ 8,589.10
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 148,133.26	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 148,133.26
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,775.88	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,776.32
Designated Funds	\$ 30,618.84	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 75.00		\$ 32,183.84
Total Funds	\$ 327,271.74	\$ 26,477.98	\$ 30,949.36		\$ 322,800.36



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

Beginning in April, after Easter
Sunday
8am Parking Lot Worship @ Peace
10am Outdoor Worship and
Livestream @ Peace

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



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