



*Thank You from Peace's Staff*

The staff at Peace Lutheran Church gives thanks for the overwhelming support of the church this past year. What a gift of encouragement and affirmation to receive such a generous Christmas bonus!

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to all of you. We are so blessed to be a part of this amazing community entrusted with serving the mission of the gospel.

Peace, joy, and love,

Pastor Jake, Deacon Andrew, Valerie, Elizabeth, Jeannie, and Donna.



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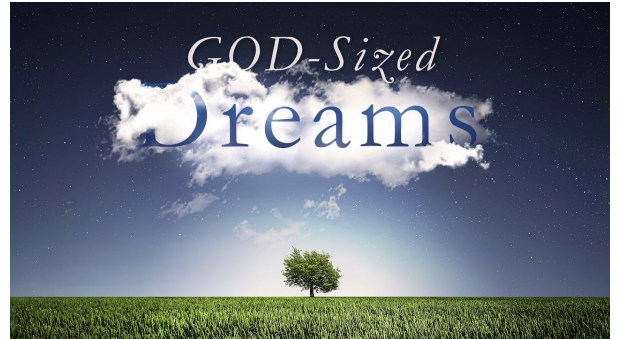


## A Message from the Pastor

### Dare to Dream

How many times have you heard yourself saying, “Someday I’m going to…”? Fill in the blank.

Sound familiar? I believe that “someday” is the enemy of the gift of today. “Someday” is daydreaming. Daydreaming is zoning out and passing the time. God-dreaming means putting seeing what God sees and putting feet to faith.



In the Bible we see people dreaming. Sometimes they are strange images that take some real help interpreting. But have you ever noticed some of the greatest messages are revealed in dreams? The angel of God announces news to Joseph and the magi in their dreams in the Christmas story. The Apostle Peter receives a new vision of Gentiles being included in the church in a dream. Daniel and Joseph in the Old Testament receive messages of hope and deliverance in their dreams.

This Lent we are planning a series called Dare to Dream. Too often we limit ourselves to daydreaming in our world, zoning out instead of zoning in on God’s dream for this world.

In this series my hope is that we can learn again to be dreamers, but not just with our head in the clouds—rather with our eyes scouring the horizon for God’s wondrous activity in this world. This begins with prayer.

I would ask that you begin praying this year to open your eyes to God’s dream. What does that look like? The cool thing about prayer is that it’s not just something we lift up, rather it tunes us in to what our hearts desire. And when our hearts are focused on God’s dream, we begin to see God at work already. Now, we can join in that work in a clearly way.

Each week is preceded by a meal from 5:30-6:15 pm followed by worship @ 6:30 pm.

2/22	Dreaming the Dream	Ash Wednesday	<i>no meal</i>
2/29	Discovering Our Birthright		
3/01	Our Burning Bush		
3/08	Lose the Big Buts...		
3/15	What’s In Your Hand?		
3/22	Perseverance		

Peace,  
Pastor Jake



## Abundant Blessings

### February Birthdays

03 Dave Keeler  
 03 Antonio Rosales  
 05 Johnana Clark  
 06 Debra Ullrich  
 06 Anthony Rosales  
 08 Lavonne Ohnheiser  
 09 Pam Kurczewski  
 11 M.L. Friedrich  
 12 Brandi Raschke  
 14 John Kassel  
 15 JoAnna Wold  
 23 Joe Wold  
 26 Tara Skeen  
 28 Vicki Ralph  
 28 Michele Kriley

### 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.



### Prayers

Michelle Rappmund  
 Rick Smith  
 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

### February Anniversaries

Bobby and Karen Laughlin  
 February 2, 1980  
 Salim and Emily Khalil  
 February 17, 1996

### Thank You

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,  
 On behalf of Connections and the individuals we serve, please accept this letter as confirmation of your gift of \$325.00. We greatly appreciate your generosity!

Connections has been providing services to youth in need for 40 years. Through residential, counseling, and prevention support, staff guide and empower youth giving them hope for a better future. Your gift makes our programs possible. We could not make an impact without the support of our community. Together, we can continue to serve those in need for the next 40 years!  
 Sincerely,  
 Megan Dupree,  
 Outreach Administrator  
 Connections Individual and Family Services

### In Sympathy

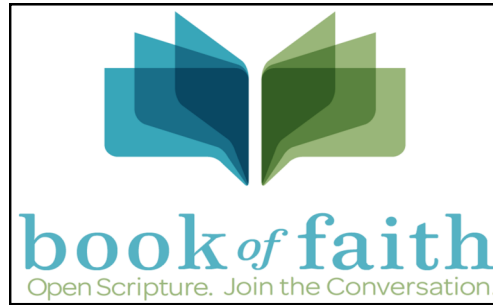
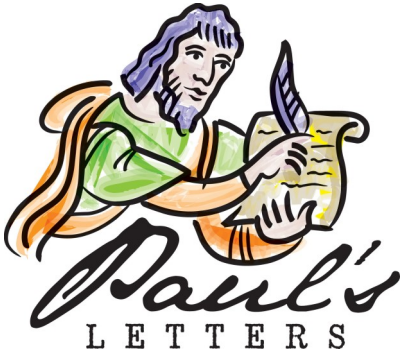
Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following members and their families:



- ♥ Lindsay Friedrich at the death of her grandmother, Mary Hillmer
- ♥ Ken Witten at the death of his mother, Dolores Witten
- ♥ Lupe Travis at the death of her brother, Phillip Rojas
- ♥ Terry Westerman at the death of her father, Jerry Bean



## Bible Book of the Month



Growing in God's Word together!

### 1 Corinthians

- **Length:** 16 chapters (take two days to read each chapter, or read it through twice!)
- **Author:** This is one of the seven undisputed letters by the Apostle Paul
- **Recipients:** The church at Corinth, the capitol city of the Roman province of Achaia. Paul himself founded the Christian church in Corinth during his missionary journeys. According to Acts 18:1-11, Paul stayed at Corinth for a year and a half after he started the new Christian church there.
- **Date:** Paul likely wrote this letter between 53-56 CE from the city of Ephesus (see 16:8). Remember as we read Paul's letters, we are literally reading 1st century mail between an individual and a community.
- Even though it is referred to as 1 Corinthians, this was actually not the first letter Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. There is evidence (see 5:9) of an earlier letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthian community, as well as him having previously received a letter (see 7:1) and oral communication (see 11:1, 16:17) from the Corinthian community. This back and forth communication between Paul and the congregation in Corinth continues through what we know as 2 Corinthians.
- This letter addresses several specific interpersonal, ethical and doctrinal problems that the Corinthian community was facing. Although Paul's writing here is to a specific congregation regarding these specific issues, this letter, like all others in our New Testament, has been lifted up by the church for its value to all Christian communities.
- This letter is one of our best first-hand looks into the day-to-day realities and struggles of the early church. In it we see confusion and conflict about the meaning of the gospel message between Corinthian members, such as:
  - ⇒ competing claims to wisdom, wealth, spiritual gifts, and power
  - ⇒ abuse of social status by some members of the church over one another
  - ⇒ disagreements about social practices and their ongoing relevance in light of the news of Christ's expected return (marriage, distinctions between men and women, lawsuits, eating meat sacrificed to idols, sexual immorality)
- After his usual introductory remarks (address, salutation, thanksgiving, see 1:1-9), Paul sets out the groundwork for "the message of the cross" (1:17-25) for dealing with divisions, disagreements, and disorders within the Corinthian community.
- In 1 Corinthians we have the only example describing the institution of the Lord's Supper outside of the gospels. (see 11:23-26).
- Paul uses the metaphor of the church being one body with many different and unique members, all with important gifts and functions (12:12-31), to help illustrate his message to the Corinthian congregation.
- Probably the most well known quote from one of Paul's letters, one which is often used in modern day marriage ceremonies is 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. However sentimental it sounds, Paul was not writing this as marital advice, but rather as advice for how all Christians should treat one another as brothers and sisters.
- Paul continues with comments about the meaning and significance of Christ's resurrection (chpt. 15) to help underscore his theological point to the Corinthian community. Although clearly frustrated, Paul appears to remain hopeful about the future of this fledgling Christian community and closes with final words of benediction.

## From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

*Looking to spend more time in God's word in 2023?*

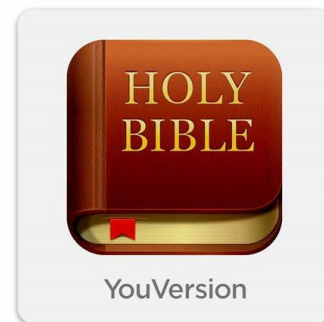
**YouVersion Bible**  
[www.bible.com](http://www.bible.com)

One of the gifts that technology brings to our lives is the ability to access and use all kinds of information. Personal computers, smart phones, and all sorts of digital devices give us this access either via the worldwide web or through digital programs called Apps. There is virtually no limit to the type of information you now have at your fingertips, and this includes the Bible.




There are many excellent websites and Apps available about the Bible that can be used for reading, study, and devotion. One of my favorite websites and Apps that I use frequently in both my professional and my personal study and devotion is called

**YouVersion**. Here's a screenshot from YouVersion's home page on the internet:





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**YouVersion** Bible Plans Videos  [Get the app](#)




Get a free Bible for your phone,  
tablet, and computer.


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EXPERIENCE IT ANYWHERE



MAKE IT YOUR BIBLE



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**YouVersion** gives you access to printed versions of the Bible, audio Bibles for listening, videos for Bible study and devotions, inspirational images and daily Bible quotes, and more. You can listen to or read the Bible at home, or anywhere you go with your laptop, smartphone or tablet. You have the Bible with you 24/7/365!

I especially like the “Plans” section, which gives you pre-designed Bible reading and study plans. One of my favorites is the *Bible Project’s “One Story That Leads To Jesus” plan*. However you choose to use YouVersion, I pray that God meets you in the midst of your study and devotion, and that the Bible continues to come alive for you and inspire you every day!

## *Peace Day Trippers*



It's a new year and time for new adventures for the Peace Day Trippers Group.

Our group met for the first time on Saint Patrick's Day last year and since then we have had many great outings and experiences. You might ask—who can come? Our group is open to all ages, men and women, couples and singles, friends and family, in fact, we love it when you invite your friends to join us.

**February: No Day Trippers**

**March 16: Blanco Buggy Barn Museum**

**April 20: Fredericksburg Wildseed Farm**

**May 18: Jim Johnson Wreath Workshop**

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Becky Voges at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com).

## *Valentine's Breakfast*



**Valentine's Breakfast**  
**February 12th, 8:30 am - 9:45 am**

**“Jesus is my valentine  
 because He loves me all the time!”**

Our Fellowship Team will be preparing a full breakfast for our Peace family and friends. Mark your calendars now so you remember to let us make breakfast for you.



## Peace Feast



Do you ever wonder who is in your congregation? Like really wonder who they are? Not just their names. Here is an opportunity for you to share a meal and get to know one another at Peace Lutheran. For the next four months - February, March, April, and May you will have that opportunity. When you sign up (*only have to sign up once*) you will be assigned to a small group. The host (*and you can sign up to be a host-the host organizes the group*) will gather your group together for a meal (potluck, restaurant, etc.-your group's choice). Come on the date and place you all agree upon and enjoy each other's company with food, conversation, and laughter.

Sign Up [online](#) or in the Narthex. For questions or more information, contact Jane Moeller (512) 784-5643 [janecmoeller@gmail.com](mailto:janecmoeller@gmail.com) or Darcy Mittelstaedt (480) 231-0658 [darcy.mittelstaedt@gmail.com](mailto:darcy.mittelstaedt@gmail.com). So just don't come to the Feast (Holy Communion) on a Sunday morning but to a Feast at another time. **The deadline to sign up is January 31st.**

## New Choir Director Steven Robbins

Peace has been in discernment over how music ministry will continue to be vibrant and holy. In answer to prayers, we are grateful for Steven Robbins, who joins us in 2023 as our new, part-time Choir Director.

Steven holds a BA in music from Texas Lutheran University with the guitar as his principal instrument. He then studied vocal music at UTSA, where he was the assistant conductor of the UTSA Chorus. While at UTSA, Steven also sang with the San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers.

He is the proud dad of his 17 year old daughter Sarah and 15 year old son Samuel.

Church music has always been a calling for Steven. He has been choir director/music director at St. Paul Lutheran in New Braunfels, Rolling Oaks Christian Church in San Antonio and St. Andrew Lutheran in Startzville. He's been part time music staff at Zion Lutheran in Helotes and Emanuel's Lutheran in Seguin.

Steven has been an elementary music teacher in the public school system for the past 19 years. He currently teaches at Vogel Elementary School in Seguin ISD. In addition, he is a Master Teaching Artist in the American Eurhythmics Society. An honor that makes him one of ten people in the United States authorized to train and certify other music teachers in Eurhythmics through the American Eurhythmics Society. Eurhythmics is a music education approach that utilizes somatic movement to teach music originally created by Swiss music educator Emile Jaques-Dalcroze. Steven teaches workshops and trainings around the country. His upcoming workshops include teaching at Belmont University in Nashville, TN in January 2023 and Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, CO in June 2023.



Steven and his daughter, Sarah



## Stephen Ministry

We are at a point where we no longer have enough Stephen Ministers to adequately care for those in our congregation. Efforts over the past several months have not identified enough new people called to this ministry to begin rebuilding. So, for now we will cease formal operation of Stephen Ministry at Peace.

We have a cadre of experienced leaders who will continue to monitor both the needs of the congregation as well working with members who feel the calling to become a Stephen Minister to help those in need. As we reach a number of people to conduct an effective training program, we will do so. In the interim, if you feel the need for help to get you through a difficult time in life, please call Cathi Fain at 830 865-1412 or contact the office. Our congregational value of remaining a caring congregation remains steadfast. Please continue to pray for new ways that we might live this out in the future.



Bill Purcell  
Stephen Minister



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



## 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).



*Peace Lutheran Church*  
*February 2023 Mission Spotlight*

**New Braunfels Christian Ministries**

New Braunfels Christian Ministries has been around since 2008 and “works together with families, volunteers and community partners to affirm God-given value and multiply possibilities in our community.” Their organization has two distinct parts: (1) Volunteers in Medicine and (2) Kids Club.



Their Volunteers in Medicine program helps low-income patients with dental care as well as treatment for other illnesses at low or no cost to the patient.

Their Kids Club program empowers “kids to reach their full potential through Jesus Christ”.



For more information on their program or ways to get involved visit: <https://nbcnm.org/>

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.

## 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; 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 December 2022

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 16,530.02	\$ 49,446.22	\$ 39,365.48		\$ 26,610.76
Building Fund	\$ 11,310.79	\$ 1,564.76	\$ 0.00		\$ 12,875.55
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,138.29	\$ 172.40	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,310.69
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 112,338.74	\$ 6,994.90	\$ 0.00		\$ 119,333.64
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,796.43	\$ 5.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,801.43
Designated Funds	\$ 33,936.09	\$ 1,490.00	\$ 1,490.00		\$ 33,936.09
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 187,050.36</b>	<b>\$ 59,673.28</b>	<b>\$ 40,855.48</b>		<b>\$ 205,868.16</b>



**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**  
**peacemb.org/live**

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

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



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New Braunfels, TX 78130