

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

**Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
November 2024**

Happy Thanksgiving



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

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

Hosted by New Braunfels Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal, First Methodist, and Peace Lutheran

Where: New Braunfels Presbyterian Church
373 Howard St.
New Braunfels, TX

When: Thursday, November 21, @ 6:30pm

Why: To celebrate God's abundant
grace and provision.

Join us as we worship with our partner congregations.

Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good; His love endures forever
- Psalm 118:1



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	2
Stewardship Campaign	3
Narrative Lectionary	4
Groups & Events	6
Mission Spotlight	7
Blessings - Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Prayers	8
Giving & Finances	9

A Message from the Pastor

Investing in Community



We live in a mobile society. Most people today do not grow up on the family farm and stay there the rest of their lives. In that world, you lived with your family, your community, your church,... Everyone sort of knew each other. Goodbyes would happen at funerals and the occasional person who moved out, but the world was fairly static.

Maybe this is still true in some remote places in our society, but less and less so, and certainly not in the urban areas. Therefore, we struggle with community and attachments. And I think we struggle with making those long-term investments in people as well. After all, if we live in a transient world, why invest so much time and energy establishing roots, if you're just going to have to start over in a few years?

I've been thinking about this question a lot this past month particularly as Deacon Andrew has moved to North Carolina to a new call. And it dawned on me that even in a relatively short period of time, how much value and love can be shared. We give thanks for the ministry of Deacon Andrew More who served faithfully with us for the past five years.

During the years of ministry we had someone in our lives who helped walk with us through the pandemic, the Winter Freeze and building flood, the changing demographics in our community, and the development of our mission, vision, and values.

Five years? That's not a long time, and yet what a gift five years made in this community's life. For some many of our family who learned and developed in their faith formation and deepened their understanding and relationship with God, five years will shape the rest of their lives.

I want to encourage you to continue to invest in people. No one says later in life that they wished they spent more time and energy in their office or job site. But I often hear, "I wish I would have invested more time in my relationships."

As we embark upon our Stewardship Season, we're going to do things like ask you to fill out a pledge card so that practically speaking the church can prepare with what resources God is sharing us to accomplish our mission. We are going to ask you fill our a Spiritual Gifts Assessment, so that you'll have clarity in how God has entrusted you with gifts to share with the world to bring God's great shalom to it. But behind it all, I'd ask for you to invest in the kingdom of God and the people God so loves. Even if it's a small way, or a short time, those create movements that shape lifetimes.

I will miss my friend and colleague, Deacon Andrew. But it brings me joy that he invested his gifts in this community which will remain. Furthermore, I know he will invest in the new context God has sent him and deepen relationships there.

Perhaps his ministry has left a mark on you, and you will be inspired to do the same.

Peace,
Pastor Jake



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 Continued

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.

You may find a the Spiritual Gifts Assessment at www.peacenb.org/pages/spiritual-gifts-survey as well as fill out a pledge/commitment card to and return by Nov. 3rd in which we offer our commitments to the Lord. A congregational will also go out at the end of October with a pledge card.



Grace and Peace be with you,

Jake Fain (Pastor)

James Huston (Stewardship Chair)

Narrative Lectionary in November

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.

Remember there are guides in your bulletin each week to help you with a daily Bible reading plan to take a deeper and more comprehensive journey throughout the Holy Scriptures.

November 3	Elijah and the Widow	1 Kings 17:1-24
November 10	Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1:1-17, 3:1-10
November 17	Isaiah's Vision	Isaiah 6:1-8
November 24	A New Covenant	Jeremiah 36

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.

Live Nativity



**Peace Lutheran
Church
Live Nativity
Dec. 21.
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Yes, before you know it, we will be hearing Christmas Carols and preparing our homes for Christmas. It has been our tradition (7 years) to recreate Bethlehem on the front church lawn. We will need shepherds, angels, wise men, carolers, shop vendors, greeters and towns people to share the greatest story ever told for our neighbors and community. We will have Joseph's Carpenter Shop, Kathy's Kitchen, The Ornament Shop, The Candle Shop, The Hot Chocolate Stop, Christmas Caroling, and more! SignUpGenius is up and ready for signups.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094BAFAF2FA7FC1-52145743-live>

Questions? Email Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

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 \$10.00 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.

November Mission Spotlight



November's Mission Spotlight will be Angel Tree. A dedicated offering will be collected on Sunday, November 24, 2024 to benefit our yearly Angel Tree recipients. The monies collected will go towards purchasing Christmas gifts for local children. Peace will be partnering with local charities to get gift wishes from 40 children in our area to provide them with gifts.

Our Angel Tree will be in the Narthex with tags containing gift requests and recipient information including gender, age and sizes on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st.

Additional information will be available on tags of the Angel Tree.

November Birthdays

Clint Phillips Sr 11/01
 Dennis Hank 11/02
 Andre Guerin 11/02
 Tommy Perkins 11/02
 Beverly Anderson 11/02
 Lorinda Scott 11/03
 Olivia Hetherington 11/03
 Carol Ann Miller 11/04
 David Thomas 11/06
 Bonnie Claycomb 11/06
 Juliana Garcia 11/08
 Linda Hook 11/08
 Robert McNeill 11/08
 Donna Braune 11/10
 Helen Probst 11/12
 Arlene Wold 11/13
 Nate Raschke 11/13
 Steven Willis 11/14
 Ray Martinez 11/15
 John Claycomb 11/19
 JoBeth Oestreich 11/19
 Helen Bravenec 11/20
 Dorothy Ebert 11/21
 Margaret Weese 11/23
 Charlie Phillips 11/23
 Nick Masters 11/25
 Hattie Tippens 11/26
 Nanci Witten 11/27
 Kerri Clausen 11/28
 Brandy Huston 11/30
 Brenda Martin 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 for info.



November Anniversaries

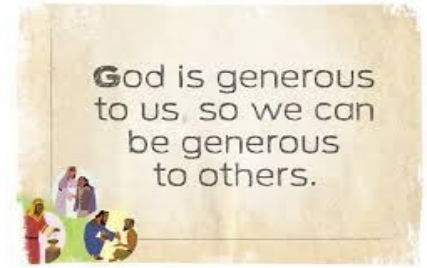
John & Bonnie Claycomb
 11/26/1967 - 57

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 September 2024

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 9,342.80	\$32,975.53	\$ 34,895.12		\$ 7,423.21
Building Fund	\$ 16,765.27	\$ 556.77	\$ 0.00		\$ 17,322.04
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,367.61	\$ 52.60	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,420.21
Endowment Investment Fund	\$136,188.01	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$136,188.01
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,480.08	\$ 41.81	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,521.89
Designated Funds	\$ 37,700.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 2,655.84		\$ 36,194.16
Total Funds	\$208,843.77	\$ 34,776.71	\$ 37,550.96		\$206,069.52



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Web address:
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