

# Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter**

**Love God, Love People,  
and Serve the World!**

**January 2023**

## ***A Prayer for the New Year***

***May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright,  
even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you  
when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.  
Amen.***

***[www.heartprintsofgod.com](http://www.heartprintsofgod.com)***



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## A Message from the Pastor

### Vision

*Be strong, do not fear; your God will  
come,... he will come to save you.”  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the  
ears of the deaf unstopped.  
Isaiah 35:4-5*



There's a lot of stories about the blind being able to see in the Bible. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah gives a vision of a wilderness that will be restored to a lush oasis.

In the New Testament, Jesus comes healing the blind and the deaf embodying and realizing the kingdom of God is at hand.

Vision is hard for us these in these uncertain times. Churches used to make 5-year strategic plans forecasting where they were headed. In a world that was fairly stable, you could do that. Our world is constantly changing today at an unparalleled rate. It's unrealistic to make a 5-year plan when that world will likely change so much, the plan will make little sense.

It is in the adaptability to God's direction that we must listen. It's in God's movement that we must see.

In the Fall of 2022 a Peace's Vision Team began meeting, praying, reading scripture, and listening to the voice of God in this post-pandemic world. Our hope is to hear and see more clearly that God is on the move still opening the eyes and ears of people and restoring the wilderness into a lush oasis of God's kingdom.

We expected to set a course for the congregation moving into the new year, but in the process of listening we learned that this means slowing down, not speeding up. God tells us, "Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10.

Our hope is not to create an artificial vision of one derived from ourselves, rather to look and listen together as Peace Lutheran Church, so that we might follow God's vision for this world and our role in God's kingdom.

This year the whole church will be invited to look and listen together that we might have God's vision as our guide. *The blind see; the deaf hear.... God's kingdom is at hand.*

**Peace,  
Pastor Jake**



## *Annual Congregational Meeting*

### **Peace's Annual Congregational Meeting**

**1/29 Sunday after the 10am worship (11:15 am)**

- A Look Back at 2022
- Election of Council
- Budget Approval
- A Vision for 2023

#### **Informational Meetings**

**1/18 6:30pm Tuesday**

**1/21 9:00am Saturday**

Informational pre-meetings are either January 18th or 21st to allow for questions and feedback from the congregation.



Annual reports will be available for pickup in the narthex 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting or sent out electronically.

A Pre-meeting Video Presentation will be sent out electronically in mid-January

**Meetings in-person and online**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89472903587>**

**Meeting ID: 894 7290 3587**

**Phone: +1 669 444 9171 US**



## Abundant Blessings

### January Birthdays

02 Lynda Willis  
 03 Rory Martinez  
 04 Landon Garcia  
 06 Hayden Kaufman  
 08 Brett Kriley  
 11 Michelle Rappmund  
 12 Andrew More  
 13 Carl Mincemoyer  
 13 Nate Fain  
 14 Erich Weese  
 14 Mary Mielke  
 14 Heather Salas  
 14 Jacob Johnson  
 15 Becky Perkins  
 15 David Oestreich  
 15 Maria Haiyasoso  
 18 Jean Pfluger  
 20 Vicki Hillmer  
 20 Trice Kastein  
 20 Cody Miller  
 22 Michelle Davenport  
 24 Anita Hill  
 25 Cody Smith  
 26 Linda Lange  
 26 Heidi Stone  
 28 Jeannie Kawazoe  
 28 Lindsay Friedrich  
 29 Darcy Mittelstaedt  
 30 Stephen Clark  
 30 Bill Purcell  
 30 Marsha Dove  
 31 James Huston

### January Anniversaries

Carl and Debra Mincemoyer  
 January 7, 1994  
 Brent and Missy Paullus  
 January 11, 1992

### Prayers

Betty Wilcox  
 Major Friedrich  
 Tommy Perkins  
 Margaret Weese  
 Luke Padalecki  
 Judy Phife  
 Sharon Podojil  
 Earl Blaschke  
 Art Woytek  
 John Claycomb  
 Margo Woollven  
 Arlene Wold  
 Martin Franz  
 Helen Probst  
 Trice Kastein  
 Cody Smith

### Peace Prayer Ministry

Did you make any resolutions for the New Year? Many of us have a desire to have a more intimate prayer life, so might I suggest carving out more time for prayer and reflection? Peace Lutheran Church has an active Prayer Ministry. We have an Email Prayer Chain, we have a Zoom "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Group that meets every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. and we have a Prayer loom that is included in our Sunday morning prayers. I would like to welcome new members to join our email Prayer Chain and our Monday morning Prayer Group. We have experienced some amazing, answered prayers this year and we have given comfort to many of our members in their times of distress. Please consider being a part of our Prayer Ministry in this new year. You can email me at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for more information.



Count Your  
 Blessings

## Thank You

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$500.00 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit shipping Fund!



Many of our neighbors are living in the midst of a terrible yet perfect storm. The last few years have brought the devastating impacts of COVID, increased conflict and violence, drought and famine along with increasing food prices around the globe. The war in Ukraine has only worsened situations for these vulnerable communities, already teetering on the edge of poverty, pushing them further into dangerous cycles of hunger and suffering. Right now a quilt or a kit might be the one item of comfort someone might have when they are facing horrific realities of crisis upon crisis.

Because of your love, a family in a refugee camp can feel more at home with quilts to wrap around their shoulders. Families who have lost their homes in a devastating earthquake can hold on to their dignity and hygiene with a Personal Care Kit as they determine how to rebuild. And a mother living in poverty can welcome her new baby with pride, feeling your love and support every time she swaddles it with items from a Baby Care Kit.

I am so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world by ensuring they'll receive these critical items just when they need them most.

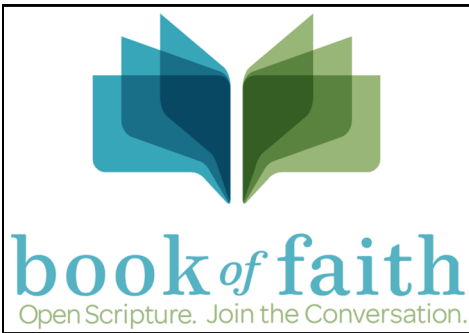
Thank you,  
Daniel Speckhard  
President and CEO  
Lutheran World Relief

Oh, my goodness where do I begin? Now that our 2022 Live Nativity is just a beautiful memory, I would like to thank some very special people for sharing their time and their gifts to make it a reality. First and foremost, a huge thank you to my dear husband Wil, who worked for months before the event planning with me, building and coming up with whatever I would dream up next—his words! To our fantastic Planning Team—John and Patti Kassel, Martin and Carol Franz, Kathi Anderson and Deacon Andrew. What would a program be without costumes, right? Well, we did have the issue of the black water pouring over everything 10 days before our event, but we had some miracles. One of them by the name of Vicky Hillmer, who rode in on her white horse and started pulling soggy costumes out of the black water and washing them. We were able to save most of our Shepherd costumes, praise God! Vicky was by my side every step of the way; I will not soon forget her support. Special thanks to our Shopkeepers—Kathi Anderson, Ann Keeler, Martin Franz, Judy Johnson, Michelle Davenport, and Paula Lynch, our welcome angel—Carol Franz, our Hot Cocoa Stop Ladies—Trice Kastein and Lindsay Friedrich and last, but not least our carolers—Steve Robbins, Vicky Hillmer and Deacon Andrew. "A very special thank you to Maureen and Phillip Garcia for being our Mary and Joseph once again." We had a new arrow this year directing people into the parking area, thanks to Dave Keeler. I would like to applaud Dave Thomas. This guy is always ready and willing to help us with our Fellowship activities throughout the year. We really appreciate you, Dave! We had over 30 people in costume bringing the Christmas story to life for our neighbors and for our community. I cannot imagine a more valuable way to spend a Saturday evening before Christmas. Until next year—God bless!

Becky Voges



## A Message from the Deacon



### The Gospel of Matthew “Jesus, The Long Expected Messiah”



**We are  
“rooted”  
in God's word!**

#### Some interesting aspects of Matthew:

- Length: Twenty-eight chapters
- Date of Composition: Between 80-90 CE
- Author: The title of this gospel was added long after its original composition. It is unlikely that Matthew, one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus, was the actual author. It is more likely that the name Matthew was attached to the writing to add canonical authenticity at a later date. We do know that the author incorporated almost all of the Gospel of Mark into his own writing, and as well as many of the traditional sayings of Jesus (Q source), and then he added a significant amount of his own material.
- Matthew's gospel begins with a genealogy of Jesus, tracing his ancestral lineage through King David and all the way back to Abraham.
- Matthew is one of two gospels (the other being Luke) which includes an infancy narrative about Jesus. As we approach the Christmas season, it is interesting to notice some of the differences between the two:
  - ⇒ Matthew focuses on Joseph, and his dream when he is told not to divorce Mary (1:19-25)
  - ⇒ Matthew tells us about the visit of the wise men after Jesus' birth (2:1-12)
  - ⇒ Matthew tells us about the family's flight to Egypt to escape Herod (2:13-23)
- Matthew emphasizes Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of Jewish prophecy. Notice how Matthew uses variations of the written formula *“this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophets.”* (1:22, 2:5, 2:15, 2:17, 4:14, 5:17, 8:17, 12:17, 13:14, 13:35, 21:4, 26:54, 26:56, 27:9)
- The disciple Peter receives special prominence in Matthew
- Matthew is the only gospel where Jesus talks specifically about the “church” (16:17-20; 18:15-21)
- Scholars note that there are five distinct sections where Jesus gives lengthy sermons or discourses in Matthew
  - ⇒ The Sermon On The Mount (chapters 5-7)
  - ⇒ The Missionary Discourse (chapter 10)
  - ⇒ The Parables of the Kingdom (chapter 13)
  - ⇒ The Community Discourse (chapter 18)
  - ⇒ The Eschatological (end times) Discourse (24-25)
- At the end of the Gospel of Matthew we find the great commission, a continual reminder to us of our own mission as followers of Jesus Christ:

***Jesus said to them, “all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

***(Matthew 28:18-20)***



## Elementary Retreat

**Saturday, January 21st**  
**11:00 am - 8:00 pm**  
**Slumber Falls Retreat Center**  
**Lunch and Dinner included**  
**"For The Bible Tells Me So"**

All kids grades K—5 (Peace and St. Andrew) are invited to join us for a day retreat at Slumber Falls Retreat Center. Our theme for this retreat is **the Bible**, so bring your favorite Bible with you (we will have extras). Any version, style, translation is fine. We will learn what's in the Bible, who wrote the Bible, and how the Bible helps us to live as followers of Jesus. In addition to learning time, we will have games, crafts, and activities, kind of like a one day VBS. For some of the learning time we'll split the group into K-2nd and 3rd -5th. Parents will drop kids off in the morning, then come back for a family-style cookout, campfire, and singing in the evening. Cost is \$40 per family (cover food costs). Contact Deacon Andrew with questions or to RSVP (803) 318-9933.



## 2022 Christmas Program



## *Peace Day Trippers*

**Thursday, January 19th  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall**

**We had so much fun playing BUNCO a few months ago, so we are going to play again! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a few games and then enjoy a light lunch.**



## *Stephen Ministry*



As we look toward the new year and our Stephen Ministry mission, we have not found enough members of Peace to start a new class in January. At this point, we have one person who has applied to become a Stephen Minister to serve those in need. In the interim, St John's Episcopal has accepted our member to join their January training class. We will continue to discuss the essential nature of our ministry in the hopes that other members will feel the call to help others in pain. Once we have 4-6 who aspire to become a Stephen Minister, we'll schedule a full training class here at Peace.

In the interim, please don't let issues of grief about anything languish. If you feel the need for someone to walk with you, contact Pastor Jake right away. We will then do whatever we can to be sure that there is always someone you can reach out to. While we no longer have enough active Stephen Ministers, we do have some prior Stephen Ministers, our Ambassadors, who have agreed to be available to talk with you. Our objective is that you will never be alone.

Bill Purcell  
Stephen Minister



*Bear one another's burdens, and so  
fulfill the law of Christ.  
Galatians 6:2*





## January Mission Spotlight

### Peace Lutheran January 2023 Mission Spotlight: Eagle Pass Frontera Ministries

*Eagle Pass Frontera Ministries* is a Southwestern Texas Synod mission development which is co-located with Iglesia Luterana San Lucas in Eagle Pass, Texas, on the Rio Grande border with Mexico. This organization serves “Migrants who have been processed by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)” who are “placed at Mission Border Hope where they can stay overnight and are helped with transportation logistics to San Antonio and/or to their final destination within the country, while they wait for their asylum process to continue.” The Southwestern Texas Synod also serves “alongside the Methodist Ministry of Mission Border Hope and the Catholic Ministry Frontera Digna.” The organizations “respond together to essential daily needs of all migrants for food, water, clothing, hygiene, and personal essentials”.



Peace will be organizing a youth retreat to go to Eagle Pass this summer, stay tuned for more information on this experience.

For more information: <https://www.swtsynod.org/pages/eagle-pass-frontera-ministries>

For those who would rather write a check, please make it out to Peace Lutheran Church and put Mission Spotlight in the memo.

Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, [peacenb.org](http://peacenb.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! Service Ministry Team

## 2023 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](http://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.

**The cost of the flowers has increased to \$50.00.** Make checks payable to Peace and mark "flowers" in the memo. Contact the church office if you need any assistance.

## Peace Pantry

Our Little Pantry is blessing lives each day because of your support. As we head into the coldest months of the year we would like to place a few hats and gloves in the pantry for people who stop by. Any donations you have can be placed in the SOS Shopping Cart in the Narthex. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer to help stock the pantry, please contact Becky Voges at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com).



## Nursery News



The Nursery is currently open for the 10:00 am Sunday Service! All volunteers have been certified to serve in this ministry. However, we need more volunteers to help keep it up and running. If you're interested, please contact Deacon Andrew for more details.

## Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2022

Don Hodde - President  
 Carol Franz - Vice President  
 Matthew Simmont - Secretary  
 Megan Wenzel - Treasurer  
 Vicki Hillmer - Member At-Large  
 David Thomas - Member At-Large  
 Forrest Willis - Member At-Large

Fellowship Team - Becky Voges  
 Finance Team - James Huston  
 Outreach Team - Open  
 Property Team - John Kassel  
 Service Team - Brandi Raschke  
 Worship Team - Kathi Anderson

## Giving at Peace

There are several giving options at Peace: Offering Envelopes; Online Giving (Website); Peace Church App; AmazonSmile Program; Bank Drafts. If you would like more information on any of the options listed above, please give our Business Administrator, Valerie, a call at 830-620-0618.



## Finances November 2022

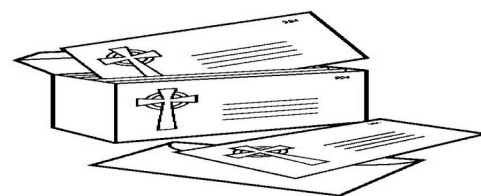
FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 22,447.53	\$ 23,713.05	\$ 29,630.56		\$ 16,530.02
Building Fund	\$ 11,081.36	\$ 229.43	\$ 0.00		\$ 11,310.79
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,006.01	\$ 132.28	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,138.29
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 112,338.74	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 112,338.74
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,791.67	\$ 4.76	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,796.43
Designated Funds	\$ 34,150.74	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 1,619.65		\$ 33,936.09
Total Funds	\$ 192,816.05	\$ 25,484.52	\$ 31,250.21		\$ 187,050.36

## 2023 Offering Envelopes

Your 2023 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the Narthex. Stop by the table behind the welcome center and gets yours today.

If you give online or by bank draft, you will not have a box.

Any questions, please contact Valerie Wood at 830-620-0618.



Peace Lutheran Church  
1147 S. Walnut Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
Web address: [www.peacenb.org](http://www.peacenb.org)  
830-620-0618

830-312-8797 - Pastor Jake Fain  
830-609-8359 - Valerie Wood

**Office Hours**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**8:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**Friday**  
**8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Worship Service**

**Sunday**  
**10:00 am - Indoor Worship and**  
**Livestream @ Peace**





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