



Mission/Vision/Values Congregational Forum

Remember back in 2020 when the whole world experienced a change? It was a confusing time and we learned how to navigate life. Indeed, the pandemic changed a lot of the ways our society functioned, from our work lives, our relationships, and even our faith lives.

Thanks be to God, we weathered the storm together and leaned on God's presence in a difficult time. My hope is that we came out with a new perspective on just how vulnerable we are, and how much we need God and one another.

After 9-months of prayerful deliberation and engagement with what it means to be Peace Lutheran Church in this time and place, our Vision Team and leadership is ready to present to you our identity as God's beloved community.

Join us on August 27th after worship for a congregational forum to hear firsthand the work we have done as a congregation clarifying who God is calling us to be in this post-pandemic world. We're excited to live into our calling as disciples of Jesus as this community of faith sent out into the world to share God's love.

Pastor Jake and the Vision Team



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A Message from the Pastor

Every Day Retreat

As I write in my office I can hear the sound of exuberant children scurrying about the halls of our church facilities during our VBS Day Camp week hosted by the Lutherhill Camp from La Grange.

In addition our young people go off to Camp Chrysalis outside of Kerville each year. My own children have been a part of camp and experience the joy of a retreat uninhibited by the exterior demands of their lives.

Camp is a place where you can be with other kids unabashedly living a life centered on God.



Retreats are so important to us because they allow us to be like a kid again and connect with one another and share in play. Play is one of the most essential elements of retreat, particularly for children because it allows us to enjoy life, socialize with others, and imagine beyond what's right in front of us.

When is the last time you just played? Try it. It is soul-healing.



Time away also allows us to be with other people who are also away from everything else. The amount of things kids have to do this day is astronomical. Friendships are harder and harder to come by because kids are overscheduled. In addition, social media and it's addictive nature draw kids into more isolation than time playing together.

What does your friendship time look like? Time to tend relationships and simply be together is vital for spiritual health.

Finally, kids get to be with the Lord. Whether its singing a silly song, opening a Bible story and re-enacting it with one's peers, walking a trail in God's creation, or sharing a camp meal together these are all holy moments with God.

A Message from the Pastor

One of the most disheartening things is when kids come back from camp dejected because they won't have those same experiences throughout the year. I say, why not? What might that look like for kids and adults to experience Jesus throughout each moment?

How might we be a church that engages one another to interact with God's Spirit moving in our midst right now?

The solution is to not merely to go on retreat once a year, rather to go on retreats throughout the year—praising God, sharing life together, witnessing God's grace in song and prayer and adventure.



**Peace,
Pastor Jake**



Pastor's Check-In

Join Pastor Jake on Mondays at 3:00 pm on Zoom for an open chat with others from the church. There is no agenda except for the one you bring. Want to talk about things happening at Peace? Great! Got theological questions or insights? Come share them! Just want to hang out with some others and listen? You are welcome!



Look for the e-news for the zoom link or you can join by accessing the calendar page: www.peacenb.org/pages/calendar and clicking on the Pastor's Check-In. Need technical help with zoom? Call the church office and we'll help you out.

Be sure to check out the calendar page for times Pastor Jake may be out, particularly in the summer months.

Abundant Blessings

August Birthdays

01 Lupe Salas
 03 Sarah Fain
 04 Tina Scott
 05 Xenia Khalil
 07 Forrest Willis
 08 Lyndsey Wilkie
 10 Genevieve Butrico
 13 Cheryl Braaten
 13 Vivienne Khalil
 14 Thomas Braaten
 14 Ken Witten
 14 Eric Ralph
 16 Judy Johnson
 17 Karl Stellges
 18 Shelby Pampell
 19 Barbara Hodde
 21 Lupe Travis
 23 Nora Miller
 24 Tina Butrico
 27 Betty Rust
 28 Nathan Anderson
 28 Michael Wenzel
 28 Haley Morelock
 29 Linda McClintock
 31 Earl Blaschke

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pam Kurczewski and her family at the death of her mother, Virginia Nale.

Our deepest sympathies...



August Anniversaries

Bill and Sharon Purcell
 August 8, 1992
 Bill and Dayna Miller
 August 9, 1986
 Bryce and Kim Huntsman
 August 12, 1989
 Michael and Gayle Morris
 August 14, 1976
 Tommy and Ceretta Daum
 August 29, 1970

Peace Prayer Ministry

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. All are welcome 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 for info.

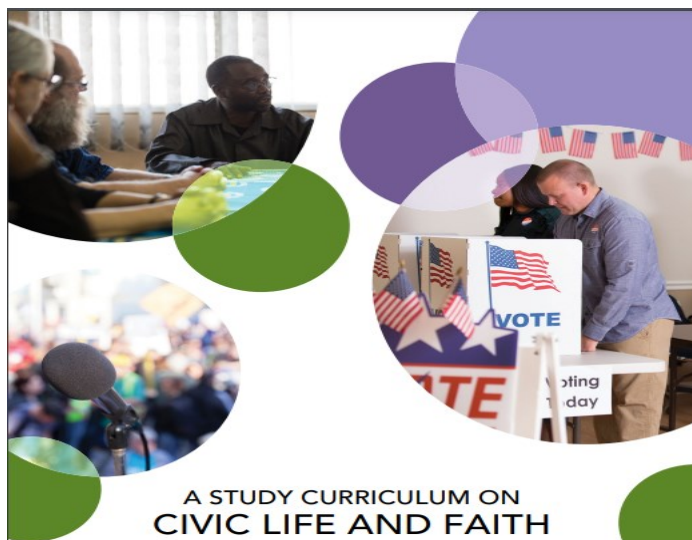


Prayers

Steven Robbins
 Barbara Doleshal
 Maureen Garcia
 Bob Johnson
 Gus Rust
 Jim Miller
 Jack Ralph
 Riley Martinez
 Michelle Rappmund
 Rick Smith
 Betty Wilcox
 Margaret Weese
 Judy Phife
 Earl Blaschke
 John Claycomb
 Margo Woollven
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst
 Cody Smith

GIVE
Thanks
WITH A
GRATEFUL
Heart

Seekers and Sponges - Adult Faith Formation



**July - September:
Sundays @ 8:30AM
In-person and Zoom**

Topic: [Studies for Civic Life and Faith - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org)

The ELCA Task Force on Studies for Civic Life and Faith has released a study curriculum for use throughout our church as we engage the question, what does it mean to be a Christian in civic life.

The study invites participants to delve into the nature of politics, the meaning of the Scriptures, the purpose of government, the responsibility of congregations and church-related organizations, First Amendment issues,

the relationship of faith-based living and civic life, connections between worship life and serving neighbor in society, the nature of citizenship, and other relevant topics.

In our class, everyone in our group becomes a teacher for one another, sharing experiences and perspectives that facilitate a respectful, enlightening approach to adult learning.

Please join us in the multimedia classroom at the end of the hallway. You will find the discussion engaging, insightful, and challenging, and it will expand how you look at your faith!

Click [HERE](#) to join by Zoom.

Online study guides can be found [HERE](#)

Study guides in print are available in-person.

Property Team Update

The first weekend of July, the Property Ministry Team enjoyed some quality time socializing and working on several needed maintenance projects in the morning. With the heat as it is, we cut the activities short but were able to get all the trees on the property trimmed up, the hot water heater drained with a new heating element ordered, all the A/C unit filters replaced, and the lights in the Sanctuary cleaned. We will pressure wash the playground equipment in the coming weeks.

I want to thank everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to help get these items addressed, especially dealing with the extreme heat. If you are interested in helping on future projects, please let me know or contact the office and asked to be included. There are always things that need to be done to maintain our facilities.

John Kassel
Property Ministry Team Chair
johnkassel53@gmail.com



A Message from the Deacon



During the week of June 26th—30th, eleven of our middle and senior high youth from both Peace and St. Andrew participated in this summer's **GraceWorks Youth Servant Camp**. The purpose behind GraceWorks is simple: to deepen the faith and leadership of our youth by serving, learning, and worshipping together.

W.O.W.

The idea for GraceWorks began when I was serving a congregation in the South Carolina Synod. In 2011, I led our youth group on a mission trip to Knoxville, Tennessee to participate in Win Our World (WOW) Urban Ministry. W.O.W. was created and hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church in the mid 2000's, and is located in downtown Knoxville. W.O.W. evolved from their own youth group's desire to lead their congregation's efforts to serve needs of people in their local community. Over the next few years, St. John's built on this idea and eventually created a destination mission trip program for visiting youth groups that they called W.O.W., inviting middle and senior high youth and adult leaders to come from near and far to spend a week living, learning, worshipping, and serving at St. John's and in the Knoxville area.

Over a six-week span each summer, St. John's would host up to 30 participants per week from multiple congregations. Participants stay in dormitory style housing next to the church. Each day the larger group is divided into smaller teams (6-8 people), and these teams each go into the community to learn through hands-on experience, observing and participating in the work of a wide variety of social service agencies in the Knoxville area and serving the needs of their clients. Many of the agencies with which W.O.W. is engaged serve people experiencing homelessness, but other agencies also include food banks, nursing homes, community gardens, meals on wheels, thrift stores, low income housing, and day care centers. In addition to sending teams to the service sites to grow awareness of the very real needs in the community, the ministry of W.O.W. focuses on building youth leadership skills through a very well developed program of daily worship, learning activities, devotions, and team building.

**A week of serving,
worshipping and
deepening faith
together**

A New Idea Is Born

After leading youth groups to W.O.W. in 2011 and again in 2013, our youth began to wrestle with the question, "what about the needs of the people back home in our own local communities?" We discovered that there were other youth groups from congregations in our same area of South Carolina who also participated in W.O.W. and were asking that exact same thing. The leaders of these congregations got together to consider that question, and from those discussions the idea of GraceWorks was born and grew to encompass over twenty congregations across several geographic areas of the state.

From South Carolina To Texas

When I came to Texas to serve Peace and St. Andrew, I brought the model of GraceWorks with me. Now in its second year here, GraceWorks Youth Servant Camp is already growing in its impact in our communities, in our congregations, and in the lives of our youth.

Our GraceWorks 2023 Team



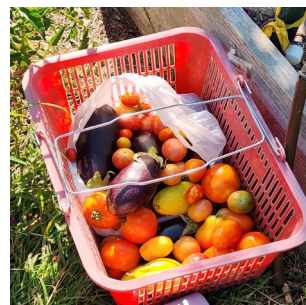
(from L-R) Claire, Brendan, Caleb, Haley, Lillian, Kendyl, Riley, Megan, Evelyn, Zac, and Nate

Back To School Blessing **Sunday, August 20th (during worship)**

Join us as we gather to celebrate and bless all students, faculty, and school staff for the 2023-2024 school year. All students and teachers are invited to join us! Also, we will have new backpack tags for anyone who would like one, whether you are in school or not, to remind you that you are a beloved child of God and disciple of Jesus wherever you are!



GraceWorks Week Photos



Canyon Lake Resource & Recreation Center: Community Gardens & Food Bank



Eden Hill - singing & games



Daily worship at Peace & St. Andrew



**New Braunfels
Food Bank:
Helping with
client choice day at
the food pantry**



**Moving furniture for
First Footing to prepare for
their new location**

**Lunch & Escape Room fun: a
well deserved reward for a
hard week of work!**



Relay For Life Bake Sale
Sunday, August 13th, 8:30 am - 11:30 am



We will be set up in the Narthex to tempt you with many homemade goodies ready to have with your Sunday morning coffee or to take home for later. All proceeds will help cancer patients and their families. Relay for life is affiliated with the American Cancer Society.

The High Hopes Survivor Relay Team appreciates your support.

This year's Relay will be held on **October 8** at Starke Park in Seguin, TX.



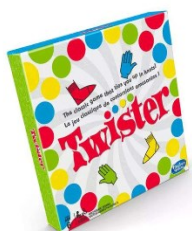
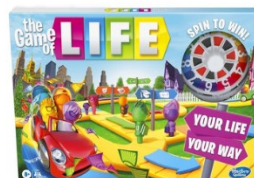
SAVE THE DATE
RELAY FOR LIFE OF GUADALUPE AND COMAL
IN IT TO WIN IT!

Saturday, OCTOBER 7, 2023
3pm - 7pm



Patricia K Irvine-King Pavillion
Seguin, TX

Sign up a team
 or a survivor at
www.relayforlife.org/seguintx



For questions or information
MISTI ABRAMEIT GUENTHER
abrameit@yahoo.com
 830-832-2440

August 2023 Mission Spotlight First Footing Homeless Shelter

NB First Footing was created through NB Housing Partners in February 2021 for the New Braunfels' community. Their focus is on solving homelessness by giving people a safe place to stay and connect individuals to services they need. *NB First Footing* is a part of the NB Housing Partners - which include *The New Braunfels Food Bank, City of New Braunfels, and the McKenna Foundation*. To learn more about their mission: <http://nbhousingpartners.org/what-were-doing/>



If you would like to support this cause financially, please make checks out to Peace Lutheran Church. Giving online is available as well by clicking the link or scanning the code below. Regardless of your method of support, please be sure to include "Mission Spotlight" in the memo.

<https://bit.ly/3MP8sPF>



Men of the ELCA

Men of the ELCA: The Synod Lutheran Men in Mission would like you to save the date of **September 30th, 2023** on your calendar. We are going to be holding a men's gathering at Zion Lutheran Church in Helotes on that day and would like to invite you to join us for the event. We are looking to begin rejuvenating our synods LMM presence in our churches and communities and that begins by getting the men together to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones.



ELCA

This is our first step in this initiative and would like to have as many as possible join us. There will be more to follow in the coming days and weeks. If you have questions you may contact Dennis Hickey at dhickey1@satx.rr.com or call him at 210-347-6338.

Dennis J. Hickey
President, Southwestern Texas Synod Lutheran Men In Mission
Phone: (210) 347-6338

Little Pantry News



Special thanks to our Pantry Angels who monitor the Pantry each month. We still need Pantry Angels for September-December. If you would like to take a month, just let me know.

Our Day Campers gave the Pantry a nice little boost with their special prayers they wrote to be placed in the Pantry with their donations. They were very excited about being able to help with our Pantry ministry.

We are always looking for donations of canned meats with pull tabs, individually packed fruits, puddings, crackers, cereals, peanut butter, take out knives, forks and spoons and bottled water and juices. We could also use some Bibles and devotionals.

If you have questions, please contact me at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

Snapology

Snapology is an interactive camp meant to teach kids STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) skills through play.

The program offers a wide variety of FUN programs for children ages 5-14. From fun LEGO-themed programs to robotics to engineering to animation.

Peace is partnering with Snapology for the summer hosting its programming efforts as an outreach to the community.

This summer our Peace facilities will have kids utilizing the Fellowship Hall area from Monday—Friday. For a full schedule you may visit our calendar page: www.peacenb.org/pages/calendar

For a detailed list of scheduling you may visit: <https://pages.e2ma.net/pages/1924293/34150> or click [HERE](#)



Camps run weekly (M-F) through August 18th.

<p>Half-day morning (9am -12pm) \$169 per week Half-day afternoon (1pm - 4pm) \$169 per week Full-day (9am - 4pm) \$289 per week</p>
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Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2023

Carol Franz - President
 Megan Wenzel - Vice President
 Matthew Simmont - Secretary
 Don Hodde - Treasurer
 Kathi Anderson - Member At-Large
 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 - John Kassel
 Service Team - Brandi Raschke
 Worship Team Judi Miller

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 June 2023

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 11,018.76	\$ 29,829.75	\$ 37,533.43		\$ 3,315.08
Building Fund	\$ 13,356.87	\$ 720.26	\$ 0.00		\$ 14,077.13
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,893.11	\$ 132.58	\$ 0.00		\$ 8,025.69
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 125,335.89	\$ 4,186.06	\$ 0.00		\$ 129,521.95
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 7,678.20	\$ 9.88	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00*	\$ 8,688.08
Designated Funds	\$ 32,257.59	\$ 422.39	\$ 1,211.92		\$ 31,468.06
Total Funds	\$ 197,540.42	\$ 35,300.92	\$ 38,745.35	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 195,095.99

*Transfer Property Plant Equipment Reserve from the General Fund to the Deferred Maintenance Fund



Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Web address: 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
peacenb.org/live



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