



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

***Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship***

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
 his love endures forever.  
 Psalm 107:1*

As we prepare for our national holiday of Thanksgiving, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, we give thanks to God in worship. A special ecumenical thanksgiving worship will be held on **Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at St. John’s Episcopal Church.**



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## A Message from the Pastor

### Immersion



I write this newsletter article in preparation for a pilgrimage 6500 miles away in Turkey and Greece walking in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul.

Like so many things that were delayed due to the pandemic, this trip was scheduled for April of 2020. 18 months later, I am finally enjoying the pilgrimage to these holy places.

Why do people go on pilgrimages? Each year millions of people go off to sacred sites seeking to be in communion with God. The Bible is chalk full of examples.

Furthermore, entering a new context allows one to see in a new way. Context is about immersing oneself in the where and why and to whom these scriptures were written so that one can have a deeper understanding of the power of the gospel spoken to real people with real struggles.

My hope is that at each site I will live and breathe the context of the places where Paul was writing to the nascent church and walk away with a immersive experience in which Scripture comes alive and God speaks to the deep places of my heart.

Just as we have experienced significant challenges these past couple of years, the churches Paul wrote to struggled with all kinds of issues.

In the church we talk a lot about baptism. The word literally means “to immerse” (presumably in water). When that person is immersed in the water and the gospel promise is spoken in which God says you are mine, that sacrament shares the very means of grace. This is why immersion trips are so important. It allows one to get away from the regular waters we swim in and become immersed in a new context.

I hope that even though many things have been put on the backburner and delayed these past 18 months, you might consider an immersion experience to reclaim your immersive baptism. Get out of the rut and go to a holy place so that you too might be renewed in Spirit.



Peace always,  
*Pastor Jake*



## Abundant Blessings

### November Birthdays

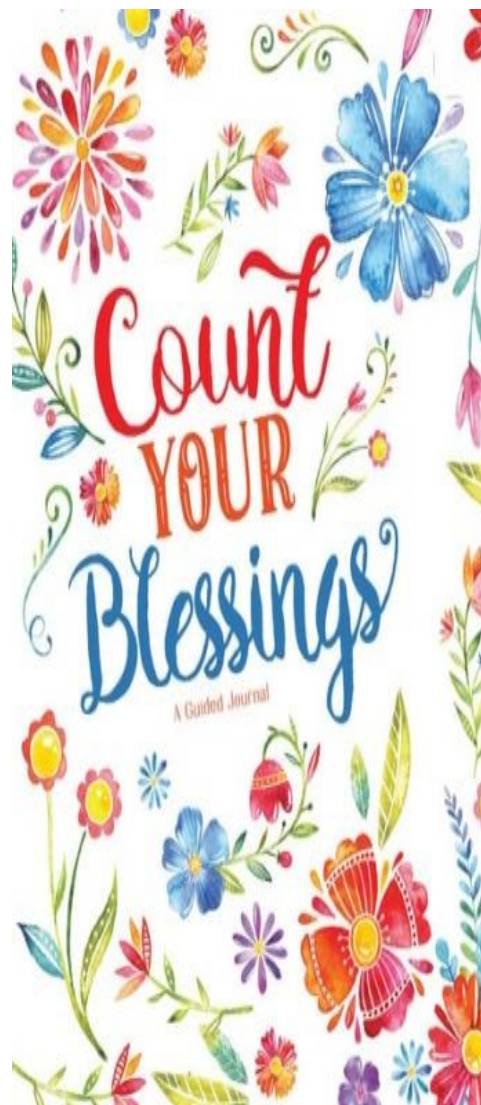
02 Tommy Perkins  
 02 Andre Guerin  
 02 Beverly Anderson  
 03 Olivia Hetherington  
 04 Carol Ann Miller  
 06 Bonnie Claycomb  
 06 David Thomas  
 08 Linda Hook  
 08 Juliana Garcia  
 10 Donna Braune  
 12 Helen Probst  
 13 Arlene Wold  
 13 Nate Raschke  
 14 Steven Willis  
 15 Ray Martinez  
 19 John Claycomb  
 19 JoBeth Oestreich  
 19 David Patterson  
 20 Helen Bravenec  
 21 Dorothy Ebert  
 23 Margaret Weese  
 26 Hattie Tippens  
 27 Larry Kastein  
 27 Nanci Witten  
 28 Kerri Clausen  
 29 Bob Schlabach  
 30 Sharon Monroe  
 30 Brenda Martin  
 30 Brandy Huston  
 30 Melissa Fain

### November Anniversaries

John and Bonnie Claycomb  
 November 26, 1967  
 Ted and Margo Woollven  
 November 29, 1975

### Prayers

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



## ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS AND "PLASTIC MATTERS"

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND**

The wait is over – We will be meeting again from 9-3 on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. YIPPIE!!!

A CELEBRATION LUNCH will be provided that day. So please plan to join us. We look forward to seeing our regular quilters and any others who are interested in joining our group! So Come One & All – it will be a Great Day to get acquainted and reacquainted!! We are so excited to be together again!!

Any questions please contact Quilters:  
 Carol Thatcher 830-964-6425  
 Susan Heise 469-766-1047

“Matters: please contact:  
 Martha Gilbreath 512-636-3339

## A Message from the Deacon

### Confirmation Corner



During the pandemic, Peace and St. Andrew both worked to adapt our ministries to the ever-changing conditions around us. One of the ministries that looked quite different during this time has been our confirmation ministry. With Peace and St. Andrew partnering together for this and many other shared ministries, we had to get creative!

As part of our adaptation, last year our combined confirmation group met twice a month on Sunday evenings for an hour via Zoom. Meeting virtually allowed Pastor Jake, Pastor Paul and I to spend regular time with our youth around meaningful faith conversations. Although not ideal, we had great participation from our youth and their families, even as we recognized the limitations of this less-than-ideal format for sharing and growing in our faith together. We were (and continue to be) very grateful that technology provided a way for us to still meet together. Without the means to do meet together online, many of our ministries, including confirmation, would simply have been forced to take a temporary hiatus.

With the gradual return to in-person activities, Pastor Paul, Pastor Jake and I recognized that the world in which we find ourselves looks different in many ways than it did before the pandemic. This shifting reality applies to our confirmation ministry as well, so we have pivoted to a new model which we believe will best serve our youth, their families, and our congregations.

For this current year, we have moved to a retreat-based model, where we meet less often but for a longer length time together in order to allow for deeper and more meaningful learning. Our plan this year is to have quarterly retreats that vary in length from a single afternoon to an entire weekend. This accomplishes several things:

- It moves us from virtual to in-person gatherings
- It strengthens our ability to deepen our relationships with one another as a faith community
- It accommodates the busy schedules of our families
- It gives us more time to really dig into faith conversations
- It allows us to use many different types of learning, including music, art, games, and drama

On October 2nd, we held the first of these retreats at St. Andrew. Our retreat theme was **#blessed**. Our retreat focus was learning about the difference between our modern society's definition of what it means to be blessed versus what scripture and our faith tell us. Our retreat text was Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" from Matthew 5. We learned that we are already blessed because of how God sees us, as beloved children, not based on other's opinions of us. Here's what they came up with:

- ⇒ *We are blessed because we belong to God*
- ⇒ *We are blessed by God's amazing unshakable promises of life and love for us*
- ⇒ *We are blessed with all of the unique talents and gifts God gives to each of us*
- ⇒ *We are blessed by how we treat others - with humility, kindness, & generosity*
- ⇒ *We are blessed regardless of how other people think of us, judge us, or treat us*
- ⇒ *We are blessed so that we may be a blessing to others*

*(continued on page 5)*



## Confirmation Corner (continued from page 4)



### Confirmation Retreat 10/21



### Renovate Series Recap



During September and October our congregation studied the theme, **Renovate: Building A Life With God**, based on the book of the same title by Jacob Armstrong. We learned that spiritual renovation is not a do-it-yourself project. We need God's great power working through us to renovate our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We had a weekly sermon series presented by Pastor Jake and Deacon Andrew, as well as weekly small group book study and discussions. For those of you who missed any of this material, or would like to go back and look at it some more, we are leaving the material on our webpage front page for the month of November and click on the "Renovate" button! After November we will move this material to our Faith Formation page. Feel free to explore all the resources, including the weekly study guides and sermons, and be sure to pass them along to family and friends, too!

## *Advent Series*

**Advent Series: Making Room** by Ed Robb (you may purchase a copy of his book)

Learn how to make room in your heart for God and neighbor this Christmas.

Often our Advent preparations have an inward focus as we prepare for the significance of God breaking into our world through the birth of the Christ child. But in a closer examination of the Advent story, we quickly learn that the focus of the coming of the newborn king is outward.

Join us as we explore the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi. Just as Jesus made room in God's kingdom for a host of people who society wanted to leave on the margins, beginning with the appearance of the shepherds, we too should be asking ourselves who we can make room for this Christmas.

Perhaps it is to the people in your community, or the newly immigrated family in town that doesn't speak your language. Or maybe it's the next-door neighbor who just settled in from yet another corporate move? The story of Christ's birth encourages us to widen our borders and increase our sense of community—and make room for others.

### **Sunday @ 10:00 am**

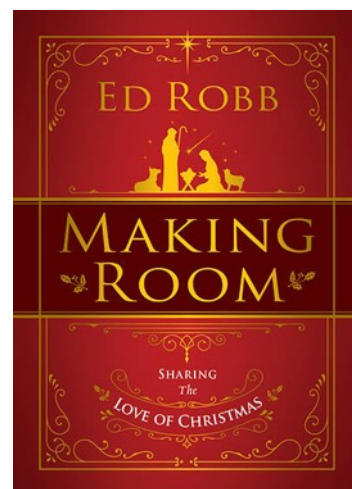
11/28 Making Room – “The neighbor next door”

### **Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm**

12/01 Stranger in a Strange Land –  
“The people new to community”

12/08 Leave the Light On –  
“The oppressed and marginalized”

12/15 Walking Each Other Home –  
“The church and how we live out our call”





## Stephen Ministry



### Life Changes

It is human nature not to like change. Changes can disrupt our daily activities. Interfering with our daily routine. They can disrupt our work, and interfere with our family and other relationships.

Our worlds are very complex. Changes can occur sporadically. They could be brief episodes or the changes can occur repeatedly over a longer period of time. Sometimes they can result in multiple changes, which can be very disruptive.

So what can you do when your daily activities are turned upside down. Depending on the degree that your life is changing. Maybe make a brief stop, to look at the changes, see if there is something you can do about them. It may be helpful to talk with someone about what you are experiencing, to get a new perspective of what is going on.

You can also talk with a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk with you with God. To listen, and pray and accompany you during the difficult times. They can help you to understand the journey and let you know that you are not alone, and that you are blessed.

A Stephen Minister may be able to help. Stephen Ministers are trained to give one on one Christian caring. Contact Pastor Jake, Bill Purcell our Referral Coordinators, at 210-846-3315 or any of the Stephen Ministers, they will be wearing a blue name badge on Sundays. For more about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages at [www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry](http://www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry).

Ron Podojil  
Stephen Minister

## 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

## Mission Spotlight of the Month



Noisy Offering will now be known as Mission Spotlight of the Month.

Peace will be collecting donations for the following mission during November:

### Sunday, November 28th: UpBring

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 Mission Spotlight/UpBring in the memo.

**\*\*\*Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, [peacemb.org](http://peacemb.org), and click on the Ways To Give Tab. Choose Online Giving and follow the instructions. Please remember to designate Mission Spotlight 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 "A Winter Wonderland". Tickets are \$8.00 each and are on sale now. 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 28th.**

For more information, please contact Donna Braune at [d.s.braune@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.s.braune@sbcglobal.net) or Patti Kassel at [kasselpatti@gmail.com](mailto:kasselpatti@gmail.com). Click on the link below to go to the sign up genius.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0844acac29a2fd0-winter>



## 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 September 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 64,833.82	\$ 22,725.86	\$ 27,129.41		\$ 60,430.27
Building Fund	\$ 34,707.48	\$ 18,427.30*	\$ 1,503.50**		\$ 51,631.28
Endowment Fund	\$ 4,592.44	\$ 166.85	\$ 0.00		\$ 4,759.29
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 160,334.34	\$ -309.73	\$ 0.00		\$ 160,024.61
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,779.22	\$ 0.47	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,779.69
Designated Funds	\$ 30,665.84	\$ 165.00	\$ 1,792.00		\$ 29,038.84
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 300,913.14</b>	<b>\$ 41,175.75</b>	<b>\$ 30,424.91</b>		<b>\$ 311,663.98</b>

\*\$18,427.30: \$100.00 - Offerings; \$15.34 - Interest; \$85.00 - Flood Donations; \$18,226.96 - Insurance

\*\*\$1,503.50 - Sprinkler Repair



Peace Lutheran Church  
1147 S. Walnut Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
Web address: [www.peacenb.org](http://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



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