

Happy New Year



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

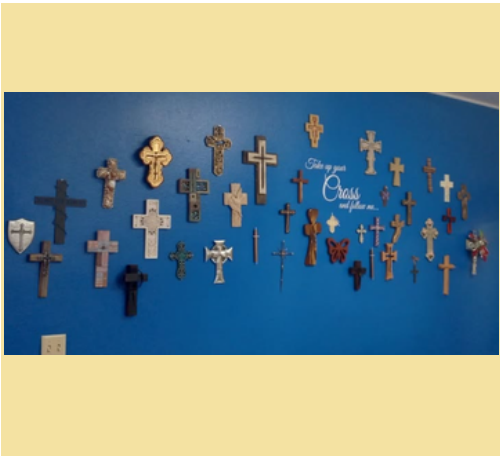
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!

The Little Pantry in 2025



Little Pantry

It is a new year and our Little Pantry has been loved and well cared for in 2024. It is time to get our Pantry Angels signed up for 2025. If you would like to take a month, contact Becky Voges for more information.



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A Message from the Pastor

New Year to Be in the Word

A few years ago I started one of the language apps (Duolingo) to learn Spanish. It was engaging because it had a bunch of different features which included time to read and learn vocabulary; time to hear words read to you; and time to practice speaking into the microphone. In addition, every time I would complete a 10 minute lesson, it would make a fun, celebratory sound and congratulate me. All in all it was an immersive experience.

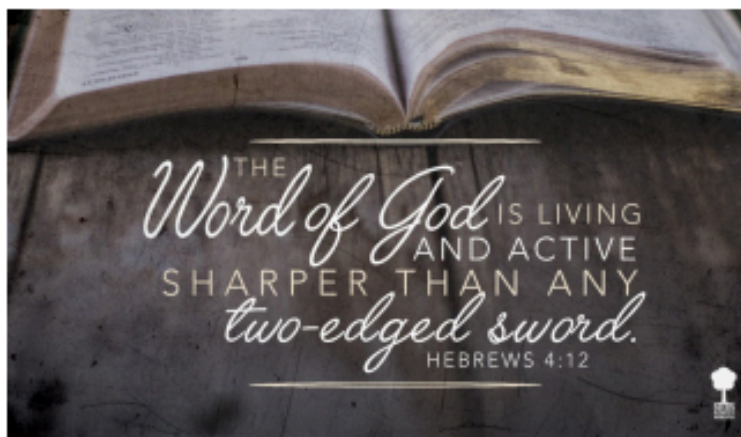
But as life happens for a variety of reason, I missed a lesson here, and skipped another one there. And over time I got discouraged and haven't been on for a couple years.

New Year's resolutions are a good time to reset and get back to the practices that shape who we are.

In 2024, the congregation was introduced to the Narrative Lectionary which is a way to go through the scriptures particularly on Sundays, but also throughout the week.

The primary reason we read the Bible is to get to know the God who loves us. We do that by entering into the story of God's love and spending time together.

We continue into 2025 with the New Testament in the new year and follow Jesus' life from his birth at Christmas to his death and resurrection during holy week. Afterward, we'll focus on stories from of the early church and what it meant to follow the resurrected Christ.



If you're making new year's resolutions, I encourage you to immerse yourself in the Bible and learn God's language each day. Spend some time and you'll naturally grow in your faith in the Lord and your understanding of your purpose.

Here are 8 reasons to get involved in reading the Bible this year:

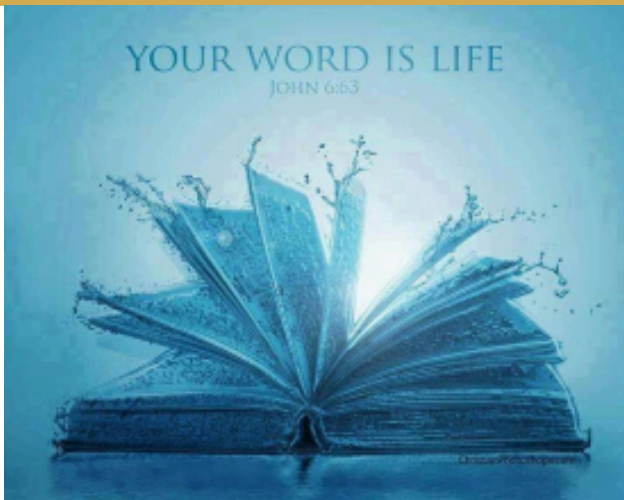
1. *Deepen Your Relationship with God*

Reading Scripture allows you to hear God's voice and understand God's heart. It's the primary way God reveals Himself to us.

2. *Find Guidance for Daily Living*

The Bible offers wisdom for making decisions and navigating life's challenges. As Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Not sure how to make sense out of the complex world we live in, learn from the ancients who have been asking deep questions of living God's way for millennia.

A Message from the Pastor Continued



3. *Discover Hope and Encouragement*

In times of uncertainty or struggle, Scripture reminds us of God's faithfulness and the hope we have in Christ. It's easy to feel alone or isolated in this world, but daily scripture draws you back into God's presence and the communion of saints.

4. *Grow Spiritually*

Just as our bodies need food, our souls need nourishment. Reading the Bible feeds your spirit and strengthens your faith. Too many times we are spiritually starved because we haven't been fed by the Word.

Just like you take a break to eat, taking time to read and listen is a natural rhythm of our spiritual lives.

5. *See God's Vision*

The Bible helps us see the bigger picture of God's work. Too often we are bombarded by our cultural worldview and simply accept it's disappointing and exhausting vision. God has a much more beautiful vision of a world made whole through love.

6. *Equip Yourself to Serve and Share*

Engaging with God's Word prepares you to encourage others, share the gospel, and live out your faith in action. You may feel like you can't speak the language of faith, but the more you practice it, the more fluent you become.

7. *Connect with a Community*

Studying Scripture with others fosters meaningful relationships and helps us grow together in Christ. Wrestling with our faith is not merely a solo endeavor, rather we do this together. We have Bible studies on Sunday mornings and resources throughout the week to stay engaged with others. Community helps keep us accountable so that we don't give up when the going gets tough.

8. *Embrace a Lifelong Journey*

The Bible is a treasure you'll never fully exhaust. Each time you read it, there is something new to discover. There is no finish line because God is ultimately about relationship. It's not a course to be completed, rather a relationship to be cultivated.

As we step into this new year, consider joining a Bible study group, starting a personal reading plan, or exploring Scripture in a way that excites and challenges you. Together, let's make this a year of growth, faith, and grace in action.

Peace,
Pastor Jake



Annual Congregational Meeting

Peace's Annual Congregational Meeting

1/26 Sunday after the 10am worship (11:15am) in the sanctuary

- A Look Back at 2024
- Election of Council
- Budget Approval
- A Vision for 2025

Informational Meeting

1/19 8:30am 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 1/15 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 both Annual meeting and Informational meeting.

Meetings in-person @ Peace and online

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 865 5134 0107

+1 346 248 7799

Sisters in Christ



The Sisters in Christ will meet Weds , Jan. 22, 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a light lunch and play BUNCO.

RSVP-- beckyvoges@yahoo.com

Prayer Labyrinth



Peace Lutheran Church Prayer Labyrinth

Peace Lutheran Church is going to have a Prayer Labyrinth, thanks to a Peace Lutheran Church Endowment. What is it you ask? A Prayer Labyrinth is a place to walk, meditate and pray. A labyrinth contains a single walking path to the center and then back out again. Our Labyrinth will be open to the public, in fact we plan to ask several other churches to partner with us as we plan it and lay it out. The Labyrinth will be placed in the grassy area behind our church. There will be paths to walk, benches to sit on and an informational kiosk to help visitors.

We will be putting together a Planning Team very soon so we can be ready to start working on it in the new year. If you would like to hear more and be on the planning team, please contact Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

Family Promise in 2025

Peace Lutheran will have 6 opportunities to host Family Promise families in 2025!

Our scheduled dates are:

January 26 thru February 1

April 27 thru May 3

June 22 thru June 28

August 24 thru August 30

December 28 thru January 5

We have an October date that I am trying to switch with another church, due to a conflict with my schedule. Be on the lookout for a signup poster in the Narthex or a Signup Genius link in a future Eblast.

As you go through your games stash and find games (with all the pieces/parts) that your families have outgrown, please donate them to our Family Promise program. We entertain kids from babies to teens and engaging them in play makes the evenings fly.

Thanks so much for your continued support,

Karen Laughlin
Family Promise Coordinator

Thank You!



Thank you!

Jordan and Lexie had a beautiful fairy tale wedding on Nov. 30. We cannot thank you enough for the donations that have been given for our grandson Jordan's Medical Fund. Jordan has started the long and tedious road to his kidney and pancreas transplant. Your support and your prayers mean more than you will ever know.

Wil, Becky, Jordan and Lexie

January Mission Spotlight

First Footing is our January Mission Spotlight. We will have the opportunity to contribute to this worthwhile organization that identifies and provides assistance to people in our community experiencing housing insecurity or are unhoused. There will be a dedicated collection on Sunday, January 26 and a temple talk from our own Kellie Stallings.

NB Housing Partners was formed in 2013 to address the need for safe, sustainable housing to fill gaps in housing in our community. 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, housing insecurity and homelessness has also grown in our community. To address this crucial need, the agency provides the following services:

- * Health and housing focused street outreach (in collaboration with other agencies and called the health outreach multi-disciplinary engagement or HOME Team) to reach unhoused individuals and connect them to community resources
- * Shelter and support services for up to 42 adults at a time who are experiencing homelessness and would like assistance establishing income and attaining housing (called the First Footing program). Services include 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. We plan to add another 20-26 beds by the end of 2025.
- * Housing assistance including housing start-up costs for those choosing to end their homelessness and linkages to help with housing costs for individuals or families that are at risk of losing their housing. We also oversee a community process that tracks individuals who are still in need of housing and prioritizes housing for individuals and families with the highest needs.
- * Starting in early 2025, we will offer short-term housing for up to 6 adults whose income is below current market housing costs, giving them time to increase their income or gain admission into subsidized housing in the community.
- * Longer-term housing. We designed a housing community to support families who are struggling with housing costs, which the New Braunfels Food Bank is now constructing and operating. We will be building additional housing for adults in the next 3-5 years.

In 2023, 572 individuals sought assistance in this community due to experiencing homelessness, a 20% increase from 2022 and more than the number sheltered in 2021 and 2022 combined.

We are committed to taking strategic steps to address both urgent housing crises as well as ensuring that long-term affordable housing options are available at every income

January Birthdays

Lynda Willis 01/02
 Rory Martinez 01/03
 Landon Garcia 01/04
 Hayden Kaufman 01/06
 Matthew Martinez 01/07
 Brett Kriley 01/08
 Maxine Goodson 01/09
 Michelle Rappmund 01/11
 Andrew More 01/12
 Nate Fain 01/13
 Carl Mincemoyer 01/13
 Mary Mielke 01/14
 Erich Weese 01/14
 Jacob Johnson 01/14
 Heather Salas 01/14
 Becky Perkins 01/15
 Amanda Martin 01/15
 David Oestreich 01/15
 Maria Haiyasoso 01/15
 Jean Pfluger 01/18
 Kimberly Pampell 01/18
 Vicki Hillmer 01/20
 Trice Kastein 01/20
 Gary Goodson 01/21
 Michelle Davenport 01/22
 Anita Hill 01/24
 Linda Lange 01/26
 Heidi Stone 01/26
 Jeannie Kawazoe 01/28
 Lindsay Friedrich 01/28
 Darcy Mittelstaedt 01/29
 Marsha Dove 01/30
 James Huston 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 for info.



January Anniversaries

Carl & Debra Mincemoyer
 01/07/1994 - 31 years
 Brent & Missy Paullus
 01/11/1992 - 33 years

Prayers

Lavern Kistner
 Martin Franz
 Carol Franz
 Bob Johnson
 Jim Miller
 Riley Martinez
 Rick Smith
 John Claycomb
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst
 Stella Leissner
 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 November 2024

Stay tuned to the weekly eblast for the updated November finances.



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 - 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