



Renovate: Building a Life with God

If you've ever been part of a renovation project, you know how disruptive it can be. Your home is destroyed while the din of hammers and saws commence. But after that time of disruption, the results are a new and beautiful addition.

Join us as we continue our fall series called *Renovate: Building a Life with God*. Each Sunday you'll have opportunities to dive deeper into what it means to build a life with God.



8:30am – Community time in the Fellowship Hall in which we watch a brief video clip and small group study both in-person and online.

10am – Worship time in the sanctuary with a sermon series teaching on the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament which deals with 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.

You may find all the information including the zoom link at www.peacenb.org/pages/worship

10/03	Session 4: When Others Don't Like Your Plans
10/10	Session 5: Inviting Others to Come Home
10/17	Session 6: The Big Reveal



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A Message from the Pastor

Goodbye Calendar

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’” — Jeremiah 29:11

I’m a planner. I like to know when things are going to happen and the steps in order to ensure they are implemented properly. Pastoring a church and having a family with four kids, I live by a calendar. If it doesn’t get on the calendar, it typically doesn’t get done. There’s just too much to keep track of and without some reminder, I lose sight of things.



Then the pandemic struck. And every system in place was disrupted. People were suddenly not meeting anymore. Communication was different. The calendar looked wide open because of all the events that had been canceled. However, those days were fuller than ever.

Oh and when it finally felt like I was getting the hang of learning all the online stuff, then the building flood happened during the winter freeze. That calendar looked wide open again, but it was filling up with more and emergency, survival maneuvers.

This past year, I did a lot of soul-searching. How can we project and plan for things in the future when tomorrow is more and more uncertain?

Sometimes I hear people reference that quote from Jeremiah that talks about prospering people and the big plans God has for our individual lives. But Jeremiah writes in the time of the greatest dislocation of Israel in the Bible – when their lands had been invaded and the people imprisoned and exiled.



I’m sure they had calendars full of hopes and dreams, but an external force came and cleared it all crushing their plans. But God reminded the people that despite the disruption, God had a future planned for them. It wasn’t easy the years ahead, but it was filled with God’s vision of hope for something more beautiful.

It’s been a rough season for us. I’ve learned to stop relying so much on my own plans and to make sure there’s always some room for God to speak and fill the calendar he has in store. I’ve surrendered the need to be in control, and I’m living into the reality that we trust in God’s provision and direction; we walk together in faith in uncertain times; and we hope for what is unseen but what God reveals as his kingdom of love for all.

Peace always,
Pastor Jake

Abundant Blessings

October Birthdays

01 Merle Cavanaugh
 04 JoAnn Schlabach
 06 Rick Smith
 07 Stella Salas
 08 Dayna Miller
 08 Brody Johnson
 08 Brian Peebles
 08 Clayton Smith
 09 Dora White
 09 Barbara Doleshal
 11 Madison Clark
 12 Becca Clark
 13 Jack Ralph
 13 Kate Miller
 13 Braden Kriley
 15 Susan Briner
 16 Steel McCoy
 18 Robbie Hetherington
 18 Daylin Tiemann
 19 Steven Anderson
 20 Matt Simmont
 20 Parker Kaufman
 21 David Lange
 21 Eric Dickman
 24 Lavern Kistner
 24 Kristen Mosher
 25 Bobby Laughlin
 25 Tana Bonner
 25 Tim Clark
 25 Katharine Mosher
 26 David Heise
 27 Jackie Ullrich
 29 Jake Fain

October Anniversaries

Charles Cheek and
 Peggy Stone Cheek
 October 2, 2010
 Brian and Amy Tiemann
 Dave and Ann Keeler
 October 7, 1966
 Fritz and Janice Friesenhahn
 October 8, 1966
 Sharky and Beverly Anderson
 October 8, 2016
 Antonio Rosales and
 Raquel Gordillo
 October 10, 2012
 Roy and Lindsay Friedrich
 October 22, 2005
 Mitch and Cathi Fain
 October 23, 1982
 Andrew and Kristyn Ladshaw
 October 29, 2016

Prayers

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

In Sympathy



Our thoughts and prayers
 go out to the families of
 the following members of
 Peace, who now reside in
 God's heavenly Kingdom:
 † Linda Ottmers
 † Linda Fitzgerald



Big Serve Weekend

The Big Serve is New Braunfels' annual City-Wide Volunteer Day which will take place the weekend of **October 9th and 10th**. This weekend is a chance to love our neighbor in a way you feel comfortable by either in-person, drop-off, or pick-up projects.

We encourage you to pick a project site, activity, or cause for the weekend and sign up through www.bigservenb.org. There are plenty of choices for all ages and abilities. Each site will have a team lead and a description of duties.

If you need any support, please reach out to our Service Chair, Brandi Raschke at brandileighr@outlook.com

To learn more about The Big Serve weekend click in this link below for a promotional video: <https://vimeo.com/588656672>

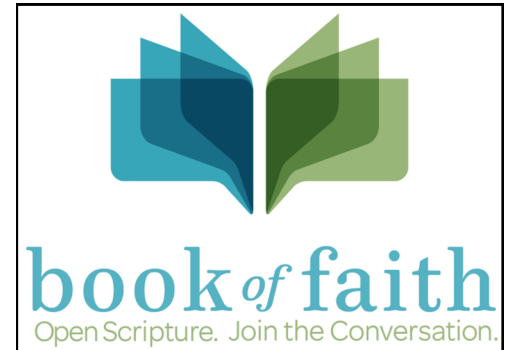
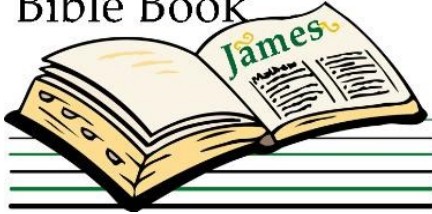
**HOW DO I SERVE
 NEW BRAUNFELS
 BIG?**

1. Visit BigServeNB.org
2. Select "Volunteer" to view opportunities
3. Sign up and snag your spot to volunteer in this city-wide day of service

SIGNING UP IS SIMPLE
TOGETHER WE ARE NEW BRAUNFELS

A Message from the Deacon

October's Bible Book



The Letter of James “Faith In Action”

Some interesting aspects of James:

- Length: Five chapters
- Author: Scholars are divided between crediting authorship to James the brother of Jesus, to another person named James, or to someone writing under the name of James (pseudonymous authorship).
- Date: Unknown, possibly as early as 50 C.E., but also possibly quite late, largely depending on authorship.
- James does begin with a typical greeting of a letter of those days, but is addressed not to a specific person or congregation, but to “the twelve tribes in the Dispersion”.
- Interestingly, James only mentions Jesus by name twice (1:1, 2:1).
- In both content and style, James reads more like a sermon or collection of wisdom sayings, full of exhortation admonishment, and advice. Some of the content does parallel the gospels, such as the Sermon on the Mount.
- An overarching theme in James emphasizes that those who have faith need to manifest it in the way they live.

“but be doers of the word, and not merely hearers” (1:22)

- Luther referred to James as “an epistle of straw”, because he thought it contradicted with Paul’s teaching on faith and righteousness (see below) and because it did not have any gospel character— that is, showing forth Christ. Compare Galatians 2:1-14 with James 2:14:26, particularly:

***“yet we know that a person is justified, not by the works of the law,
but through faith in Jesus Christ” (Gal 2:16)***

vs.

“you see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.” (James 2:24)

Notice that the words “justified”, “faith”, and “works” appears in both writings, and on face value might sound completely contradictory, as Luther concluded. However, through a deeper reading we can see that these words are likely being used quite differently by the two authors. Modern (including Lutheran) scholars have recognized and emphasized the importance of this distinction in faithfully reading and interpreting both Paul and James.

In Galatians, Paul’s point is aimed at those who believe that justification, here meaning salvation, can and must be obtained through doctrinal correctness and compulsive religious observances, including all requirements of the Torah. Paul’s argument is that our salvation comes from God alone through what Jesus Christ has done, not by anything that we ourselves do. James would certainly agree.

For James, his emphasis on works refers to those ways that we demonstrate our faith in active lives of service to others, and in witness to the gospel. Our faith can and must compel us to see beyond ourselves and look toward the needs of others and put our faith into practice. Works do not replace faith, but rather they complete it. Paul, later in Galatians, agrees when he writes,

“the only thing that counts is faith working through love” (Gal 5:6)

Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox



How Lutherans Interpret the Bible Series Scriptural Priority

Put simply, scriptural priority means that some things in the Bible are more important than others.

At first glance, people can be a bit shocked with this sentence. It upsets our sense of the utmost importance and integrity of all of the Bible. How can any part of the Bible be more important? Doesn't that mean that somethings therefore are less important?

".....but Deacon Andrew, ALL of the Bible is important!"

The Bible is a collection of writings which allows God to speak to us through human writers across the centuries, but the Bible is not a monolithic book. It has numerous writers, literary texture and variety, many cultural influences, and broad literary and historical contextual settings.



As Lutherans, we recognize and appreciate the beauty of the Bible's complexity, while at the same time recognizing that some writings convey the heart of the message of scripture, while others are more focused on smaller details that may have less implication for our 21st century lives.

ALL of scripture is the Word of God, but what the Bible says about loving one's neighbor is more important than what it says about the length of Noah's ark. What the Bible says about grace and justification by faith in Christ is more important than what it says about not eating foods sacrificed to idols from the marketplace.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one may boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus himself gives us principles for determining which matters are most important (e.g., Matt. 7:12; 22:37-40; 23:23) as does Paul (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Eph. 2:8-9) and other biblical writers (Ex. 20:1-17; Mic. 6:8; Heb. 6:1-2).

Deut. 6:4-9 is a perfect example of scriptural priority for us Christians:

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹ and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Verse 4 gives us some contextual clues about this passage. This is Moses speaking to the Israelites, exhorting them to listen and hold fast to their faith in God. Even though we are not Israelites, we would agree with Moses wholeheartedly! Verse 5 is one of the most famous verses in all the Bible. When asked which is the greatest commandment, Jesus gives this verse as his response. Verses 6-7 encourage dearly holding on to these words, and the importance of passing down these words to our children, and teach them frequently in daily life. We would also agree with and aspire to living by these words.

Verses 8-9 are more specific to the actual faith practices of the Israelites, the Jews. These words are meant literally, and are taken as such by many modern Jews. They literally place these verses on their bodies (see: phylactery) and their doorposts (see: mezuzah). For us as Christians, verses 8-9 are not part of our daily faith practices, at least not literally. In this passage, our focus is on verses 5-7. They are the scriptural priority for us here.

Upcoming Events

Bike MS

Valero Ride to the River

Vicki Ralph will be riding again this year in the Bike MS Valero Ride to the River on **October 2-3**.



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Vicki is a member of Team NB, a local cycling team whose main purpose

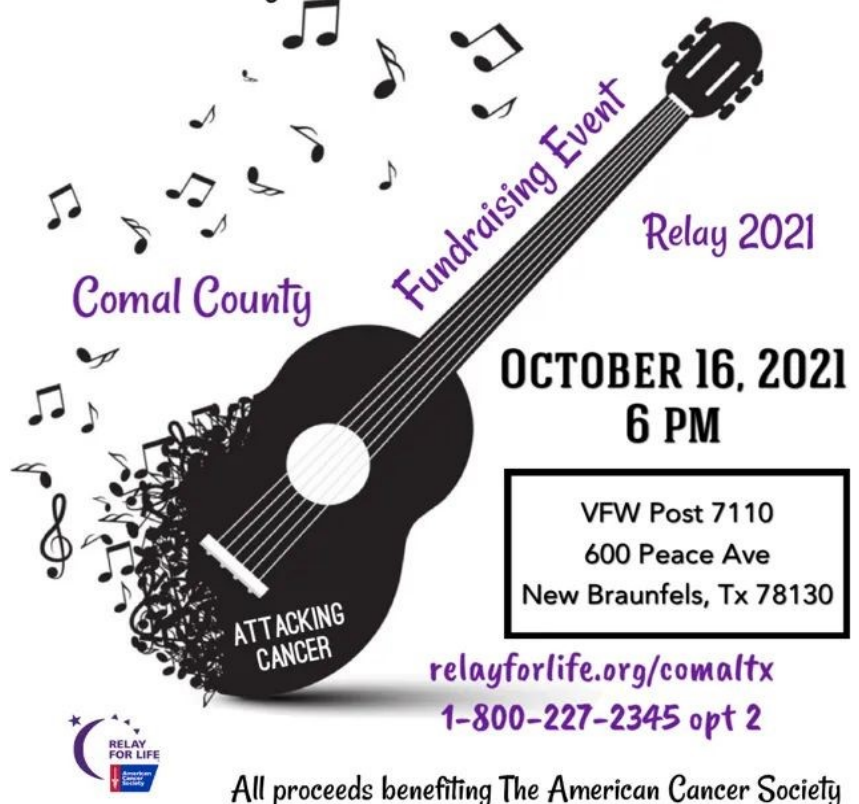
is to raise funds and promote awareness for the MS Society.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. The money raised for the National MS Society funds crucial research and provides programs and services to help people who have MS.

If you would like to honor someone that you know that has MS or want to make a donation, please Vicki at vlralph1985@gmail.com or 830-708-5608.

Relay For Life

"Finding a cure is music to our ears!"



**OCTOBER 16, 2021
6 PM**

VFW Post 7110
600 Peace Ave
New Braunfels, Tx 78130

relayforlife.org/comaltx
1-800-227-2345 opt 2

All proceeds benefiting The American Cancer Society

Financial Peace University

Do you struggle with managing your money? Does your money sometimes run out before your month does? Take control of your money! Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went!



Financial Peace University is a nine-lesson class designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind. Each lesson is based on biblical wisdom and common sense. Sign up for this class and start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace at fpu.com/1141628. Pricing is as low as

\$60.00 for three months membership, which would include everything needed for the class

Class starts **Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM** and will meet every Wednesday through **December 8th at Peace Lutheran Church, 1147 S. Walnut Ave., News Braunfels, Texas**. For more information, contact Don Hodde at 713-252-4823 or by email at don.hodde@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Renovate Generosity: Annual Stewardship Drive

We as the church have faced some unprecedented challenges between the ongoing pandemic and resurgence of cases coupled with the flooding of our building from the winter freeze.

I commend the generosity of the congregation during such adversity, and I'm reminded of how much the church throughout the centuries continues to endure despite hardships. That is a faithfulness that is truly remarkable and gifted by the Holy Spirit!



This Fall season we have been exploring a worship and study series called, *Renovate: Building a Life with God* which follows the OT book of Nehemiah. We recognize the trials Nehemiah faced as he was called to go and rebuild the holy city of Jerusalem. He faced tears and setbacks and resistance, but his faithfulness to stay the course promoted a spirit of service and generosity amongst the entire community. By the end of the book of Nehemiah, the city has been rebuilt and the community has been restored.

I want to challenge all of us as Peace Lutheran Church to allow God to renovate our lives together in Christ. That even when buildings are destroyed and the community faces a pandemic, God is still working in our lives rebuilding us into something even more beautiful so that we might reflect God's glory. Let us continue to make room for God to renovate our spiritual lives as we join God in rebuilding his kingdom of peace.

Take some time to fill out our Stewardship guide to help discern how God is calling you to be generous in join in this great rebuilding project known as the kingdom of God.

You may fill this out online at www.peacenb.org/stewardship or look for a congregational mailer to be returned to the church office by Oct. 24th.

Peace,
Pastor Jake

UpBring Golf Tournament



Upbring Golf

The Club at Sonterra

Monday, Nov. 1, 2021

7 a.m. registration | 8 a.m. start

Benefiting Foster in Texas | New Life Children's Center | BeREAL

Click on the link below for information, tickets and sponsorships.

<https://ugsa2021.givesmart.com/>

Stephen Ministry

Roadblock

You know the feeling, when everything is moving along nicely. Everything appears to be going well. Then the phone call occurs or the email arrives and life comes to a stop. You feel like everything is upside-down and you are not sure how to fix it. How do we respond to these events? Do you take a deep breath, sit down and recollect your thoughts? Do you pull the covers over your head, with the hope that it is all a bad dream? Does your brain go into overdrive, trying to figure out what to do to fix the problem? Maybe you just want to scream and yell and maybe hit or kick something.



From our daily bread Aug 24 “**God’s Provision**”, Do you sometimes find it hard to trust God to meet your needs? Why not take a walk in nature? Let what you see remind you of Jesus assuring words “Do not worry, saying what shall we eat? or What shall we drink? Your heavenly father knows that you need [all these things] (Matthew 6:31-32)

From our daily bread Aug 30 “**Mercy and Grace**”, Our God is the master of unanticipated mercies. He’s able to cause great good to spring up unexpectedly out of the hard gravel of life’s most unfavorable circumstances. Watch Him closely. He may do it again today.

Are you experiencing road blocks in life, do you need some help? A Stephen Minister may be able to help. Stephen Ministers are trained to give one on one Christian caring. Contact Pastor Jake, or Bill Purcell, our Referral Coordinator at 210-846-3315 or any of the Stephen Ministers, they will be wearing a Blue name badge on Sundays. For more information about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages at www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry.

Grace Place Goes LIVE!

Saturday, October 16th
10:30 am - Noon
In the Fellowship Hall



We are switching from a weekly Zoom Grace Place to a monthly in-person Grace Place gathering for our children elementary age and younger and their families. We will alternate months with St. Andrew, and folks from each congregation are always welcome to attend both events.

During our monthly Grace Place time, we’ll sing, we’ll use puppets to tell Bible stories, we’ll have crafts, and most importantly just have fun being together. Think of it like a mini VBS each month! Friends are always welcome, too!!

Pray Ground

What Is A “Pray Ground?”

If you’ve been to in-person worship anytime over the last several months, whether our outdoor worship services on the front lawn or our services back inside our sanctuary, you’ve likely noticed that we have created some special space for our young children and families. We call this space our “Pray Ground”. This type of space is becoming much more common in many churches as they recognize and respond to the need to invite children into a deeper and more meaningful engagement in worship. It is not meant to be a distraction from worship, but rather a way to reinforce the pattern of worship and the weekly themes through the use of liturgical items (candles, crosses, seasonal colors, etc) alongside activities related to worship.



Another important aspect of our Pray Ground is that we have volunteers who sign up and are trained as “Shepherds” in order to give some hospitality, leadership, shape and consistency to our Pray Ground. Parents are not required to sit with their children, although they are welcome to. All our Pray Ground Shepherds go through our background check process as part of our child protection practices here at Peace.

If you are interested in serving as a Pray Ground Shepherd, please contact Terry Westerman at terry.westerman@yahoo.com. If you have children or grandchildren who attend worship at Peace, we invite them (and you) to our Pray Ground! Come worship with us!

Deacon Andrew

Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 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

Care Team - Ceretta Daum
 Fellowship Team - Becky Voges
 Finance Team - James Huston
 Outreach Team - Becky Voges
 Property Team - John Kassel
 Service Team - Brandi Raschke
 Worship Team - Judi Miller

Noisy Offering



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

Sunday, October 24th: Quilting Fund

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.

Christmas Tea

The Christmas Tea will be held Saturday, **December 4th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. We are so excited about having the tea again. We have missed seeing everyone.

This year's theme is "White Christmas". Tickets are \$8.00 each and will go on sale in October. You can sign up on our sign up genius or forms will be available at the church for you to fill out. **The deadline to purchase tickets is November 22nd.**



For more information, please contact Donna Braune at d.s.braune@sbcglobal.net or Patti Kassel at kasselpatti@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Music

We have created a Sign Up Genius for those who would like to volunteer on Sunday mornings with our Music Ministry. We are in need of 2 (two) singers to lead the congregation in singing during the worship service.



We would also like to see people sign up to provide special music. This would entail preparing a special musical offering to share. This offering can be instrumental, bells, solo, duet, etc. Please provide the name of the music and all copyright information when signing up.

You can visit our website and click on the Sunday Morning Music Button located at the bottom of the home page or click on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f44afa729a7f58-sunday>

Deadline to sign up is one week before the date of your performance.

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



Finances August 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 65,959.64	\$ 29,341.73	\$ 30,467.55		\$ 64,833.82
Building Fund	\$ 47,938.33	\$ 754.04*	\$ 13,984.89**		\$ 34,707.48
Endowment Fund	\$ 4,420.59	\$ 171.85	\$ 0.00		\$ 4,592.44
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 160,334.34	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 160,334.34
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,778.73	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,779.22
Designated Funds	\$ 30,390.84	\$ 425.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 30,665.84
Total Funds	\$ 314,822.47	\$ 30,693.11	\$ 44,602.44		\$ 300,913.14

*\$754.04: \$155.00 - Offerings; \$19.04 - Interest; \$580.00 - Flood Donations

**\$13,984.89: \$9,448.54 - Insurance Draw; \$3,111.41 - Shower Expansion; \$1,424.94 - Bathroom Vanities



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 Service

Sunday
10am Indoor Worship and
Livestream @ Peace



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.

New Braunfels, TX 78130