

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

*Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
July 2025*

# 4th OF July



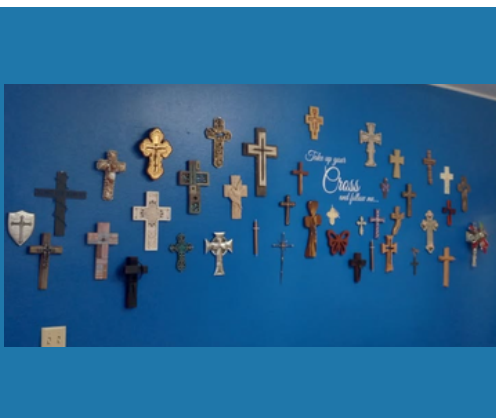
**Mission:**  
*To love like Jesus so  
that each person  
experiences God's way.*

## *Volunteer Spotlight*

Thank you for all who served graciously for our Family Promise host week, bringing shelter, safety, food, and compassion to families going through crises. A special thank you to our Family Promise Coordinator, Karen Laughlin, who was featured in the Family Promise June Newsletter edition.

This month, we're shining a light on Karen Laughlin from Peace Lutheran, whose consistent compassion and dedication have made a lasting impact on the families we serve. Karen has gone above and beyond to ensure every client feels seen, safe, and truly at home. From thoughtfully personalizing her support to dropping off birthday gifts and homemade treats, Karen brings warmth and dignity to every interaction. Her presence reminds us all that small acts of kindness can create powerful moments of connection and healing.

Thank you, Karen, for embodying the heart of our mission.



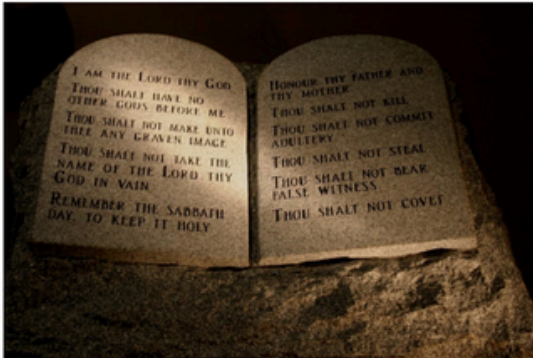
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## A Message from the Pastor

### The Ten Commandments

We're now a few weeks into our summer worship series on the Ten Commandments—Words of Life, and I've been struck again by how deeply these ancient words still speak. More than just rules carved in stone, they are a living path—a way God gives us to shape our lives around what matters most.



Each commandment we've explored so far has reminded us of this truth: God's law is rooted in love. When Jesus was asked to name the greatest commandment, he said:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind... and love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)

That's the heart behind every "You shall not" and every "Remember." These commandments are not about control or guilt. They are God's way of forming a people who reflect God's own love in the world.

As we've heard in worship, the first commandments teach us to honor and trust God—no other gods, no idols, not even ourselves. They challenge us to rest in God's rhythm and speak God's name with reverence. The later commandments turn our attention outward—toward our neighbors, our families, and even the strangers among us. They invite us to live with honesty, integrity, respect, and care.

And as we move further into the series, I encourage you to ask yourself: What "gods" try to compete for your trust and attention?

How is God inviting you to love your neighbor in practical ways?

What would it look like to live these commandments not just as a moral checklist, but as a daily response to God's grace?

The commandments are a gift in a broken, selfish world to remember what how to live together by God's values which brings abundant life.

In Christ, we are freed from sin and freed for love. That's what the commandments are ultimately about—learning how to live in that freedom together. I'm grateful to walk this journey with you, and I look forward to continuing this summer of love-shaped living.

Peace,

*Pastor Jake*





## Congratulations!

Congratulations and blessings to Peace's 2025 high school graduates:  
Jace Kaufman, Dustin Zidek, Megan Ohnheiser, and Jadelynn Lawton.

And congratulations and blessings upon Peace's 2025 confirmands:  
Caleb Simmont, Zac Fain, and Landon Garcia



## Council Corner

Here are a few of the issues the Council discussed in June.

**Financial Update** – Members should have received a mid-year update on their giving and the church's expenses. The letters were sent on July 2. Those letters also describe some major building expenses, and we want to make everyone aware. After the foundation repair in January and February of this year, an additional foundation leak was discovered, which has now been repaired. The air conditioning went out in both the fellowship hall and the conference room. The fellowship hall required a new coil and has now been repaired. A mini-split will be installed to serve the conference room. Just like in your homes, things break at the church and require repairs. The church typically anticipates about one major repair per year in its budget; this year has had several unexpected major expenses. This has depleted our building maintenance funds, so if you would like to donate to help us rebuild that reserve for future maintenance and repairs, it would be greatly appreciated.

**Telling Our Story** – The Council has continued to discuss how we can more effectively use storytelling to further our efforts to be a good news church. This month, we will show a video in worship on July 6 that celebrates the impact of Lutheran World Relief and shows what our quilters are doing for the world. Thank you to the Peaceful Piecers for the good work that they do!

**Upcoming Events** – Here are a few upcoming events to be aware of:

- Family Hang-Out (July 11) – In support of our efforts to build community, Peace is starting to organize a hang-out time around once per month to allow families with children to gather together for family fun,
- First Footing Breakfasts (July 12 and 26) – We are continuing efforts to serve hot breakfasts at First Footing, which will be on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from now on.

If you have questions or ideas, please feel free to speak to any member of the Council.

## Summer Worship

### Summer Worship Series Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments

What if the Ten Commandments were not just a set of ancient rules, but a guide to experiencing the good life today?

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of “thou-shalt-nots” found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guideposts to help us experience a good and beautiful life.



These ten ancient “words” were given to us by a loving God who longed to set safe boundaries, create order out of chaos, help communities live peacefully, and protect us—often from ourselves.

In a culture marked by workaholicism, materialism, and social media-driven envy, God has given us a time-tested path that leads to gratitude, confidence, and peace.

Join us this summer in-person or online as we embark upon the way of life that God would have us live in covenant community.

- 6/15 Introduction to the Commandments – At the Center of It All
- 6/22 The First Commandment – The Idols We Keep
- 6/29 The Second Commandment – “I Swear to God!”
- 7/6 The Third Commandment – Rediscovering the Joy of Sabbath
- 7/13 The Fourth Commandment – A Question of Honor
- 8/3 The Fifth Commandment – The Tragedy of Violence
- 8/10 The Sixth Commandment – Faithlessness
- 8/17 The Seventh Commandment – We’re All Thieves. Yes, Even You.
- 8/24 The Eighth Commandment –  
Sticks, Stones, and the Power of Words
- 8/31 The Ninth & Tenth Commandments –  
Keeping Up with the Joneses



## Save the Date for the Fall Kick Off!



**Join Us**  
on  
**Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
for the  
**Peace Fall Kick Off!**



**More information coming soon!**  
**You don't want to miss this!**

## Take Spiritual Gifts Survey

### What are Our Spiritual Gifts?

Christian discipleship is a journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. The more that we can discover who we are and **whose** we are, the more we can appreciate the journey to which we have been called. This includes discovering our **Spiritual Gifts**. Each one of us is given gifts by the Holy Spirit that shape who we are and how we operate in the body of Christ. When we identify these gifts, we can better use them to grow in faith, life and discipleship.

Each month we will highlight one of the spiritual gifts that are part of our **Spiritual Gifts Assessment**. This month we will highlight the gift of **Administration**.

**Administration** is the spiritual gift that enables the receiver to formulate, direct and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose. We need someone with this gift in order to work in an organized and efficient manner so that we can achieve our goals together.

**Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment today!**

Scan the QR Code or go to:

<https://www.peacenb.org/pages/spiritual-gifts-survey>



## *Congregational Update on Governance Refresh 2025*

### Church....Behind the Scenes

Last month Nathan Anderson was giving an update to the congregation and he mentioned that a project to refresh our congregational governance had been initiated. Governance? In a church? Well, yes, just about every organization has to have some amount of governance in place to operate with integrity in whatever the mission. Churches are no exception.

Peace Lutheran last updated its' governance documents in 2016! There have been many changes in our congregational membership since then, and we certainly don't operate today like we did in 2016! Hence, it's time to take a look at what's in place and what should be updated.

In a nutshell, what is Church Governance Reform? Church Governance Reform is about stepping back and assessing how we currently do "church" compared to how we want to do "church" as inspired by our Mission, Vision and Values; and then making the adjustments needed to align what we do and how we do it to those goals.

The range of 'things' covered by this definition is broad. It includes a definition of our ministries and how they operate, our church council organizational model, our staffing model, and office processes and procedures. Last but not least, it includes our church constitution and bylaws, which are documents we have to revise periodically to maintain compliance with our church synod requirements.

A project was kicked off in late March to refresh our governance model and documents to align to our Mission Vision and Values defined in 2023, as well as reestablish compliance with our synod. A team led by Don Hodde and staffed by Brandy Huston, Brenda Martin, Bruce Rockstroh and Cindy Thomas will work with ministry team leaders and church staff to deliver the revisions needed with intent to transition Peace Lutheran's church operations to use of the new model to kick off 2026!

There is much to be done, but we have a good team and a good foundation provided by the work done by the Mission Vision and Values team in 2023-2024. Defining governance is not the most visible and quite frankly not the most fun work you can engage in at church, but it's important to get it right in our journey maximize how we be the hands and feet of Christ to our community!

Want to know more? Feel free to reach out to Don or Pastor Jake or one of the other team members with questions!

## July Mission Spotlight



### United Campus Ministry of Texas State

The mission statement for United Campus Ministry of Texas State is Loving Jesus. Building Friendships. Finding Purpose. The goal is to help students grow spiritually in the love of Jesus, form friendships and discover God's purpose in their lives.

Their mission field meets young adults, away from home for the first time, making faith and life decisions as they navigate who they are and what they believe.

During the semesters, students are invited to worship on Wednesday nights. They experience great music, thoughtful conversations and the opportunity to form faithful friendships.

Small group ministry is a vital part of giving the students a faith identity. Multiple small groups are available at different times and interests are addressed. They include men or women's groups, community group, graduate and alumni group, outdoor ministry, service for the community, music ministry and an alumni network.

Join us on Sunday, July 27 as we focus our Mission Spotlight on United Campus Ministry of Texas State. A dedicated offering will be collected.

Peace

Karen Laughlin

Service Chair

## *July Birthdays*

Lillie Braune 07/01  
 Zac Fain 07/04  
 Arthur Woytek 07/06  
 Cary Stanley 07/10  
 Heidi Brundrett 07/10  
 Sandra Freeman 07/10  
 Estelle Raschke 07/11  
 Natanael Lizarazo Florez 07/11  
 Kez Wold 07/12  
 Caleb Simmont 07/13  
 Michael Amori 07/15  
 Joanne Mathis 07/16  
 Rory McNeill 07/16  
 Shelley Simmont 07/19  
 Scott Weese 07/19  
 Connor Healey 07/19  
 David Martin 07/20  
 Leslie Tippens 07/24  
 Stella Leissner 07/24  
 Richard Kawazoe 07/25  
 Pamela Krause 07/27  
 Katherine Smith 07/27  
 Mitchell Fain 07/28  
 Brenton Davenport 07/29  
 Sharky Anderson 07/30  
 Shea Henderson 07/30  
 Michele Bauman 07/30  
 Wilfred Voges 07/31

## *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  
 07/11/2019 - 6 years  
 Pamela & (Tim) Kurczewski  
 07/14/1993 - 32 years  
 Rick & Katherine Smith  
 07/17/1982 - 43 years  
 David & JoBeth Oestreich  
 07/19/1986 - 39 years  
 Kimberly & (Jason) Pampell  
 07/22/2006 - 19 years  
 Matthew & Shelley Simmont  
 07/23/2005 - 20 years  
 Alvin & Helen Bravenec  
 07/26/1957 - 68 years  
 Brian & Courtney Peebles  
 07/27/2013 - 12 years  
 Shauna & (Ken) Bradstreet  
 07/28/1979 - 46 years

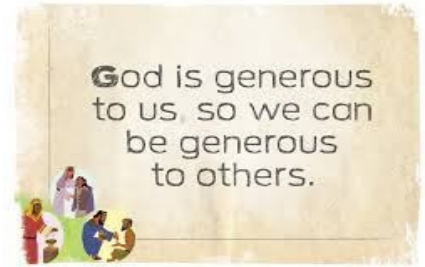
## *Prayers*

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



## *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](http://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](http://peacenb.org/live)