

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
January 2026**

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

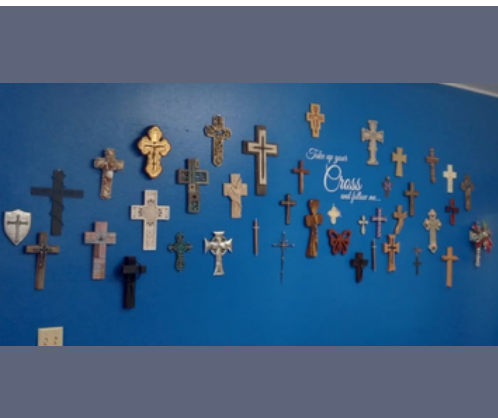
**Happy  
New Year**



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

***Special Thank You!***

The Christmas Tea committee would like to thank Barbara Wangsness, all the servers, Brenda Martin, also known as Mrs. Claus, and the Peace Bells. Thank you so much for your incredible help with the Christmas Tea. You were all instrumental in making it a huge success. We would like to say thanks for donating 125 lbs of can goods and \$170.00 for the SOS Food Bank.



### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

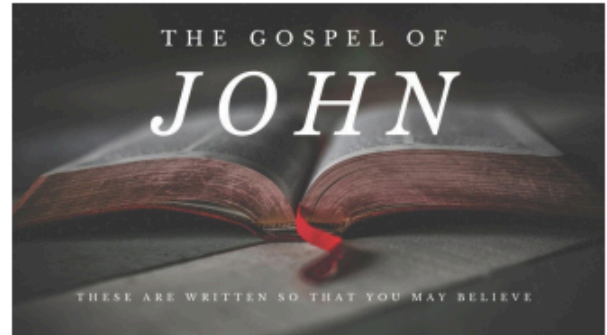
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## A Message from the Pastor

### The Gospel of John

As we begin a new calendar year—and a new season in the life of our congregation—we also begin a new journey through Scripture. This January, we enter the Narrative Lectionary Year of John, a year shaped by stories that invite us not just to learn about Jesus, but to abide with him.

The Gospel of John is different from the other gospels. Instead of many short parables, John offers us deep conversations, vivid signs, and poetic language. From the very beginning, John proclaims that Jesus is the Word made flesh—the light that shines in the darkness, the one who comes to dwell among us. This gospel asks big questions: Who is Jesus? What does it mean to believe? How does God's love take on flesh in the world?



Throughout the coming months, we will hear stories of calling and transformation, abundance and challenge, healing and hope. We will meet people whose lives are changed by an encounter with Jesus: disciples searching for meaning, a wedding party surprised by joy, a woman at a well offered living water, a blind man who learns what it truly means to see. Each story invites us to see ourselves in the narrative and to listen for how God is still speaking today.

John's gospel is rich with powerful themes that will guide us throughout the year. One of the strongest is the movement between light and darkness. Jesus is named as the light of the world—a light no darkness can overcome. John invites us to notice where light breaks into places of fear, confusion, and loss, and to trust that God is still at work even when the darkness feels strong. John also shapes his story around seven signs—moments where Jesus reveals God's glory through acts of compassion, abundance, and life-giving power. These signs are not performed to impress, but to point us toward who Jesus truly is. Each sign builds upon the last, drawing us deeper into the mystery of God's love, and ultimately leading us to the greatest sign of all: the resurrection, where light triumphs over darkness and life over death. This gospel is deeply relational. Again and again, Jesus invites people into relationship—with himself, with one another, and with God. Words like come and see, follow me, abide in me, and love one another echo throughout the year. John reminds us that faith is not simply something we believe, but a life we live—shaped by love, truth, and grace.

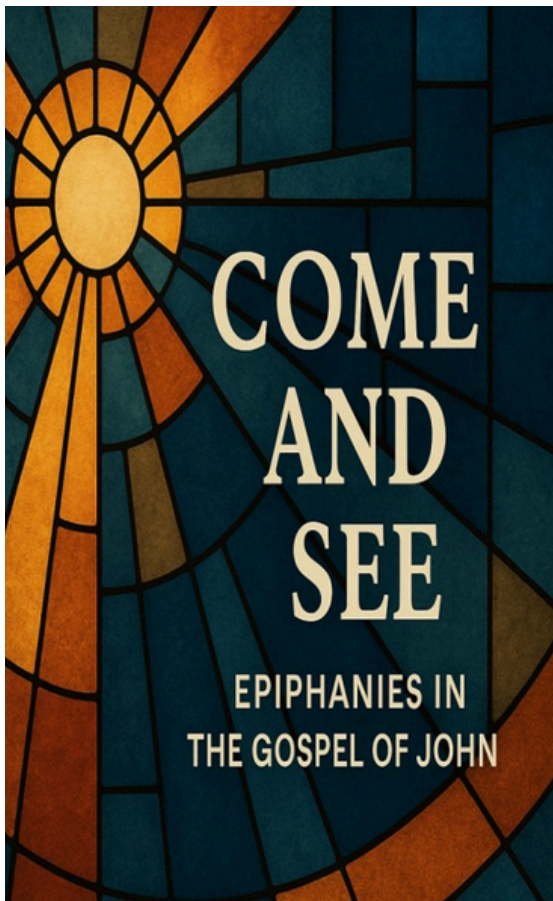


As we move through this Narrative Lectionary year together, my prayer is that the Gospel of John will help us slow down, listen deeply, and rediscover the wonder of God's presence among us. May we find ourselves drawn into the story—curious, honest, and open to transformation.

Peace,  
*Pastor Jake*



## Worship



Six-week Epiphany series that traces a journey of awakening, revelation, and transformation through key stories in the Gospel of John.

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- 1/11: John 2:1-11 - Grace poured out
- 1/18: John 2:13-25 - A Zeal for Justice
- 1/25: John 3:1-21 - The Spirit Enters
- 2/1: John 4:1-42 - Seen and Known
- 2/8: John 4:46-5:18 - Rise and Walk
- 2/15: John 9:1-41 - Open Eyes & Hearts

## Peace Little Pantry



### Peace Little Pantry News!

As we start our new year, we are looking for Pantry Angels. If you would like to take a month to be a caretaker of our Little Pantry, contact Becky Voges at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com).

#### Items we keep stocked for the Pantry.

Viena Sausages, Tuna foil packs, canned meat, individual fruit and pudding, peanut butter/cheese crackers, chips, cookies, beanie weinie, meat sticks, granola bars, bottled water, juice boxes, soup, mac & cheese, hygiene items, Kleenex, plastic utensils, first aid items and bibles. When the cold weather comes, we also need hats and gloves.

**Canned items should have a ring tab. Thanks for the support.**

## *Annual Congregational Meeting*

### **Peace's Annual Congregational Meeting**

**1/25 Sunday after the 10am worship (11:15am)  
in the Sanctuary**

- A Look Back at 2025
- Election of Council
- Budget Approval
- Mission Grant Awards
- A Vision for 2026



### **Informational Meeting**

**1/18 11:15am Sunday in the Fellowship Hall**

**The informational pre-meeting designates time for questions and feedback from the congregation.**

**Annual reports for the annual meeting will be sent out in the 1/14 e-news or available for pickup in the narthex.**

**A Pre-meeting Video Presentation will be sent out electronically in mid-January.**

**You may join online or in-person for the Annual meeting and Informational meeting.**

**Meeting in-person @ Peace and online**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86551340107>**

**Meeting ID: 865 5134 0107**

**+1 346 248 7799**

## *Council Corner*

### **Council Corner – December 2025**

In November and December, the Council is focused on ending out the year and preparing for next year. A few highlights of council items are below.

- End of Year – The Council has reviewed finances and prepared a proposed budget for 2026, which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25.
- Worship Opportunities – There are many opportunities for worship and special events planned in December, including:
  - 12/13 Salvation Army Bellringing;
  - 12/20 Live Nativity;
  - 12/21 The Longest Night Worship;
  - 12/25 5p & 7p Christmas Eve Worship;
  - 12/28 German Choir Lessons and Carols in Worship;
  - 12/28 Mission Spotlight – Communities in Schools,
  - 12/28-1/3 Family Promise Host Week (Meals at Day Center);
  - 12/29-1/2 Office Closed.
- Sanctuary Monitor Upgrade – The Worship Team proposed to replace our aging projectors at the front of the sanctuary with TV monitors that will provide a clearer picture. If you would like to contribute, please designate that your donation is for the Sanctuary Monitor Upgrade (add a memo for online donations or checks)

The Council will not meet again until after the Annual Meeting in January, however, please feel free to speak to any member of the Council about any questions or concerns. Merry Christmas!

## *New Gospel Singing Group*



### **Gospel Singing Group Forming**

I have noticed when our congregation has the opportunity to sing what many of us consider “oldies but goodies”, the congregation comes alive with swaying and clapping. I would like to start 2026 by forming a group of singers who love to sing and have the time to prepare some music for worship. We will gather after church to practice. The first piece we will work on will be “On the Wings of A Dove”. Does this sound like something you would like to be a part of? Text me at 830-587-4003 for more information.

## January Mission Spotlight

The journey from a housing crisis to stability is possible with one key ingredient: support. After learning about a person's circumstances that led to seeking help, NB Housing Partners' dedicated team helps with immediate needs and assists each individual or family with developing a plan to gain housing or strengthen their housing stability. The common thread among our program participants is that they are struggling with their current circumstances and they need a hand up, not a handout. NB Housing Partners provides this support in the form of street outreach, shelter for up to 66 adults, inclement shelter during nights below 40 degrees, support services, rental and/or rehousing assistance, targeted case management, and short-term housing.

Our First Footing shelter recently expanded its capacity by 57%, adding another 24 beds and a pet kennel so individuals can shelter with their furry companion nearby. The shelter is not just about a bed- it is about providing support services such as basic needs, targeted case management focused on housing goals, job assistance, income benefit enrollment help, transportation, and linkages to behavioral healthcare and medical care, including assistance with medical costs. In 2025, we provided close to 15,000 nights of shelter for over 200 unhoused individuals and support services for nearly 500 people. Our waiting list for services grew to nearly 90 individuals in the last year, so our expanded capacity will allow us to serve even more people in 2026. These services are even more crucial during cold weather months, where shelter, meals, and warm clothing is crucial for life safety.

Our community's rapid growth, particularly over the last decade, has led to a large housing deficit of approximately 9,500 units for lower income levels. As a result, 48% of our community struggles with housing cost burdens that consume 30% or more of their income. Therefore, we are expanding our rental assistance services to help prevent homelessness for individuals and families who experience a crisis and struggle with maintaining their housing.

As NB Housing Partners continues to grow, our vision remains clear: to build a community where everyone has a place to call home. Committed to taking strategic steps to address both urgent housing crises and ensuring that long-term affordable housing options are within reach at every income level, NB Housing Partners continues to be a lifeline for residents of our community experiencing the challenges of homelessness.

If you or someone you know needs housing assistance, call (830) 272-5020 or visit us at 4120 Loop 337. To learn more about our services, in kind donation items most needed, or volunteer opportunities, visit [www.nbhousingpartner.org](http://www.nbhousingpartner.org) or contact Kellie Stallings at [kellie@nbhousingpartners.org](mailto:kellie@nbhousingpartners.org).

Peace,  
Kellie Stallings &  
Karen Laughlin (Service Chair)





## *Birthdays*

Lynda Willis 01/02  
 Landon Garcia 01/04  
 Hayden Kaufman 01/06  
 Matthew Martinez 01/07  
 Brett Kriley 01/08  
 Maxine Goodson 01/09  
 Michelle Rappmund 01/11  
 Nate Fain 01/13  
 Carl Mincemoyer 01/13  
 Mary Mielke 01/14  
 Erich Weese 01/14  
 Jacob Johnson 01/14  
 Becky Perkins 01/15  
 Amanda Martin 01/15  
 David Oestreich 01/15  
 Kimberly Pampell 01/18  
 Vicki Hillmer 01/20  
 Trice Kastein 01/20  
 Gary Goodson 01/21  
 Michelle Davenport 01/22  
 Selina Lawton 01/22  
 Anita Hill 01/24  
 Linda Lange 01/26  
 Jeannie Kawazoe 01/28  
 Lindsay Friedrich 01/28  
 Darcy Mittelstaedt 01/29  
 Marsha Dove 01/30  
 James Huston 01/31  
 Justin Fryar 01/31

## *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*

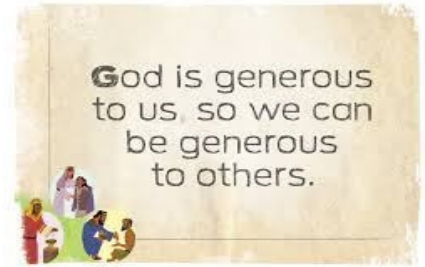
Carl & Debra Mincemoyer  
 01/07/1994 - 32 years  
 Brent & Missy Paullus  
 01/11/1992 - 34 years

## *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)