

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
November 2025**

**HAPPY**

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

**Thanksgiving!**



**Mission:**

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

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



**Sunday Morning Growth:  
Faith Talks**

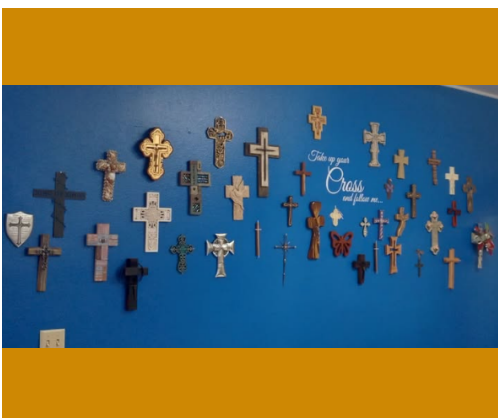
**8:45am-9:30am** Pastor Jake and others meet in the Fellowship Hall to talk about their faith and dig deeper into God's story for you.

**Seekers & Sponges**

**8:30am-9:30am** a group meets in the conference room to explore various topics

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## *A Message from the Pastor*

### **A Season of Renewal: Sabbatical 2026**

This coming summer, from May 18 through August 17, 2026, I will be entering a season of sabbatical—a time set apart for rest, renewal, and reconnection with God's calling. In Scripture, sabbath and sabbatical time are sacred rhythms woven into the life of God's people. They remind us that God's work does not depend on our constant activity, but on God's ongoing grace.



A sabbatical is not simply time off; it is a time of spiritual restoration. It allows space to listen more deeply, to be refreshed in body and spirit, and to return renewed with vision and energy for ministry. It is a counterintuitive practice—doing less so that more of God's renewing Spirit can do its work. In that sacred rest, the fruits of sabbatical begin to grow: new energy, fresh perspective, rekindled passion, and deepened faith.

Our congregation received a grant from the Lilly Foundation which specializes in sabbaticals and investing in spiritual renewal for the church. This unexpected gift will fund the activities of both me and the congregation. Out of the thousands of applicants every year, this organization validates the sabbatical proposal was solid enough to invest in for spiritual renewal.

While I am away, our congregation will continue to thrive and grow. Our leadership teams have been prayerfully preparing for this season so that our ministry remains vibrant and connected:

- Our Worship Team is shaping meaningful summer worship themes and ensuring strong pastoral leadership in the pulpit each week. They are preparing creative and inspiring ways for us to stay connected as a worshipping community.
- Our Compassion Team is coordinating care within the congregation, ensuring that no one walks alone. They will continue to offer support, prayer, and accompaniment for those in need, reminding us that we are always the body of Christ together.

This season will be an opportunity not only for me but for our entire congregation to reflect on who we are and how God is calling us to grow. Sabbatical time invites all of us to practice trust—to remember that the church's life and mission are sustained by God's Spirit, not by any one person.

My hope is that when this sabbatical concludes in August, we will all be renewed: strengthened in faith, refreshed in spirit, and ready to embrace the next season of ministry with fresh energy, vision, and joy. Furthermore, the sabbatical is not meant to end, rather that is only the beginning. In the fall of 2026 our congregation will explore the fruits of that time and ask for God's Spirit to revitalize our mission.

## A Message from the Pastor Continued

Thank you for your prayers, support, and partnership as we prepare for this special season of renewal. May this time remind us that rest is not idleness—it is the soil where new life begins to bloom.

Check out our introductory video on sabbatical at <https://youtu.be/pbE-VG9MNmI>

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Jake*



### November Worship: Hearts That Listen, Seek, and Shine

As we move through the month of November, our worship journey carries us deeper into the stories of the prophets—voices who listened for God’s truth, spoke it boldly, and called God’s people to return to hearts aligned with God’s heart. Each week we’ll encounter a different prophet’s message, inviting us to reflect on our own hearts: to listen in the silence, seek justice in the world, live with hope, trust God’s promises, and stand firm in faith.

#### 10am Worship at a Glance:

**November 2** – *1 Kings 19:1–12 – Listening for God in the Gentle Whisper*



AMOS 1:1–2, 5:14–15, 21–24  
**JUSTICE**

**November 9** – *Amos 1:1–2, 5:14–15, 21–24 – Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters*

**November 16** – *Isaiah 9:1–7 – The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light*

**November 23** – *Jeremiah 29:1, 4–14 – Plans for Hope and a Future*



JEREMIAH 29:1, 4–14  
**HOPE**

**November 30** – *Daniel 3:1–30 – Faith That Stands in the Fire*

Each prophet reminds us that God’s heart is steadfast—even in chaos, exile, and uncertainty. As we worship this month, may our hearts be examined, renewed, and molded in God’s image so that we too may reflect the light, justice, and hope of Christ to the world.



1 Kings 19:1–12  
**LISTENING**



ISAIAH 9:1–7  
**LIGHT**

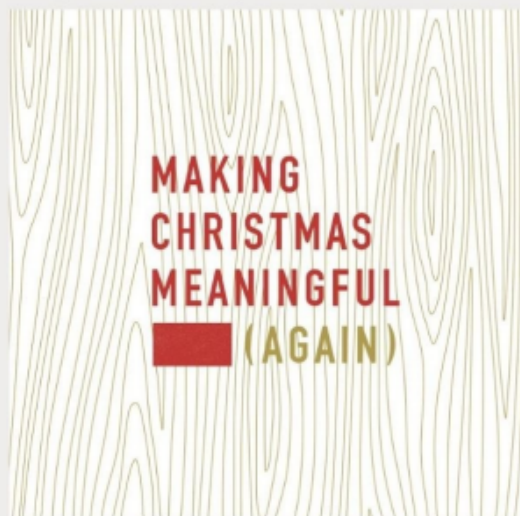


FAITH THAT STANDS IN THE FIRE  
DANIEL 3:1–30  
**FAITH**

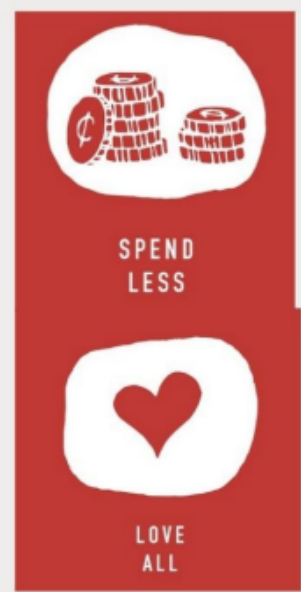
## Worship



Are you tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This year make a difference! Join the groundsweel of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be – a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us.



Join us each Wednesday evening in  
Advent at 6:30pm for worship  
as we reclaim the heart of Advent



## Confirmation Retreat



## Confirmation Retreat



Calling all confirmation students! Our next retreat is at Camp Chrysalis in Kerrville on November 14-16.

This year's theme is the Reformation continues.

The Lutheran Church experienced a reformation more than 500 years ago. Learn how the church is still reforming and how we are re-formed because of church history and vision.

Registration is at [https://crosstrails.org/programmed\\_retreats/swts-middle-school-gathering/](https://crosstrails.org/programmed_retreats/swts-middle-school-gathering/)

Contact Pastor Jake to sign up.

## Council Corner - Report from October 2025

### Council Corner – October 2025

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

- **Leadership Retreat** – A leadership retreat was held on October 18. Our Ministry Team leaders, Governance Team leaders, and others will come together to work on defining a clear and simplified structure for how ministries are carried out at Peace. The work of the church will focus on four key areas:
  - o Stewardship – Through Baptism, everything belongs to God. Stewardship focuses on how we manage what God has provided and invest in growing His kingdom.
  - o Worship – Worship is how we love God, through praise, music, prayer, and communion.
  - o Discipleship – Jesus calls us to discipleship. This area focuses on how we nurture spiritual health and develop servants.
  - o Community – Community is how we love people, both inside and outside of the church. Developing community focuses on connections, compassion, partnerships, and service.
- **Sabbatical** – Peace has received a Clergy Renewal Program Grant from the Lilly Endowment for \$50,500 to support a sabbatical in 2026. The sabbatical is intended to support pastoral and congregational renewal. Please check the newsletter or eblast for a link to a video with more information about the sabbatical, and we will continue to share more information over the coming months.

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

#### General Fund

|               | September<br>2025 | Year-to-Date<br>9 Months<br>2025 | Budget<br>9 Months<br>2025 | Year-to-Date<br>9 Months<br>2024 |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Receipts      | \$ 23,091         | \$ 288,468                       | \$ 293,459                 | \$ 304,878                       |
| Disbursements | \$ 31,516         | \$ 273,151                       | \$ 293,459                 | \$ 312,712                       |
| Net           | <u>\$ (8,425)</u> | <u>\$ 15,317</u>                 | <u>\$ -</u>                | <u>\$ (7,834)</u>                |

#### Building Maintenance Fund

|                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance January 1, 2025               | \$ 32,626.44        |
| Donations                             | 47,277.20           |
| Disbursements:                        |                     |
| Foundation                            | \$ 17,180.75        |
| Repair Water Leak including Tunneling | 26,310.00           |
| AC Repair                             | 18,521.50           |
|                                       | <u>(62,012.25)</u>  |
| Balance September 30, 2025            | <u>\$ 17,891.39</u> |

## *Welcoming Other at Peace*

### **Peace Lutheran—A Welcome Place?**

It is a wonderful feeling to be part of our Peace family. I feel loved and accepted by everyone. I am always a part of the “in crowd” and that is a beautiful place to be. I was recently made aware of the fact that we may not be as welcoming as we thought we were. I was having a conversation with someone who has just started worshipping with us. I ask her how she felt on her first Sunday. It broke my heart to hear that it took three weeks for anyone to acknowledge her. This is not the first time I have heard this. It is so easy for us to enjoy our small groups that form on Sunday mornings that we do not notice new faces. I realize that not everyone is as outgoing as I am, but we must try to be more aware of people we do not know. I challenge you to be more aware and to step out of your comfort zone. If you see someone you do not know, acknowledge them and say “Hi, my name is...., I have not met you before.” Or “Come join us for coffee and fellowship.” I am beyond thankful that the person I told you about stuck around and has given us another chance. Sadly, this is not always the case. We are called to-- ***“To love like Jesus so that every person experiences God’s way.”***

**Becky Voges**

## *The Christmas Tea is Coming!*

### ***A GINGERBREAD CHRISTMAS***



*The Christmas Tea will be on December 6, from 10am to 12am. This year's theme is a Gingerbread Christmas; tickets are \$10.00 per person. They will go on sale in October; you can sign up on sign up genius or we will have forms at the church. You can also call any member of the tea committee. Deadline is November 30. Can goods will be collected for the SOS food bank.*

## *Live Nativity*

### **2025 Peace Lutheran Church Live Nativity**

**December 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**



Christmas is approaching fast, and plans are being made for another beautiful Live Nativity evening. If you have not had the opportunity to participate or attend our Live Nativity, mark your calendar now so you do not miss it. We set up a walk through Bethlehem that includes a Bake shop, Ornament Shop, Joseph's Carpenter Shop, Hot Cocoa, Christmas Carols and so much more! We will need people of all ages to be in costume—the manger, angels, shepherds, wise men, town's people and carolers. Want to know more? Talk to Becky Voges at 830-587-4003. There will be a Sign-up Genuis coming soon for volunteer spots. Please join us as we bring the Christmas Story to life for our community.

## *First Footing Breakfast*

# FIRST FOOTING BREAKFAST SCHEDULE CHANGE

Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts, the breakfast originally planned for the fourth Saturday in October (October 25) will not take place. To accommodate this change, the November Breakfast Schedule has been revised. Breakfast will now be held on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of November – specifically November 1, 15, and 29.

We will resume our regular schedule in December, with Breakfast occurring on the second and fourth Saturday mornings.

Set-up will begin at 6:30am and breakfast will be served starting at 7am at First Footing Shelter, located at 4120 Loop 337, adjacent to the Pilot Station in the former Fire Station.

All are welcome to participate, whether you wish to assist with serving or simply join us for coffee and fellowship with our neighbors.

## A VERY SINCERE THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our First Footing Breakfasts. Your involvement plays a crucial role in the success of our program, and we deeply appreciate your dedication.

### Volunteers at the Shelter

To those who serve on Saturday mornings at the First Footing Shelter, your efforts directly impact the lives of those in need. By giving your time and energy, you help create a welcoming environment and provide a nourishing start to the day for our guests.

### Bakery Purchasers

We also recognize and thank those who purchase bakery items from us on Sunday mornings. Your generosity helps us cover the cost of groceries needed for our breakfasts, ensuring we can continue to provide meals to those who rely on our support.

### Making a Difference

Whether you volunteer at the shelter or contribute through bakery purchases, you are making a significant difference in someone's life. Your support is essential, and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our mission.

If you would like more information on how you can help our mission, please contact Kathi Anderson 210-643-8855.

## *November Mission Spotlight*

Our November Mission Spotlight focuses on the Salvation Army, New Braunfels Corps under the direction of Isaias Beck Braga.

### The Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Some of the ways that the Salvation Army serves in our community

Feed the residents of First Footing 2 meals a day, every day

Host Food Drives

Emergency Disaster Services

Provide utility or rent assistance for people in need

Grab and go meals for the homeless

Emergency Shelter

Spiritual Care

Some opportunities to support Salvation Army

Be a bell ringer

Donate to Angel Tree

Angel Tree Charity Golf Tournament Nov, 17

Host a Food Drive

Volunteer with Salvation Army

Please keep the Salvation Army and the people they serve, as they strive to help those in need.

A dedicated offering will be collected on Sunday, November 23 to benefit Salvation Army, New Braunfels Corps ministries.

Service Chair

Karen Laughlin



## New to Peace Lutheran



### Gwen Parr

I was born and raised in El Campo, TX. I left Texas in 1978 and moved to Palo Alto, CA, where my husband's office was. Upon his retirement, we moved to Lake Tahoe, NV. He was later lured out of retirement to help start a company, so we moved to San Diego, CA, and then retired again to Oro Valley, AZ, where we lived from 2003 until his passing in 2023. I was his full-time caregiver during his last few years. After his passing, I decided to move back to Texas, where my six siblings (now five) and their families live. I have been in New Braunfels since February. I hold an Accounting degree from Arizona State University, though much of my time has been spent volunteering. I served with the Assistance League, first in San Diego—where I was chapter president and served on the National Philanthropic Program Committee—and then in Tucson.

My five remaining siblings live within 2½ hours of New Braunfels, so I am fortunate to see them often. I have four stepchildren, four grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren who live across the country.

My hobbies include golf, reading, playing games (cards, bunco, dominoes), and making greeting cards.



### Justin Fryar

I'm Justin. My wife is Miranda, and we have been married almost six months. I am from Bulverde, TX, and I work in San Marcos, TX, at Lemender Concrete Construction, doing estimating.

I enjoy hunting and being outdoors, and I love watching college and MLB baseball. Gig'em Aggies!

### Miranda Fryar

I was born and raised in Corpus Christi and moved to Seguin, TX, for college at Texas Lutheran University. I grew up Missouri Synod Lutheran and was exposed to the ELCA through Camp Chrysalis in Waverly, where I spent nine summers as both a camper and staff.

In 2021, I met the love of my life, Justin. We got engaged in 2024 and were married a few months ago. I'm so grateful to have him as part of Peace with me now, especially as we look forward to planning for a family in the near future.



### Stacy Snell

Bruce and I met online in February 1999, married in February 2000, and Katie moved in with us in March 2000. I was born and raised in So Cal, married in 1991, moved to Idaho, and divorced in 1997. Growing up and through my thirties, I was very outdoorsy and loved nature—I still do, though I'm less active now. In retirement, I enjoy crafting and spending time with my daughter and granddaughter. We enjoy movies and audiobooks.

## New to Peace Lutheran



### Don Ohlschwager

I was born in Lincoln, NE, in 1953, and moved to Park Rapids, MN, in 1964. I graduated from DR High School in 1972. I moved back to Nebraska and married on July 1973.

We moved to New Braunfels, TX, in 1983, and later divorced. I lived in Nebraska from 1989–2003, remarried in 1993, and was widowed.

I lived in New Braunfels from 2003–2006, then Seguin from 2006–2023.

### Karen Ryan

I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, while it was still a territory. I have an adopted daughter from Korea and one biological son. I have been divorced since 2011.

I met my partner, Don, on a dating site in February 2018. We hit it off right away! We enjoy traveling to different state parks with our travel trailer.



### John Tucker

Patty and I have a large family, all of whom are grown now.

We lived in North Texas for almost 30 years before moving to Corpus Christi for work, and then to New Braunfels. I retired from Texas Rib House in January 2021. I kept my professional license current as an architect, and in my work I managed large school construction programs.

I am currently a school board trustee (District 4) for New Braunfels ISD. We were foster parents for the State of Texas while living in North Texas.

### Patty Tucker

I moved to New Braunfels in 2016.

I enjoy camping, painting, sewing, refinishing furniture, and caring for animals. I volunteer at the Humane Society and at Sts. Peter and Paul Thrift Store. We have a large family — six kids and ten grandkids — and we travel often with them.



### Shawn Walker

My name is Shawn Walker, and I recently moved from Lubbock with my wife, Terri, and our son, Oliver. I grew up in Amarillo, TX, and I work as a pediatrician in San Marcos. I enjoy good food, spending time in the water, and clever humor.

### Terri Walker

I was raised in Shattuck, OK, then moved to Concordia, TX, for college. While there, I met my favorite guy, Shawn—we got married, and I've been chasing him all over ever since 2013!

My career has largely been in city government, but I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up. Shawn and I found our church home in the ELCA, and we're so happy to have found one here in New Braunfels!

### Ollie Walker



### Jacob, Skye, and Miles Johnson

Finally, join Jacob and Skye Johnson as they welcome their new son, Miles, into the church and the world.

### *Birthdays*

Clint Phillips Sr 11/01  
 Tommy Perkins 11/02  
 Beverly Anderson 11/02  
 Lorinda Scott 11/03  
 Carol Ann Miller 11/04  
 Bonnie Claycomb 11/06  
 David Thomas 11/06  
 Linda Hook 11/08  
 Robert McNeill 11/08  
 Juliana Garcia 11/08  
 Donna Braune 11/10  
 Arlene Wold 11/13  
 Steven Willis 11/14  
 John Claycomb 11/19  
 JoBeth Oestreich 11/19  
 Helen Bravenec 11/20  
 Dorothy Ebert 11/21  
 Margaret Weese 11/23  
 Hattie Tippens 11/26  
 Nanci Witten 11/27  
 Brenda Martin 11/30  
 Brandy Huston 11/30  
 Melissa Fain 11/30

### *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*

Matthew & Taylor Martinez  
 11/05/2022 – 3 years  
 John & Bonnie Claycomb  
 11/26/1967 – 58 years

### *Prayers*

Earl Blaschke  
 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 - 2:30 pm

**Friday**  
Office Closed

**Sunday**  
10:00 am - Worship  
Livestream @ [peacenb.org/live](http://peacenb.org/live)