

Mission:
*To love like Jesus so
that each person
experiences God's way.*

**Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
February 2024**

Midweek Lenten Theme: Everyday Faith

Join us each Wednesday in Lent for a meal from 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm followed by worship at 6:30 pm as we explore Faith through the eyes of everyday people.

2/14	Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
2/21	Lent 2
2/28	Lent 3
3/06	Lent 4
3/13	Lent 5
3/20	Lent 6



See page 5 for Lenten Meal Information



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	2
Deacon's Message	3
Abundant Blessings	4
February Events	5
Staff Changes	6
Mission Spotlight	7
Church Directory	7
Peace Little Pantry	8
Peaceful Yoga	8
Finances	9



A Message from the Pastor

Embracing Lent: A Season of Renewal for Your Faith Journey

As the days lengthen and winter gives way to spring, Christians around the world prepare to embark on a sacred journey known as Lent. This period of 40 days, mirroring the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, is a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Lent is not just a season of sacrifice; it is a profound opportunity to deepen one's connection with faith.



The Wilderness: The story of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of solitude, self-reflection, and spiritual discipline. Similarly, during Lent, we are encouraged to set aside time for prayer, meditation, and contemplation. By withdrawing from the busyness of everyday life, individuals can create space to listen to the whispers of their soul and draw closer to God.

Fasting and Sacrifice: Lent often involves the practice of fasting or sacrificing certain comforts or indulgences. While these acts may seem like external gestures, they serve as symbolic expressions of internal transformation. By willingly giving up something meaningful, we learn that life can be lived simply and profoundly. Lent is a gift to intentionally make space for God, because invariably space abhors a vacuum, and something will fill it. Lent says, clear some of the space so that God can fill it.

Prayer and Repentance: Central to the Lenten journey is the call to prayer and repentance. It is a time to acknowledge shortcomings, seek forgiveness, and renew the commitment to a life aligned with Christian principles. Through heartfelt prayers, we can strengthen our relationship with God and experience the healing power of divine mercy.

Almsgiving and Acts of Compassion: Lent is not just about personal reflection; it is also a season of outward expressions of love and compassion. Almsgiving, the act of giving to those in need, becomes a tangible way to live out the teachings of Jesus. By extending a helping hand to others, we participate in the transformative work of building a more just and compassionate world. What can you give in this spiritual journey of opening your heart to be God's vessel of love in the world?

The Joy of Easter Anticipation: As Lent progresses, the anticipation of Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, grows stronger. The somber reflections of the season give way to the joyous realization that renewal and rebirth are possible through faith. Easter becomes a symbol of victory over darkness, and the Lenten journey culminates in a joyous celebration of new life. Therefore, embarking on the spiritual journey allows for an even more powerful Easter experience.

This year our theme for Wednesday night worship is **Everyday Faith**. Each Wednesday we'll have regular people from the congregation share some of their faith story and how God is a part of their lives. Too often we look for God in the extraordinary places and in extraordinary people. We confuse church as something that happens at 1147 S. Walnut Ave in a church building and to people who are super-spiritual. But the truth is God works in the ordinary, mundane experiences of our lives. What we have a hard time doing is connecting God present in every facet of life. Everyday Faith is focused on opening our eyes to God in the midst of our work, play, relationships, struggles, and dreams.

Peace,

Pastor Jake



A Message from the Deacon

New! Sunday Morning Worship with Our Children

God's Story!

Starting Sunday, February 4th, our elementary grade children will spend a portion of the worship service in the Fellowship Hall, hearing and discussing the main Bible story and theme for the day. We are calling this time, **"God's Story"**, because our hope is to help the children encounter God's story on their level, and connect it to their own lives. We recognize that children have different learning needs than adults, and it's important to create space for their wondering about God. Trained adults will lead this time with the children, and older youth are welcome to join as helpers. We will incorporate a variety of learning

activities, with the goal that the children can share what they've learned with their family throughout the week.

Pray Ground

Our Pray Ground is designed to be a child-friendly worship space. We ask that this space be reserved for our Pre-K through elementary grade children, the adult leader assigned for each Sunday, and youth helpers. We are also reserving the

row of chairs in front of the Pray Ground for parents of these children. We appreciate your consideration!



with Pastor Jake and Deacon Andrew

Sunday mornings from 8:45 am—9:30 am
In the Fellowship Room
All ages & questions welcome!

Bring your coffee & snacks and join us for a time of conversation before worship on Sunday mornings. We discuss the basics about Christian faith, belief, and practice through a Lutheran lens, and how all of this applies to our daily lives. This is meant to be an open time for honest questions and conversation. Think of it like "Faith & Life 101", designed both for folks who are newer to learning about the Christian faith, as well as for anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today. We look forward to sharing this conversation with you!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

*Created To Be: **AUTHENTIC***

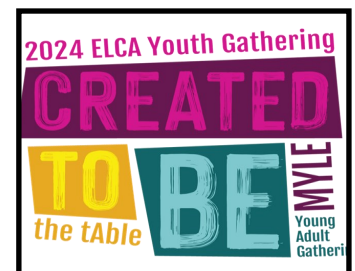
Each month we look at one of the five primary themes for the upcoming 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. The second theme we learn about is:

"Created To Be Authentic —to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator. "

Being authentic comes from a place of knowing your own beloved-ness. You are beloved by God. All of you. Every single part. Yet the ways of sin, the brokenness of this world, the dumpster fires we call our relationships, and the distorted truths in our minds and the larger world often blind us to the fact that God calls us beloved.

Prayer of Blessing

Christ has called you not just as you are but because of who you are. You bring something unique to this community. Your voice, your thoughts, your ideas are not just desired — they are needed. God's creativity knows no bounds. Go now, knowing that you can be your authentic self, the self that God envisioned you to be. Amen



Abundant Blessings

February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

Bobby and Karen Laughlin
February 2, 1980

Salim and Emily Khalil
February 17, 1996



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

Vicky Roda
 Judy Johnson
 John Kassel
 Patti Kassel
 Tommy Perkins
 Judy Clark
 Lavern Kistner
 Becky Perkins
 Martin Franz
 Nora Miller
 Carol Franz
 Steven Robbins
 Barbara Doleshal
 Maureen Garcia
 Bob Johnson
 Jim Miller
 Riley Martinez
 Michelle Rappmund
 Rick Smith
 Betty Wilcox
 Margaret Weese
 Judy Phife
 Earl Blaschke
 John Claycomb
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst

In Sympathy



Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

- ♥ Susan Heise and her family at the death of her mother, Janyce Heishman
- ♥ Pastor Judi Miller and her family at the death of her brother, John Cupp

Valentine Breakfast
February 11th 8:30 am - 9:45 am



Valentine's Day is not just for sweethearts, it is for all the people in our lives that we love.

Come join us and enjoy a full breakfast that celebrates loving one another.

"Jesus is my Valentine because He loves me all the time!"

Lenten Meals Begin February 21



Supper will be served from 5:15-6:15 p.m.
 Come join us for a meal before Lenten Worship.
 The meals are planned by the Fellowship Board,
 but we would like to welcome volunteers to assist
 with the meal prep and clean up.

Contact Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com for more info.

February 21 – Soup & Salad

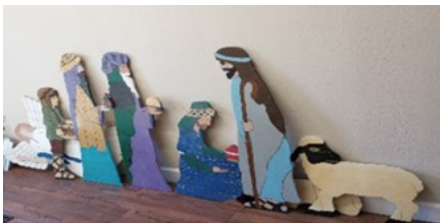
February 28 – Spaghetti

March 6 – Baked Potato Bar

March 13 - Casseroles

March 20 – Burgers

Adopt a Holy Family Figure



Our wooden Nativity family is in need of a facelift. We would like to repaint Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wise Men, the Angel and the animals. I thought it would be a fun project to ask people to take one home to paint. You do not have to be an artist to do this, they are painted pretty simply. Let me know if you would like to take one home to work on. We are starting early since the winter months are slower for most of us. Let Becky know if you are interested.

beckyvoges@yahoo.com

New Beginnings



In this season of transition, we give thanks for Jeannie Kawazoe and her 20+ years of faithful service as Peace's organist. A celebration is being planned for the month of February – more details to come.

In the meantime, Steve Robbins, Peace's Choir Director, will step up to serve as the primary musician on Sunday mornings for an interim period. Thank you to Steve for his willingness and gifts to lead us in praise and worship to the Lord.

Additionally we give thanks for Valerie Wood for serving as our Office Secretary and Bookkeeper for over 22 years. "I have made many memories at Peace during the last 22 years. The people at Peace will always be my family and in my heart. I am embarking on a new journey as I retire. I will be full time grandma for my new grandson, Flint." We will be celebrating her on Sunday, February 25th.

We welcome our newest member of the team - Theresa Robinson! We are blessed to have her join our team! "I'm a wife and mother of two beautiful daughters. I'm also a retired military spouse of 23 years. I love to walk, shop, drink coffee and uplift others. I look forward to supporting my coworkers and the entire Peace Lutheran Church family."



Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2024

We want to thank the following persons, who have served out their terms on Church Council. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. You are truly appreciated: Don Hodde, Matt Simmont, Dave Thomas and Forrest Willis

We extend a warm welcome to the following persons as they join the Church Council. We wish you many blessings in the coming years: Thomas Braaten, Carola Davis, Dan Hill and Brandy Huston

Megan Wenzel - Member At-Large
Kathi Anderson - Member At-Large
Vicki Hillmer - Member At-Large
Thomas Braaten - Member At-Large
Carola Davis - Member At-Large
Carol Franz - Member At-Large
Dan Hill - Member At-Large
Brandy Huston - Member At-Large

Fellowship Team - Becky Voges and Jim Johnson
Finance Team - James Huston
Outreach Team - Open
Property - John Kassel
Service Team - Brandi Raschke
Worship Team Judi Miller

February Mission Spotlight SOS Food Bank

The Spirit of Sharing (S.O.S.) Inc., Food Bank has been in operation since June 1, 1988 and is located at 248 W. Merriweather. It is an ecumenical group of churches and civic groups that have come together to help the needy of New Braunfels. All food distributed is donated and all labor is volunteer. Most of the donations come in as non-perishable food items. They partner with the San Antonio Food Bank to fight hunger in New Braunfels through emergency food issues and monthly food allotments to needy families.



Want to volunteer? Members of Peace work the second Monday of each month from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Call the church office at 830-620-0618 to get signed up.

Want to donate? There is a grocery cart in the narthex where you can drop off non-perishable goods.

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



Peace Lutheran Church Directory



Plans are now in place to put together a Church Directory with photos. If we can meet a February 13th deadline, we can have the Directory ready for Easter. Submit family photos, (1.5 x 2) using the email peaceluthnb@gmail.com. Please include the names of the people in the picture and where they are positioned in the

photo. You can also drop off your pictures at the church office if you don't know how to scan or email your pictures.

If you need someone to take your picture, call the church office and we will help you. If you have questions or need assistance, email Becky at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.



"Gladys, you really need to update your picture for the directory"

Little Pantry Angels Needed

We are looking for people to take a month to monitor and fill our Little Pantry. We have the supplies, all you do is keep it stocked. Let Becky Voges know if this sounds like something you would like to do.

Contact Becky at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

February (Braaten), March (Open), April (Phife), May (Goodson), June (S. Johnson), July (open), August (open), September. (Jenny Ann), October (open), November (open) and December. (open)



Special thanks to everyone for helping us keep the Pantry stocked. We have raised funds to stock the Pantry, but we could not keep the Pantry stocked without additional donations. When you donate items for the Pantry you have invested in sharing God's love to our neighbors.

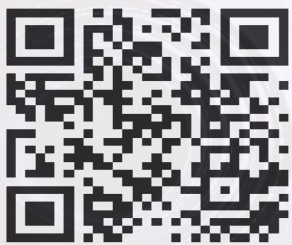
JOIN US FOR PEACEFUL YOGA IN 2024!

YOGA

Tuesdays @ 5:30pm,
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

CHAIR YOGA

Thursdays @ 11am,
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall



RSVP at least 30 minutes before class. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to RSVP.

Classes begin the first week of 2024!
Donation based - \$10 per class recommended.

Members, non-members, beginners, and experienced yogis are all welcome!

email office@peacenb.org for more info.

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 December 2023

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 5,473.25	\$ 46,216.28	\$ 35,432.38		\$ 16,257.15
Building Fund	\$ 15,948.97	\$ 951.67	\$ 5,407.00*		\$ 11,493.64
Endowment Fund	\$ 9,219.53	\$ 133.11	\$ 0.00		\$ 9,352.64
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 126,483.91	\$ 9704.10	\$ 0.00		\$ 136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,497.58	\$ 8.28	\$ 0.00		\$ 6,505.86
Designated Funds	\$ 33,111.83	\$ 4,064.97	\$ 1,505.98		\$ 35,670.82
Total Funds	\$ 196,735.07	\$ 61,078.41	\$ 42,345.36		\$ 215,468.12

*\$5,407.00 - Fire Sprinkler Maintenance on Sprinkler Heads



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



Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130