

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
August 2025**

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



**Back To  
School!**

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

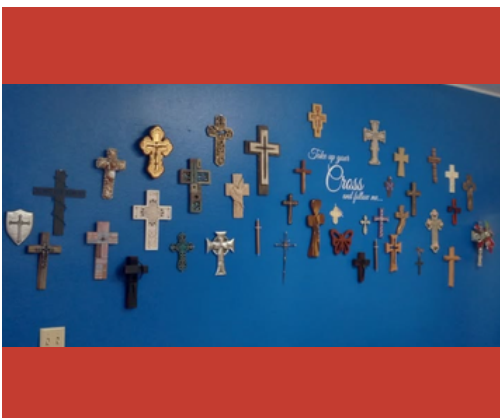
**Save the Date for the Fall Kick Off!**



**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!**



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## A Message from the Pastor

### Rest

*The heavens and the earth and all who live in them were completed. On the sixth day God completed all the work that he had done, and on the seventh day God rested from all the work that he had done. Genesis 2:1-2*



When I first read this passage of the creation story, I found it to be strange that God rests. Does it mean that God get tired? God doesn't need rest as much as God enjoys the fruit of creation.

Seven in the Hebraic tradition represents completeness. Therefore, the week of creation was not finished even on the sixth day after all the work had been done. Instead, the completed work of God culminates with Sabbath, a time to bask in the goodness of creation and to enjoy the relationship God has with his creation.

As I read this passage I am reminded of my annual two-week vacation in the summer. I used to try and spread out vacation times breaking them up in other snippets. But I've come to appreciate these two weeks because it's the reset I need to find rest.

Believe it or not, my mind thinks and breathes congregational life and ministry. Most days, I wake up thinking about the life of the church, and then go to bed doing the same. Even with one week away, my mind would gravitate toward wandering if everything was taken care of in my absence, and then as the week progressed, wandering about what awaited on Monday morning. Therefore, the sweet spot has been this two-week reset.

This summer for my first week off, I took my family to Los Angeles. My children had never been on an airplane before. The joy of watching their curious faces lifted into the air by this machine was something I had forgotten and simply taken for granted. We stayed in a predominantly Asian suburb and enjoyed the cultural exchanges—particularly the food. Santa Monica beach was beautiful and the boardwalk was rife with visitors and children's camps enjoying the carnival atmosphere paired with the breeze from the ocean. In addition, we visited the campus of Cal Tech and listened to an orientation and campus tour by current students. To say the least, the campus and rigor of study was impressive, and to listen to these young, brilliant minds gave me hope that the next generation will continue to share in God's creativity and innovation in this world.

My second week continued with the annual beach trip to Port Aransas with my family, brother, and nephew. This is the chill part in which my goal is to not return to work more worn out than when I left, rather to simply rest on the beach with a cooler of "beverages" and imbibe the sun, wind, and waves of the oceanfront. There's something about looking out into the beauty of creation with your loved ones, and I'd like to think on the 7th day of creation, God was doing something similar.

As I write this article my first week back, I feel a new sense energy and creativity. I'm excited about what the Holy Spirit is doing and more in tune with listening to that voice. I appreciate things like family and travel and the broader community. And even when I pray or read scripture, listening to God is much clearer, like when I upgraded my TV to a higher resolution. I'm grateful for the gift of rest and ready to continue in a new week of working in the kingdom of God.

Peace,

*Pastor John*



## 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 to in community.



**Words  
of Life**

|                           |                                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 8/3 The 6th Commandment   | The Tragedy of Violence                |
| 8/10 The 7th Commandment  | Faithlessness                          |
| 8/17 The 8th Commandment  | We're All Thieves. Yes, Even You.      |
| 8/23 The 9th Commandment  | Sticks, Stones, and the Power of Words |
| 8/30 The 10th Commandment | Keeping Up with the Joneses            |

## ELCA Churchwide Assembly

### 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly convened July 28–Aug. 2, 2025 in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. The ELCA Churchwide gathers every three years and over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.

Conduct other ministry related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

#### For the Life of the World

The first Council of Nicaea was convened 1,700 years ago, beginning the process of setting forth Christian convictions in what we know today as the Nicene Creed. The creed proclaims the life-giving truth of the triune God and our steadfast faith in Jesus Christ "for ... the life of the world to come." These convictions continue to live and breathe among us in word and sacrament.

Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.
- *We are church for the sake of the world* — for the abundant life promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

We recognize the wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, "The church is the church only when it exists for others." Our constitution's "Statement of Purpose" boldly proclaims this commitment to be a people "called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."



Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God's mission of reconciliation for the life of the world.

For the most current information visit <https://www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly>

Stay tuned for more details from the assembly including the election of a new presiding bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry.



## *Peace Little Pantry Angels Needed*



### **The Little Pantry That Could...**

I cannot help but think of the child's story about a little train that pulled food and toys over the mountain when the larger engines refused to help. Our Little Pantry CAN brighten someone's day, CAN fill a hungry tummy, CAN give someone on the street hope, CAN give us a chance to give back, and CAN show God's love is for everyone!

I am so thankful for the continued support our Little Pantry receives. Our Pantry Angels faithfully filled the Pantry, rain or shine, on bitter cold days and on our very hot Texas days. We need Pantry Angels to complete this year. Please consider taking a month. This is a perfect project for families, or you could team up with a friend. We still need Pantry Angels for September, October, November and December. Contact Becky Voges for more information at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com).

***"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Mother Teresa***

### *Council Corner*

We hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer! The Council did not meet in July, which is customary to allow everyone to have time to enjoy summer vacations and time with their families.

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

## August Mission Spotlight



Family Life Center has served Guadalupe and Comal counties since 2008.

The vision of Family Life Center is to prevent evictions and the displacement of families by providing essential rental and utility assistance. Additionally, they offer supportive rehousing efforts, food support, and comprehensive wraparound services to ensure families become and/or remain stable and secure in their homes.

They work together with various agencies, churches, and organizations to address the needs of under-resourced individuals and families. By combining resources, they can serve our community with united action and cooperative services.

Sunday, August 24, Family Life Center will be our Mission Spotlight. A dedicated offering will be collected.

Karen Laughlin  
Service Chair

## Take the 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 **Artistry**.

**Artistry** is the spiritual gift that gives the receiver the skill to create artistic expressions which produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. People with this gift are expressive, imaginative, creative, sensitive unconventional, and idea-oriented.

Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment today!  
Scan the QR Code or go to:

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



## ***Family Promise - Sisters in Need of Items for Their New Home!***

We just got this wonderful news about our family of sisters. They will be moving into their own place on Wednesday, July 16.

If you have furniture or other items you think they could use, please call the Family Promise office (830) 214-6762. If you would like to send them a card or gift card.

c/o Family Promise  
PO Box 311866  
New Braunfels, Texas 78131  
Attn Lynnaya

I know you are all as excited as they are as they take this huge leap into autonomy.

Peace  
Karen

### **Move-Out Needs**

*As this family begins this exciting new chapter, any support in gathering the following items would be deeply appreciated. Gently used items in good condition are more than welcome!*

#### **Furniture Essentials**

- Couch set or living room seating
- Area rugs (any size or style)
- Mattress/ Bedding

#### **Kitchen & Cooking Items**

- Microwave
- Toaster or air fryer
- Dish drying rack

#### **Cleaning & Household Supplies**

- All-purpose cleaners, disinfectants
- Sponges, dish soap, trash bags
- Laundry detergent and cleaning tools (broom, mop, etc.)

#### **Personal Hygiene Supplies**

- Soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products

#### **Bathroom Essentials**

- Shower curtain and hooks
- Bath mats or rugs
- Bathroom storage/organization (shelves, caddies, dispensers)

#### **Storage & Organization**

- Plastic bins or totes
- Drawer organizers
- Hangers, shelving, or small dressers



*A Thank You from the  
Grandson of Wil and Becky Voges*

# THANK YOU!

Hello Friends, Family, and countless others, to whom it would be hard to name:

I want to thank every single one of you. Because if you're reading this, you've done something to save my life. I've always been a big dreamer, but never really the type to dream bigger than I thought was outside my means. Things like wanting to be a Husband, a dad, are things most people don't probably dream about. Possibly because at the time, these things didn't seem like they were within reach in my life as a child or as an adult. I never thought I'd be a millionaire, but I always hoped I'd have enough not to understand the struggle of money. If anyone can say they've had some road bumps, I'd say it's me; however, I never wanted these things to define me, and have always set out to be better than those before me. Between my mother, my grandparents, my aunt, countless friends who are considered family, and my beautiful wife, each one of these individuals, at no particular time, has met me at the gates of hell to guide me back to the path of hope. The Hospital Visits, the doctor's Visits, and the near-death moments just trying to survive life have taken a toll on my friends and family, and I wish that on nobody. I write this letter because I don't want to be remembered as the guy who's been dying for 32 years of his life and constantly asking for help. My family has laid so many bricks before and while I've been alive to get such a tremendous outreach of support, and for that I am forever grateful. I want to thank you personally for helping me with my struggle, as I understand everyone on this planet has something to struggle with. My greatest hope is that one day, when I am strong and healthy enough, I can then begin to repay the favors to those who were able to help and those who need it more than I do. Please don't think your generosity has gone unnoticed; whether it has been a monetary donation, time, or even a prayer, it has made a difference in my and my family's lives.

Thank you for the support, Forever Grateful



Jordan Tomerlin



### ***Birthdays***

Sarah Fain 08/03  
 Lisa Lawton 08/04  
 Forrest Willis 08/07  
 Lyndsey Wilkie 08/08  
 Cheryl Braaten 08/13  
 Eric Ralph 08/14  
 Ken Witten 08/14  
 Thomas Braaten 08/14  
 Judith Johnson 08/16  
 Karl Stellges 08/17  
 Shelby Pampell 08/18  
 Barbara Hodde 08/19  
 Nora Miller 08/23  
 Haley Morelock 08/28  
 Michael Wenzel 08/28  
 Nathan Anderson 08/28  
 Earl Blaschke 08/31

### ***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.



### ***Anniversaries***

Kimberley & Bryce Huntsman  
 08/12/1989 - 36 years  
 Ceretta & Thomas Daum  
 08/29/1970 - 55 years

### ***Prayers***

Martin Franz  
 Carol Franz  
 Jim Miller  
 Rick Smith  
 John Claycomb  
 Arlene Wold  
 Stella Leissner  
 Earl Koester  
 Jenny Phillips

## *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)