

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

Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!



Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
March 2025

Lent Begins

Lent Meal Schedule



Lenten Meals

The Fellowship Team will be serving a meal before each Lenten Worship Service—5:15-6:15 p.m. If you would like to provide something or help with one of the meals, contact Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com

- Mar. 12 - Shepherds' Pie
- Mar. 19 - Assorted Soups
- Mar. 26 - Sloppy Joes
- Apr. 2 - Baked Potato/Salad
- Apr. 9 - Hamburgers

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A Message from the Pastor

Four Key Pivots for a Changing Landscape

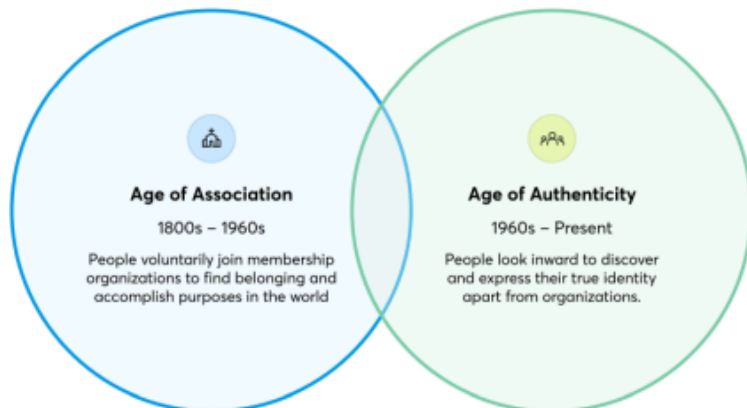
At the end of January, Peace's leadership teams met together to discern and envision God's call for the coming year.

We do this practice every year to set the stage for where we are going. Otherwise, it's too easy to get caught in the minutia of daily ministry which pulls a congregation every which way.

I have found that there is always an vast array of work to do in our life together as people of faith. Compassion, proclamation, teaching, healing, blessing, outreach, service, community-building, administration, communication, crisis-management,... the list could keep going.

The question we ask is, "What is God calling us to do right now?" It might be tempting to zoom in with specifics and start naming programs and events. But part of our retreat time is to resist that temptation and zoom out in order to see the big picture before we start making the plans.

This year we are leaning into four key pivots identified by Luther Seminary through their FaithLead organization. For the next four months, I'll walk with you through each pivot.



Pitfall #1 Assume that a voluntary association model can be fixed

The culture has moved from the Age of Association to the Age of Authenticity. Individuals have become skeptical of, detached from, and even hostile toward voluntary associations, including church.

In his seminal work, Bowling Alone, American political scientist Robert Putnam argues that the decline of

social capital, leads to a host of societal ills, from declining mental health to diminished happiness. Putnam highlights how Americans have increasingly stopped participating in traditional forms of group membership, such as civic organizations, religious groups, and social clubs. Rather than bowling together in leagues, we are bowling alone. The same can be said of church, scouts, PTAs, and a myriad of volunteer associations.

The networks of relationships and norms of reciprocity have significantly declined in American society since the 1960s, largely due to factors like technological changes, suburbanization, and generational shifts. Putnam argues that this decline in joining and engaging with organizations has contributed to a broader erosion of prosociality, diminishing both individual connections and the strength of community bonds, weakening the social fabric and undermining the collective well-being of communities.

Pivot #1 From fixing to listening, discerning, and experimenting

Many congregations and leaders are tempted to expend their energy trying to fix inherit-

A Message from the Pastor Continued

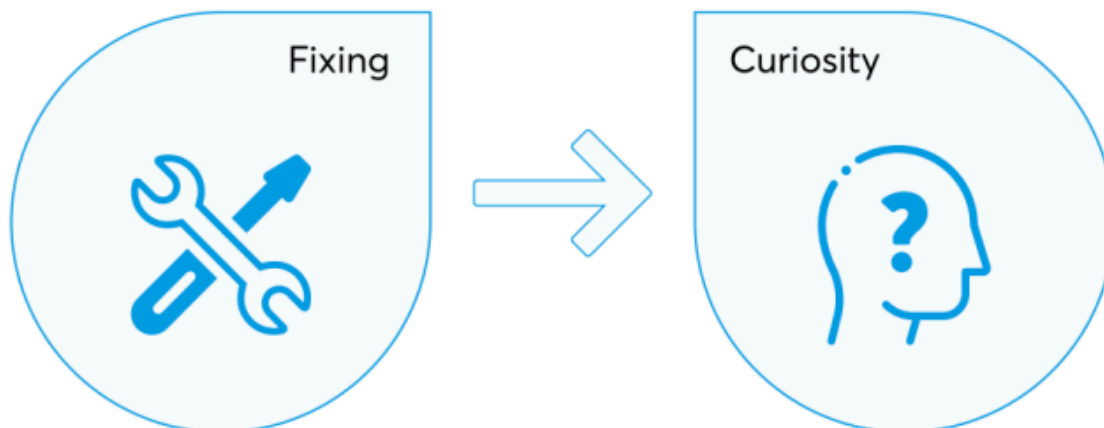
ed structures in order to reverse the decline of institutional affiliation, participation, and resources. Christ's local church will endure, but there is no easy fix for voluntary association institutional structures. In this in-between time of overlap between the Age of Association and the Age of Authenticity, faith leaders need a nuanced approach:

On the one hand, faith leaders cannot simply abandon the faithful members who have supported the Age of Association model of church, for whom it remains meaningful. And on the other hand, faith leaders cannot expect the inherited model to work in most places going forward. This model will not be the way that churches reach neighbors who live in the framework of the Age of Authenticity.

So what do we do?

Pivot 1: A pivot in Posture

From fixing to listening, discerning, and experimenting



1. Let go of the urge to fix everything and restore it to the way things were. That world is diminishing and so are the returns in strategies that focus solely on it.
2. Practice presence, curiosity, and deep listening. The bad news is that the age of association is dwindling; however, the good news is that people are seeking authentic, meaningful relationships. We need to reclaim the art of deep listening with our neighbors and connecting with their hopes and dreams even as we name Jesus as the one who brings life and trust in the Spirit to work in our holy conversations.
3. Move into a model of experimentation. As any epochal shift throughout history has taught us, there is a liminal space of learning that takes place. Many things may not work, but some things will. Our openness to try new things will lead to new discoveries. And it goes back to deep listening and then responding to those needs.

I'm curious to what the Holy Spirit is doing in our world? Let's be curious together.

Peace,
Pastor Jake



Lent Schedule

This Lent, walk the path of Jesus through The Way of the Heart, a midweek worship series reflecting on the Stations of the Cross. Each Wednesday evening, we will journey deeper into Christ's love and sacrifice, opening our hearts to his presence in our own struggles and hopes.

Through scripture, prayer, and reflection, we will follow Jesus' footsteps—from condemnation to the cross, from suffering to surrender—discovering the way of the heart that leads to life.

Come, walk with Christ. Walk the Way of the Heart.



Join us each Wednesday in Lent for a meal from 5:15-6:15pm 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>

Holy Week Schedule

PEACE

HOLY WEEK

Schedule

6:30PM 4/17

MAUNDY THURSDAY

SEDER MEAL

6:30PM 4/18

GOOD FRIDAY

TENEBRAE

8PM 4/19

HOLY SATURDAY

@ ST JOHN'S
EPISOCPAL

8AM & 10AM 4/20

EASTER SUNDAY

RESURRECTION

As we journey through Holy Week, let's take time to pray, reflect, and walk the holy road of life, death, and resurrection in Jesus Christ.

Each of these worship opportunities is like an Act in a 4-part play. You are encouraged to celebrate each worship that flows together and tell the story of God's great love.

Upcoming Fellowship

Fellowship Dates to Remember

Mar. 12, 19, 26, Apr. 2, 9 – Lenten Meals

Apr. 20 – Easter Breakfast

Apr. 26 – WELCA Women’s Spring Luncheon

Hosted by Peace Women.

Apr. 27 – Peace/St. Andrew Worship/Picnic at

The Comal County Fairgrounds

May 11 – Mother’s Day Breakfast

June 8 – Pentecost Sunday

June 15 – Father’s Day Breakfast

Sisters in Christ



We are going on a road trip! Please join us on Weds., Mar. 26. We will be traveling to Kerrville to see the Cross and Prayer Gardens. We will find a place for lunch and maybe do some shopping. We will be carpooling, so meet at the church by 10:00 a.m. We will need to know if you will be joining us, if so, RSVP to Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

Save the Date for Picnic Day



Comal County
Fairgrounds
Picnic Day

Mark your calendars for April 27! We will gather at the Comal County Fairgrounds for 10:00 a.m. Worship and a Picnic afterwards.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church has been invited to join us. Bring a side or dessert, we will furnish the meat and beverages.

Peace Prayer Labyrinth Update



Peace Lutheran Prayer Labyrinth

We are really making great progress on getting our Prayer Labyrinth completed. We have 3 memorial benches donated by Wil and Becky Voges, Martin and Carol Franz and John and Patti Kassel. Peter Lange's beautiful Oak tree has been planted and dedicated, and the 10 ft. cross has been installed in the center of the proposed Labyrinth. We could not do this with the

help of many people. Special thanks to my amazingly talented husband, Wil Voges, for making our cross and the informational Kiosk that will be up by the time you read this. We could not get this accomplished without some willing "heavy lifters". Thanks David Martin, Ted Woolven and David Thomas—you guys are the best! Our next big task will be mapping out the design of the Labyrinth and cutting the trenches for the bricks. We will be having a workday to get all this accomplished. Note—tillers will be needed! I cannot thank everyone enough for the support and encouragement you have given me on this project. I cannot wait until our Prayer Labyrinth is ready to use. Please let me know if you are willing to help us get the ground tilled and the bricks laid, I will keep you posted. beckyvoges@yahoo.com or 830-587-4003

Thrivent Choice

Thrivent is a membership-owned fraternal organization dedicated to serving the unique needs of our clients—guiding them toward financial choices that will help them live the lives they want today and tomorrow.

As a fraternal benefit society, they have a shared purpose, have clients who share a common Christian bond, provide mutual protection in the form of insurance to eligible clients and offer clients opportunities to support their local communities through regional Thrivent Member Networks.

One special program is Thrivent Choice which allocates to members dollars that they can personally direct to organizations: Peace Lutheran Church in New Braunfels is on the list. If you are a member of Thrivent, you can just log in to <http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice> or call 1-800-847-4836 and say Thrivent Choice.

This is an excellent way to support the mission of Peace.

Are You Receiving Our Weekly eBlast?

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March Mission Spotlight



Family Promise is a nationwide program that has been active in the Greater New Braunfels area since 2012. This unique approach to homelessness depends on congregations, individuals, and corporations to provide family units with the tools necessary to secure stable housing.

In the over 12 years of serving the New Braunfels area, over 21,000 bed nights of shelter have been provided, 102 families (268 individuals) have received services, 56 families (168 individuals) have graduated and secured housing and 32 families have received donated vehicles upon graduation.

Services that are provided to single or dual-parent families include helping clients apply for assistance they are qualified for, attain education for better employment opportunities, help navigate the legal system if applicable, provide medical care and/or therapy if needed, childcare so that the parent(s) are able to find employment.

The Family Promise model is a three-pronged approach to meet the needs of their clients. Prevention is the first level of assistance that is available to clients who are struggling. The assistance is short-term and can be payment of utility bills, a month's rent or perhaps buying gasoline. It is a stop-gap to keep a vulnerable family from losing their home.

Shelter is the model that Peace is actively involved in. There are currently 9 congregations providing week long rotations where the families are fed and housed in a church home. Families typically are in the program 6 to 9 months before graduation. We have 6 opportunities to serve families in 2025, our next rotation starts Sunday, April 27.

Stabilization follows the families after they have graduated and have secure housing. They help with financial planning, and offer support as the families navigate independent living.

Sunday, March 23 is Mission Spotlight Sunday, a dedicated offering will be collected for Family Promise. Other service opportunities include participating during Peace rotation weeks by providing a meal, visiting with our families while they are in our care, spending the night, or donation of non perishable food items for grab and go breakfasts.

Peace
Karen Laughlin
Family Promise coordinator



March Birthdays

Mike Stallings 03/04
 Lydia Simmont 03/04
 Charlotte Killian 03/05
 Theresa Stanley 03/06
 Leslie Valentine 03/10
 Kurt Andersen-Vie 03/11
 Darrell Skeen 03/13
 Margot Roessing 03/14
 Lillian Morelock 03/15
 Debra Mincemoyer 03/16
 Kristyn Ladshaw 03/16
 Alyssa Gonzalez 03/16
 Verlene Saur 03/22
 Madyson Kriley 03/23
 Judith Spindt 03/24
 Preston Stone 03/24
 Sandra Amori 03/26
 Jillian Wold 03/27
 Robert Oestreich 03/27
 Bruce Rockstroh 03/27
 Brian Tiemann 03/28
 Roger Gawlitta 03/31
 Roy Friedrich 03/31

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.



March Anniversaries

Michelle & Raymond Rappmund
 3/1/2014 - 11 years
 Marsha & Michael Dove
 3/14/2015 - 10 years
 Greg & Bettina Butrico
 3/22/1986 - 39 years
 Kez & JoAnna Wold
 3/27/1999 - 26 years
 Andre & Holly Guerin
 3/29/2003 - 22 years

Prayers

Martin Franz
 Carol Franz
 Jim Miller
 Rick Smith
 John Claycomb
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst
 Stella Leissner
 Earl Koester
 Lupe Travis
 Judy Clark

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 December 2024

The updated finance numbers will be available soon. Stay tuned to the eBlast.



Peace Lutheran Church

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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