

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

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
October 2024**



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

**Deacon Andrew's Farewell Lunch**



**Farewell Lunch**

**Sunday, Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m.**

**Please join us for a farewell lunch honoring Deacon Andrew. We will provide the meat and the dessert; we ask that you bring a side dish to complement the meat. Please mark your calendars for this date so you can visit with Deacon Andrew on his last Sunday at Peace.**



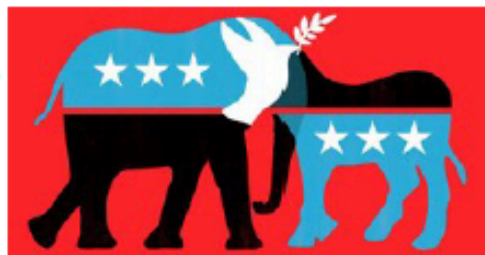
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## A Message from the Pastor

### Election Year 2024

As I am writing this article, this week, I opened the news to a report about a second assassination attempt on one of the two political candidates for president. Just as religion can produce zealots committed to their cause so much that nothing else matters and the ends justify the means, so can political ideologies. We must refrain from our baser instincts and remember what it means to be God's people first and foremost – a people committed to loving God and neighbor.



Although I am cautious to speak on something as political as an election (I'm not sure there's anything more political than the practice of choosing elected leaders), the danger is to remain silent and give no guidance in how our faith informs our civic life.

I will state up front, it is not the pastor's role to be partisan. I will not tell you how to vote or even if you should vote at all. After all, our primary identity is not citizens of the US or any country, rather as Paul reminds us in the scriptures, we are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20), the kingdom of God.

However, we live in this world and are called to live out our faith in all aspects. Our faith is not meant to be compartmentalized as one thing among many, rather as children of God we look to God in how we should live with one another.

Therefore, I offer up this warning to you. The political rhetoric will get nastier as we approach November 5th. The powers that be will try and pit people against each other as if it's a winner take all scenario. In all likelihood you will never meet those two people, and yet the relationships you have cultivated over a lifetime can suffer over this period. What would it be like to go the opposite direction of the vitriol—to intentionally be more loving?

Living in outrage is outrageous. Living in love is the way of Jesus. When November 6th rolls around, the world will keep spinning. God's mission to bring reconciliation and wholeness to our world will continue.

The political culture says achieve power.  
Jesus says the real power is laying down his life.

The political culture says defeat your enemy no matter the cost.  
Jesus says pray for your enemies.

The political culture says demonize your opponents.  
Jesus casts out the demons and humanizes each person.



Let's be more like Jesus this election season. That's what the world needs. For a deeper dive on engaging faith and civic life, I encourage you to check out the newest ELCA social statement: <https://www.elca.org/civicsandfaith>

Peace,  
**Pastor Jake**

## *A Message from the Deacon*

Dear siblings in Christ at Peace and St. Andrew,

One of the most challenging aspects of being a rostered minister in the ELCA is the transition from one call to another. It is an emotional time of discerning and making difficult decisions while being open to where the Holy Spirit might be leading. I am writing to share with you that I have been offered and accepted a call to serve Calvary Lutheran Church in Morganton, North Carolina as their Deacon for Faith Formation and Outreach. Morganton is a small city between Asheville and Charlotte in western North Carolina. My call will also include serving 1/3 time helping lead the NC Synod's Children, Youth, and Family ministries.

As most of you know, I served for 20 years in the South Carolina Synod before coming to Texas, and I also spent a great deal of time with congregations and camps in North Carolina. This new call brings me back to familiar places and colleagues. It brings me much closer to my family, my mom, my sister, and my son, Zack, who all live in Georgia within easy driving distance. With Grace eventually moving to the US, this was a very important part of my decision to accept this new call, to be settled close to family.

When I made myself available for call through the ELCA Churchwide office, I knew that I would only leave my current call here at Peace and St. Andrew if it was the right call and in the right part of the country. I knew it was definitely a small window of possibility. I also knew that such a call might not exist or become available. The plus side for me has been knowing that I could remain right here doing what I do with all of you and be completely happy for many more years.

When I first shared the possibility of this call (and move) with Pastor Jake and Pastor Chris in August, I told them that if I could just pick up these two congregations and bring you all with me, I'd be delighted to continue as your Deacon for Faith Formation until my retirement. I shared the same heartfelt sentiment with I met with both congregation councils via Zoom while I was in Japan to notify them that the possibility of this new call was imminent.

The five years that I have served Peace and St. Andrew have been deeply rewarding for me on so many levels. Together we have seen a lot of changes in our communities and in the world, especially navigating through the COVID pandemic. Through all of those changes, I've always felt very blessed to be a part of two congregations filled with people (YOU!) who share a deep passion for the gospel and a courageous openness to listen to and follow the Holy Spirit. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to witness to the love of God in the midst of a hurting world that needs this good news now more than ever. We will continue to share in that ministry together, albeit now from different parts of the country.

My last Sunday here in Texas will be Sunday, October 6th. I am going to split my four remaining Sundays between Peace (9/15, 10/6) and St. Andrew (9/22, 9/29). I welcome your calls, emails, and texts, and I will make myself available to meet with people between now and when I move. Saying goodbye is never easy, especially with so many wonderful memories of sharing in ministry and friendship with all of you. I go to North Carolina filled with joy and thanksgiving to God for you! I ask for your prayers as I begin this transition into the next chapter in my life. I will also be in prayer for all of you and for both congregations, confident that God will continue to work wonderful things through you.

Yours in Christ,  
Deacon Andrew

## Stewardship Campaign

### Stewardship Campaign –

#### Grace in Action

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

We are excited to introduce this year's stewardship campaign, "**Grace in Action.**" As followers of Christ, we recognize that every gift we receive is a manifestation of God's abundant grace. Just as God freely gives, we are called to live out our faith by putting grace into action—serving, sharing, and giving generously.



Let's begin with the word *grace*. It's one of Peace's four core values, and it happens to be the value that everything hinges upon, because grace fundamentally is a gift from God. The thing about grace is that it's God's lens for how God sees us—that there is nothing that God wouldn't give us to us, because that love overflows.

You cannot earn grace, you cannot buy it, you cannot be worthy of it. Instead, God simply says, I love you and I give you this love freely even when we don't deserve it.

The thing about grace is that when we receive this gift, it's transformative. Because when you boil it down, you catch a glimpse of God's unconditional love. And once you receive that gift, you can begin to let go of that need to achieve it by your own means.

So why grace in action? The sheer grace of God moves us to be gracious in our own lives. Jesus once told a parable about a king who forgave an insurmountable debt, but the man who was given a new life immediately went and saw someone who owed him a small sum. He proceeded to shake him down and do the very opposite of what the king had shared with him. That's not transformation. Grace in action is a way of life in which we take on the heart of God who fully loves, forgives, and reconciles us to the wholeness of relationship with him.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

Grace in action, therefore, is the opportunity to join God's heart of generosity and let go of ourselves. When we get lost in grace, we begin to not worry about gaining and achieving everything in life, rather we look with graceful eyes to share and bless as God does.

Throughout October and the beginning of November we will explore ways that we can practice stewardship in our personal lives and as a church. You will hear stories from fellow saints here at

## Stewardship Campaign

Peace, see firsthand how your generosity supports our ministries, explore your own spiritual gifts, and be invited to prayerfully consider how you might participate in **Grace in Action**.

Each person has unique gifts to share that have been given by God for the sake of restoring the fullness of a graceful kingdom.

Our goal is not just to meet the church's needs but to cultivate a spirit of generosity that reflects God's grace. Together, let us take this opportunity to make a difference—not out of obligation, but out of love and gratitude for the grace we have received.

I invite you to consider those gifts and for that grace to transform you to the generosity and heart of Jesus.

Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks about how you can participate. Let's be the hands and feet of Christ, putting **Grace in Action** in all that we do.

Grace and Peace be with you,

Jake Fain (Pastor)

Jame Huston (Stewardship Chair)



## Narrative Lectionary in October

The story of God continues this month. Each week we progress in the narrative lectionary opening God's word in worship and witnessing God's redemptive story of grace. There are take home resources each week for you to read to go even deeper and fill in the gaps. Furthermore, there are faith formation opportunities to study with a group and grow together with others Sunday mornings.

October 6	The Golden Calf	Exodus 32:1-14
October 13	God Answers Hannah	1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20;
October 20	God's Promise to David	2 Samuel 7:1-17
October 27	Solomon Dedicates the Temple	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

## Narrative Lectionary

# NARRATIVE

*Where are we in the great story of the Bible?*



### **CREATION AND FALL**

God creates the heavens and the earth and it is very good. Human disobedience leads to a fallen and broken world. God uses Noah to preserve humanity through the flood.



### **THE FAMILY OF FAITH c. 2000 BC**

God promises to bless the world through the family of Abraham and Sarah by making them a numerous people and giving them the land of Canaan. Jacob's 12 children inherit the promise.



### **ISRAEL'S EXODUS AND CALL c. 1400 BC**

After settling in Egypt, the family becomes a nation. They are enslaved for 400 years until God delivers them through Moses. In the Sinai wilderness, God covenants to be Israel's God.



### **TRIBES AND JUDGES c. 1300 BC**

After 40 years, Joshua leads Israel into the promised land. In each generation God raises up people to lead the tribes, called 'Judges.' But each generation is more disobedient than the last.



### **THE UNITED KINGDOM c. 1000 BC**

The people ask God for a King. The first King, Saul is disobedient. His successor is David, a man after God's heart. David's son, Solomon, prays for wisdom and builds the temple.



### **KINGS AND PROPHETS c. 900-722 BC**

The kingdom splits into two: Israel in the North and Judah in the South. When the people are disobedient, God raises up prophets to call them back to the covenant.



### **JUDAH'S FALL AND EXILE 721-538 BC**

After the fall of Israel to Assyria, Judah is warned to reform their ways or they will fall to Babylon. Because they are disobedient, Babylon invades Jerusalem and the people are sent into exile.



### **THE NATION OF HOPE 532-334 BC**

After 70 years, Babylon is conquered by Persia and the new King allows the captives to go home. They rebuild the temple and compile the writings that become the Bible.



### **COMING AND BIRTH 333 BC - 0 YEAR**

Through 200 years of oppression, under Greek then Roman rule, God's people cry out for a king who will set them free. Then in Bethlehem, Jesus is born.

## *Sisters in Christ*

### **Sisters In Christ** **Oct. 23, 11:00 a.m.**



The October gathering of our Sisters In Christ will be held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. (Canyon Lake) We will have lunch together and then get our Booth ready for the Fall Festival. For more information and an RSVP, contact [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com)

## *Group for Peace Seniors*

### **October 2 Senior Social**

11:30 - 1 pm

Potluck lunch, drinks provided

Peace Fellowship Hall

Bring your favorite Game  
(or your friendly conversation)

Hosted by the Fellowship and  
Compassion Teams.



## *Save the Date - Christmas Tea*



The Christmas Tea will be December 7 from 10am to 12am. This year theme is Let it Snow. Tickets be \$9.00 and will go on sale in October, you can sign up on sign up genius or we will have forms at the church. Again, this year we will be collecting canned goods and monetary donations for the SOS food bank. Deadline is November 22.

## Fall Festival



Peace Lutheran Church will be participating in the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fall Festival. We would like donations of crafts, baked goods, candy, jams, etc. to sell in our booth. We will also need volunteers to work in the games and the café. We had so much fun last year, come join us! Contact Becky Voges at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for more information.

### Mission Endowment Fund Grant Applications

Did you know that Peace Lutheran has a Mission Endowment Fund and that grants are given annually to extend God's ministry to our community and beyond? It does, and the application deadline for 2025 funding is fast approaching. Any application requests to be considered for 2025 fund disbursement must be received in the church office by October 31, 2024.

The fund is designed to further the missions of Peace Lutheran beyond the allocations of the general operating budget. Grants are funded from the interest earned on contributions to the fund. Grant application forms are available from either the church office or church website. The forms can be filled out and returned to the church office by the October 31st deadline for consideration by the Mission Endowment Fund committee.

The new Endowment Fund section of the website can be found under the Give drop-down section of the Peace Lutheran main menu. In addition to the grant application form, you will find other helpful resources related to the fund and legacy planning. If you have any questions, please contact Nathan Anderson at [nanderson5663@gmail.com](mailto:nanderson5663@gmail.com).



## October Mission Spotlight



Our October Mission Spotlight is Crisis Center of Comal County

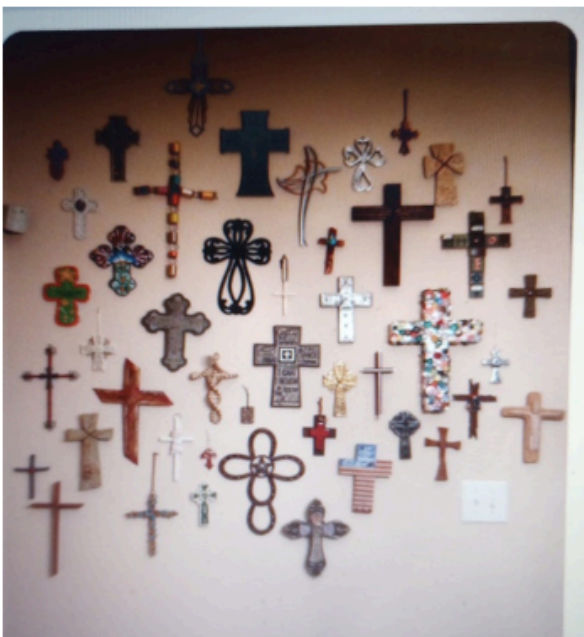
The Crisis Center of Comal County provides emergency shelter and services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and women experiencing homelessness.

These services include licensed counselors for clients of all ages through individual and group counseling. Legal advocacy takes clients through the steps necessary to obtain protective orders, affidavits and filing police reports.

The Crisis Center works with their clients to secure safe, stable housing and accompanies them to medical, legal and criminal service providers if needed.

Peace will collect a dedicated offering for CCCCC on Sunday, October 27. You can visit their website for information about volunteering opportunities or shop and support the Comal Thrift Shop.

## Peace Wall of Crosses



### Cross Wall Dedication

Our wall of crosses is really starting to come alive. There will be a dedication of the wall on Sunday, Oct. 6. Our wall will not be complete without your cross. Bring your cross (no larger than 12") and place it in the blue bin next to the wall in the Narthex. Please put your name on the back of the cross.

## October Birthdays

Merle Cavanaugh 10/01  
 JoAnn Schlabach 10/04  
 Rick Smith 10/06  
 Stella Salas 10/07  
 Clayton Smith 10/08  
 Brody Johnson 10/08  
 Brian Peebles 10/08  
 Barbara Doleshal 10/09  
 Emma Armstrong 10/11  
 Jack Ralph 10/13  
 Braden Kriley 10/13  
 Susan Briner 10/15  
 Steel McCoy 10/16  
 Robbie Hetherington 10/18  
 Daylin Tiemann 10/18  
 Steven Anderson 10/19  
 Matthew Simmont 10/20  
 Parker Kaufman 10/20  
 Eric Dickman 10/21  
 David Lange 10/21  
 Jennifer Phillips 10/21  
 Lavern Kistner 10/24  
 Kristen Mosher 10/24  
 Bobby Laughlin 10/25  
 Katharine Mosher 10/25  
 David Heise 10/26  
 Jackie Ullrich 10/27  
 Jake Fain 10/29

## 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](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for info.



## October Anniversaries

Peggy Stone & Charles Cheek  
 10/02/2010 - 14 years  
 Brian & Amy Tiemann  
 10/04/2008 - 16 years  
 Darrell & Tara Skeen  
 10/04/2014 - 10 years  
 David & Ann Keeler  
 10/07/1966 - 58 years  
 Sharky & Beverly Anderson  
 10/08/2016 - 8 years  
 Antonio Rosales & Raquel Gordillo  
 10/10/2012 - 12 years  
 Chase & Amanda Martin  
 10/16/2021 - 3 years  
 Lindsay & Roy Friedrich  
 10/22/2005 - 19 years  
 Mitchell & Catherine Fain  
 10/23/1982 - 42 years  
 Clint & Jennifer Phillips Sr  
 10/25/2008 - 16 years  
 Kristyn & Andrew Ladshaw  
 10/29/2016 - 8 years

## Prayers

Lavern Kistner  
 Martin Franz  
 Carol Franz  
 Bob Johnson  
 Jim Miller  
 Riley Martinez  
 Rick Smith  
 John Claycomb  
 Arlene Wold  
 Helen Probst  
 Stella Leissner  
 Eleanor Koester  
 Earl Koester  
 Lupe Travis

## 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.



## Finances August 2024

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 14,751.46	\$35,815.92	\$ 40,949.58		\$ 9,617.8
Building Fund	\$ 15,957.46	\$ 536.78	\$ 0.00		\$ 16,494.24
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,920.03	\$ 52.68	\$ 607.64		\$ 7,365.07
Endowment Investment Fund	\$136,188.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,476.62	\$ 1.84	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,478.46
Designated Funds	\$ 36,725.72	\$ 2177.00	\$ 1202.72		\$ 37,700.00
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$213,019.30</b>	<b>\$ 38,584.22</b>	<b>\$ 42,759.94</b>		<b>\$208,843.58</b>



### 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 - Wednesday**  
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)