

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

**Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
April 2024**



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

Synod Elected Positions

Nominations Now Open for Synod Elected Positions to be Voted on at Synod Assembly

We have several openings this year for the following positions:

- Synod Council members
- Committee on Discipline members
- Consultation Committee members
- 2025 Churchwide Assembly Voting members

Nominating committee members are: Pastor Kris Hill (chair), Pastor Brad Fuerst, Pastor Kara Hairell-Speed, Pastor Susie Schnelle, Ms. Kiesha Priem

For more information, or to submit a nominee, [click here](#).

See page 3 for more about the Southwestern Texas Synod



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A Message from the Pastor

Unforced Rhythms of Grace

Sometimes I feel like this time of year is simply trying to survive Holy Week. It's the biggest culmination of the church calendar year for me.

My heart races a little bit more this season because I'm trying to nail everything down: worship planning, recruitment, implementation, writing, spring break with the family (a different kind of busy), and the thousand other tasks of life.

Most people have seasons when time gets busier. The farmer knows that when the harvest comes, it's crunch time. Sun up to sun down in order to get all the crops in.

The accountant's family knows that when tax return season comes, they won't see him/her as much. I imagine you have your own fast-paced times, and times to recover.

Matthew 11:28-30 encapsulates our human need for rest. I especially love the Message paraphrased translation:

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

Jesus invites his disciples to come with him to the cross and beyond. That's a pretty tall order and demands nothing less than your all. There are times when you will feel this, and you want to turn back. But Jesus says come and follow me anyway. It might be a hard road, but it's the one I'm walking with you and with all people to bring real life to it.

And then on the other hand, Jesus also reminds his disciples to learn from him and the "unforced rhythms of grace." What a great phrase! Life has a rhythm to it. Sometimes the heart beat is fast, and at others it slows down.

Good exercise gets the heart rate up, but also allows times to slow down and recuperate. Jesus wants us to follow him to the cross and give our all to serve the world he loves so much. But he also wants us to rest and learned the unforced rhythm of grace. Sometimes it feels like we're trying to force what our lives should look like by our sheer will. We end up dropping physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted. Jesus isn't saying try harder and do better. He is saying the unforced rhythms of grace mean learning to walk with him at his pace. Sometimes he spent his time healing, preaching, teaching, casting out the evil forces of this world, and miraculously bringing good news to the people. But at others, he went away to pray or stayed and rested. He was attuned to God's will and knew the rhythm of ministry.

So my hope is that when the heart beats fast, it also has a chance to slow down. Life is not meant to simply survive, Jesus came to bring abundant life so that the world might thrive.



Peace,
Pastor Jake



Southwestern Texas Synod

Southwestern Texas Synod

Peace Lutheran Church is a part of the Southwestern Texas Synod, 1 of 65 synods in the ELCA.



GOD'S GRACE TRANSFORMS AND CONNECTS US
• TO LEARN • TO LOVE • TO LEAD •

We are Church. Better Together.

The word synod comes from a Greek word meaning "to travel a common road—to walk together." The congregations, the people, and the ministries in our expansive geographical region of the Southwestern area of Texas—this is synod. Our local ministry and witness includes 250+ rostered ministers, 120+ congregations, 6 campus ministries, Cross Trails Ministry, numerous ministry partners including Upbring and Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, the Office of the Bishop, and the Synod Council. The Southwestern Texas Synod is part of Region 4 of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#).

Our Synod Purpose:

God's grace transforms and connects us to learn, to love, to lead.
This guides our priorities and work together as the synod.

Our Synod Vision:



The Synod Assembly is the annual time in which voting members from each of the congregations come together to do the work of the church. This year the assembly is in Corpus Christi from May 3-5. Peace is sending Pastor Jake, Deacon Andrew, and Dan & Anita Hill as voting members, and Mike Stallings is a part of the Synod Council.

A Message from the Deacon

Sunday Mornings with Children

God's Story is an intentional time to share God's word with our young children. During the reading of the lessons and the sermon, our children are led by adult leaders to the fellowship hall to hear the story in a way that they can connect with. This gives children a chance to dive into God's Word and have real conversations about our God, Jesus, faith in their everyday lives. They return to the sanctuary following the conclusion of the sermon.

God's Story!

The general pattern we use each week is:

- Read: One of the kids reads the story out of the Spark Story Bible or using Bible Story Cards 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!

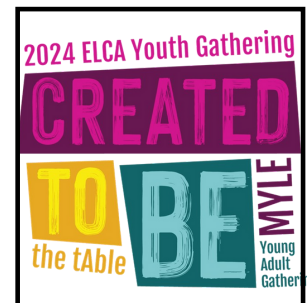
Join us in the Fellowship Hall before worship on Sunday mornings as we discuss Christian belief, practice, and faith in our daily lives. This is an open time for honest questions, conversation, even just listening. Faith Talk is for anyone who wants to explore more fully what it means to be a disciple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

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

Created To Be: Disruptive

Each month we'll look at one of the five primary themes for the upcoming 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. In April we will learn about what it means to be disruptive as a disciple of Jesus. Our focus scripture is Matthew 21:12, Jesus overturning the tables in the Temple in Jerusalem. Here are some of our discussion questions:

- Jesus responded with holy disruption to the injustice he witnessed in the temple.
- How do you define injustice?
- What injustices you have experienced, witnessed or become aware of?
- The religious leaders were angry with Jesus over his actions. Whom do we risk upsetting when we disrupt injustice?
- Some people are naturally drawn to confrontation, whereas others avoid it at all costs. Where do you find yourself on this spectrum?
- With your gifts, what role could be a good fit for you in disrupting injustice?



Prayer: O Lord God, you give us discomfort so that we will know when things are not in alignment with your will. Give us the clarity to know and act when you call us to be disruptive for the sake of your kingdom and our neighbors. Let that discomfort spur us into holy action. Allow your Holy Spirit to create in us the sense of urgency we need to act. Surround us with those you have called to work alongside us. Give us courage and strength to endure resistance. May the disruptions we cause dissipate the ways your creation is not as you intend. We pray this in the name of the One who restored creation through the giving of his own life, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Message from the Deacon Continued



VBS Day Camp

Monday, June 24th—Friday, June 28th

8:30 am—3:30 pm each day

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! Contact the church for registration information. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Andrew.



Recap: Family Retreat at Ebert Ranch

The weekend of February 16-18, ten families from St. Andrew and Peace spent the weekend at Ebert Ranch. This retreat was part of our confirmation program. Our theme for this retreat was *“Lord, Teach Us To Pray”*. Our retreat focused on many different aspects of prayer along with a study of the Lord’s Prayer. These retreats are always so meaningful because the whole family attends and goes through the theme and activities together.



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.



Important Dates for Youth

Important Upcoming Dates for Youth

April 13th – 14th	Affirm Youth Retreat at Slumber Falls
April 28th	Youth Group 5:30 pm
May 10th (tentative)	Spring Confirmation Banquet (location TBD)
May 19th	Pentecost Sunday – Affirmation of Baptism
May 26th	Youth Group 5:30 pm
June 10th 14th	GraceWorks Youth Servant Camp
June 24th – 28th	VBS Day Camp at Peace
July 15th – 20th	ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
July 29th – Aug. 2nd	VBS Day Camp at St. Andrew

Being Neighborly

It was 5:00 am on Saturday Morning and a small group of members gathered in the kitchen at Peace to prepare a breakfast. The breakfast would look familiar to many that have been prepared for special events and holidays at our church. They made scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, biscuits and sausage gravy. They also had cinnamon rolls, blueberry muffins, fruit and orange juice.

When they were done preparing this breakfast, they packed it all up, put it in hot boxes, loaded up their trucks and took it to First Footing Homeless Shelter. They set it up outside under their canopy and around picnic tables in chafing dishes and platters so it would be as hot as possible. At 7:00am they began serving 40 of the most grateful, friendly, and interesting people in New Braunfels. After all were fed about 8am, they packed up, returned to Peace and were cleaned up by 9am. Just a few hours of work and they made some people very happy and satisfied. One gentleman said that this was his first hot breakfast for months. Others commented that it was such a full breakfast.

These are the things that many of us take for granted. It's easy to get up and walk in the kitchen and prepare whatever we want, but that is not the case for everyone. We, at Peace, would like to continue this on at least a monthly basis and bring a little sunshine to their lives. In order to do that we are looking for volunteers and donations. If you can help us with your time, contact Vicki Hillmer at (830)481-7781 or when you see her at church. If you would like to make a donation, make it to Peace Lutheran and specify for First Footing Breakfast.

Thanks to the wonderful people who participated in this inaugural breakfast, Carol and Martin Franz, Becky and Wil Voges, Vicki Hillmer, Karen and Bobby Laughlin, and Kathi Anderson. In addition to being humbled to serve some very grateful people, it was a fun team to work with. We look forward to adding you to our crew.

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



April 28, 10AM - 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

Peace Lutheran Church Council



Megan Wenzel
President



Dan Hill
Vice President



Tom Braaten
Treasurer



Brandy Huston
Secretary



Carol Franz



Kathi Anderson



Vicki Hillmer



Carola Davis



Fellowship Team - Becky Voges and Jim Johnson

Compassion Team - Terry Westerman

Finance Team - James Huston

Property Team - Forrest Willis

Service Team - Brandi Raschke

Worship Team - Martin Franz

April Mission Spotlight Headwaters at the Comal

Mission: "to strengthen the relationship between the community and nature by showcasing the significance of the Comal Springs." Headwaters started their journey in 2012 through the vision of NBU and community stakeholders to start the design process. The non-profit Headwaters was formed in 2017 to begin planning and transformation of the 16-acre site that houses their education and community center today. For more information:

<https://headwatersatthecomal.com/>

There are many programs to get involved in such as their Youth & Adult educational programs, conducting tours of their site, and assisting with site maintenance. Peace will have a volunteer work day in the next few months to assist with site maintenance and be able to tour the property. Interested in volunteering on your own or with others? Headwaters hosts ongoing volunteer opportunities every Thursday and Saturday mornings:

<https://volunteer.servespot.org/communityservice/projectdetails/5f2f229c7e33f62194edca7d>

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>



HEADWATERS
AT THE COMAL

Thank You Note From Valerie Wood



Dear Peace Family,
Thank you so much for the lovely retirement reception, flowers, cupcakes and kind words. I will miss my Peace family very much but look forward to spending time with my new grandson.
Love,
Valerie

Abundant Blessings

March Birthdays

Alvin Bravenec 04/02
 Bruce Thatcher 04/04
 Kathleen Mosher 04/04
 Missy Paullus 04/04
 Frank Krause 04/06
 Terry Westerman 04/07
 Emily Khalil 04/08
 Evelyn Healey 04/08
 Kimberley Huntsman 04/08
 Emma Fain 04/09
 Christopher Briner 04/12
 Sharon Anderson 04/13
 Ann Keeler 04/14
 Carola Davis 04/15
 Jackson Anderson 04/15
 Jane Moeller 04/16
 Vicky Roda 04/16
 Ruben Butrico 04/16
 Jace Kaufman 04/17
 Matthew Tippens 04/18
 Dennis Tumlinson 04/21
 Courtney Peebles 04/25
 Lukas Tippens 04/25
 Bradley Thomas 04/26
 Alise Davenport 04/26
 Camryn Wilkie-Dickman 04/27
 Marlene Karabinus 04/28
 Brandie Luce 04/29
 Xander Khalil 04/30

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

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

Beverly & Jim Giacoletti
 04/27 - 40 years
 James & Brandy Huston
 04/24 - 20 years
 Brody & Shannon Johnson
 04/22 - 24 years
 James & Judith Johnson
 04/28 - 57 years
 John & Patti Kassel
 04/07 - 23 years
 Rory McNeill & Gabe Rodriguez
 04/06 - 10 years
 Bruce Rockstroh & Kelly Masters
 04/13 - 26 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 February 2024

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 8,324.67	\$37,108.35	\$37,700.20		\$ 7,732.82
Building Fund	\$ 12,749.03	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 13,349.03
Endowment Fund	\$ 9,405.79	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 9,445.79
Endowment Investment Fund	\$136,188.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,029.13	\$ 80.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,109.13
Designated Funds	\$ 37,089.12	\$ 1,029.10	\$ 0.00		\$ 38,848.22
Total Funds	\$204,785.75	\$38,867.45	\$37,700.20		\$205,953.00



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Web address:
www.peacenb.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 @ peacenb.org/live

God's Work, Our Hands



God's Work—Our Hands Sunday

April 14

A day set aside to give thanks for our volunteers.

Try to imagine a day in the life of the church without volunteers!

- No one would be at the door to greet you
- The coffee and refreshments would not be ready
- The communion wine cups would not be filled
- The bread would not be baked for communion
- No one would come forward to serve communion
- The paraments would never get changed
- The ushers would not be there to greet you or open the door for you if you were late
- The pastor would have no assistants for worship
- There would be no one in the Sound Booth to broadcast worship
- No one would be in the nursery to watch your small child
- When you were shut in and you needed communion, no one came
- When you wanted someone to pray for you, there was no one on the Prayer Chain
- The Air Conditioner was not working and no one got it repaired
- The Sunday morning offering was not counted because there were no counters
- The church has no leadership and direction because no one stepped up to be on Council and a Ministry Team
- No quilts were made for LWR
- No one is working at the Food Bank
- The Family Promise families would have no hosts
- The First Footing would be on their own
- The Little Pantry would never be filled

God's work depends on willing hands and hearts. Thanks be to God for those who have answered God's call!



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.

New Braunfels, TX 78130