



*Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
Love God, Love People,  
and Serve the World!  
September 2023*

## *35th Anniversary Celebration*

### **35th Anniversary of Peace**

**Peace is celebrating our 35th anniversary on September 10th.**

This milestone marks not only the passage of time but also the unwavering commitment, faith, and dedication of our congregation. For three and a half decades, we have come together as a community of believers, fostering spiritual growth, supporting one another, and spreading the message of love and compassion.



As we reflect on our journey, it's incredible to see how far we've come since our humble beginnings. Our church was founded on the principle that a shared faith can bring people from all walks of life together. Today, we stand as a testament to the power of unity, a place where diversity is celebrated, and all are welcomed with open arms.

*(continued on page 3)*



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## A Message from the Pastor

### The Art of Neighboring

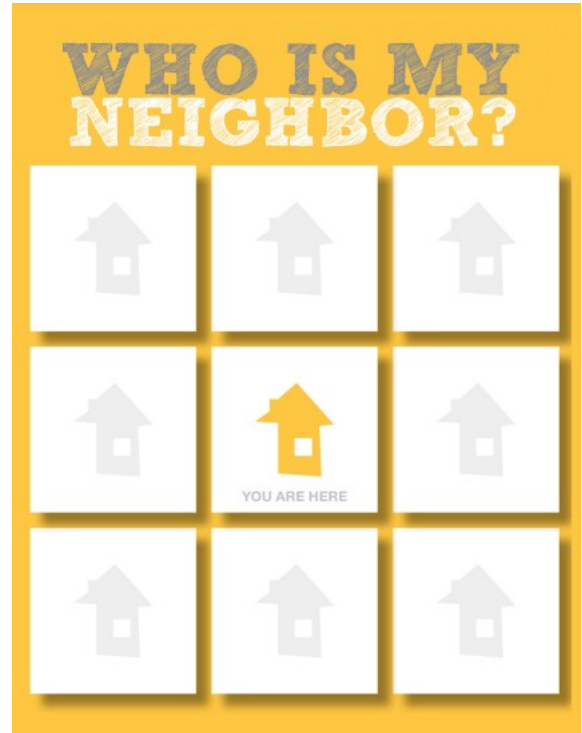
Jesus tried to make his way of life simple for his followers. In a complex world that had been so convoluted by rules and regulations, prohibitions and prescriptions, Jesus widdled it down to two things when asked what it means to follow God.

“Love God and love your neighbor.”

Of course in the gospel, Jesus is pressed by the legalists saying, “Who exactly is my neighbor?” That’s a question worth asking.

Maybe you’re quite familiar with the two great commandments of Jesus. But I wonder if we need to ask more about what is neighborliness.

As the world expands with the breakthrough of technologies that can connect us in any time and any place, there’s something about the diminishment of knowing our neighbors. And if we don’t know our neighbors, how do we expect to love them?



Increasingly we have designed an unneighborly world. We drive into automatic garage doors without ever getting out of our cars. We spend less time on the front porch and more time indoors. We spend more time on the road or on the internet and less time with those immediately around us.

Join us in worship in September as we begin a new series on the Art of Neighboring:

9/17	<i>Taking the Great Commandment Literally</i>
9/24	<i>The Time Barrier</i>
10/1	<i>The Fear Factor</i>

Each week we’ll share practical tools to get to know your neighbors and recognize God’s deep commitment to community and the neighborhood.

**Peace,  
Pastor Jake**





## 35th Anniversary Celebration

(continued from page 1)

Throughout these 35 years, we have witnessed countless stories of transformation and inspiration. From the friendships forged to the moments of solace found in the pews during times of hardship, our church has been a sanctuary for both joyful and challenging times. It's a place where we've not only nurtured our own faith but have also extended a helping hand to those in need through various outreach programs and community initiatives.

Our church's journey has been marked by growth and evolution. We've seen our congregation expand, our facilities improve, and our impact on the community deepen. From the ministry of service that have touched the lives of countless individuals to organizing spiritual retreats that have rejuvenated our souls, every step we've taken has brought us closer to fulfilling our mission: *To love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's way.*



As we look ahead, let us remember that our church's story is far from over. The lessons we've learned, the bonds we've forged, and the memories we've created will continue to guide us as we embark on the next chapter of our journey. Together, we'll continue to spread kindness, offer support, and be a beacon of hope for all those seeking solace and connection.

To celebrate this our anniversary, we are gathering in worship to praise God and give thanks for the gift of community followed by a BBQ meal to break bread, share stories, and remember God's blessing of the communion of saints.

## 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](http://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

### September Birthdays

05 Mary Sweet  
 05 Cindy Thomas  
 05 Amy Tiemann  
 06 Sharon Purcell  
 06 Bryce Parrock  
 08 Cathi Fain  
 10 Maureen Garcia  
 11 Alan Freeman  
 11 Riley Martinez  
 13 Connor Huston  
 15 Kristan Martinez  
 15 Haley Luce  
 15 Cora Johnson  
 17 Tim Kaufman  
 18 Erika Kaufman  
 19 Betty Wilcox  
 20 Bodie Henderson  
 21 Michael McClintock  
 24 Carol Thatcher  
 25 Ellie Woytek  
 27 Peggy Stone Cheek  
 28 Sinead Healey  
 28 Kadya Wilkie-Dickman  
 29 Margo Woollven  
 29 Josephine Peebles  
 30 Richard Luce

### September Anniversaries

Michael and Sandra Amori  
 September 2, 1967  
 Ken and Nanci Witten  
 September 3, 1983  
 Frank and Pam Krause  
 September 3, 1994  
 Erich and Margaret Weese  
 September 6, 1969  
 David and Susan Heise  
 September 6, 1970  
 Nathan and Sharon Anderson  
 September 8, 1984  
 Lester and Stella Leissner  
 September 8, 2001  
 Don and Barbara Hodde  
 September 10, 1988  
 Thomas and Cheryl Braaten  
 September 11, 1971  
 Forrest and Lynda Willis  
 September 13, 1986  
 Ray and Kristan Martinez  
 September 14, 2013  
 Nate and Brandi Raschke  
 September 17, 2016  
 Michael and Megan Wenzel  
 September 29, 2018

### Prayers

Nora Miller  
 Carol Franz  
 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

### 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](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for info.

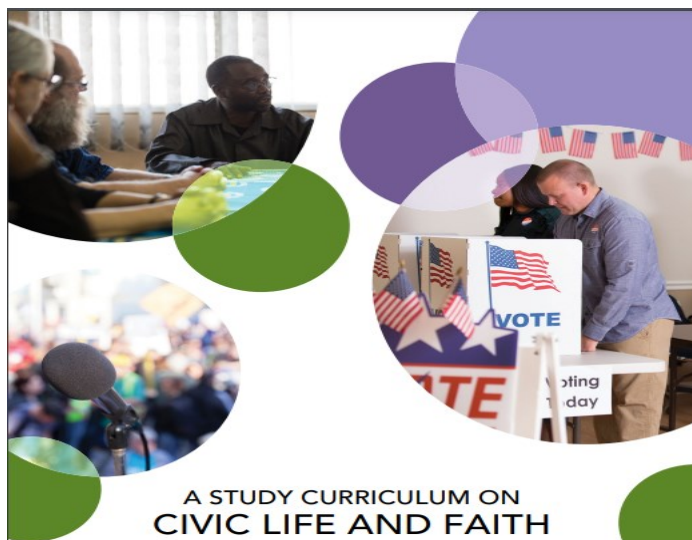


### Thank You

Hey friends at Peace Lutheran,  
 Thank you so much for celebrating my birthday with me and my kids. You guys helped me feel like I'm home. Thank you for your kindness and generous friendship. You guys give me a lot to be thankful for! God bless yall! HUGS!  
 Warmly,  
 Mari Nickey and Jojo  
 (Peter Parker)  
 Family Promise



## 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.

## 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.

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](mailto: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





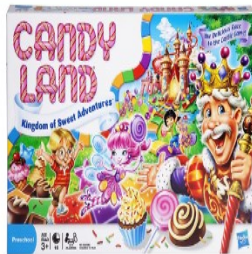
*Relay For Life of  
Guadalupe and Comal*

# SAVE THE DATE

## RELAY FOR LIFE OF GUADALUPE AND COMAL

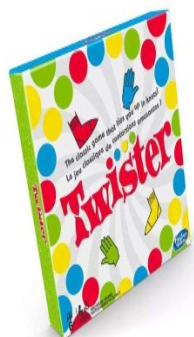
# IN IT TO WIN IT!

**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](http://www.relayforlife.org/seguintx)**



**For questions or information**  
**MISTI ABRAHEIT GUENTHER**  
**[abrameit@yahoo.com](mailto:abrameit@yahoo.com)**  
**830-832-2440**

## *St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fall Festival*

### *Saturday, October 28th*

We have been asked to help St. Andrew with their annual Fall Festival. We will be making Halloween Cookies and Candies and Crafts to sell. The proceeds of the sale will go towards keeping our Little Pantry stocked. Our men will also be making breakfast sausage and hamburgers to sell. Some of us are already working on our craft projects. If you or someone you know can donate something, let me know. We will also be looking for workers for that day. There will be Sign-up genius when it gets a little closer. As always you can contact me at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) or 830-587-4003.



## *Christmas Tea*

### *Saturday, December 2nd*



The Christmas Tea will be held on **Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.** This year's theme is "The Nutcracker". You can sign up on signup genius ( <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0844acac29a2fd0-anutcracker> ) or we will have forms at the church, beginning in October. Tickets are \$9.00.

Again, this year we will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations for the SOS Food Bank.

**Deadline to purchase tickets is November 22nd.**

Contact Donna Braune at 830-643-9353 for more information.

## *Live Nativity*

### *Saturday, December 16th*

### **Seamstresses Needed**

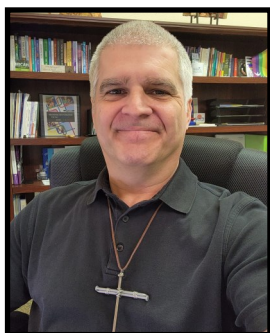
Before you know it, you will be hearing Christmas music, ha! Last year we lost our Angel Costumes due to a fire sprinkler issue. We need help sewing some new ones. Our pattern is simple, if you could help, please call Becky Voges at 830-587-4003.





## A Message from the Deacon

### Mission Trip 2023: Asheville Servant Adventure



If you've even been on any kind of group mission trip, you know that these types of trips often provide opportunities for new experiences as well as deepening faith. Both of these things certainly proved true for the seven high school youth and three adults from Peace and St. Andrew this July. Our group left after worship on a Sunday morning, and returned eight days later the following Sunday evening with many memories and wonderful stories of our trip.

Our trip began from the parking lot of Peace as we loaded our van with suitcases and snacks to start the 1,200 mile journey across seven states. Our destination: Lutheridge, a large ELCA Lutheran camp and retreat center located near Asheville, North

Carolina in the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains. Our group was blessed with smooth travels and excellent weather for our entire trip, and our youth got to see many new parts of our country, drive along winding mountain roads, and find themselves surrounded by the tallest most green trees (and coolest summer temperatures) that they had ever experienced.



Our mid-trip travelling stop both directions was Peace Lutheran Church in Slidell, Louisiana, just east of New Orleans. For many years Peace has served as a way point for church groups, many staying there to help with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (which I happened to have done back in 2008). It was really nice to have a welcoming place in which to recover from our very full long days of driving. We are grateful to Pastor Barb Simmers and Peace Lutheran for their wonderful hospitality.

When we arrived at Lutheridge late that Monday evening, we found ourselves among over 200 youth and adult leaders who were also there for a full and active week of summer camp activities. Our group stayed at a comfortable two story cabin on the edge of camp, and over the course of our four days on site, explored this vast and beautiful camp.



While there, we enjoyed the peaceful campus at Lutheridge, engaging in lots of typical summer youth camp activities, like hiking, swimming, crafts, cookouts, group building challenges, singing, and worship.

However, the unique part of our week involved going offsite each day to explore, learn about and serve in many places in and around this region of North Carolina. This combination of a summer camp model combined with a mission trip focus was the reason that we chose to come all the way to Lutheridge.



Our first project of the week involved serving at the Veterans Restoration Quarters, a 200 bed facility which is part of a wider agency called Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM), a vital non-profit organization which addresses poverty, hunger, homelessness and access to health care for the under-served in the Asheville area. For this project, our group helped prepare cookies to take to the VRQ, spent time landscaping around the property, prepared and served lunch for the residents, spent time talking with the residents, and learned all about the variety services available at VRQ.

Much of the work that ABCCM does is done by volunteer groups, like churches and other community service organizations. It is clear that Lutheridge is developing a strong partnership with ABCCM and looks to increase their support for these programs. Before leaving, our youth went around the dining hall and thanked all of the veterans for their service to our country. It was the first but not the last experience which expanded our youth's sense of compassion and understanding.





## A Message from the Deacon



Our second day service destination was the Cherokee Indian reservation, specifically, Living Waters Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation serving the residents of the reservation. Led by their pastor, Rev. Jack Russell, Living Waters provides a safe and trusted place for hope, healing, resources, and worship.

Spending time at Living Waters proved to be eye opening for our group in a number of ways. First of all, we did not go there to “serve”. Rather we came there to listen and to learn. Pastor Jack shared with us the story of the Cherokee people, as well as his

own story of being raised attending a Lutheran boarding school and eventually becoming an ELCA pastor. He taught us some of the songs that they sing during their worship, which is a traditional Lutheran liturgy that incorporates important aspects of Cherokee culture, reflected in their sign “Christ and Culture: Hand in Hand”.



In addition to its worship life, Living Waters is a distribution center for many daily necessities and



resources to the people of Cherokee. We heard powerful stories of their bravery and commitment to their community. Pastor Jack’s wife leads the work of the distribution center, which is staffed by a number of their congregants. We heard many stories of the hardships faced by



the native community in Cherokee, including during the pandemic, and how the church is committed to meeting those needs with dignity and respect. As a farewell gesture of friendship, our group was invited to “sign” a rock by the church as a reminder that we are all connected as siblings in Christ.

### Other trip pics.....



Thanks, Lutheridge!





## Little Pantry News



Special thanks to our Pantry Angels who monitor the Pantry each month. We have Angels thru December. We will need volunteers beginning in the new year.

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](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com).

## September 2023 Mission Spotlight Family Life Center

**Mission:** “The mission of the Family Life Center is to serve the community as a point of first contact for people in crisis situations. We do this by assessing their situation and connecting them to the resources they need to move them out of crisis and into self-sufficiency.”

The Family Life Center has been serving the New Braunfels community since 2008. They assist about 8,000 individuals a year by connecting them to resources needed. They work “hand-in-hand with numerous agencies, churches, and organizations to meet the needs of the under-resourced” in the surrounding community.



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>



## 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 July 2023

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 3,315.08	\$ 48,095.42	\$ 32,376.92		\$ 19,033.58
Building Fund	\$ 14,077.13	\$ 785.80	\$ 0.00		\$ 14,862.93
Endowment Fund	\$ 8,025.69	\$ 162.70	\$ 0.00		\$ 8,188.39
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 129,521.95	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 129,521.95
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 8,688.08	\$ 11.40	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00*	\$ 9,699.48
Designated Funds	\$ 31,468.06	\$ 6,204.00	\$ 6,769.10		\$ 30,902.96
Total Funds	\$ 195,095.99	\$ 55,259.32	\$ 39,146.02	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 212,209.29

\*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](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**  
**[peacenb.org/live](http://peacenb.org/live)**





Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.

New Braunfels, TX 78130