

**Reformation**  
**SUNDAY**

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

**Blessing of the Animals**  
**St. Francis Day**  
**October 8th @ Landa Park**

St. Francis of Assisi grew up in the 13th century in a wealthy merchant family. After a rowdy childhood and young adulthood, and a brief career as a soldier, Francis had a conversion experience that inspired him to renounce his family’s wealth and devote his life to God. His dedication to poverty, humility, obedience, and compassion soon attracted followers. The following would become the order of the Franciscans who would strive to care for poor and vulnerable.



In his preaching to the poor, St. Francis soon began to widen the scope of care to all creation, including animals. He was known even to preach to the animals of God’s care for creation. The church throughout the world still celebrates the Feast of St. Francis on October 4th, the day of his death.

(continued on page 3)

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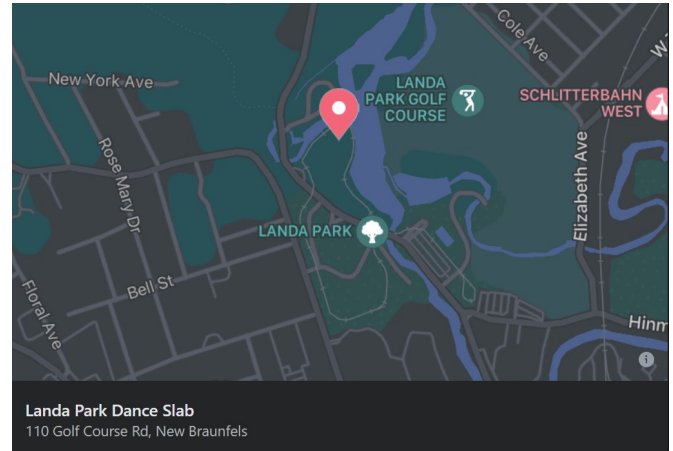
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[illegible]A circular portrait of Rev. Fr. John J. Schmitt, S.J. He is a man with dark hair and a goatee, smiling, wearing a black clerical shirt with a white tab collar. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green.



## ***Blessing of the Animals*** *(continued from page 1)*

As a part of the commemoration, we celebrate a **Blessing of Animals Worship** at 10:00 am on October 8th at the Land Park Dance Slab. Friendly pets (or pictures of your pets) are encouraged to join in this special outdoor worship service at the park. In addition to bringing your pet, we ask that you bring a lawn chair. This worship will **NOT** be livestreamed.



## ***Office Administrator***

Peace says goodbye and a job well done to our fabulous Office Administrator, Elizabeth Hoenemeyer, who served faithfully in that position for the past four years. Her presence in the office was a bulwark of stability keeping things moving and communicated in times of serious transition. During her tenure we experienced covid and the flooding of the building in which she helped move our congregation into a digital platform/ministry and kept a strong, centralized messaging system.

While we lament Elizabeth's departure we celebrate her next chapter of life. She has been gracious to extend training and support as we onboard a new person over the coming weeks.



It is with great excitement we announce that Madison Clark brings her gifts to fulfill this important role as our new Office Administrator. Madison has a breadth of experience primarily as a dancer including stints on the Carnival Cruise line as a stage manager. Currently Madison continues to teach dance & yoga classes in various locations and leads us in office admin work at Peace.

Additionally, Madison is a daughter of the congregation, baptized and raised at Peace. We are grateful and hopeful for the gifts she will be to this community.

Her email and phone contact will continue to be the same as Elizabeth's: [office@peacenb.org](mailto:office@peacenb.org) & church # 830-620-0618.

## *Abundant Blessings*

### *October Birthdays*

01 Merle Cavanaugh  
 04 JoAnn Schlabach  
 06 Rick Smith  
 07 Stella Salas  
 08 Dayna Miller  
 08 Brody Johnson  
 08 Brian Peebles  
 08 Clayton Smith  
 09 Barbara Doleshal  
 11 Emma Armstrong  
 13 Jack Ralph  
 13 Kate Miller  
 13 Braden Kriley  
 15 Susan Briner  
 16 Steel McCoy  
 18 Robbie Hetherington  
 18 Daylin Tiemann  
 19 Steven Anderson  
 20 Matt Simmont  
 20 Parker Kaufman  
 21 David Lange  
 21 Eric Dickman  
 21 Jennifer Phillips  
 24 Lavern Kistner  
 24 Kristen Mosher  
 25 Bobby Laughlin  
 25 Katharine Mosher  
 26 Dave Heise  
 27 Jackie Ullrich  
 29 Jake Fain

### *October Anniversaries*

Charles Cheek and  
 Peggy Stone Cheek  
 October 2, 2010  
 Brian and Amy Tiemann  
 October 4, 2008  
 Darrell and Tara Skeen  
 October 4, 2014  
 Dave and Ann Keeler  
 October 7, 1966  
 Sharky and Beverly Anderson  
 October 8, 2016  
 Antonio Rosales and  
 Raquel Gordillo  
 October 10, 2012  
 Roy and Lindsay Friedrich  
 October 22, 2005  
 Mitch and Cathi Fain  
 October 23, 1982  
 Clint and Jennifer Phillips  
 October 25, 2008  
 Andrew and Kristyn Ladshaw  
 October 29, 2016

### *Prayers*

Lavern Kistner  
 Becky Perkins  
 Martin Franz  
 Nora Miller  
 Carol Franz  
 Steven Robbins  
 Barbara Doleshal  
 Maureen Garcia  
 Bob Johnson  
 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.



### *In Sympathy*



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Betty Rust and her family at the death of her husband, Gus.

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.

## *Journey to Generosity: the Way of Jesus*

When we chose to be generous, we are making a radical, conscientious choice to join God's radical nature of love. And the truth is that always costs something. Whether it's time for another person, we are making a choice to use our time to engage someone else: our families, our friends, our neighbors,...



Or whether we use our talents and labors for God. We are sacrificing those gifts that may be of real value in the job market. But my choice to use the gifts God has shared with me allows me to reorient where those gifts came from in the first place and for what purpose.

Or how we choose to spend our money, the resources we have to live and enjoy life. Often times we give if we have enough to go around. We live in a scarcity mindset and when we espouse that worldview, there's really never enough to go around.

I'll let you in on a little secret. People who have the most joy in life are the ones who practice generosity more and more. It almost seems counter-intuitive. We tend to think the more we give of away the less we have. But the truth is, the things we invest our time and energy and money in, are what are sacred to us.

So for example, no one has regrets later in life saying, "I really shouldn't have spent all the time reading those bedtime stories to my children. I really should have spent more time at work."

The same is true for investing in the Kingdom of God. Every act of generosity is a step of faith walking with Jesus. It's those seeds of faith that are planted in the community that bear fruit. When you give first fruits, the beginning of what God has shared with you, you begin to see the world in a whole new way. Why? Because where your treasure is, there your heart is. That's what Jesus said (Luke 12:34). What we give to is a testament of what our deepest values are.

On October 22nd we'll start our Mission/Vision/Values worship series. Each Sunday we'll connect who we are and how God is calling us to live out God's purpose for us. You'll be invited to participate not only with your mind, but your heart and your hands to serve the Lord and join God in mission.

And then on November 12th, you'll be invited to make a commitment of how you will be a steward of God's gifts for the coming year.



Will you invest in the things that matter most? Will you invest in the Kingdom of God and walk with Jesus' generous Way?

Peace,  
Pastor Jake

## *The Art of Neighboring Worship Service*

Love God and love your neighbor. How can we love our neighbors far away if we don't even know our neighbors next door?

Join us in worship as we explore 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>



## *Relay For Life of Guadalupe and Comal Saturday, October 7th*



Everyone is invited to join us on October 7th, as we celebrate the lives of our cancer survivors and honor the lives of those lost to cancer.

The Relay will be held at Patricia K Irvine-King Pavilion in Seguin from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. There will be games, refreshments, a Silent Auction, a Survivor Walk and a Luminaria Ceremony.

## *Mission/Vision/Values Worship Series*

Join us each week beginning in October for a worship series clarifying who we are as God's people/

10/22	Mission	<i>Love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's Way</i>
10/29	Vision	<i>A world made whole through love</i>
11/05	Value 1	<i>Shalom</i>
11/12	Value 2	<i>Compassion</i>
11/19	Value 3	<i>Serve</i>
11/26	Value 4	<i>Grace</i>



## October 2023 Mission Spotlight Comal County Crisis Center



**Mission:** “Our mission is to provide crisis and prevention services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while providing a safe environment where an individual can make educated, unbiased decisions about their future.”

The Crisis Center was founded in 1986 to address the needs of those “experiencing domestic violence” and provide referrals. The organization grew into an emergency shelter in 1994 through a capitol campaign and expanded in 2000. As we all are aware in 2022, the Crisis Center “lost its emergency shelter and residential facility due to a fire”. Churches and the community came together during this time to ensure these individuals and families had safe and secure housing during this devastating situation. Thankfully, they now have land and are expected to be up and running again with a facility in 2025.

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>

SCAN ME



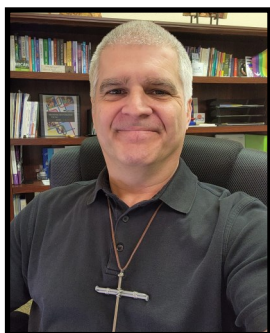
## St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fall Festival Saturday, October 28th

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.





## A Message from the Deacon



### The Life of Faith Initiative

Our congregation, Peace Lutheran, has been selected as one of five congregations in our synod to participate in an ELCA-wide initiative called ***“The Life of Faith Holy Innovations Project”***. Back in June of this year, Pastor Jake, Brenda Martin, and I attended a 2-day training hosted by Galilean Lutheran in Corpus Christi, along with a group of other people from our synod, including SWT Synod staff Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt and Pastor Chris Steubing. The training was led by Rev. Dwight Dubois (Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa), along with Deacon Tammy Devine (ELCA Coach), Professor Craig Nesson (Wartburg Seminary), and Pastor Jason Van Hunnik (Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park, MN).

#### What Is It?

The Life of Faith Holy Innovations Project is a grassroots effort within the ELCA that describes itself as ***“a churchwide initiative to stir up a culture change that leads congregations to make the exercise of the Baptismal vocation in daily life the central focus of their mission.”*** The Holy Innovations Project is currently in the second stage of its pilot phase, which offers select synods and congregations training, coaching, and resources over a three year time span. Peace is part of this current training cohort.



#### Why Is This Needed?

According to the Holy Innovations Project: “there is a gap between our faith and daily life. While we are very aware that we are called to be God’s hands, feet, and voices in all of life, most often we limit faithful activity (ministry) to that which happens in and through our congregations. When we’re “at church”, we do churchy things; the rest of our lives are, well “just life”. Because of this gap between faith and life, we see ministry as something extra, above and beyond what we normally do -- if we have the time and the interest. This gap blinds us to the countless ways God is at work in our everyday lives as family members, friends, students, workers, volunteers, and citizens.”

#### What Is The Goal?

This project is designed to close this gap by shifting from valuing and supporting only what we do in and through the congregation to affirming and equipping the baptized for all that God is doing for the sake of the neighbor in and through our daily lives. The project is designed to stir a culture of discipleship and congregational vitality in order to:

- ◆ *Enable and embolden one another to bridge the gap between faith and daily life by rediscovering the calling given in the waters of baptism to love and serve our neighbors in all our roles and relationships.*
- ◆ *Equip God’s people to nurture relationships with God through scripture, prayer practices, story, and personal testimony to the many ways that God is present in daily life.*
- ◆ *Practice discernment and active listening to gain a strong sense of God’s ongoing, active presence in the world, and have the faithful imagination to identify and act on the ways that we are called to participate in God’s purposes in the world, both corporately and in our individual lives.*
- ◆ *Use faithful imagination to identify and act in the ways that align with God’s purposes for our neighbors.*

#### What Happens Next?

In the coming weeks and months, our congregation will, with the support of ELCA staff and coaches, embark on this journey to connect faith and daily life. We have convened a Guiding Team to lead our congregation’s efforts. The members of the guiding team are Brenda Martin, Bruce Thatcher, Ray Martinez, Pastor Jake, and me. Stay tuned for updates, articles, and lots of holy conversations about how we can each connect our faith to our daily life, and continue to strengthen the vitality and impact of our congregation.





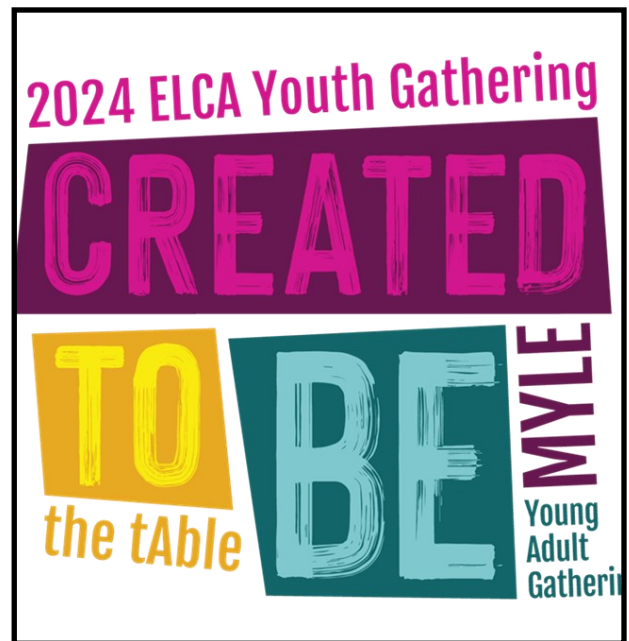
## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering!

**July 16th-20th, 2024  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

It's finally almost here! It's been six years since the ELCA was able to host a Youth Gathering (2018 in Houston). Due to the Covid pandemic, the 2021 Youth Gathering was ultimately cancelled, so we've been waiting eagerly for the next Gathering to come around.

### What is the ELCA Youth Gathering?

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation and fellowship known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through inspiring speakers, conversations with partners, Bible study and being immersed in the host city, young people will be inspired, challenged and called to live out their faith in their daily lives. Additionally, young people will have opportunities to explore their vocation and discern where they are being called into this world.



### Who Can Attend?

All current 8th –12th graders are eligible to attend. Talk to Deacon Andrew about registering!

**What Is Its Purpose and Mission?** To be a formative event in the faith formation timeline of our youth. That our youth will...

- ♦ be AFFIRMED & CHALLENGED in their faith
- ♦ EXPERIENCE new perspectives & MEET new people
- ♦ PONDER their vocation
- ♦ DEEPEN their sense of discipleship
- ♦ BOND with their congregational group
- ♦ LEARN more about the ELCA

**"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."**

*Psalm 139:14*

### What Is The Theme of This Gathering?

The 2024 Gathering theme is "Created To Be", based on Psalm 139:14. During the Gathering, we'll hear how God has called us to be in community with one another as our unique beautiful selves, disciples who follow Jesus, as people who are created by God's unconditional love and saved by God's unconditional grace.

### What Happens At The Gathering?

Our youth and adult leaders will spend five days worshipping, learning, serving in the community, and, of course, having an amazing time along with 30,000 other ELCA teenagers!



## M&M's Are Coming!

Our first fundraiser activity for the Youth Gathering will take place during the month of October. Our youth will offer tubes of mini M&M's, as many as people want to take, for free. They ask that after you enjoy the candy, return the tubes with a donation to our trip. They accept coins (they're the perfect size for quarters), cash, or checks. Be sure to write "ELCA Youth Gathering" in the memo line. We'll have other fundraising opportunities over the coming months.

## *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.

## *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.

## *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  
Compassion Team - Terry Westerman

## *Giving at Peace*

There are several giving options at Peace: Bank Drafts; Online Giving (Website); Offering Envelopes. 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 August 2023*

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 19,033.58	\$ 30,488.38	\$ 35,253.28		\$ 14,268.68
Building Fund	\$ 14,862.93	\$ 726.14	\$ 0.00		\$ 15,589.07
Endowment Fund	\$ 8,188.39	\$ 132.75	\$ 0.00		\$ 8,321.14
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 129,521.95	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 129,521.95
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 9,699.48	\$ 12.81	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,000.00*	\$ 10,712.29
Designated Funds	\$ 30,902.96	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 399.10		\$ 34,253.86
Total Funds	\$ 212,209.29	\$ 35,110.08	\$ 35,652.38	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 212,666.99

\*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](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)**





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