

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



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

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

Wednesdays 6:30pm on Zoom (online only)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84821924193>

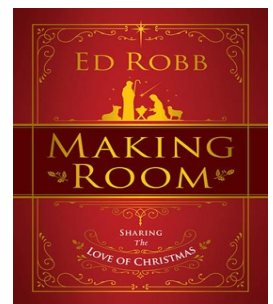
Meeting ID: 848 2192 4193

Phone: 1 346 248 7799

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”



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor’s Message	2
Abundant Blessings	3
Deacon’s Message	4
Upcoming Events	6
Mission Spotlight	9
Stephen Ministry	10
Finances	11



A Message from the Pastor

The Building Is Done, Now What?

This Fall we embarked upon a journey with the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. We learned about his call to return and rebuild the ancient city of Jerusalem that lied in ruins.

He faced all kinds of obstacles from his own people and from outsiders trying to prevent him from that mission. And even when the building was completed and there was much celebration, the Old Testament story continues. The people had their city back; the Temple was restored. Now what?

We as Peace Lutheran find ourselves asking that same question. Between the pandemic and safety lockdowns to the flood of the church building, we've been putting a lot of focus into restoring the building. Praise God, it has been restored and looks better than ever! A special thanks to John Kassel who spearheaded the effort to get this 8-month project moving.

But again, now what?

We work in rhythms and routines in our lives, and when they are disrupted, it takes a new mobilization effort to get back on track. My hope is that the building was always a metaphor for our community. Although it had been hit hard by the flooding, it was really about us building something together once again. Weathering the storm of pandemic and flood and then moving beyond that.

When Noah and his family built the arc, they did it to survive the flood. Often, we forget his story doesn't end with the end of the flood. The arc was just a temporary measure. They got off the boat and Genesis 9 tells us the first thing Noah does is plant a vineyard.

I think that's a good lesson for us. When you're in a catastrophe, the mission shift to weathering the storm. But there comes a time when the rainbow emerges and the celebration commences, to begin to plant new roots of life meant to grow. Where might you plant new roots of faith and continue to grow so that the vineyard will provide not only for the community of Peace, but to the world we are called to serve?



As we begin a new season in the church year – the season on Advent is a new beginning – that we might replant our roots in Christ and grow in faith, hope, and love together.

Peace always,

Pastor Jake



Abundant Blessings

December Birthdays

01	Barbara Wangsness
03	Virginia Willis
05	Kristopher Martinez
06	Megan Ohnheiser
06	Clyde Peebles
10	Earl Koester
11	Bill Miller
11	Robbi Will
12	Megan Wenzel
12	Kaitlyn Alston-Schintgen
13	Ceretta Daum
13	Holly Guerin
15	Stacy Pfeil
16	Fritz Friesenhahn
17	Gayle Morris
17	Max Ebert
18	Don Hodde
26	Kaylee Stone
28	Bernice Lenz
28	Curtis Rabenaldt
28	Paul Fisher
30	Greg Gunderson

December Anniversaries

Mark and Peggy Cooper	December 15, 2007
Wade and Lavonne Ohnheiser	December 18, 2004
Matt and Leslie Tippens	December 20, 2003
Gus and Betty Rust	December 22, 1952
Dan and Anita Hill	December 23, 2018
Joe and Arlene Wold	December 27, 1956
Kurt and Tricia Andersen-Vie	December 27, 2014
Earl and Ellie Koester	December 28, 1951
Stephen and Johnana Clark	December 28, 1969
Robbie and Olivia Hetherington	December 28, 2013

Prayers

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

Thank You

Dear Peace Lutheran,
On behalf of myself and my children,
I would like to sincerely thank you
for your generosity towards the
Family Promise Program. I am so
lucky to have your support. Through
your donations, I can continue to
work towards my goals and secure a
future for my family. We look
forward to the years to come. My
sincerest gratitude once again,
Kiersten Gray and family

Caring Ministry at Peace

What a joy it has been to serve with all of you in the Caring Ministry at Peace. I certainly didn't realize that it would be almost two long years of masks, zooms, fist bumps and other means of caring for each other. Unable to visit with one another in our homes, nursing facilities, and at church certainly made for interesting times, however, each one of you reached out to your neighbors, friends and the Peace community with more love and care than I could even imagine. During this Advent and Christmas Season reach out to at least one person in our congregation with a phone call, card, text or email and brighten their day.

I Peter 4:10-11

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

Ceretta Daum, Care Team



A Message from the Deacon



With the arrival of fall activities and the gradual declining of Coronavirus spread, it has been wonderful to have opportunities to finally spend more time in person with our awesome kids and youth as a group! Even though we were able to do a lot through the use of the Internet and Zoom during the past 18 months, nothing compares to seeing the joy on these kids faces as they learn and grow in faith in God and in relationship with one another. It is a privilege to walk alongside these young people, our youngest brothers and sisters in Christ!



Grace Place



Camp Chrysalis



Downtown Social



Pray Ground



Camp Chrysalis

Thank You!



On Sunday, October 31st, we gathered to observe Reformation Sunday. After worship we enjoyed a delicious BBQ luncheon, and you honored us, Deacon and Andrew and Pastor Jake, as part of Rostered Leader Appreciation Day. I want to say “Thank You” to everyone for your kind words and gifts of affirmation, encouragement, and support! Together we are the church, a family bound together by faith.

Thank
you

Exploring the Bible Together

When the pandemic began in early 2020, Pastors, Deacons, and congregations were forced to find creative ways to continue ministry and keep in touch with each other through the use of technology. This need actually gave birth to some wonderful new ministries, one of which is our own **Exploring The Bible Together** video series.



Pastor Jake, Pastor Paul Miller and I created a weekly series of recorded Bible studies focused around the excellent Bible Project videos (www.bibleproject.com), beginning with a 19 episode series on **“How To Read The Bible”**. From there we continued to record even more episodes covering a wide variety of topics and themes from the Bible. Each week the three of us would watch one Bible Project video episode through Zoom together, then have a roundtable discussion about what we had just watched. We recorded these conversations and uploaded them each week to our church YouTube page. This allowed us to provide an ongoing Bible study opportunity as well as create an archive of recorded videos. Our hope continues to be that you find these videos interesting, helpful, and educational in understanding the Bible more deeply.

Recently we just completed recording our 65th episode of Exploring the Bible Together! Given the substantial library of videos we have created, we’ve decided to shift our energy and attention to creating some new faith resources as we enter 2022. Our focus is practical, simple, shareable resources that we hope you will find helpful in your daily faith walk. So, at least for now, we are taking a break from recording new episodes of Exploring The Bible Together. However, all of these videos can always be found both on our YouTube page as well as on our website. We pray these video Bible studies are a blessing to you, and encourage you to share them with friends and family as well.

Deacon Andrew

Grace Place Children’s Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 18th
10:30 am—Noon
@ Peace Lutheran Church



All children elementary age and younger and their families from both Peace and St. Andrew are invited to join us as we celebrate Christmas—Grace Place style! We’ll have Christmas music, games, and crafts, and of course appearances by our puppets. Please rsvp to Deacon Andrew so we know how many to prepare for. Friends are always welcome, too!

Christmas Vespers 2021

Christmas Vespers will be held in TLU's Jackson Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 3rd; 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 4th; 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 5th; and 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 12th at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin. Tickets for each Vespers service at TLU are free but required.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Friday, December 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. in Jackson Auditorium
- Saturday, December 4th, at 7:30 p.m. in Jackson Auditorium
- Sunday, December 5th, at 4 p.m. in Jackson Auditorium
- Sunday, December 12th, at 4 p.m. at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Austin (no tickets required)



TICKET RESERVATION

Tickets will be available for reservation online and in the TLU Bookstore. All Vespers services at TLU are free and open to the public, but tickets are required due to limited seating.

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



Monday Morning "Sweet Hour of Prayer"



Our Monday morning Prayer Group has met via Zoom for over a year now. We will begin meeting in person, as well as on Zoom, starting on Monday, **December 6th at 9:00 am.**

Please join us as we take some time out of our busy lives to pray. For more information, contact Becky Voges at 830-625-1666.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

This year, Peace Lutheran Church is responsible for covering The Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Granzin's Meat Market on **Saturday, December 11th from 9am-5pm**. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Two adults are needed at each shift. Kids are encouraged to attend alongside their guardians, but not required to be on the sign up below.

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to Brandi Raschke at 832-633-6930 or brandileighr@outlook.com. Reminder emails will be sent out prior to notify you of your upcoming shift. Thank you in advance for volunteering to represent Peace Lutheran Church! www.signupgenius.com



A Living Nativity

December 11, 6pm – 8pm
Drive-by *or*
Stop and experience!

Volunteers needed: Contact Becky Voges at (830) 587-4003

Let's Play Some Bingo!

Thursday, December 16th, at 12:00 Noon



Bring something to share for lunch and a few items for Bingo prizes. We will provide the coffee and tea.

One more thing - bring some Christmas cookies to share!

Any questions, please contact Becky Voges at 830-625-1666.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 19th at 5:30 pm

We will meet at the home of Wil and Becky Voges (1225 Loma Verde). We will be caroling to some of our Shut-ins. Let us know if you would like us to come sing for you. Bring some Christmas cookies to share for fellowship afterward. Contact Becky at 830-625-1666 for more details.



The Longest Night Worship

Longest Night is a worship service on commemorating December 21st the longest night of the year. The winter solstice reminds us that the day is short and for many in this happy season, it can be painful. It acknowledges that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God.



Join us on December 21st at 6:30 pm in-person @ Peace.

Christmas Eve Worship

Last year we did not have the opportunity to be in our Sanctuary.

Many have missed those wondrous traditions of gathering together and hearing the story of Jesus' birth coming into our world anew and yet the familiarity of the ancient story draws us into timelessness of this special holy day.

Join us on **Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm or 7:30 pm** for candlelight worship as we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child.



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 December:

Sunday, December 26th: Trulight 127

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.



*****Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, 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.**

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.

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

Unanswered



How many times have you anticipated some good news, and yet it does not arrive, or even more so, a disappointment occurs? You feel like you have been forgotten or slighted. You start thinking that life is not fair, that you have done everything that was asked of you, and yet you did not get the promotion or the new job or maybe the new home.

From Our Daily Bread, June 3 2021 “Its Okay to Lament”, the book of Lamentations describes the problems that occurred when Jerusalem was destroyed by Babylon. It describes the afflictions, the oppression and the starvation that occurred. Then in (verse 3:22-23) we are reminded that” Because of the Lords great Love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness”

Sometimes it feels impossible to believe that “the Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him “V 25, especially when we don’t see an end to our suffering. But we can cry out to Him, trust that He hears us and that He will be faithful to see us through.

From Our Daily Bread, November 1, 2021 “Ring the Bell”: Psalm 47, God doesn’t always grant us victory over our struggles in this life, whether health related, financial or relational. He’s worthy of our worship and praise in even those circumstances because we can trust that He’s still “seated on his holy throne” (v.8). When He does bring us to a place of healing - at least in a way we recognize in this early life - it’s cause for great celebration.

The Stephen Ministers are here to help through these difficult times. If you are experiencing problems and you feel like you are going down for the count, remember that you are not alone. consider talking with 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

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Reminder to Thrivent Members

Eligible people with Thrivent membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. Those with Thrivent products can make recommendations directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

Peace Lutheran Church is eligible to receive Choice Dollars. We ask that you prayerfully consider including Peace as you make your designations at this time. If you have any questions you can contact Michele Bauman 512-618-1246.



2022 Flowers

Signing up for flowers is just a click away. We utilize a Sign Up Genius online.



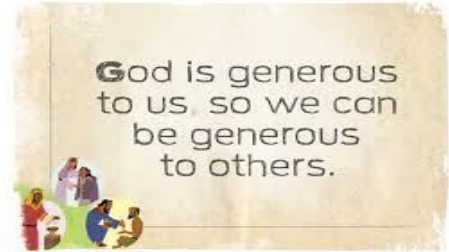
Visit the Peace website at www.peacenb.org. Scroll to the bottom and click on the Flower Button. This will take you directly to the Flower Sign Up Genius.

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 checks payable to Peace and mark "flowers" in the memo. Contact the church office if you need any assistance.

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 October 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 60,430.27	\$ 30,902.36	\$ 37,056.44		\$ 54,276.19
Building Fund	\$ 51,631.28	\$ 3,322.00*	\$ 30,750.89**		\$ 24,202.39
Endowment Fund	\$ 4,759.29	\$ 150.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 4,909.29
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 160,024.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 160,024.61
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,779.69	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,779.69
Designated Funds	\$ 29,038.84	\$ 1,135.00	\$ 40.00		\$ 30,133.84
Total Funds	\$ 311,663.98	\$ 35,509.36	\$ 67,847.33		\$ 279,326.01

***3,322.00: \$175.00 - Offerings; \$150.00 - Flood Donations; \$2,997.00 - Insurance**

****\$30,750.89: \$12,266.68 - Flooring; \$9,448.54 - Final Insurance Draw; \$5,901.00 - Electrical Work; \$2,946.31 - Exterior Wall and Brick Ledge Work; \$188.36 - Bathroom Updates**



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



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