

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

## Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter July 2024

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

### *Snapology is Here for the Summer!*

Our friends at Snapology are back at Peace from  
May 27 to August 16, 9am - 4pm, Monday - Friday.



The Fellowship Hall will be unavailable for rental or  
events during that time. If you will be in and out of the  
church this summer, please respect their time and space.



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## A Message from the Pastor

### Community Matters

<sup>42</sup> *The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. Acts 2:42*



There is an epidemic of loneliness in the United States, and lacking connection can increase the risk of premature death to levels comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day, according to a new advisory from the U.S. Surgeon General.

The report titled "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation" finds that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, about half of U.S. adults reported experiencing measurable levels of loneliness. And it warns that the physical consequences of poor connection can be devastating, including a 29% increased risk of heart disease; a 32% increased risk of stroke; and a 50% increased risk of developing dementia for older adults.

"It's hard to put a price tag, if you will, on the amount of human suffering that people are experiencing right now," says Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

"In the last few decades, we've just lived through a dramatic pace of change. We move more, we change jobs more often, and we are living with technology that has profoundly changed how we interact with each other and how we talk to each other. Further, you can feel lonely even if you have a lot of people around you because loneliness is about the quality of your connections."<sup>1</sup>

As a natural introvert, sometimes it's hard for me to really appreciate how important community really is. It is literally life-saving.

The church has long embraced this faith practice known by the Greek word *koinania* or community. The earliest apostles devoted themselves to this practice found in Acts 2. Community wasn't an option; it wasn't a social club; it wasn't something extra if they had time. Community was a way of sharing life together.

The benefits are clear. We live healthier, fuller, richer lives when we share it. It's not addition like  $1+1=2$ . It's the exponential multiplication of shared moments that create numerous experiences of life together.

How are you investing in the spiritual practice of community?

Who are those people you can count on to be there, and conversely, they can count on you to be there? Because sooner or later we will all face challenging times in which we cannot get through by ourselves.

Who are your accountability partners? Who are those true friends who will be honest to the core with you, because you trust them and they make you better because they know you and can see things you can't? We need these people in our lives.

Who are the people you celebrate with? We were made to be in relationship with God and one another. I love the story of the lost coin in Luke 15 when the woman finds her lost coin and then throws a party and invites all her friends and neighbors to celebrate with her. God is the God of relationship who celebrates together.

1. <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/02/1173418268/loneliness-connection-mental-health-dementia-surgeon-general>

## *A Message from the Pastor Continued*

Jesus reminds us where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there I am also. Certainly, there's time for solitude—Jesus went off to be alone on occasion— but he specifically says when you gather, I am present in that shared experience.

The world needs more community as it increasingly retreats to its own individualistic quarters. What would it be like if we made sure everyone in the church had a friend—that no one got left out? God already has a solution to counter the epidemic of loneliness, and that's called community.

Peace is taken a few new steps to build community.

### **1) Peace Pictorial Directory**

There's a lot of new faces out there. The goal of the new Pictorial Directory is to put names to those faces and stay connected as a church community. Each household may pick up a directory in the lobby area of the church from June 14 - July.

What about people whose pictures aren't in the directory? The problem with printed directories is that the moment you print them, they begin to be outdated. New people joining our community can be added over time with extra pages to be printed after New to Peace orientations.



Peace will also aim to create a new directory every 2-3 years in order to stay current. In addition, we are exploring options for a digital directory that can be managed much more easily.

### **2) Nametags**

Speaking of putting names to faces, our worship team is working on launching nametags for Sunday morning this summer. We want to create a community that knows one another.

Sometimes nametags create a system of insiders and outsiders; the people who have nametags and those who don't. But the new system will be an easy on-demand thermal printing method that will give everyone to know without the problem of having some kind of special standing.



Not everyone likes to wear a nametag, but our hope is that you'll practice the gift of hospitality so that others can know your name and recognize the value of community.

### **3) Senior Social**

Our Compassion Team is launching a monthly gathering of retirees to come and have lunch and community time together (You don't have to be a retiree by the way). Our hope is that we can build deep bonds, experience joy, and share our lives together. This combats the plague of loneliness and our need for social health. Keep an eye out for more info in future newsletters.

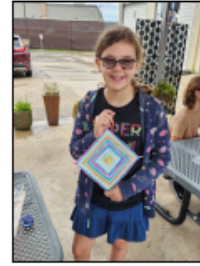
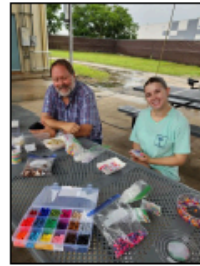


*Peace,  
Pastor Jake*





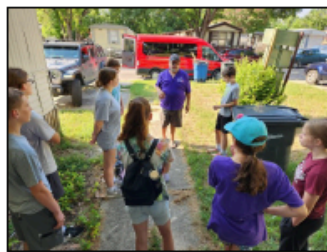
## A Message from the Deacon



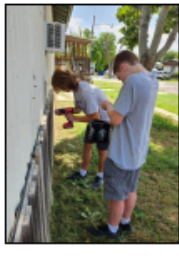
**GraceWorks Youth Servant Week!** We spent a morning visiting with our neighbors at First Footing Shelter, playing games, and making crafts.



We went to SOS Food Bank and spent the afternoon with our Peace crew, learning about the ministry of SOS, prepping and filling bags and loading food.



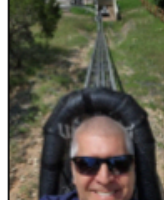
We helped our friends with the local Salvation Army clean up and renovate two trailers used as temporary housing for people who need shelter.



We went to CRRC (Canyon Lake Resource and Recreation Center) and filled 70 bags for their summer children's feeding program



We went to Eden Hill to sing for and play games with the residents in their memory care unit.



Friday was our play day to celebrate a great week of serving our community! We rode the Cliff Carver Coaster and went bowling.





*A Message from the Deacon  
Continued*

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO  
the tAble

BE

MYLE

Young  
Adult  
Gathering

New  
Orleans  
Here

We  
Come!

July 16-20

On Monday, July 15th, our group of six youth and two adults will depart for the triennial ELCA Youth Gathering. With the pandemic forcing the 2021 Gathering to be cancelled, it's been six long years since this event was held, and we are so excited to finally be making this trip! Our group from Peace and St. Andrew will be joining approximately 20,000 youth and adults from across all of the ELCA regions and synods. Through the wonderful generosity of both our congregations, our youth are about to embark on one of the most significant experiences in their young lives.

The 2024 Gathering theme is **"Created To Be"**, based on Psalm 139:14. During the Gathering, attendees will 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. We will learn that as disciples of Jesus:

- ♦ we are created to be **brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.
- ♦ we are created to be **authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.
- ♦ we are created to be **free**, to be transformed by the gospel.
- ♦ we are created to be **disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.
- ♦ we are created to be **disciples**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

Our group will return on Sunday, July 21st. Please join us in praying for their safety, and for the safety of all who will be a part of the Gathering, the youth, the adult leaders, and all the Gathering staff and volunteers.

We will have links to livestream of the evening sessions (Tuesday—Friday) available the week of the Gathering. Deacon Andrew will share pictures from the group each day.

## Lutheran Men in Mission Retreat

Hundreds of men have already experienced One Year To Live. Here's what they're saying...

"Like most men I used to have only passing conversations with other men at church. Now I have brothers in Christ."

"Wow. I had no idea how powerful the OYTL experience was, and still is, in my life. I found a true band of brothers and developed friendships that have just grown richer over time."

"What I thought were my biggest liabilities are my greatest assets. I can share them with others to give them hope."

"The OYTL retreat allowed me to not only realize how much pain I buried, but also how to accept healing through the word of God and communion with other holy men."

"You will come out of the weekend a better man. I totally recommend this weekend if you are serious about renewing your life."



*As iron sharpens iron...*



*so one man sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27:17

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RETREAT

Contact Retreat Coordinator/s below::

Dennis Hickey  
(210) 347-6338

David Umlang  
(210) 645-5036

info@swtmm.org

Video Testimonies and Scholarship

Information are available at:

[lutheranmeninmission.org/experiences/one-year-to-live](http://lutheranmeninmission.org/experiences/one-year-to-live)

OR



Brought to you by:

**LUTHERAN  
MEN IN MISSION**

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### ABOUT "ONE YEAR TO LIVE"

Men of all ages yearn for real friendships and a closer relationship with Christ.

Join us and be...

- Adventurous and courageous
- Genuine and spiritual

Look forward to...

- Banding together and being challenged
- Examining your life and making decisions

Be prepared for a spiritual boot camp.

This 45-hour experience is not for the faint of heart!

### WHAT TO BRING

- Casual clothes for 2 days + 1 set of clothes to leave behind to donate
- Comfortable shoes or boots
- Sleeping bag, pillow, towel & swim trunks
- Personal items
- Bible, notepad/journal & pen
- Snacks to share
- Non-alcoholic beverages only
- No electronic devices
- Flashlight

### SCHEDULE

- Arrive promptly at 5:30—6:00 pm on Friday
- Depart at 3:00 pm on Sunday
- Plan to stay for entire retreat—no exceptions



**An Experience  
that meets men  
where they are!**

**September 13-15, 2024**

**Camp Chrysalis**

**391 Upper Turtle Creek Rd**

**Kerrville, TX 78028**



### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Early Registration: \$150  
by 7/15/2024

Regular Registration: \$175  
by 8/15/2024

*Includes lodging, 5 meals & materials.*

Register Online with credit card at:

[lutheranmeninmission.org/experiences/one-year-to-live](http://lutheranmeninmission.org/experiences/one-year-to-live)

OR



Registration is non-refundable,  
but is transferrable.  
*Scholarships are available!*

If registering by mail,  
please contact the  
Retreat Coordinator.



## July Mission Spotlight



## Peaceful Yoga in July

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


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

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

**NO CHAIR YOGA  
 ON THURSDAY, JULY 4TH!**

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***

### ***July Birthdays***

Lillie Braune 7/1  
 Zac Fain 7/4  
 Judy Clark 7/5  
 Arthur Woytek 7/6  
 Cary Stanley 7/10  
 Heidi Brundrett 7/10  
 Sandra Freeman 7/10  
 Estelle Raschke 7/11  
 Natanael Lizarazo Florez 7/11  
 Kez Wold 7/12  
 Caleb Simmont 7/13  
 Michael Amori 7/15  
 Rory McNeill 7/16  
 Joanne Mathis 7/16  
 Scott Weese 7/19  
 Shelley Simmont 7/19  
 Connor Healey 7/19  
 David Martin 7/20  
 Stella Leissner 7/24  
 Leslie Tippens 7/24  
 Richard Kawazoe 7/25  
 Katherine Smith 7/27  
 Pamela Krause 7/27  
 Mitchell Fain 7/28  
 Brenton Davenport 7/29  
 Sharky Anderson 7/30  
 Shea Henderson 7/30  
 Michele Bauman 7/30  
 Wilfred Voges 7/31

### ***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. You can email Becky at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for info.



### ***July Anniversaries***

Dennis & Jessica Tumlinson  
 7/11 - 5 years  
 Pamela & Tim Kurczewski  
 7/14 - 31 years  
 Rick & Katherine Smith  
 7/17 - 42 years  
 David & JoBeth Oestreich  
 7/19 - 38 years  
 Glenn & Kerri Clausen  
 7/20 - 28 years  
 Kimberly & Jason Pampell  
 7/22 - 18 years  
 Matthew & Shelley Simmont  
 7/23 - 19 years  
 Alvin & Helen Bravenec  
 7/26 - 67 years  
 Brian & Courtney Peebles  
 7/27 - 11 years  
 Shauna & Ken Bradstreet  
 7/28 - 45 years

### ***Prayers***

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



## *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 May 2024*

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 12,176.35	\$35,375.59	<u>\$ 33,807.38</u>		<u>\$ 13,744.56</u>
Building Fund	\$ 14,244.84	\$ 406.09	\$ 0.00		\$ 14,650.93
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,764.77	\$ 52.62	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,817.39
Endowment Investment Fund	\$136,188.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,323.24	\$ 1.63	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,324.87
Designated Funds	\$ 43,487.78	\$ 1,958.50	\$ 5,570.96		\$ 39,875.32
Total Funds	\$215,184.99	\$37,794.43	\$39,378.34		\$213,601.08



### **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

### 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)