



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

Sanctuary and Summer Worship

Come and worship the Lord at our 10am in-person and livestream in the sanctuary through the summer months.

With vaccines widely available we hope you're safe and protected, while also recognizing children still don't have access. Therefore, continue to live into the greatest commandment that Jesus taught us, "Love your neighbor." We'll continue to have livestream at www.peacenb.org/live. If you're worshipping from home or on the road, God has given us this great way to stay connected. You can even catch up if you missed out on a Sunday and visit archived worships.

We'll look to September to determine our Fall schedule.

Progress continues to be made on the building and our sanctuary. Not only is it getting a great makeover (new paint, floors, and mold remediation), but thanks to the service of Wil Voges and David Martin, we've got a renovated media booth to ensure sound, video, and projection quality. Thank you for your patience and prayers during this time.



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A Message from the Pastor

Life Groups



Each fall I make a big push for Life Groups (small group ministry) in the life of the church. It's hard to commit to anything these days with our frenetic schedules. It's harder still as we live in a time of great uncertainty.

I want to make the case that this past year revealed to the world just how fragile we are and how much we need one another. Life Groups are meant to connect you with a small cohort of people who go deeper in study, prayer, and community life with you. Grounded in God's Word, the

opportunity is to expand a deep, vibrant faith so that despite what storms of life may come, you know Christ is present with you even when you can't see him clearly. Furthermore, you know there is a group of people out there supporting you and at the same time a group you are called to support and care for.

Each Sunday you'll hear a message in worship (or you can worship online if you missed), and later that week go deeper in that spiritual truth with your group. This fall we are exploring a series called Renovate: Building a Life with God. We'll explore the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, two Old Testament books that deal with a period in which the Israelites return from exile and rebuild the Temple. Although the backdrop of the story is framed around the rebuilding of the Temple, the story also describes the rebuilding of the community itself.

My hope is that as we come together as a church, we rebuild our lives centered on God and discover again what it means to walk together in faith as Peace Lutheran Church.

Look for signups online posted in mid-August.

Fall Schedule:

09/12 Renovate: Building a Life with God
09/19 Renovate: Building a Life with God
09/26 Renovate: Building a Life with God
10/03 Renovate: Building a Life with God

10/10 Renovate: Building a Life with God
10/17 Renovate: Building a Life with God
10/24 Dedication of People – Stewardship Sunday

Session 1: Never Too Late for Renovation
Session 2: Crying and Building
Session 3: What to Know Before You Build
Session 4: When Others Don't Like Your Plans
Session 5: Inviting Others to Come Home
Session 6: The Big Reveal

Peace always,

Pastor Jake



Abundant Blessings

August Birthdays

01 Lupe Salas
 03 Sarah Fain
 04 Tina Scott
 05 Xavier Khalil
 07 Forrest Willis
 08 Lyndsey Dickman
 10 Genevieve Butrico
 13 Vivienne Khalil
 14 Ken Witten
 14 Eric Ralph
 16 Judy Johnson
 17 Karl Stellges
 19 Barbara Hodde
 21 Lupe Travis
 23 Nora Miller
 24 Tina Butrico
 24 George Will
 27 Betty Rust
 28 Michael Wenzel
 28 Haley Morelock
 29 Linda McClintock
 31 Earl Blaschke

August Anniversaries

Bill and Sharon Purcell
 August 8, 1992
 Bill and Dayna Miller
 August 9, 1986
 Bob and JoAnn Schlabach
 August 10, 1963
 Michael and Gayle Morris
 August 14, 1976
 Marvin and Sharon Monson
 August 16, 1964
 Dean Armstrong and
 Heidi Brundrett
 August 18, 2007
 Tommy and Ceretta Daum
 August 29, 1970

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Natanael Lizarazo and his family at the death of his sister, Elda.

Prayers

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

Holy Baptism

Charlotte Jean Killian was reborn a child of God and an inheritor of eternal life, through baptism, on July 25, 2021. Charlotte is the daughter of Amanda and Rachelle Killian.

We welcome Charlotte into the Lord's family. We receive her as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

Prayer Clusters

Thanks and Blessing to all of you that participated in praying for your prayer cluster. What a wonderful time of faithful commitment to all in our Peace community. God heard the prayers of his Faithful People and many petitions were brought to God, known and unknown.

A couple of prayer partners stated they had sent their prayer partners in their cluster a note.

One praying partner stated she had prayed regularly the first couple of days and after that she had sort of drifted off. Her husband had been in the hospital and had surgery. The couple of days she was praying, she was with him in the hospital. After she went home and became his caregiver is when the praying sort of slacked off but a few days later she began praying for her cluster of 4 with renewed commitment.

A young boy age 6: His Dad states that he knows all the folks' names on their prayer list.

By mid June, several more members wrote notes to their prayer partners.

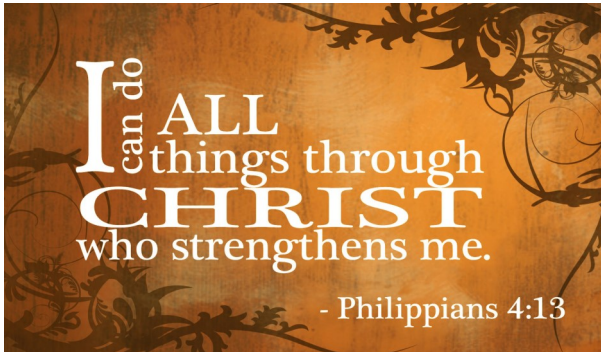
A member, who is battling cancer, was asked to join the Cancer support group through the prayer cluster.

These are only a few of the many stories and experiences brought about by our praying clusters. Introduce yourself to those you prayed for in the next few weeks if you don't already know them. We hope that your prayer life has been enriched by praying for these folks in your prayer cluster during the month of June. No prayer is too small. No concern is too small. Bring your burdens, big and small, to the Lord. When we pray, things happen. God moves. Circumstances change. Prayer does mighty things.

"As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, and the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray." Martin Luther
 The Care Team - Peace Lutheran Church



A Message from the Deacon



Philippians

The book of Philippians is actually a letter written by the Apostle Paul to a group of Christians in the city of Philippi in the mid-first century. Philippi was located in a region known as Macedonia, in northern Greece. Paul had travelled to Philippi on one of his missionary journeys, and while there he helped establish a mission congregation. There were probably other letters written back and forth between Paul and the Philippian congregation. What we have here is the letter(s) that have survived and been incorporated by the early church into the canon of scripture.

Some interesting aspects of Philippians:

- Length: 4 Chapters
- Authorship: In Philippians 1:1, Paul sends greetings to the Philippians from “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus”. Timothy was one of Paul’s co-workers in spreading the gospel, but it was Paul who actually wrote this letter.
- Philippi was the first Christian community on the European continent.
- The letter itself indicates that Paul wrote this letter while he was in prison (Phil. 1:12-14) and awaiting trial, for preaching the gospel. It is not entirely clear where Paul was imprisoned when he wrote this letter, most likely either from Rome or Ephesus.
- Given that Paul wrote this letter from jail, it is remarkable that its overarching theme is rejoicing in the cross of Jesus, even in the face of tribulation. Philippians is sometimes referred to as “The Letter of Joy”.
- The immediate occasion for this particular letter was Paul thanking the Philippian congregation for their faithfulness, their financial support, and for sending one of their own, Epaphroditus, to care for him. Apparently Epaphroditus had become ill while tending to Paul, so Paul sent him back to Philippi (Phil. 2:25-30).
- Spreading the gospel was never an easy task, and Philippi was no exception. Paul mentions “opposition” that he encountered when he first reached Philippi (Phil. 1:28-30) and the shameful treatment he ran into while there (1 Thess. 1:2).
- Paul warns against those who would try to proclaim a gospel different from the one he originally brought to them (3:2), possibly referring to the insistence on circumcision and full conversion to the Jewish faith in order to be a Christian, which he adamantly opposed.
- Paul also mentions the dangers of pettiness and jealousy within the community of faith (Phil. 4:2), and the need for believers to be one mind in matters of faith (Phil. 2:2-4).
- Philippians contains what is sometimes referred to as “The Christ Hymn” (Phil. 2:6-11), possibly a fragment of an early Christian hymn, emphasizing Christ’s humble and obedient sacrifice as a model for faith.
- Paul emphasizes the joy of knowing Christ and his resurrection, which provide a new perspective on life and enable believers to rejoice, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox

How Lutherans Interpret the Bible Series

The Plain Sense of the Text & The Principle of Analogy



One of the challenges modern Christians have when it comes to reading and understanding the Bible is the fairly large chasm between the times and cultures of the biblical authors and our own. As we continue this series, we turn to two more helpful tools to put in our Bible study toolboxes—the “plain sense” of the text, and the principle of analogy.

The Plain Sense of the Text

This Bible study tool is exactly what it sounds like. When reading/studying a passage of scripture, be sure to ask this question:

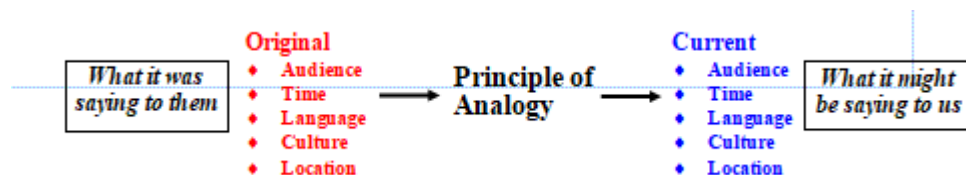
“how would the **ORIGINAL** hearers/readers of this text have heard and understood this text?”

Before rushing on and trying to figure out what a particular Bible text might be saying to you/us today, spend some time dwelling in this question. Of course, that requires that we consider and learn just exactly WHO the original hearers/readers were. That is where one of our previous tools, “**Historical Context**” is especially helpful. Take some time to get to know *both the author and the audience* of *each writing* in the Bible. Once you’ve done that, you can then ask the question, “how would these ORIGINAL hearers/readers of this text have heard and understood this text?”

Yes, the Bible is the inspired word of God intended to strengthen faith and guide God’s people across time, but let us not so be arrogant as to assume that the Bible was written primarily for the 21st century. As Lutheran Christians, *we reject any form of biblical interpretation that would not have been available to its original audience.* We do not believe that the Bible contains secret messages or elaborate hidden codes intended for the distant future. So when you encounter a difficult passage or even entire writing of the Bible (like, Revelation, for example), do not get swept up into modern systems of interpretation that would not have been available to the 1st century Christian community. Leave those to the tabloids in the grocery store checkout lines or Hollywood movies.

The Principle of Analogy

You may ask, “Deacon Andrew, how then do we understand the message of the Bible today?” Well, I’m so glad you asked! The way we do this is through something called the Principle of Analogy. Since we are separated by time, distance, language and culture from the original audiences (yes, plural!) of the various writings of the Bible, we must find ways to *translate the message of scripture into our current time, location, language, and culture.* We must search for comparable situations/examples in our own time to help us understand the past, and therefore the essential message of the Bible’s writings that connect and transcend the two. Like any process of translation, the more fluent we are with both the original audience/situation and the modern audience/situation, the more accurate and helpful the translation will be.



Marianne Gould

In September of 2019, I began a journey into unknown territory...returning to the field of education at the age of 70 after 14 years of 'retirement'. But it wasn't just any schooling, it was attending classes at Wartburg Theological Seminary to obtain a second master's degree in Diaconal Ministry with specialization in worship and music, being of service to those in my home context and a bridge to church and community.



I began intending to deepen and expand my theological understanding of my calling to serve as a Director of Music Ministry at Peace. With each semester I began to see the world through different lenses, gaining new perspectives into ministry and mission. Navigating classes, worship, and service in community in a digital space, both prior to and during the pandemic, was quite a challenge which stretched my faith and understanding of God. I had never been a person who cried, but each semester brought more emotions to the surface which was quite unsettling. But now only 7 hours away from a degree, I know without a doubt that God has used this time to mold me into a servant in Christ's mission through Word and Music. It is quite scary and full of unknowns, but I also know that God leads me and will be walking alongside me all the way. A prayer that has resonated with me throughout this journey is found at the conclusion of the Service of Matins in the ELW. It is called the Prayer of Good Courage, developed from Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the northwest United States.

"O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Marianne Gould

Thank You

Marianne has served as our Director of Music Ministry for the past 6 years. During this time she has also embarked upon a journey to seminary responding to God's call to the church as a Minister of Word and Service which included a year of internship at Peace.

We thank Marianne for her years of dedicated service and bringing music and the gospel to life and wish her the best as she pursues God's calling to her in new ways. The church will continue to lift her up and pray for new leadership in the Music Ministry.

Pastor Jake



Beloved Members of Peace,

Words are totally inadequate but I am going to try anyway. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The outpouring of joy for my ministry at Peace was overwhelming! Your cards, letters, emails, smiles, and hugs mean the world to me. The standing ovation just was over the top. I have always strived to bring energy and variety into the worship service at Peace. God is seen from many perspectives and my hope was to engage your whole being in worship as well as to include anyone wishing to share their gifts with fellow Christians on the journey to reunion with God our Creator. I love you all dearly. Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the Glory), Marianne

Stephen Ministry

Frustrations

Are there are times that you feel that everything is going well? So you think, then life does an about face. There are times when I am trying to accomplish something, and my thoughts just do not seem to connect. I feel like my mind is missing something or my thoughts are playing hide and seek, then they show up when I am trying to go to sleep.



Yes, life has its ups and downs. No matter how much you want to accomplish something (either daily goals or life goals) it just does not happen. You make plans but you just can't get out of your own way. It is one step forward and two steps back. At times it may feel like a perpetual downhill slide and you have no idea how to adjust or what to do next. You are probably thinking when are we going to get back too normal? Then you wonder what is normal, really?

From "Divine Rescue" in Our Daily Bread (June 8, 2021); Scripture reveals God as the one who rescues-often precisely when all seems lost. From "The Life of Peace" in Our Daily Bread (Jun 18. 2021); As the Spirt enables us to live in God's shalom, we learn to bring our needs and concerns to our heavenly Father. This in turn brings us "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding."

Those who are experiencing difficulties with feeling frustrated, 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 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

Peace will be collecting donations for the following Noisy Offering Sundays:

Sunday, August 22nd: First Footing Homeless Shelter

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.

Bingo is Back

**Monday, August 9th
6:00 p.m.
Landa Park Area 7A**

Bring your picnic supper and a few treasures from home for BINGO prizes.

We cannot wait to see you there!



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 June 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 83,207.37	\$ 22,161.64	\$ 36,552.37		\$ 68,816.64
Building Fund	\$ 142,284.12	\$ 7,818.83*	\$ 100,080.60**		\$ 50,022.35
Endowment Fund	\$ 4,029.19	\$ 171.64	\$ 0.00		\$ 4,200.83
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 152,697.36	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 152,697.36
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,777.77	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,778.24
Designated Funds	\$ 28,950.84	\$ 770.00	\$ 30.00		\$ 29,690.84
Total Funds	\$ 416,946.65	\$ 30,922.58	\$ 136,662.97		\$ 311,206.26

***\$7,818.83: \$100.00 - Building Fund Offerings; \$28.83 - Interest; \$7,690.00 - Flood Repair Donations**

****\$100,080.60: \$75,588.30 - Insurance Claim (Construction Draw); \$6,000.00 - Building Improvement (Laundry and Shower); \$18,492.30 - Mold Remediation**



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

Summer Worship Services

Sunday
10am Indoor Worship and
Livestream @ Peace



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New Braunfels, TX 78130