



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

**Peace Lutheran Church  
 Newsletter  
 May 2024**

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

**Special Event in May**



**Mother's Day Breakfast  
 May 12, 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.**

Please join us for a full breakfast prepared for all the women who bless our lives. The men will be taking over the kitchen so the women can have the day off. We hope that you will make plans to bring all the special women in your lives.



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## A Message from the Pastor

### Beauty from Ashes

<sup>4</sup> And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. <sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. Mark 16:4-6

Two years ago a fire broke out at the Crisis Center of Comal County. It burned their building to the ground. This is the place women would flee to in order to find sanctuary from violence in their own times of crisis. But what happens when the place charged with crisis management is now undergoing a crisis of its own?

The week this happened, I received a call from the Crisis Center. They asked if there was anything the church could—that they had heard Peace Lutheran Church was a community that helped people experiencing crises.



Wow! What an honor to be on that short list. If you think about it, that’s how the church should be. We are called to be the beloved community who walks with one another particularly in the struggles of life.

So what did we do? We said yes come and stay with us in this time of crisis as you find your way again. And for the next 2 months the Crisis Center operated out of Peace and found other partners to help navigate the challenges.



This was one of my proudest moments at the church. We had just gone through our own struggle the past couple years. In 2020 we had the pandemic and for a year, we felt the estrangement of a global separation and sickness. Then in 2021, when we were just getting back on our feet, the Texas Winter freeze came and flooded our building. Once again, we experienced a crisis of isolation and rebuilding.

But what happened through all of that? We rebuilt the facilities with more intentionality of serving our community. We added showers and better space for groups to utilize the gifts of our home as a haven of peace. And so when the call came to serve our neighbor in crisis, the answer was easy.

I think about the resurrection promise we find in Jesus. The Christian story is one of death and resurrection over and over again. Out of the crises and brokenness in our lives, God finds a way to rebuild with more compassion and love overflowing to the world.

Let’s continue to be the church who responds to the crises our community faces, so that each person may know they’ll never face them alone. The Lord is with them rebuilding beauty from the ashes.

For a report from Kens5 - <https://www.kens5.com/article/news/community/crisis-center-of-comal-county-breaks-ground-new-shelter-new-braunfels/273-de5b6970-d42b-4590-91ea-714ba675ffae>



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



## VBS Day Camp

Monday, June 24th—Friday, June 28th

8:30 am—3:30 pm each day

**NEW PRICE - \$35**

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.

## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

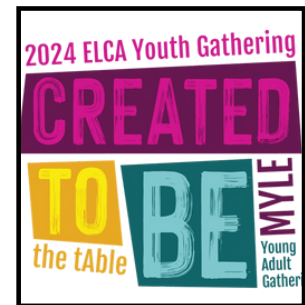
### Created To Be: Disruptive

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:**

Let us pray. O Lord, you call us to follow you wherever you lead. We know we do not always follow without question if we follow at all. Help us to listen for your call and to prepare for action. Stir your Spirit inside us that we might long to follow you and that people will recognize us as your disciples by the love we share. We pray this in the name of the One who was love, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



### Important Upcoming Dates for Youth

May 11th	Spring Confirmation Banquet
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



## A Message from the Deacon Continued



### Youth Retreat at Slumber Falls

The weekend of April 17-18, ten middle and senior high youth participated in a one day/one night retreat at Slumber Falls Camp here in New Braunfels led by Deacon Andrew and Pastor Jake. This retreat was part of our ongoing confirmation program, which we call "Affirm", emphasizing that affirming our baptism is something we continue to do our entire lives. Our theme for this retreat was "Where Is God In My Life?" Here's the opening statement of our workbook we used as our discussion guide for the retreat:

*"It's not always easy to see all the ways that God is present and active in our daily lives. Our time is filled with all sorts of activities, responsibilities and people pulling us this way and that. From the moment we wake up until we finally fall asleep, our daily lives can sometimes feel like a big blur. We all have ups and downs, twists and turns in our lives. There are many things we cannot control. Everything can feel like its swirling and changing, and that nothing is stable.*

*The good news is that God does not change. God's love for you, God's presence in your life are constant. Remember that just because you can't or don't sense God's presence every day, that doesn't mean God isn't always right there with you.*

**God is with you. Right here. Right now.**

*Each morning each day, each evening, each night—GOD IS WITH YOU.*

*Every second of every day of every month of every year. 24/7/365+*

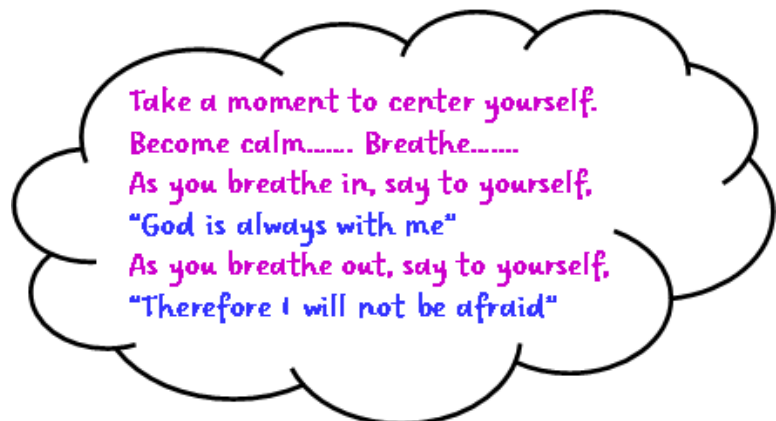
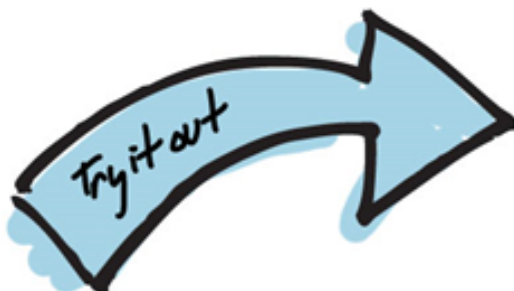
*God is closer to you than even your own breath.*

*God is with you, through all of your emotions - even when you are angry, confused, or upset (even if you feel upset or angry with God).*

*God understands what you are going through.*

*God will never leave or forsake you.*

*God's love for you is perfect.*



## *Pride Worship Service*

*Save the Date*

**PRIDE Interfaith  
Worship Service**

Thursday, June 6  
at Faith Church (UCC)  
970 TX-337 Loop  
New Braunfels, TX

NEW BRAUNFELS  
INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

[www.nbinterfaith.org](http://www.nbinterfaith.org)

The time will be 7 PM.

All clergy types are invited  
to vest and process.

There will be a community  
choir doing one piece so if  
you are interested in being  
in the choir, contact  
[Yeseniamcnett@gmail.com](mailto:Yeseniamcnett@gmail.com)

## *May Mission Spotlight Peaceful Quilters*

**Monthly Mission  
Spotlight**

**MAY  
FOR THE  
BENEFIT OF**

*Peaceful*  
**PEACEFUL  
Quilters**

## Thank You to All Who Contributed Easter Lillies this Year



### Easter Lilies

Given By:

The Wenzel Family

The Wenzel Family

Gary and Maxine Goodson

Judy Phife

Jane Moeller

Bruce and Carol Thatcher

The Anderson Family

Martin and Carol Franz

Mitch and Cathi Fain

Cheryl Braaten

Thomas and Cheryl Braaten

James and Judith Johnson

Thomas and Becky Perkins

Notation:

Given to the Glory of God

Given to the Glory of God

In Honor of Mark Goodson

In memory of Richard Phife

In memory of Linda Fitzgerald

In memory of Lauren Simpson

In memory of our Parents

Given to the Glory of God

Given to the Glory of God

In memory of Jennifer Fain

In memory of Stan and Glenda Braaten

In memory of Leland & Christine Burroughs

In Honor of all our family and friends

Given for the Glory of God

## *Acolyte Training*



Sunday, May 5th After Worship

# Acolyte Training

**Open to all ages**


Questions? Contact Shannon Johnson at  
830-481-7431 or  
[sprocknowjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sprocknowjohnson@gmail.com)

## *Peaceful Yoga in May*

JOIN US FOR  
**PEACEFUL YOGA**  
IN MAY 2024!

**YOGA** Tuesdays @ 5:30pm,  
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

**CHAIR YOGA** Thursdays @ 11am,  
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall



**NO CHAIR YOGA  
ON THURSDAY, MAY 9TH!**

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

### May Birthdays

Wade Ohnheiser 05/01  
 Patti Kassel 05/02  
 Carol Franz 05/05  
 Kathi Chapman 05/06  
 Brent Paullus 05/07  
 Sydney Paullus 05/08  
 Carson Tiemann 05/08  
 Karen Laughlin 05/12  
 Aubrie Gonzalez 05/13  
 Kellie Stallings 05/14  
 Bryan Butrico 05/14  
 Elias Anderson 05/16  
 Claire Friedrich 05/18  
 Judy Phife 05/19  
 Dannie Hill 05/21  
 Rebecca Voges 05/21  
 Glenn Clausen 05/23  
 Jennifer Butrico 05/24  
 Eleanor Koester 05/30  
 J. T. Miller 05/31

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

### Prayers

Lavern Kistner  
 Martin Franz  
 Carol Franz  
 Bob Johnson  
 Jim Miller  
 Riley Martinez  
 Rick Smith  
 John Claycomb  
 Arlene Wold  
 Helen Probst

### May Anniversaries

Steven & Kathleen Anderson  
 05/01 - 48 years  
 Roger & (Clara) Gawlitta  
 05/22 - 59 years  
 Dan & Sinead Healey  
 05/25 - 21 years  
 Tim & Erika Kaufman  
 05/30 - 26 years  
 Natanael Lizarazo Florez &  
 Barbara Wangsness  
 05/07 - 36 years  
 Greg & Kathleen Mosher  
 05/03 - 37 years  
 Mike & Kellie Stallings  
 05/14 - 36 years  
 David & Cindy Thomas  
 05/03 - 44 years  
 Wilfred & Rebecca Voges  
 05/16 - 54 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 March 2024*

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 7,732.82	\$43,198.28	\$34,680.10		\$ 16,251.00
Building Fund	\$ 13,349.03	\$ 925.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 14,274.03
Endowment Fund	\$ 9,455.79	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,200.00		\$ 8,305.79
Endowment Investment Fund	\$136,188.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,109.13	\$ 240.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,349.13
Designated Funds	\$ 37,939.24	\$ 767.25	\$ 0.00		<u>\$ 38,706.49</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$205,774.02</b>	<b>\$45,180.53</b>	<b>\$35,880.10</b>		<b>\$215,074.45</b>

\*Corrections to the Designated Funds for Finances February 2024

Designated Funds Beginning Balance = \$37,089.12 Income = \$1,029.10 Expense = \$178.98 Ending Balance = \$37,939.24

## *National Administrative Professionals' Day*

**In April, we celebrated National Administrative Professionals' Day!**

**Theresa (left) and Madison (right) would like to thank all the members and staff at Peace for making them feel so valued and loved everyday!**



## *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 Kathi Anderson at 210-643-8855 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  
Church**

1147 S. Walnut Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Web address:  
[www.peacenb.org](http://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](http://peacenb.org/live)