

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

*Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
March 2024*

He is Risen

MATTHEW 28:6

*Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!*

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.

3/06 Lent 4
3/13 Lent 5
3/20 Lent 6

See page 6 for Lenten Meal Information

The Season of Lent

2/14 @ 6:30pm	Ash Wednesday NO DINNER
2/21 @ 6:30pm	Lent 2
2/28 @ 6:30pm	Lent 3
3/6 @ 6:30pm	Lent 4
3/13 @ 6:30pm	Lent 5
3/20 @ 6:30pm	Lent 6

Join us for dinner before each Lent service at 5:15 in the Fellowship Hall!



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A Message from the Pastor

Journey Through Holy Week: A Sacred Narrative

As we approach the solemn and sacred time of Holy Week, we embark on a journey that encapsulates the essence of our faith, marking pivotal moments in the life of Jesus Christ. This week commemorates the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, his crucifixion, and ultimately, his resurrection. Holy Week is a chance for us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and behold the fullness of his mission of love.

Palm Sunday: Triumphal Entry

The week begins with Palm Sunday, a day of celebration and reflection. We remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed him with shouts of "Hosanna!" and laid palm branches before him. This event symbolizes the fulfillment of ancient prophecies and highlights Jesus' role as the long-awaited Messiah. Yet, intertwined with this jubilation we find mounting conflict with the Jesus' opposition coming to a head. The declaration of Jesus as the Messiah, the anointed king of God, creates a collision course for the would-be kings and powers of this world.

Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday: Teaching and Preparation

In the days following Palm Sunday, Jesus engages in profound teaching and prepares his disciples for the events to come. He cleanses the temple, challenging the corruption that had infiltrated sacred spaces. Jesus also shares parables and offers invaluable insights, emphasizing the importance of love, service, and humility, and challenges the status quo. As we reflect on these teachings, we are reminded of our call to embody Christ's teachings in our own lives.



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Holy Wednesday: Reflection and Contemplation

Holy Wednesday, also known as Spy Wednesday, invites us to pause and reflect on the events leading up to Jesus' betrayal. Judas Iscariot's decision to betray Jesus serves as a dark reminder of the human capacity for weakness and betrayal. It prompts us to examine our own hearts and consider where we might be tempted to compromise our values or betray our Lord.

Maundy Thursday: Last Supper and Foot Washing

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, where Jesus shares a final meal with his disciples, instituting the sacrament of the Holy Communion. Maundy comes from the Latin word, *mandatum*, which means commandment. It is on this night Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved them. He also humbly washes his disciples' feet, demonstrating the essence of servant leadership. This profound act of love challenges us to emulate Jesus' humility and to serve others with selflessness and compassion.

A Message from the Pastor Continued

Good Friday: Crucifixion and Sacrifice

Good Friday marks the culmination of Jesus' earthly ministry, as he willingly offers himself as a sacrifice for the redemption of humanity. The crucifixion is facing the reality of the mortal human condition, revealing the depth of Jesus' sacrificial love. As we contemplate the agony of the cross, we are invited to confront our own mortality and sin, and to embrace the transformative power of Jesus' life poured out for us.

Holy Saturday: Vigil and Anticipation

On Holy Saturday, we enter into a period of vigil and anticipation, awaiting the dawn of Easter morning. This day is a time of quiet reflection, as we contemplate the mystery of Christ's descent into the realm of the dead and anticipate his victorious resurrection. In the midst of darkness, we hold fast to the hope of redemption and renewal that Easter brings.

Easter Sunday: Resurrection and Rejoicing

Finally, Easter Sunday dawns with the glorious news of Christ's resurrection. Death is conquered, and the promise of new life is fulfilled. The empty tomb stands as a testament to the power of God's love, offering hope to all who believe. As we celebrate Christ's triumph over sin and death, we are reminded that his resurrection is the ultimate victory, granting us forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life.

As we journey through Holy Week, may we immerse ourselves in the profound significance of each day, allowing its sacred narrative to deepen our faith and transform our lives.

Let us walk alongside Jesus, embracing the full spectrum of human experience, from triumph to suffering to resurrection. May this holy season be a time of spiritual renewal, drawing us ever closer to the heart of God



Peace,
Pastor Jake

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A Message from the Deacon

New! Sunday Morning Worship with Our Children

God's Story!

God's Story is off to a great start! We have about 20 minutes with the Pre-K through elementary kids in the fellowship hall.

We've had a big group of kids each week who are enjoying this chance to dive into God's Word and have real conversations about our God, Jesus, our faith and our everyday lives. The general pattern we use each week is:

- *Read:* One of the kids reads the story out of the Spark Story Bible for the group.
- *Wonder:* We ask the kids about the story they saw and heard ("What do you notice?", "What do you wonder?")
- *Watch & Discuss:* We watch a video presentation by our friends at Illustrated Ministry. These videos contain built in pauses with questions as well as a prayer at the end of the video. The video matches our coloring pages.
- *Tell It Back:* We ask one or more of the kids to re-tell the story using a variety of teaching props
- *Sing:* We include some singing (when time permits) to help the kids learn God's story
- *Pray:* We pray for one another and the upcoming week
- *Give:* We collect an offering to present to God in worship

We have a wonderful group of leaders and helpers. If you'd like to participate, please reach out to Deacon Andrew.



with Pastor Jake and Deacon Andrew

Every Sunday from 8:45 am—9:30 am

Everyone is welcome!

March's Focus:

Faith Practices for Everyday Christians

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of conversation before worship on Sunday mornings as we discuss Christian faith, belief, and practice, and how all of this applies to our daily lives. This is an open time for honest questions, discussion, even just listening. Faith Talk is for anyone wanting to understand more fully what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today, regardless of where you are on your faith journey. We look forward to sharing this time and conversations with you!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

Created To Be: FREE

Each month we'll look at one of the five primary themes for the upcoming 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. The third theme we are learning about is:

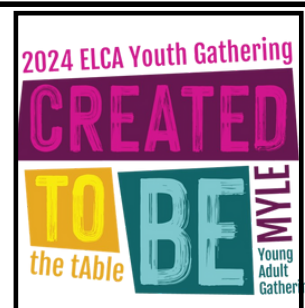
Created To Be Free: To be free in Christ is to be transformed by the love that has been extended to us through the gift of grace.

"To say that in humankind God creates God's own image on earth means that humankind is like the Creator in that it is free. ... To be more precise, freedom is a relation between two persons. Being free means 'being-free-for-the-other,' because I am bound to the other. Only by being in relation with the other am I free." —Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Creation and Fall

"A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything. A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all. ... It is the very nature of love to be attentive to others and to serve the one who is loved." —Martin Luther, The Freedom of a Christian

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you have created us to be free. Help us to realize what doors that opens for us. Give us hearts fully liberated so that we might boldly explore new ways of being and doing that expand on your holy creation. Create in us visions from your holy imagination that lead us to radically new tomorrows. We pray this in the hope we have received through Jesus Christ. Amen.



A Message from the Deacon Continued

Family Easter Celebration

Saturday, March 30th

10:30 am—Noon



Calling all families with children elementary school age and younger! Join us on Saturday, March 30th at 10:30 am for a family Easter celebration at the church featuring an outdoor Easter egg hunt, singing, Easter crafts and puppets! Be sure to invite friends!



VBS Day Camp

Monday, June 24th—Friday, June 28th

8:30 am—3:30 pm each day

@ Peace Lutheran Church

Cost: \$50 per camper

All children who have completed Kindergarten—5th grade are invited to join us at Peace Lutheran Church for a fun week of VBS adventures, led by camp staff from Camp Lutherhill. Friends are welcome, too! We will be sending out registration instructions and more information soon. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Andrew.

Also, VBS Day Camp at St. Andrew Lutheran Church will be July 29th—August 2nd. Children and friends are welcome to attend at St. Andrew as well.



Summer Camp Registration Time!

Cross Trails Ministry Summer Camps are held at Ebert Ranch, Camp Chrysalis and unique off-site locations. Campers share in Christian community as they play, explore and discover a deeper, personal faith while forming friendships and developing skills that last a lifetime. You can view the current availability for the Cross Trails summer camp season at <https://crosstrails.org/availability-calendar/>

Please let us know when you register your son/daughter. The church will reimburse families for \$300 per camper. Please turn in your registration confirmation receipt to the church office (either Theresa or Deacon Andrew) in order to receive reimbursement. This is part of our congregation's commitment to support our children and youth.

Holy Week 2024

Holy Week Schedule

3/24 Palm/Passion Sunday — Join us @ 10am to enter the story of Jesus' final week beginning with the triumphal entry and the waving of Palms

3/28 Maundy Thursday — Join us @ 6:30pm for the remembrance of Jesus washing his disciples feet in the upper room before his death as a sign of his ultimate servanthood.

3/29 Good Friday — Join us @ 12pm or 6:30pm for the stations of the cross and walk in Jesus' footsteps to the cross. The 12pm worship is outside while the 6:30pm is inside.

3/30 Easter Vigil — Join us @ 8pm @ St. John's Episcopal Church in a service of light in expectation of dawn of Easter morn 312 S Guenther Ave, New Braunfels, TX

3/31 Easter — Join us @ 8am or 10am for the joy of Christ's resurrection and Jesus' victory over death



Lenten Meals

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.



March 6 – Baked Potato Bar
March 13 - Casseroles
March 20 – Burgers

Easter Breakfast



March 31. 7:00 – 9:30 a.m.

We will be serving breakfast before and after the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service. So, no matter what service you attend, we will have breakfast ready for you.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Mar. 29, 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.



Do you remember the days when the stores closed at Noon in observance of Good Friday? In today's world Good Friday can be just another day, but we choose to stop and ponder the suffering of Christ. We will have people taking an hour to pray in silence in our Sanctuary. We will pray for our world, our community and our Peace family. If you would like to take a 1-hour shift to pray, contact Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com

We will have a list of prayers concerns for you to meditate on and we will be taking prayer requests as well. There will be a box for prayer requests and a sign-up sheet on the kneeling bench in the Fellowship Hall.

Peace Lutheran/ St. Andrew Lutheran Church Annual Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic



April 28, Comal County Fairgrounds Food Court

We are so excited! This year's Outdoor Worship Service and picnic has been moved to the Comal County Fairgrounds. Our new location will have plenty of parking and is in a covered area that will be great no matter what the weather is. The meat and drinks will be provided, just bring a dessert or a side dish. Thank you, Thrivent, for graciously donating the meat for our picnic.

Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2024

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

*March Mission Spotlight
Family Promise*

**Offering will be taken on
Sunday, March 24th, 2024**

Family Promise's mission is to help families with children facing homelessness achieve and sustain independence. Families move to a

new congregation each week in which they are hosted as guests. Congregations provide shelter, meals, and community for the families in the evenings. <https://www.fpgnb.org/>



Peaceful Yoga

JOIN US FOR
PEACEFUL YOGA
IN MARCH 2024!

YOGA

Tuesdays @ 5:30pm,
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

CHAIR YOGA

Thursdays @ 11am,
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall



**NO CLASS THE WEEK OF
3/10-3/17 FOR SPRING BREAK**

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

Donation based - \$10 per class recommended.

Members, non-members, beginners, and
experienced yogis are all welcome!
[email office@peacenb.org](mailto:office@peacenb.org) for more info.

Abundant Blessings

March Birthdays

Lydia Simmont - 03/04
 Mike Stallings - 03/04
 Charlotte Killian - 03/05
 Theresa Stanley - 03/06
 Leslie Valentine - 03/10
 Kurt Andersen-Vie - 03/11
 Darrell Skeen - 03/13
 Margot Roessing - 03/14
 Lillian Morelock - 03/15
 Alyssa Gonzalez - 03/16
 Kristyn Ladshaw - 03/16
 Debra Mincemoyer - 03/16
 Sandra Amori - 03/26
 Greg Mosher - 03/27
 Robert Oestreich - 03/27
 Bruce Rockstroh - 03/27
 Jillian Wold - 03/27
 Preston Stone - 03/24
 Judith Spindt - 03/24
 Verlene Saur - 03/22
 Madyson Kriley - 03/23
 Brian Tiemann - 03/28
 Norvin Roessing - 03/28
 (Roy) Friedrich - 03/31
 Roger Gawlitta - 03/31

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
 Judy Clark
 Lavern Kistner
 Martin Franz
 Carol Franz
 Bob Johnson
 Jim Miller
 Riley Martinez
 Michelle Rappmund
 Rick Smith Margaret
 Weese Judy Phife
 John Claycomb
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst

March Anniversaries

Michelle & (Raymond) Rappmund
 3/01 - 10 years
 Marsha & (Michael) Dove
 3/14 - 9 years
 Greg & Bettina Butrico
 3/22 - 38 years
 Kez & JoAnna Wold
 3/27 - 25 years
 Andre & Holly Guerin
 3/29 - 21 years

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 Finance Administrator, Theresa, a call at 830-620-0618.



Finances January 2024

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 16,257.15	\$29,257.83	\$37,190.31		\$ 8,324.67
Building Fund	\$ 11,493.64	<u>\$ 1,250.00</u>	\$ 0.00		\$ 12,743.64
Endowment Fund	\$ 9,352.64	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 9,402.64
Endowment Investment Fund	\$136,188.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,505.86	\$ 8.27	\$ 5,485.00		\$ 1,029.13
Designated Funds	<u>\$ 35,670.82</u>	<u>\$ 1,468.50</u>	\$ 50.20		\$ 37,089.12
Total Funds	\$215,468.12	\$32,034.60	\$42,725.51		\$204,777.21



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Web address:
www.peacemb.org
830-620-0618

Pastor Jake Fain
830-312-8797

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Thursday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday

Office Closed, Phones Open

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday

10:00 am - Worship

Livestream @ peacemb.org/live

God's Work, Our Hands

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, April 14

Peace Lutheran Church is incredibly blessed by the many dedicated volunteers. Many of these volunteers work behind the scenes, quietly serving and sharing their gifts. This is a day set aside to say, “thank you”. This will also be a day that will encourage each and every one of us to share our “God given” gifts in our church, community and world.



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