

# Worship

As reconstruction continues on the church building for the next couple of months, remember we are the church (community), and the building is being renovated.

#### Worship Opportunities:

<u>8am Parking Lot Worship</u> in vehicles: Worship in the comfort of your vehicles in the community (much like a Drive-In Theater) using your radio to participate and in worship and hear the worship leaders.

10am Worship Outdoors and Livestream: Currently we are worshipping on the front lawn. Bring your own lawn chair and enjoy the beauty of God's creation outdoor under the shade trees. Our new cameras and robust media team help provide worship online (<a href="www.peacenb.org/live">www.peacenb.org/live</a>) at this time for a live broadcast of outdoor worship. You can download your bulletin each week on the peace website or from your weekly Saturday e-blast.

#### Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> Worship

The Synod Assembly is happening over the weekend which gives us a <u>chance to worship with our entire synod</u> as <u>church together</u>.

8am worship will continue in the parking lot.

**10am worship will be livestream only** (no in-person) with the hope we can worship with many others ELCA Lutherans throughout South Texas.

All livestreamed can be found at www.peacenb.org/live



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# A Message from the Pastor

#### **Into the River**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

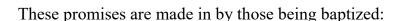
Mark 1:9-11

In the gospel of Mark everything begins in the river. It's the story of Jesus' baptism, a commissioning of God's Spirit upon Jesus and everything to follow an extension of this baptismal promise.

So too the church are the baptized who join in God's call that we belong to him and everything else to follow is to live immersed in this promise.

On May 22nd, Haley and Lillian Morelock were baptized in the Guadalupe River at Cypress Bend Park. Baptism is a public act in which the church is called to witness to and make promises that we will stand by and support these young people in their promises to follow Jesus.

We too get to witness the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon them as God speaks the same words of affirmation, "You are mine, whom I love; with you I am well please."



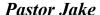
- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



Finally, the church community itself makes promises to support and pray for the baptized in their life in Christ.

As we continue to regather as a community, my hope is that you go back to the river of baptism in which these promises were made to you and by you and through the church community. May this be an opportunity for you to return to the river of life and renew your baptism along with others allowing the waters of grace to pour out upon you and remember those living waters are still flowing.

Peace always,





# **Abundant Blessings**

# June Birthdays

#### 01 **Beverly Giacoletti** 01 **Shannon Johnson** 04 **Addison Armstrong** 05 **Charles Probst** 06 **Susan Heise** 06 **Bly Martin** 07 Phillip Garcia 08 Jacob Paullus 09 **Tina Tudlong** 09 Miranda Johnson 09 Ava Gonzalez 10 **Marilyn Ruttan** 10 Gene Hada 14 **Corrine Valnes** 14 **Martin Franz** 14 **Timothy Will** 16 **Brenner Kriley** 21 **Kathi Anderson** 22 Dee Rossi 23 Rhonda Schmidt 24 Jeremy Davenport 25 Judi Miller 29 Jim Johnson 29 **Greg Butrico** 30 **Evelyn Guerin**

# **Prayers**

Trice Kastein
Lindsay Friedrich
Martin Franz
Ron Podojil
Rhonda Schmidt
Cody Smith
Helen Probst
Bob Schlabach

#### **June Anniversaries**

Mitch and Marianne Gould June 3, 1977 Marc and Heidi Stone June 4, 2011 Martin and Carol Franz June 5, 1964 Richard and Jeannie Kawazoe June 6, 1970 **Bruce and Carol Thatcher** June 7, 1958 Jack and Vicki Ralph June 8, 1985 **Larry and Trice Kastein** June 9, 1972 **David and Linda Lange** June 12, 1964 Art and Ellie Woytek June 14, 2003 **Roy and Jane Moeller** June 15, 1969 Martin and JoAnn Mayer June 15, 1996 Richard and Brandie Luce June 15, 2002 **Charles and Helen Probst** June 16, 1953 Eric and Lyndsey Dickman June 16, 2001 J.T. and Carol Ann Miller June 17, 1989 **Brett and Michele Krilev** June 18, 1992 Jeremy and Michelle Davenport June 18, 2005 Jake and Melissa Fain June 19, 2004 **Lupe and Heather Salas** June 23, 2012 James and Kelly Thibodeaux June 24, 2017 Jim and Judi Miller June 25, 1968 **Tommy and Becky Perkins** June 29, 1968 **David and Brenda Martin** June 30, 1990

# Congratulations Graduates!

- graduates from Seguin
  High School where she
  finished in the top 5% of
  her class. She is a member
  of the National Honor
  Society, and was involved
  in cheerleading for all 4
  years, including as varsity
  cheer captain. She plans to
  attend the University of
  Texas in Austin this fall.
  She is the daughter of
  Maria Haiyasoso.
- Jillian Wold is an outstanding wrestler as well as a straight "A" student. This year she won most of her matches to win 5th in the Nation at the tournament in North Dakota, and now second in the State of Texas. Jillian has accepted a scholarship to Trinity University in San Antonio and plans to study Environmental Science. She has decided not to continue wrestling in college, but will qualify as a wrestling judge to earn extra money on the weekends. She is daughter of Kez and JoAnna Wold.



#### From the Castle

#### Chronos / Kairos

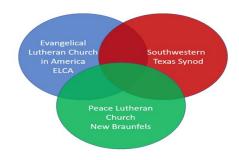
Chronos and Kairos are Greek words that describe two different kinds of time. Of course, whenever I think of time, I always think about Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:" Pete Seeger wrote the song "Turn, Turn, Turn" as a response to his music publisher who wanted something besides songs of protest. In spite of that, Pete wrote another protest song and used verses from scripture.

Specifically, it was Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8, from one of the "wisdom" books of the Old Testament, collections of truths and sayings. The words attributed "a season" to a series of opposing actions: "A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap; a time to kill, a time to heal," etc. Seeger took the text almost verbatim. He added the "turn, turn, turn" to build a chorus and tacked on his own hopeful concluding line for cold war audiences: "A time of peace; I swear it's not too late."

Chronos is the word used to describe regular time keeping. Today we use watches or cell phones to keep up with the time of day. We pay attention to the 'season' or time period such as moon cycles or tides. Kairos, however, is what philosophers and mystics refer to as "deep time" or meditation. When someone is engrossed in a particular activity in which they lose all track of time, they are on "God" time. When I walk along the sand at the edge of ocean, I become one with my thoughts and lose all track of time. When I watercolor or practice the organ or piano, I become one with the medium and lose all track of time. It is a time when worries, thoughts and timetables disappear. What activity do you enjoy that takes you from chronos into kairos? God's first language is silence. May you find some God-time in your life today.

Marianne Gould Deacon Intern

# Southwestern Texas Synod Assembly 2021



LIVE Expectantly LOVE Alundantly

Peace Lutheran is a part of the Southwestern Texas Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our congregational identity extends beyond the local church into these two other layers. Together they make up the national, synodical, and local church.

The Synod is a collection of 130 ELCA congregations throughout South Texas. Each year a synod assembly takes place much like a congregational annual meeting that comes together to learn, to share stories of God's work in the world, to elect leaders, and establish a missional budget to advance God's work together.

You may join online at <u>www.peacenb.org</u> and tune into the work of the church.

Other resources can be found at:

www.swtsynod.org

www.elca.org

# **Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox**



**How Lutherans Interpret the Bible Series** 

The Importance of Context

**Part 2: Historical Context** 

Lutherans interpret scripture <u>contextually</u>. We ask about the <u>literary context</u> of the writing in which individual passages are found. We also ask about the <u>historical</u>

**context** of the situation the writing was intended to address. Taking into account BOTH the literary and historical context of the writings of the Bible helps us to better understand the intended purpose and overall message of each writing. Failing to take literary and historical context can lead to misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

Often we read the Bible through the filter of personal application—meaning that we often read the Bible asking, "what does this passage of scripture mean to me and for me?" But before we can ask that question, it is very helpful to take a step back first and remember that each writing from the Bible came out of a specific historical context. As we examine the historical context the writings in the Bible, there are several important questions for us to consider:

WHEN was this passage/section of the Bible written?
WHERE are the events of this writing taking place?
WHO was the author of this writing?
WHO were the intended audience(s) /recipients of this writing?
WHAT was happening in their lives and in the world at that time?

Based on the above information, we can also consider these additional questions: WHY was this passage/section/book written? WHAT was the intended purpose of the author(s)? HOW might these words have been heard and interpreted by the original audience? WHAT might their perspective been?

As you read this list of questions, you may be thinking, "Deacon Andrew, this sounds like a lot of work!" My response to you is "yes, you are right, but the work will be worth it in the end!" It is certainly possible to read the Bible without asking any of these questions, but the result of a face-value out-of-context reading can prove quite problematic. Conversely, reading the Bible while simultaneously answering these questions can yield amazing fruit for your efforts, deepening your understanding and appreciation of the words in the Bible, and therefore its application to your own life! The good news is that, based on the Biblical text itself and centuries of Biblical research, we know many if not most of the answers to these questions.

#### WHERE TO LOOK:

So where might you look for answers to these historical context questions? The three places I recommend are:

- → A Bible Dictionary
- ⇒ A **Study Bible**'s introductory page(s) to each individual writing of the Bible
- ⇒ Our **Bible Book of the Month** articles in our monthly newsletter

May God bless your exploration! Keep learning, keep growing!

Blessings, Deacon Andrew

# From the Council President - Renovation Update

Greetings to members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church! It has been three months since the winter storm that took its toll on our community, and unfortunately, our church building. As you know, during that storm, several sprinkler heads in the fire suppression system at the church burst from the freezing temperatures, resulting in water damage to walls and floors throughout the building. A LOT of good work has taken place to restore the facilities to a usable state, but much remains to be done. A special thanks goes out to John Kassel, our church council property board lead, who has been instrumental in managing the work effort with insurance companies, contractors, and others involved with this restoration project. And many thanks as well to our church pastor and staff, who have worked diligently to maintain our ability to worship and manage church affairs despite the challenges of limited resources during this time.

This note is to give you a brief update and set some expectations for the weeks and months ahead. At this point, we are still tracking to return to worship in the church building in the July timeframe. We do not know the exact week yet, but as progress is made, we will be able to home in on specific dates.

The good news is that our insurance company has been a good partner with us in covering the cost of repairs related to the storm. The church's financial liability for the almost \$300,000 in repairs required is a \$2,500 deductible!

Repairs are primarily for replacing the lowest one foot of sheetrock on all walls, the replacement of flooring and cabinets, exterior wall insulation, ceiling lights damaged from the water and humidity, and painting of all the walls throughout the building.

As repair assessment and initial remediation work got started, Pastor Jake and I discussed that this might be an opportune time to look at changes that could be made to the facilities to better serve the ministries we do now and may want to do in the future. A committee was put together to make an assessment and several ideas surfaced.



The decision process focused on discerning how Peace Lutheran might better carry out God's mission in service to the New Braunfels area through facility improvements. Key themes emerged that focused on serving our church community as well as the neighboring community in broader ways, getting higher percentages of utilization each week from our facilities, recognizing that the world is changing, and we need to better leverage technology and media to enable ministry! How could we take advantage of this forced downtime and reconstruction state to implement improvements at a lower cost?

Drivers for change included:

- Improving the experience for ministries like Family Promise and for other traveling groups that want to use our facilities for temporary lodging. As our community grows, how can we position our facilities to better serve those in need? As the New Braunfels area is a fun place to visit, how could we improve how we support traveling youth and family groups?
- Lending use of our facilities for organizations needing space to enable community services. How could we partner with 'virtual' organizations in need of facilities to host their services and by doing so expand the value we bring to the community?
- Improving capability to host large events, like lunches, dinners, etc.
- Improve capability to enable virtualized ministry, through both technology and facilities
- Storage! Many of the rooms in the education wing have become 'stuff collectors', limiting their availability for ministry and activities. How could we provide dedicated storage to meet needs and free up meeting space to better enable ministry?

# From the Council President - Renovation Update

Given the contractors needed decisions quickly, the church council met last week and agreed to approve funding that could be used in conjunction with insurance proceeds and gifts received for flood relief to enable the following:

- Expand restrooms in the main hallway to include shower facilities. This will better support existing ministries like Family Promise as well as better serve traveling family and youth groups that need lodging when visiting the New Braunfels area for recreation, retreats, etc.
- Add a washer/dryer to also support groups using our facility for lodging, but also support cleaning required for church activities
- Create a facility wide WIFI network to support hi quality internet connections throughout
- Provide wiring and mounts needed for new livestream video equipment in the sanctuary
- Knock out a wall between rooms 109 and 110 to create an expanded space for music ministry teams, as well a space to support large group needs
- Add a commercial icemaker to improve hosting for large gatherings

In addition, work had already been planned to build a new audio/visual booth at the rear of the sanctuary but was delayed last year. That delay proved a blessing in that a new booth would have been damaged in the flood! This new booth is now under construction.

All these improvements will be in place when the church reopens! Ministry opportunities to leverage these improvements are already being planned!

One unfortunate discovery was made as remediation teams started working to tear out wet walls and floors. Mold was found along the east wall of the Fellowship Hall and in the west walls of the sanctuary behind the altar. Crews were immediately brought in to initiate work to make it safe to be in the building. Further investigation found the mold was not from this flood but had been there for some time. Work is in progress to determine remediation work needed and associated cost.

As I said in opening this update, while much good work has been done, much remains to be done to restore our church facilities to an operative state. While the hands-on work required proceeds, what can you do to support these efforts?

- 1. Pray for leaders and the work of the church to continue throughout the renovation. This is a huge project, and prayers connect us to one another, strengthening the body of Christ. One of the great tools the Lord gives in our struggles is the power of prayer. Ephesians 5:16-20
- 2. Encourage one another. The Bible tells us to build one another up; not just buildings, but people. In a world that often tears things down, we build and rebuild each other with words of comfort, guidance, and support. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- 3. Give generously to not only rebuild our church facilities but anticipate the improvements that our sacred space will be even better than before. Investing in your faith community is a growth opportunity in discipleship.

  Matthew 6:20
- 4. Celebrate the joy of coming together again. The whole book of Nehemiah is a rebuilding process in which the people work together to build back the city with excitement of God's restoration. Nehemiah 12:27
- 5. Stay connected. Jesus teaches us that he is the vine and we are the branches, growing as we remain rooted in him. We recognize our typical patterns of communal spirituality have been disrupted, but we remain steadfastly connected to Christ and one another. John 15:5

Wow! That's a lot to absorb, and I'm sorry this update is so long, but there was a lot to cover! Have some questions? Have some suggestions? We welcome both! Feel free to contact Pastor Jake, John Kassel, or myself.

See you in church!

Don Hodde Peace Church Council President

# **Congratulations Confirmands!**



On this Pentecost, we celebrate three of our young people, **Haley Morelock**, **Jace Kaufman**, and **Megan Ohnheiser** as they publicly affirm the promises made at their baptism to continue their life in Christ. We rejoice in God's presence in their lives and pray that their faith will continue to bring them strength, inspiration and guidance!







Jace



Megan

# **Outdoor Summer Movie Nights @Church**

June 11th: "Wreck It Ralph"

July 16th: "The Lego Movie"

August 13th: "Moana"

All movies are on a Friday night and begin at 8:30 pm



Bring your lawn chair, your favorite drinks & snacks, and enjoy a family-friendly (and FREE) movie outside on the lawn of the church! ALL ages are invited, and this is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to enjoy some Peace Lutheran hospitality, too!

# VBS 2021: "Following Jesus: I'm A Disciple!"



(All children up through 5th Grade)

Monday June 21st—Friday, June 25th 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm on ZOOM

Saturday, June 26th—VBS Picnic 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Landa Park (Shelter #6)

Our VBS theme this year is "Following Jesus: I'm A Disciple!" Often when we talk about "disciples of Jesus", we think about Peter, James, John and the rest of the twelve men who we read about in the Bible. But EACH ONE OF US is a disciple of Jesus through our baptism. With stories, puppets, videos, songs, and special guests, we will learn about ways we can follow Jesus in our daily lives. Each night we will focus on a different discipleship practice:

# I Pray ~ I Worship ~ I Learn ~ I Give ~ I Serve

Watch for the ZOOM link through our electronic communications in June. Note: With all the uncertainties of Covid and church renovations at Peace, we decided to go with a virtual VBS again this summer, followed by a picnic together out at Landa Park to give us some much needed in-person time for fun that Saturday! The other advantage of a virtual VBS is sharing the week with our friends from both Peace and St. Andrew together. It even allows out of town family and people on vacation to join us as well.

# **Noisy Offering**

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

Sunday, June 27 - God's Work. Our Hands - The Big Serve

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Watch your newsletter and eblasts for the date of this special event.



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.\*\*\*

In Person Worship Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Livestream 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.

# **Prayer Clusters**

Our Care Team joined together pondering how might we engage our community life together in this in-between time of pandemic "physical distancing" and our building renovation and returning to in-person activity.

We want to begin with an intentional time of prayer connecting us to the Lord. Because when we are connected to God, we are naturally connected to God's community. Therefore, we have divided the congregation into clusters of five households and are asking you to pray for each family in your cluster during the month of June and know that they will also be praying for you.

Our hope is that you will form a spiritual bond as you enter this intentional time of prayer and remember these families. Before June the Peace community will send out a mailed invitation with your five households to pray for. As you enter this intentional time of prayer, take the time to grow closer to one another spiritually and reconnect as God's caring people.



# **Stephen Ministry**

#### A New Day

How often when we wake up do we think about the things that we are anticipating for the day

or the week? Anticipating both the good and the unpleasant, but which do we spend more time on? How often we dwell on the unpleasant issues. Is this occupying our thoughts so much that we get headaches, feel upset or feel down? Life has its ups and downs; why don't we spend more time looking at the good? Is it because we may not feel that we are deserving the good? Would we rather live in the valley? Have we forgotten that God is always present to look over us and help us?

From our Daily Bread, (April 3, 2021) (Psalm 89: v 5) Our incomparable God rules "over the surging sea, when its waves mount up. [God] stills them. (v.9) He "founded the world and all that is in it". (v.11) He made it all, manages it all, and purposes it all for His glory and our enjoyment. Always remember that we are not alone. Standing on the foundation of our faith, the love of our unchanging Father, we can "walk in the light of [His] presence" (v.15). God remains mighty in power and merciful in His dealings with us. We can rejoice in his name all day long (v.16). No matter what obstacle we may face or how many setbacks we have to endure, God holds us as the waves rise and fall.

Just remember that we are never alone, that God is always walking along side with us. Those who are experiencing difficulties, overwhelmed or preoccupied with "unpleasant news" contact the church or a Stephen Minister. If you would like some help, contact 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 <a href="https://www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry">www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry</a>

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

#### **AmazonSmile**

### AmazonSmile Can Support Peace Lutheran Church

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.



The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(C)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donation amounts generated by the AmazonSmile program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable

organizations selected by our customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization.

The link <a href="https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2480937">https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2480937</a> will take people directly to smile.amazon.com in support of Peace Lutheran Church. You do have the option to search for Peace as well on the Smile website, if you do not want to use the link.

If you have questions, contact the church office at 830-620-0618.

Valerie Wood Finance Administrator

# **Giving at Peace**

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.



# Finances April 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 87,089.47	\$ 28,456.83	\$ 29,139.72		\$ 86,406.58
Building Fund	\$ 39,019.70	\$ 197,419.31*	\$ 162,488.94**		\$ 73,950.07
Endowment Fund	\$ 3,701.08	\$ 166.50	\$ 0.00		\$ 3,867.58
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 152,697.44	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 152,697.44
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,776.81	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,777.28
Designated Funds	\$ 32,705.19	\$ 955.00	\$ 1,779.35		\$ 31,880.84
Total Funds	\$ 320,989.69	\$ 226,998.11	\$ 193,408.01		\$ 354,579.79

\*\$197,419.31: \$100.00 - Building Fund Offerings; \$29.85 - Interest; \$188,706.96 - Insurance Check; \$8,582.50 - Flood Repair Donations

\*\*\$162,488.94: \$68,003.56 - Water Remediation; \$94,485.38 - Down Payment on Construction



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 Outdoor Worship and Livestream @ Peace

peacenb.org/live

Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S. Walnut Ave.

PEACE
LUTHERAN New Braunfels, TX 78130