

*Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
September 2020*

God's Work. Our Hands/Big Serve

This year God's Work. Our Hands/Big Serve will be an entire weekend (September 11 - September 13) rather than a Sunday. Servespot is New Braunfels' new volunteer portal where all projects will be listed for volunteers to pick and choose their cause for the weekend. **Go to bigservenb.org to see projects and find out more.**



For example, we are hosting at Peace on Saturday morning, September 12, from 10:00 am to Noon the plastic mat ministry. You have to sign-up on servespot to reserve your service project place. You will be given plastic strips to make plarn balls. It is pick up and go to work on your own at your own home. We will not work inside the church.

Serve your neighbors by an all city food drive, laying mulch at a foster home, and stock the shelter games and crafts drive are just some of the other service opportunities.

Join us as we serve New Braunfels! Big Serve Weekend, September 11-13. Go to bigservenb.org to sign-up.



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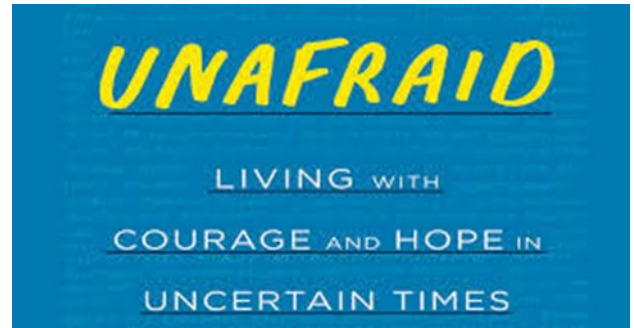


A Message from the Pastor

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

Fear is one of the most primal responses in creation. It's what helps animals (including humans) survive when confronted with dangerous situations. The natural response of fight or flight is embedded in millions of years of our DNA.

So if you've ever found your heart beating a little bit faster when you were in that near accident, it's a natural response to help raise your awareness and keep you alive.



But not every situation is life and death. Staying in a chronic state of fear is debilitating. Fear limits our thinking and creates an environment of self-preservation no matter what the cost. Fear may have some usefulness, but it stops short when we find ourselves living daily lives in the kingdom of God as community and beloved neighbors.

Love in contrast to fear connects us and opens us up to much more possibility. It is no coincidence some form of do not fear is in the Bible some 365 times, enough for once a day throughout the year.

Beginning on September 20th, we will engage in a worship series by Pastor Adam Hamilton titled, *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*. Although this book was written before Covid-19, the theme certainly resonates with so much of where we find ourselves.



Much of the anxiety that we are experiencing isn't just because of a disease (certainly a reason to be anxious in and of itself), rather the unknown future that we face.

How do we respond faithfully in the midst of uncertainty?

Be not afraid, God is with us.

Peace,
Pastor Jake

For a breakdown of the Unafraid Series, visit page 7.

Abundant Blessings

September Birthdays

02	Eugene Markert
03	Emily Krauland
05	Cindy Thomas
05	Amy Tiemann
06	Sharon Purcell
06	Cherise Farmer-Miles
06	Bryce Parrock
08	Cathi Fain
10	Maureen Garcia
10	Kade Brittain
11	Riley Martinez
13	Wade Krause
13	Connor Huston
14	Ron Podojil
15	Kristan Martinez
15	Haley Luce
17	Tim Kaufman
18	Erika Kaufman
19	Betty Wilcox
20	Larry Crowell
21	Michael McClintock
24	Carol Thatcher
25	Edna Weigelt
25	Ellie Woytek
27	Peggy Stone Cheek
27	Becky Krogness
28	Kadyn Wilkie-Dickman
29	Margo Woollven
29	Josephine Peebles
30	Chris Cabibi
30	Katrina Johnson
30	Richard Luce

Prayers

Alvin Bravenec
 Chuck Travis
 Martin Mayer
 Ron Podojil
 Rhonda Schmidt
 Cody Smith
 Helen Probst
 Bob Schlabach

September Anniversaries

Russell and Sherry Behrens	September 1, 1967
Michael and Sandra Amori	September 2, 1967
Ken and Nanci Witten	September 3, 1983
Erich and Margaret Weese	September 6, 1969
David and Susan Heise	September 6, 1970
Lester and Stella Leissner	September 8, 2001
Daryl and Nita Hausmann	September 9, 1978
Don and Barbara Hodde	September 10, 1988
Forrest and Lynda Willis	September 13, 1986
Ray and Kristan Martinez	September 14, 2013
David and Karen Patterson	September 17, 1988
Walt and Jackie Sparkman	September 17, 2005
Ian and Tina Tudlong	September 26, 1997
Alan Ramirez and Tammy Dougherty	September 29, 2012
Michael and Megan Wenzel	September 29, 2018
Kevin and Lindsay Krauland	September 30, 2006

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following:

- ✠ To the family of Margaret Carpenter, who passed away on August 1st.
- ✠ Anita Hill and her family at the death of her mother, Delores Dube Pace

Offering/Giving at Peace

There are several giving options at Peace:

- Offering Envelopes
- Simply Giving Program
- Online Giving (Website)
- AmazonSmile Program
- Bank Drafts
- GivePlus App

If you would like more information on

any of the options listed above, please give our

Financial Administrator, Valerie Wood, a call at 830-620-0618.



Thank You

July marks three years since Helen had her stroke. Thank you pastor, members and friends of Peace Lutheran for your love and support through prayers, visits and so many expressions.

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like that above.

God does give strength to his people. He blesses his people with peace. We love you.
 Charles and Helen Probst

What a lovely surprise we had this morning as we opened our front door and saw the sign for our church. Thank you and God Bless, Marvin and Sharon Monson

Thank you for all the love and caring you have sent us this week. The online services and pick up communion are greatly cherished. Love, Mike and Sandi Amori

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew



Faith Formation In Such A Time As This”

Many aspects of our lives look quite different right now that they did before the Covid-19 pandemic. It is not as much the “what” of our lives but rather the “how” of our lives that has changed, sometimes in subtle and sometimes in drastic ways. We still do many (most) of the same things we did before the pandemic, but we have had to learn to do them in new and different ways. It is an ongoing lesson in adaptation for sure!

Christian faith formation is no exception to this. In his paper, “*A Guide To Transforming Faith Formation For A New World*”, Dr. John Roberto describes how there is a shift taking place from a focus on activities, classes, courses, and programs to a focus on **goals for maturing in faith**. This shift was already taking place before the pandemic, but it has accelerated due to the significant changes in how we are living and adapting as the church. This change of focus reflects a significant shift from a provider-centered, program- and content-driven approach to a **person-centered approach to faith formation**. This approach to faith formation focuses on **goals for faith maturing**, at each stage of life, and selects the content, experiences, programs, and methods that will promote growth in faith and discipleship.

Dr. Roberto lists **ten faith maturing goals** that incorporate knowing and believing, relating and belonging, practicing and living. They are drawn from the Christian faith tradition and from research on **what makes a difference in forming faith in people’s lives across their life span**. These ten goals are common to all Christians, and then need to be contextualized within a specific Christian tradition, the identity and mission of a church, and the unique social, cultural, and ethnic make-up of the community. In other words, it is up to each congregation to find ways to weave these goals into the fabric of everything they do in ministry.

Goals for Maturing in Faith

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ.
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life.
3. Reading and studying the Bible, and its message, meaning, and application to life today.
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of one’s particular Christian faith tradition and integrating its meaning into one’s life.
5. Praying—together and by ourselves—and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual practices and disciplines.
6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values.
7. Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God’s creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace—locally and globally.
8. Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship and ritual celebrations, and through the seasons of the church year.
9. Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community.
10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one’s gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world.

As you read these goals, think about **your own faith life**. Where do you see yourself in terms of living into each of these goals as a disciple of Jesus? What goals are strengths for you? What goals need more attention? Remember, these goals reflect an **ongoing lifelong journey of faith**. None of us ever “completes” any of these goals. We are called to continually grow in each of these areas as we grow in faith during our entire lifetime. May God bless and strengthen you along your journey as you follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus! Remember, **we are in this together, surrounded by the love of God!**

Deacon Andrew More

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew



1 Corinthians

- **Length:** 16 chapters (take two days to read each chapter, or read it through twice!)
- **Author:** This is one of the seven undisputed letters by the Apostle Paul
- **Recipients:** The church at Corinth, the capitol city of the Roman province of Achaia. Paul himself founded the Christian church in Corinth during his missionary journeys. According to Acts 18:1-11, Paul stayed at Corinth for a year and a half after he started the new Christian church there.
- **Date:** Paul likely wrote this letter between 53-56 CE from the city of Ephesus (see 16:8). Remember as we read Paul's letters, we are literally reading 1st century mail between an individual and a community.
- Even though it is referred to as 1 Corinthians, this was actually not the first letter Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. There is evidence (see 5:9) of an earlier letter that Paul wrote to the Corinthian community, as well as him having previously received a letter (see 7:1) and oral communication (see 11:1, 16:17) from the Corinthian community. This back and forth communication between Paul and the congregation in Corinth continues through what we know as 2 Corinthians.
- This letter addresses several specific interpersonal, ethical and doctrinal problems that the Corinthian community was facing. Although Paul's writing here is to a specific congregation regarding these specific issues, this letter, like all others in our New Testament, has been lifted up by the church for its value to all Christian communities.
- This letter is one of our best first-hand looks into the day-to-day realities and struggles of the early church. In it we see confusion and conflict about the meaning of the gospel message between Corinthian members, such as:
 - ⇒ competing claims to wisdom, wealth spiritual gifts and power
 - ⇒ abuse of social status by some members of the church over one another
 - ⇒ disagreements about social practices and their ongoing relevance in light of the news of Christ's expected return (marriage, distinctions between men and women, lawsuits, eating meat sacrificed to idols, sexual immorality)
- After his usual introductory remarks (address, salutation, thanksgiving, see 1:1-9), Paul sets out the groundwork for "the message of the cross" (1:17-25) for dealing with divisions, disagreements, and disorders within the Corinthian community.
- In 1 Corinthians we have the only example describing the institution of the Lord's Supper outside of the gospels. (see 11:23-26).
- Paul uses the metaphor of the church being one body with many different and unique members, all with important gifts and functions (12:12-31), to help illustrate his message to the Corinthian congregation.
- Probably the most well known quote from one of Paul's letters, one which is often used in modern day marriage ceremonies is 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. However sentimental it sounds, Paul was not writing this as marital advice, but rather as advice for how all Christians should treat one another as brothers and sisters.
- Paul continues with comments about the meaning and significance of Christ's resurrection (chpt. 15) to help underscore his theological point to the Corinthian community. Although clearly frustrated, Paul appears to remain hopeful about the future of this fledgling Christian community and closes with final words of benediction.

From the Castle

God Is On The Move!

Last fall, I took a course in Church History and was surprised to find that there were lots of innovations, discoveries, and development within the church in the Dark Ages. Gun powder was discovered, vertical windmills were first used, and agriculture began using crop rotation. In the latter part of the 800s, religious schools began to go public and founded what is now the modern university system. It turns out that the Dark Ages were anything but.

In this time of learning to live with Covid-19, we may feel like we are in the Dark Ages again. I know I certainly do sometimes, but then I have to stop and remember while I may personally feel stuck, feeling isolated and hopeless, God continues to be on the move! God is always moving toward us to restore us to full relationship.

ELW Hymn # 513, "Listen, God is Calling" (Neno lake Mungu), both melody and text, comes to us from our fellow Lutherans in Tanzania at the Lutheran Theological College in Makumira. The song reminds me that God continues to call us, through Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy! God wants us to share the Good News. God tells us that we are not forgotten. God wants us to remain faithful and walk in the light. God called and is continuing to call each and every one of us. Listen. Listen prayerfully. Listen and answer God's call.

Where is God calling you?

Marianne Gould,
Deacon Intern

News from the Outreach Ministry Team

The Outreach Ministry Team has made arrangements with Brookdale Assisted Living to cheer up their residents. We have a list of 35 residents who would be delighted to get cards in the mail. If you would like to adopt a name, email Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com and she will give you the information. Because of privacy laws, we were only given the first names. Looking forward to spreading cheer!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown



The Peace Lutheran Sign Fairies have completed their sign deliveries. We did our very best to get to every family. If you were missed, we did not do this intentionally. We would love to bring you a sign if we missed you. Call Becky Voges at 830-625-1666 and she will get you a sign.

Special thanks to John and Patti Kassel, Ann Keeler, the Simmont family and Deacon Andrew for helping us deliver the signs. The positive response from our peace family has been such a blessing in these difficult times

Men's Breakfast Zoom

The Men's breakfast has not met for a few months. There has been a few people who have shown interest in finding a way to connect with each other. We are going to start a ZOOM meeting beginning on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am. September's Zoom Breakfast will be held on September 2nd. If anyone has any questions, please contact Ron Podojil at 860-334-7321.



Life Groups

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

We are evaluating how to best create small group ministry in these times.

Stay tuned for ways to be engaged and continue to not only hear the message of Unafraid, rather to study and walk with others deepening your faith and building a stronger community united in God's love.



- 09/20: Understanding and Encountering Fear
- 09/27: Crime, Race, Terrorism, and Politics
- 10/04: Failure, Disappointing Others, Insignificance, and Loneliness
- 10/11: Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances
- 10/18: Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord

Life Groups are meant to foster a deeper faith as we explore what it means to live as God's people together. This Fall we will offer online options to join groups.

Growing Generosity Through Legacy Planning

September webinars to highlight planning for family, ministry

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest will offer "Growing in Generosity--Legacies That Last," a webinar on legacy planning for family and ministry. The webinar will be offered at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on two Wednesdays – Sept. 9 and Sept. 23 – and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Please sign up for the one that works best for you using the link below: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAnTBa1rRyaP-E6ZSGT4Cw



This webinar is open to all congregational members to learn more about the foundation's comprehensive legacy planning services for family and ministry. The foundation is a partner ministry of the three ELCA synods in Texas and offers its services at no cost and no obligation.

A congregation member may say, "I like the idea of leaving a gift to my church when I pass away, but I'd like to know more about how to create a plan for family and ministry." The church has a dedicated ministry for just this kind of support through Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest. A gift planner is available in each synod that can guide you to clarify your goals and objectives in planning. Any congregation member can establish a robust personal legacy plan with the guidance of the synod gift planner. Those with existing plans should consider reviewing their plans to make sure they continue to meet their goals for family and ministry.

All members of ELCA congregations are invited to participate in these webinars. Those who may have additional questions or need assistance with registration are invited to contact Deacon John Dellis, senior gift planner for congregations in the Southwestern Texas Synod, at (830) 305-2758 or jdellis@lfsww.org.

GOD BEYOND! GOD WITHIN? **“YES!” and “YES!”**

No, these are not the answers I learned from parents and teachers 80 years ago. According to Jesus, God was located 'in heaven', very separate and different from the earth and earthlings He created in His own image. Yet, I later learned that God was 'omnipresent', everywhere. The invisible 'soul' was the only place God might be present within by His Spirit through baptism. Any other description of God was probably 'animistic', 'pantheistic', or 'atheistic', thus heresy. This I believed until the 1950's when I read J.B. Phillips' New Testament paraphrase and his timely **Your God Is Too Small** [1953].

I share this, not as irreverent or as a disbeliever, but because I respect and honor those who introduced me to Christianity when I was a child and because I still search our scriptures, study science, and want to integrate revelation and evolution, two knowledge disciplines I once believed were antithetical. Try imagining an “evolutionary evangelical.” Get my drift? I currently identify myself as *panentheistic* as defined in the title above. Linked with my early learned monotheism, a most provocative paradox.

Some label this reorientation 'emerging' and 'progressive'; others deem it 'a deadly Church infection'.

If you find this at all intriguing, here are some further reading possibilities I have appreciated:

Historian Karen Armstrong – **A History of God**,
Biblical scholar Marcus Borg – **Convictions: How I learned What Matters Most**,
Franciscan theologian Richard Rohr – **Everything Belongs**,
Professor, preacher Barbara Brown Taylor – **Leaving Church** [a memoir],
Integral philosopher Ken Wilber – **A Brief History of Everything**, and finally
Self proclaimed 'evangelical evolutionist' Michael Dowd – **Thank God for Evolution**.

David E. Lange

David Lange facilitates the Seekers and Sponges class which meets on Zoom each Sunday from 9:15 am - 10:15 am growing in various topics of spirituality. They are currently viewing and discussing a video of a 2013 Faith and Reason conference in Houston with three presenters - Marcus Borg, Joan Chittister, and John Dominic Crossan speaking top "Why I Am Still a Christian."

You are welcome to come and grow together.

Seen and Unseen

Socrates nailed the question early in human civilization - “Who am I?” adding for dialog “What do you mean?” His disciple, Plato began trying to answer by looking at the then-known world by splitting visible “nature” from invisible “super-nature” asserting the latter as the real essence and form of matter.

Today, 2000 years later, these first categories still serve many of us 'enlightened' Christians as our Greek legacy, distinguishing and separating a supernatural Creator from natural creatures. In our Bible narratives, we read about extraordinary miracles intervening in dire and very ordinary circumstances.

At this same time, many are redefining “nature” and “super-nature” substantially – the former as 'scientifically verifiable reality,' and the latter as 'wishful fictions.' Still others are discovering invisible interconnections and relationships between everything we have named 'universe' or 'multiverses.'

As we endure this threateningly divisive era, it time to re-educate as my half-century-old plaque reads “. . .going forward from cocksure IGNORANCE to thoughtful UNCERTAINTY.” Perhaps, then, we can rediscover our original unity and learn new ways to relate each “other” accordingly.

David E. Lange

Stephen Ministry

A New Day

Our journey continues. I know that we are hoping that the most recent changes will bring about better results with a decrease in the Covid 19 cases. It continues to scare us, and we are wondering what is next. So everyone needs to take a deep breath, ask God for some guidance and help. Just remember that during the darkest times we are not alone, God is always with us.

So while we are frustrated with the restriction placed on us because of Covid 19, remember that we are looking for ways to buy time to keep us safe, until the researchers and medical teams come up with a treatment plan that will turn things around. With every day that there is dark news, there is also a light around the corner.

If you are experiencing difficulties and all you see is darkness, remember that you are not alone. Consider talking with a Stephen Minister. Contact the church or a Stephen Minister. If you would like some help, contact Pastor Jake or one of our Referral Coordinators, Bill Purcell or Cathy O'Shea, at 210-846-3315. For more about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages at www.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry.

Ron Podojil

Finances

July 2020

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 101,519.58	\$ 29,536.00	\$ 29,724.00		\$ 101,331.58
Building Fund	\$ 30,339.04	\$ 259.44	\$ 0.00		\$ 30,598.48
Endowment Fund	\$ 6,257.31	\$ 279.17	\$ 0.00		\$ 6,536.48
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 126,195.48	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 126,195.48
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,771.03	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,771.76
Designated Funds	\$ 28,952.32	\$ 435.00	\$ 410.00		\$ 28,977.32
Total Funds	\$ 299,034.76	\$ 30,510.34	\$ 30,134.00		\$ 299,411.10



Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Web address: www.peacenb.org

830-609-8359 - Valerie Wood
830-312-8797 - Pastor Jake Fain

Temporary Office Hours
Monday - Wednesday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Worship Services
Sundays
10:30 am with
peacenb.sermon.net or
[Facebook.com/PeaceLuth](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLuth)



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