

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

*Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
April 2025*



*He is
Risen!*

iBelieve.com

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

Easter Breakfast

Easter Breakfast

April 20, 7:00 ~ 9:30 a.m.

We will be preparing a wonderful breakfast for your enjoyment before each worship service. All are welcome!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>A Message from the Pastor</i>	2
<i>Lent Schedule & Lent Meal Schedule</i>	4
<i>Holy Week Schedule & Seder Meal</i>	5
<i>Good Friday Prayer Vigil & Easter Flowers</i>	6
<i>Upcoming Fellowship, Sisters in Christ</i>	7
<i>Picnic Day</i>	8
<i>Women of the ELCA Conference</i>	9
<i>Labyrinth Update</i>	10
<i>Council Corner</i>	11
<i>April Mission Spotlight</i>	12
<i>April Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayers, & Giving</i>	13

A Message from the Pastor

Four Key Pivots for a Changing Landscape Pivot #2—From Membership to Discipleship

Who is God calling us to be?

That question implies that we have not yet arrived. Often times, we make Christianity into a one stage process in which we identify with a faith in the triune God. We lean heavily into what is known as "justification" - that is, being made right with God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



Where Christians (particularly Lutherans) miss out is the what is known as "sanctification" - that is, the transformation into God's holy likeness.

For many of us, church membership is a familiar concept. We join a congregation, commit to its mission, and participate in its worship and ministries. Membership connects us to a faith community, offering a sense of belonging and shared purpose. But Jesus didn't call people to be members—He called them to be disciples.

Discipleship goes beyond membership. It's not just about belonging to a church; it's about following Christ in every aspect of our lives. In the Gospels, Jesus' invitation is simple but profound: "Follow me." His first disciples left their nets, their routines, and their comfort zones to embark on a journey of transformation. Discipleship is an active, daily commitment to growing in faith, loving like Jesus, and serving others with grace and compassion.

This year we are leaning into four key pivots identified by Luther Seminary through their FaithLead organization. This month we explore our second pivot.

Pitfall #2 *Keep focusing on building membership, not discipleship*

Jesus' aim was not to cultivate members for a church institution, but to grow disciples who would follow in his footsteps.

The inherited pattern that many congregations follow is a membership model that assumes that church members are already disciples (that is, followers) of Jesus. But when churches recruit new members to join and start serving on a committee or ministry team or board, they often skip over a key ingredient: teaching

Pivot #2 *From membership to discipleship*

Churches that thrive intentionally cultivate discipleship by:

- 1) orienting around practices and relationships that connect faith and daily life
- 2) answering questions of meaning, belonging, hope, and purpose

This means learning God's story in scripture and embracing and embodying a ho-

A Message from the Pastor Continued

listic Gospel. Faith is not something to be performed by the paid staff leaders on behalf of the community, but rather faith is formed in members through their participation in the community.

So what does this shift from membership to discipleship look like? It means: Moving from attendance to engagement – Worship is essential, but discipleship calls us to live out our faith in daily life.

Growing deeper in faith – Through prayer, Scripture, and community, we seek not just to know about Jesus but to be shaped by Him.

Serving with purpose – We don't just belong to a church; we are the church, called to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Inviting others into the journey – Discipleship is not just personal; it's communal. As we grow, we also guide and encourage others.

Models of Ministry	Models of Ministry	
	Performative	Formative
Leaders	Primarily perform faith for the people in the congregation	Primarily cultivate discipleship among the whole people of God
People	Focus on supporting the institutional church	Actively own their spiritual growth

Jesus didn't say, "Go and make members of all nations." He said, "Go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). As we move forward as a church, let's embrace this calling—not just to belong, but to follow, grow, and serve.

What are key steps involved in this pivot?

1. Connect faith and daily life
2. Learn God's story in Scripture
3. Embrace and embody a holistic Gospel

Peace,

Pastor Jake



Lent Schedule

This Lent, walk the path of Jesus through The Way of the Heart, a midweek worship series reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. Each Wednesday evening, we will journey deeper into Christ's love and sacrifice, opening our hearts to his presence in our own struggles and hopes.

Through scripture, prayer, and reflection, we will follow Jesus' footsteps—from condemnation to the cross, from suffering to surrender—discovering the way of the heart that leads to life.

Come, walk with Christ. Walk the Way of the Heart.



4/2	Lent 5	Station VII	<i>Jesus is Nailed to the Cross</i>
		Station VIII	<i>Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Thief on the Cross</i>
4/9	Lent 6	Station IX	<i>Jesus Dies on the Cross</i>
		Station X	<i>Jesus is Buried in the Tomb</i>

Lent Meal Schedule

Lenten Meals

The Fellowship Team will be serving a meal before each Lenten Worship Service—5:15-6:15 p.m.

Apr. 2 ~ Baked Potato/Salad

Apr. 9 – Hamburgers

Holy Week Schedule

6:30PM 4/17	MAUNDY THURSDAY	SEDER MEAL
6:30PM 4/18	GOOD FRIDAY	TENEBRAE
8PM 4/19	HOLY SATURDAY	@ ST JOHN'S EPISOCPAL
8AM & 10AM 4/20	EASTER SUNDAY	RESURRECTION

Seder Meal



MAUNDAY THURSDAY

SEDER MEAL

Thursday, April 17, Maundy Thursday we will participate in a Seder Meal. For the Jewish people, this occurs during the Passover celebration. The connection that we, as Christians, have with the festival of Passover is our own observance of Maundy Thursday. We celebrate the institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist when Jesus gathered his disciple in the upper room in Jerusalem and shared with them the Lord's Supper. It was the Jewish festival of Passover that brought Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem that week in history.

Join us for an evening of tradition, reflection and worship as we come together to commemorate this evening. Worship starts at 6:30p.m. While no one will be excluded, we would like to make sure we have enough seating and provisions, we will have a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table in the narthex or you can call or text Kathi Anderson at 210-643-8855.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Apr. 18

Jesus pleaded with His disciples to pray with him before he would die on the cross, they did not.

Who remembers the days when everything stopped on Good Friday so we could reflect on what Jesus did for us? We will be praying for our world, our community and our church family from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. If you would like to pray for 1 hour there will be a sign-up sheet on the kneeler in the Narthex a few weeks before Easter. For more information, contact Becky Voges.

Easter Flowers



EASTER FLOWERS

Once again, we are asking you to bring your own flowers to decorate the altar for Easter Morning. You can bring any type of flower that you would like, Lilies, Tulips, etc. If you are unable to purchase them, we will have a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Table to purchase pre-paid Lilies for \$10. Memorials will be posted in the e-blast. Let's make it a beautiful Easter Morning. Any questions or concerns call or text Kathi Anderson, 210-643-8855. Thank you.

Upcoming Fellowship

Fellowship Dates to Remember

Mar. 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9 – Lenten Meals

Apr. 20 – Easter Breakfast

Apr. 26 – WELCA Women's Spring Luncheon

Hosted by Peace Women.

Apr. 27 – Peace/St. Andrew Worship/Picnic at

The Comal County Fairgrounds

May 11 – Mother's Day Breakfast

June 8 – Pentecost Sunday

June 15 – Father's Day Breakfast

Sisters in Christ



We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for Bingo on **April 23, 11:00 a.m.** Dig out some treasures at your house and bring them for prizes. We will have a Salad Bar for Lunch. We hope to see you there!

Picnic Day



Mark your calendars for April 27! We will gather at the Comal County Fairgrounds for 10:00 a.m. Worship and a Picnic afterwards.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church has been invited to join us. Bring a side or dessert, we will furnish the meat and beverages.

Peace Lutheran & St. Andrew Lutheran Annual Outdoor Worship & Picnic



10am April 27, Comal County Fairgrounds Food Court

701 E. Common St. New Braunfels, TX 78130

What happens after Holy Week?

Immediately after Easter, Jesus began to appear to his disciples and eat with them.

The Easter season continues with a special outdoor worship and picnic together between Peace and St. Andrew Lutheran Churches.

Join us for worship at 10am followed by a meal to share our celebration of new life in Christ.

Invite a friend and come celebrate God's goodness!

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.

Enter at the Grant Ave./Commerce St gate.



Women of the ELCA Conference

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Mujeres ^{de la} ELCA 

Cibolo Creek Conference Event

Saturday, April 26th, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Avenue, New Braunfels, Texas 78130

"Planting Seeds of Peace"

Please join us for our annual Cibolo Creek Conference event for Women of the ELCA on Saturday, April 26th at Peace Lutheran Church in New Braunfels. The theme, "Planting Seeds of Peace", is centered around John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."* In our lives today, we deal with fear, uncertainty, and division every day. God, through Jesus, assures us that we do not need to fear. We come together as Women of the ELCA to "grow in faith, affirm our gifts, and support one another in our callings". Pastor Judi Miller will be our Bible study leader. We are looking forward to a day of nurturing, fellowship, Bible study, and developing new friendships.

Our day will begin with registration at 8:30 am. Breakfast will be provided. In addition to our Bible study, we will worship together, hear from the Synodical Board, and hold our annual conference meeting. Think and pray about becoming a member of the conference board. All three positions are open election. Registration is \$20 (deadline April 18th).

We will collect a monetary offering, which will be divided 50% to Churchwide, 25% to the Southwestern Texas SWO and 25% to First Footing, a part of New Braunfels Housing Partners, which assists those who are homeless with mental and physical health care, employability skills training, budgeting education and housing navigation. The physical offering will be collected for Peace Lutheran's Parking Lot Pantry. Suggested items are Pop Tarts, Tuna Packets, Crackers, Granola Bars, and Juice Boxes.

Save the date, spread the word among the women in your congregation, and **make plans** to join your sisters in Christ at this event. Your conference board and the women of Peace Lutheran Church are looking forward to seeing you there!

Dawn Young, Conference Coordinator

Cindy Bonaccorsi, Secretary

Kathleen Beierle, Member at Large

Labyrinth Update

Peace Lutheran Prayer Labyrinth

Things are coming along very nicely for our Prayer Labyrinth. We have installed 3 Memorial Benches, A tree has been planted in memory of Peter Lange, a cross has been erected in the center of the Labyrinth, a Kiosk has been placed at the entrance to the Labyrinth and the lines have been drawn for the walking layout. We had our first workday on March 15 to cut the lines and we laid down 1000 bricks. We are getting very close to completion. We were very blessed to have received a donation of about 500 bricks from Karl Stellges. This donation helped keep my purchase of 1000 bricks from Home Depot within my Foundation budget. A huge thank you to our Labyrinth workday crew, it was an amazing morning of great Teamwork.

***My heartfelt thanks to all the willing hearts and hands
that came together to make our Prayer Labyrinth a
beautiful reality. Becky Voges***

Peace Endowment	Wil Voges
David Martin	Dave Thomas
Dave Keeler	Karl Stellges
Jennifer Voges	Karen & Bobby Laughlin
John & Patti Kassel	Kathi Anderson
Don Hodde	Martin Franz
Maureen Garcia	Landon Garcia
Juliana Garcia	Vicki Hillmer
Barbara Wangsness	Mike & Kellie Stallings
David Lange	Pastor Jake Fain

Council Corner

As a church, we have made great progress over the last few years with implementing our mission, vision, and values. We also have ambitious goals and great momentum. One of these goals is improving our communications. This new feature will provide monthly updates from the Council about the business of the church. The Council also welcomes your input, ideas, and feedback. We are working on some options to make it easy for you to contact us, but for now, feel free to reach out to any member of the Council if you have a concern. Here are a few of the issues the Council discussed in March.

- **Plumbing Leaks** - Repairs to the foundation were completed in February at a cost of \$18,000. Following the repair, a plumbing leak was found under the building. The leak must be repaired to ensure the warranty on the foundation work and prevent further damage. Fixing the leak will cost approximately \$19,000. The cost of these repairs will deplete our building maintenance funds, which have not fully recovered from the expenses associated with the building flood in 2021. ***If you would like to help with these expenses, please consider a donation or dedicate an offering to our building maintenance fund.***
- **Synod Assembly** – The Synod Assembly will be held on May 3 at Abiding Presence in San Antonio. Kathi Anderson and Michael Simpson will be attending as voting members for Peace this year.
- **Communications** - The Council is exploring ways to improve communications among church leadership and the congregation.
- **Sabbatical** – A pastoral sabbatical is a dedicated period of rest, reflection, and renewal after several years to enhance leadership and energy for both the pastor and congregation. In the coming months, the congregation will learn more about sabbaticals in general and what a sabbatical period might look like at Peace. The Council adopted a Sabbatical Policy in February, and an application for grant funding for a future sabbatical was submitted in March.

Peace Lutheran Church Council



Dan Hill
President



Kathi Anderson
Vice President



Tom Braaten
Treasurer



Brandy Huston
Secretary



Nathan Anderson



Cindy Thomas



Martin Franz



Carola Davis

April Mission Spotlight



Lutheran World Relief has been a dedicated light in the world and a first responder in times of crisis, responding to hurricane relief or wildfire disasters in the US or to famine, war or disease in faraway countries. Their website is a font of information on global ministry in a time of global distress. Please visit and see how you can help our neighbors in their times of need.

An excerpt from their website gives you an insight into their mission and focus

"Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being.

We work with people based on need, regardless of race, religion or nationality and we do not evangelize.

We provide aid in emergencies and help families restore their lives. We partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. We break the cycle of poverty, so families and communities can thrive.

Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end."

Sunday, April 27, our Mission Spotlight will be Lutheran World Relief and a dedicated offering will be collected to benefit LWR.

Peace,
Karen Laughlin
Family Promise coordinator

April Birthdays

Alvin Bravenec 04/02
 Kathleen Mosher 04/04
 Missy Paullus 04/04
 Bruce Thatcher 04/04
 Frank Krause 04/06
 Terry Westerman 04/07
 Evelyn Healey 04/08
 Kimberley Huntsman 04/08
 Emily Khalil 04/08
 Emma Fain 04/09
 Christopher Briner 04/12
 Sharon Anderson 04/13
 Ann Keeler 04/14
 Jackson Anderson 04/15
 Carola Davis 04/15
 Ashlee Lynch 04/15
 Ruben Butrico 04/16
 Jane Moeller 04/16
 Vicky Roda 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
 Brandie Luce 04/29

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 for info.



April Anniversaries

Rory McNeill & Gabe Rodriguez
 04/07/2014 - 11 years
 John & Patti Kassel
 04/13/1998 - 24 years
 Bruce Rockstroh & Kelly Masters
 04/22/1996 - 27 years
 Brody & Shannon Johnson
 04/24/1998 - 25 years
 James & Brandy Huston
 04/27/2004 - 21 years
 Beverly & Jim Giacoletti
 04/28/1984 - 41 years
 James & Judith Johnson
 04/28/1967 - 58 years

Prayers

Martin Franz
 Carol Franz
 Jim Miller
 Rick Smith
 John Claycomb
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst
 Stella Leissner
 Earl Koester
 Lupe Travis
 Judy Clark

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.





**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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday

Office Closed, Phones Open

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday

10:00 am - Worship

Livestream @ peacenb.org/live