

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

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
February 2025**



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

**Sisters in Christ**



Come join us on Feb. 26, 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, for a Tea Party! Let's pull out those pretty hats. We will sample special teas and have some girl talk. Of course we will have

little sandwiches and some scrumptious cookies to enjoy. Please RSVP, to Becky Voges (830-587-4003) so we can plan for you.



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## A Message from the Pastor

### What Are You Reading?

46% of Americans said they did not read a single book in 2023. About half of the country has not read a book. That is not to say people are not reading; however, they are reading things like social media posts and scrolling through quick images.

One of the increasing problems I see in our culture is that we have lost the art of deeply reading and engrossing ourselves in books. Reading builds language and shares concepts and transmits ideas that connect our brain synapses to remain sharp and build understanding.

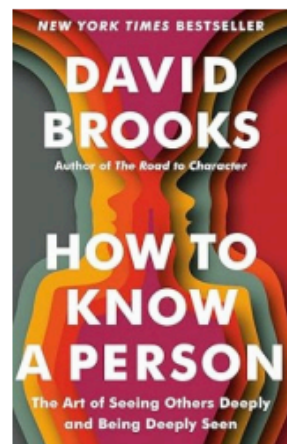
When I think of how much we fail to understand one another, I think reading is a big part of that problem. After all, we are people of the Book, the Bible. Our faith stems from the Word that was revealed and passed down in story form for generations.

Some of my favorite books in 2024:

#### How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen

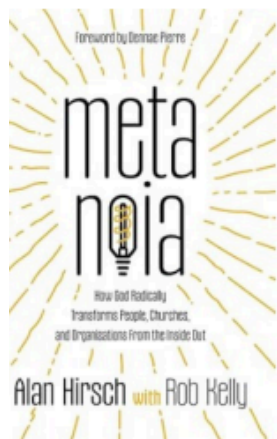
by David Brooks

All around us are people who feel invisible, unseen, misunderstood. In *How to Know a Person*, Brooks sets out to help us do better, posing questions that are essential for all of us: If you want to know a person, what kind of attention should you cast on them? What kind of conversations should you have? What parts of a person's story should you pay attention to?



Driven by his trademark sense of curiosity and his determination to grow as a person, Brooks draws from the fields of psychology and neuroscience and from the worlds of theater, philosophy, history, and education to present a welcoming, hopeful, integrated approach to human connection. *How to Know a Person* helps readers become more understanding and considerate toward others, and to find the joy that comes from being seen. Along the way it offers a possible remedy for a society that is riven by fragmentation, hostility, and misperception.

The act of seeing another person, Brooks argues, is profoundly creative: How can we look somebody in the eye and see something large in them, and in turn, see something larger in ourselves? *How to Know a Person* is for anyone searching for connection, and yearning to be understood.



#### Metanoia: How God Radically Transforms People, Churches, and Organizations from the Inside Out

by Alan Hirsch with Rob Kelly

What if, instead of remaining stuck in unfruitful patterns and systems, we could experience the personal, church, and organizational transformation we so desperately desire?

The answer lies in Jesus' first words as he began his public ministry: "metanoia." This profound concept encompasses repentance



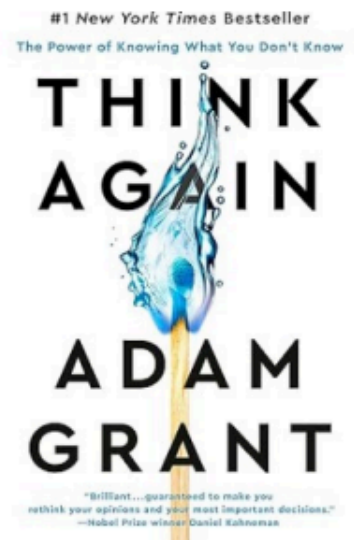
## A Message from the Pastor Continued

as a radical paradigm shift and reorientation, inviting us to perceive the world through God's eyes and bringing transformation in our own lives, the organizations we lead, and the world around us.

In these pages, Alan Hirsch and Rob Kelly bring together their decades of experience helping countless organizational leaders to implement deep and significant change. Combining a theologically robust understanding of metanoia, along with best thinking from the social sciences, this book equips individuals and organizations to serve courageously and effectively in a complex and uncertain world.

### Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know by Adam Grant

Intelligence is usually seen as the ability to think and learn, but in a rapidly changing world, there's another set of cognitive skills that might matter more: the ability to rethink and unlearn. In our daily lives, too many of us favor the comfort of conviction over the discomfort of doubt. We listen to opinions that make us feel good, instead of ideas that make us think hard. We see disagreement as a threat to our egos, rather than an opportunity to learn. We surround ourselves with people who agree with our conclusions, when we should be gravitating toward those who challenge our thought process. The result is that our beliefs get brittle long before our bones. We think too much like preachers defending our sacred beliefs, prosecutors proving the other side wrong, and politicians campaigning for approval--and too little like scientists searching for truth. Intelligence is no cure, and it can even be a curse: being good at thinking can make us worse at rethinking. The brighter we are, the blinder to our own limitations we can become.



### The Bible in a Year

With Father Mike Schmidt



I listen to this daily podcast reading of scripture for about 20 minutes a day to hear the word. Maybe 10-15 minutes is scripture with another 5-10 with Father Mike sharing his devotional insights. This is the first thing I listen to every morning because it sets my day to come with the lens of God's story. I am aware that many generations have come before and faced great challenges, and yet God has walked beside them from age to age.

What are you reading in 2025? How will you continue to learn and grow?

Peace,

*Pastor Jake*



## Lent Schedule



Join us each Wednesday in Lent for a meal from 5:30-6:30pm followed by worship at 6:30pm as we walk the way of the cross

3/5	Ash Wednesday	<i>Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion</i>	
		Station I	<i>Jesus is Condemned to Death</i>
3/12	Lent 2	Station III	<i>Jesus Falls</i>
3/19	Lent 3	Station II	<i>Jesus takes up His Cross</i>
		Station IV	<i>Simon Helps Jesus Carry the Cross</i>
3/26	Lent 4	Station V	<i>Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem</i>
		Station VI	<i>Jesus is Stripped of His Garments</i>
4/2	Lent 5	Station VII	<i>Jesus is Nailed to the Cross</i>
		Station VIII	<i>Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Thief on the Cross</i>
4/9	Lent 6	Station IX	<i>Jesus Dies on the Cross</i>
		Station X	<i>Jesus is Buried in the Tomb</i>



## *Christmas Tea - Thank You*

The Christmas tea committee would like to thank Terri Westerman, all the servers, David Martin aka Santa 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 canned goods, we collected 200 lbs.



## *Valentine's Breakfast*

### **Valentine's Breakfast**

Feb. 9, 8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Come enjoy a full breakfast  
prepared with love by your  
Fellowship Team.

## 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 are putting together a Planning Team. If you would like to hear more and be on the panning team, please contact Becky Voges at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com).



### Peace Lutheran Labryinth

**We wanted to keep you updated on how our plans for the Labryinth are coming along.**

Phase 1 – Tree planted in memory of Peter Lange  
(Feb. 9)

Phase 2 – Memorial benches placed under front trees

Phase 3 – Area mapped out for brick laying

Phase 4 – Wooden Cross installed in the Center of the Labyrinth

Phase 5 – Grass tilled for brick inlay

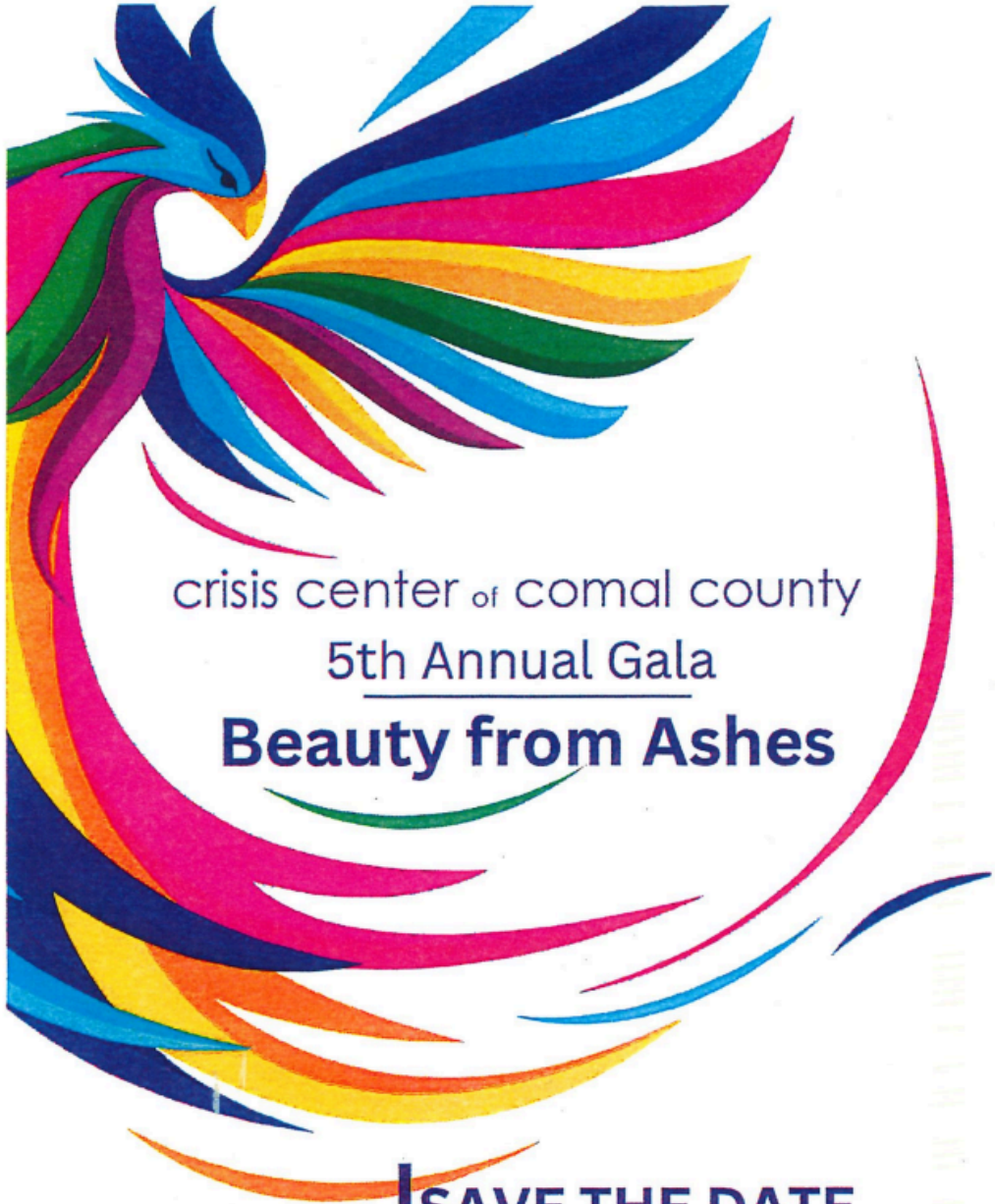
Phase 6 – Informational Kiosk installed

Phase 7 – Labyrinth Dedication

### What do we need?

Willing workers, donors for 2 benches, and carpenter helpers for constructing the Informational Kiosk. Contact Becky Voges at [beckyvoges@yahoo.com](mailto:beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for more information.

*Crisis Center of Comal County Gala*



crisis center of comal county  
5th Annual Gala  
**Beauty from Ashes**

**SAVE THE DATE**

March 6, 2025  
6:00 PM

New Braunfels Civic Center  
375 South Castell Avenue  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

For More Information:





Thank You from Family Promise

Thank  
you

TO KAREN and all  
volunteers:

Thank you so much  
for your love and support  
while me and my family walk  
through this transition ♡

- Rainey  
Schuler  
Azarikh



## February Mission Spotlight



Spirit of Sharing (SOS) Food Bank is our February Mission Spotlight. A single church in 1988 addressed hunger in our community and it has grown into many other local churches and service organizations stepping up to provide support to our food insecure neighbors. SOS is strictly run by volunteers, there is no paid staff and the only source of income and food is through charitable donations, both private and corporate.

SOS is dedicated to preventing the residents of our community from experiencing hunger. They fill the gap with emergency food assistance or providing a monthly food allotment program.

Peace has partnered with SOS faithfully through the years with a dedicated group that volunteers the Second Monday of the Month from 1 to 4pm. Nonperishable food items are also collected in our "Ugly Shopping Cart" located in our Narthex. Take advantage of grocery store sales and pick up canned goods, pasta, or peanut butter to stock SOS shelves.

Sunday, February 23, we will Spotlight Spirit of Sharing with a dedicated offering.

Thanks  
Karen

## *February Birthdays*

David Keeler 02/03  
 Antonio Rosales 02/03  
 Debra Ullrich 02/06  
 Anthony Rosales 02/06  
 Lavonne Ohnheiser 02/08  
 Pamela Kurczewski 02/09  
 Taylor Martinez 02/10  
 M. L. Friedrich 02/11  
 Brandi Raschke 02/12  
 John Kassel 02/14  
 JoAnna Wold 02/15  
 Steven Robbins 02/21  
 Joseph Wold 02/23  
 Tara Skeen 02/26  
 Vicki Ralph 02/28  
 Michele Kriley 02/28

## *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.



## *February Anniversaries*

Bobby & Karen Laughlin  
 2/2/1980 - 45 years  
 Salim & Emily Khalil  
 2/17/1996 - 29 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*

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 25,970.60	\$39,179.31	\$ 30645.10		\$ 34,504.81
Building Fund	\$ 9,477.50	\$ 695.46	\$ 0.00		\$ 10,172.96
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,475.63	\$ 52.64	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,528.27
Endowment Investment Fund	\$152,837.62	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$152,837.62
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 1,563.75	\$ 41.85	\$ 0.00		\$ 1,605.60
Designated Funds	\$ 36,261.16	\$ 2,559.62	\$ 2,173.46		\$ 36,647.32
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$233,586.26</b>	<b>\$ 42,528.88</b>	<b>\$ 32,818.56</b>		<b>\$243,296.58</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 - 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](http://peacenb.org/live)