



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

Live Nativity

**Peace Lutheran Church Live Nativity
 December 19, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Our Live Nativity will be held on Saturday, **December 19th, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm** and we would like your help. We are looking for Shepherds, Angels, Wise Men and Town's People to help us tell the Christmas Story. Why not sign up the entire family? We will be wearing masks and staying safe. We will also be having a smaller version for our outdoor Christmas Eve Worship. So, if you would like to be a part of either night, please email Becky Voges. (beckyvoges@yahoo.com) for more information.



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A Message from the Pastor

Advent Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas



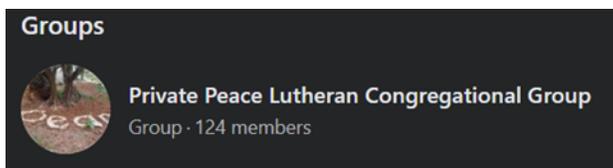
As we move into the season of Advent, the church begins a new year.

It is the season of longing for the Messiah to come among our broken world.

Incarnation is simply a word that means in the flesh. We celebrate the coming of the Christ child in the flesh in which the glory of God joins us in humble humanity.

We long for incarnation because we were made for relationships. While our videos and technologies have been a blessing to stay connected, we recognize the sacramental power of being present is vital for us. We need others in our lives to experience the fullness of our humanity.

I anticipate this year will be a different kind of longing and expectation for Christmas. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm for an in-person or livestream worship or view the worship later in your time as we rediscover the true significance of Christmas through the incarnation.



Each week I will send out prompts for questions to help you stay engaged with this special Advent season via our church Facebook group. Follow the instructions to join our private congregational Facebook page.

1. Open Facebook and sign in or create an account
2. Select Groups on the left hand side of your screen
3. Use the search bar and type in Peace Lutheran Church New Braunfels
4. Click to join Peace Lutheran Congregational Group
5. An admin will approve your request
6. After approval you can click on the group page on the left side of your screen and see all the group chat

Advent Worship Schedule

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm – livestream or in-person worship

12/2	Presidents and Kings
12/9	The Savior and Our Need for Saving
12/16	Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic

Peace,
Pastor Jake



Abundant Blessings

December Birthdays

01	Barbara Wangsness
02	Emma Armitage
03	Virginia Willis
05	Kristopher Martinez
06	Megan Ohnheiser
06	Clyde Peebles
10	Earl Koester
11	Bill Miller
11	Robbi Will
12	Megan Wenzel
12	Kaitlyn Alston-Schintgen
13	Ceretta Daum
13	Holly Guerin
15	Stacy Pfeil
16	Fritz Friesenhahn
17	Gayle Morris
17	Max Ebert
17	Evan Weese
18	Nancy King
18	Don Hodde
26	Kaylee Stone
28	Bernice Lenz
28	Curtis Rabenaldt
29	Paul Fisher
30	Greg Gunderson

Prayers

Lindsay Friedrich
 Martin Franz
 Michelle Rappmund
 Chuck Travis
 Ron Podojil
 Rhonda Schmidt
 Cody Smith
 Helen Probst
 Bob Schlabach

December Anniversaries

Mark and Peggy Cooper
 December 15, 2007
 Wade and Lavonne Ohnheiser
 December 18, 2004
 Matthew and Leslie Tippens
 December 20, 2003
 Gus and Betty Rust
 December 22, 1952
 Dannie and Anita Hill
 December 323, 2018
 Joe and Arlene Wold
 December 27, 1956
 Earl and Ellie Koester
 December 28, 1951
 Stephen and Johnana Clark
 December 28, 1969
 Robbie and Olivia
 Hetherington
 December 28, 2013

Thank You

I would like to send out a special thank you to the folks who "tabbed" the Lutheran Study Bibles for our confirmands. This is a true labor of love!

Ellie & Earl Koester
 Kellie Stallings
 Carol Thatcher
 Becky Krogness
 Bob & Karen Laughlin
 Becky Voges

You are all a blessing.
 Deacon Andrew



Thank You

Pastor Jake and Our Peace Family,
 Thank you all for your prayers for our grandson, Jay Monson. He had a 9 hour surgery, but the doctor said he gave him the best possible chance to walk again. God is good and we know with all your prayers, it will happen. He will have a long road of recovery and rehab, but God will be with him thru it all!!
 God bless each one of you.
 Marvin and Sharon Monson

*To the Church Staff,
 Thank you for your flexibility and creative ways of keeping us together during 2020. I realize the office staff has been on double duty to produce the many ways of keeping track and in touch with the Peace family. The faithfulness of our organist and music director, our custodian, service of our choir directors, those keeping the grounds beautiful and anyone I may have missed, I appreciate each one of you and the efforts you have put out to keep us bonded and "the church" amidst a rough 2020.
 With appreciation, Jane Moeller*

A special "Thank You" to all those that helped get the LWR quilts, school bags and baby-care kits on the way to needy people around the world. Several members (including Pastor Jake) helped get the stored quilts out of the attic. Many quilters and helpers got the shipping boxes taped, weighed and counted on November 3rd. And many helped load and unload the boxes at St. John's in Marion. The totals were 604 quilts, 198 school bags and 35 baby-care kits. Thanks to everyone for making it happen!
 The Peaceful Piecers
 (the quilters of Peace)

From the Castle

Scripture Readings

Have you ever wondered about the Bible readings that we read each Sunday? How do we know what they are and why are those particular verses selected? The Bible readings that are used in our worship come from the Revised Common Lectionary which can be found in our ELW hymnal and from Sundays and Seasons published by Augsburg Fortress. A majority of mainline Protestant and Catholic Churches use this pattern of reading scripture in a three-year cycle and are divided into Year A, B and C. Each church year begins in the Advent Season with Jesus' birth and roughly follows his life and teachings through his death and resurrection. With Advent Season fast approaching, we will begin Year B on Sunday, November 29th. Year A featured the gospel writings in the book of Matthew. This year, we will spend a lot of time reading the gospel in the book of Mark and next year, Year C, we will focus on the gospel writings in the book of Luke. The writings in the book of John are interspersed throughout all three years.

Each Sunday has an appointed reading from the Hebrew Bible, a Psalm, a New Testament Epistle (or letter), and a Gospel. There are also readings assigned to each day of the week throughout the 3 year cycle. The lessons for Sundays are found in pages 18-53 in the front of our ELW hymnal. The lessons for weekdays are found on pages 1121-1153. The liturgical cycle runs from Thursday through the following Wednesday. At the end of a 3 year cycle, you will have heard over 80% of the writings in the Bible.



Marianne Gould,
Deacon Intern

Holiday Happenings

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Worship Schedule

On demand recorded or 5:00 pm outside

Christmas Eve - The Light of the World

On-demand pre-recorded worship shared before Christmas Eve and meant to give you the chance to worship in your homes surrounded by your families/friends



Tentative time (5:00 pm) Outside in-person worship (no video option) – Enter the Christmas story with a Live Nativity worship experience socially distanced. This outside worship is contingent upon weather.

Angel Tree



Angel Tree will look a little different this year. Visit the Peace website at www.peacenb.org. Scroll down to the bottom and click on the Angel Tree button

Please choose a foster child from UpBring that you would like to sponsor. Click on the button next to the child. Scroll to the bottom and hit the Submit and Sign Up button. Provide your name, email and phone number. You may purchase any or all gifts listed for that child.

Unwrapped gifts should be returned to Peace Lutheran Church no later than December 4th.

Thank you!
Service Ministry Team

Poinsettias

The Worship Ministry Team has ordered ten poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

These plants are beautiful and come from Klepac Farms in Blanco. If you are able to donate for one or more of these plants (\$13 each) please contact Judi Miller at pastorjudi@aol.com or 830-730-3315. Blessings!

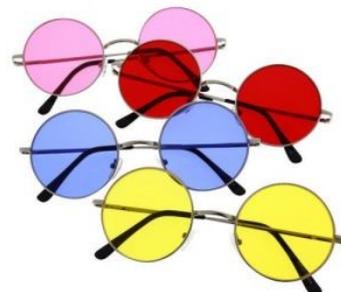


Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox



Tool #5: Biblical Lenses

It is helpful to know that there are many different ways for us to read the Bible. I'm not talking about deciding where to start or the order in which to read the Bible's various writings or how much text to read in a day. What I mean here is that we can read and study scripture from a variety of perspectives while wearing different Biblical "lenses". Think of it like putting on a tinted pair of glasses that highlight and emphasize different aspects of



the text. What we see, hear, feel, and learn from the text varies based on the lens through which we read the text. The way we do this is by asking questions of the text (and ourselves) while we read and study the Bible. Here are examples of four common Biblical "lenses". We will look more closely at each lens in future articles.

Devotional Reading

Probably the most familiar lens, devotional reading encourages the reader to place themselves into the text and ask, "what do I hear God saying?" A devotional reading can include reading the text silently or out loud, re-reading the text multiple times, personal reflection, meditation, journaling, and prayer. It seeks to measure the impact of the text upon us, individually or collectively.

Historical Reading

A historical reading of the Bible begins with the recognition that the Bible is an ancient collection of texts written by people who lived in times and places very different from our own. This lens focuses on the specific details surrounding the events in the text. Some of these details might be obvious or present in the text itself, but often this lens requires some deeper study in order to discern details like authorship (who), date (when), audience (to whom), setting (geographic and chronological), purpose (why), cultural influences, and interaction with the wider world. This lens benefits greatly from the use of a study Bible or other additional resources.

Literary Reading

A literary reading of the Bible explores the richness and the depth of the Bible by examining the type and style of literature of each writing, or even various sections within a writing. In order to do this, it is important to recognize that the Bible was written by many authors, each with their own particular literary style, and conveying the message of the Bible through a wide variety of literary forms. This lens invites us to examine the text as a story, considering things like plot, theme, characters, and setting of each text. It also helps us to see how each story fits into the entire writing of a particular book and even the entire Bible as a whole.

Lutheran Theological Reading

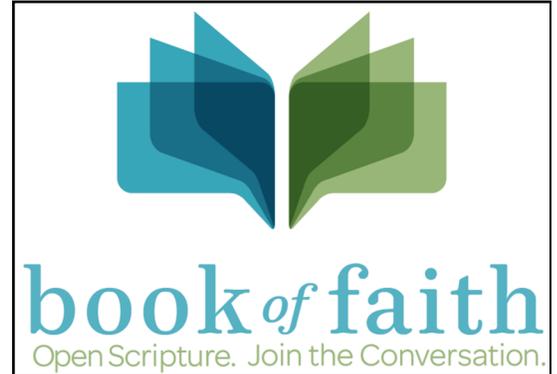
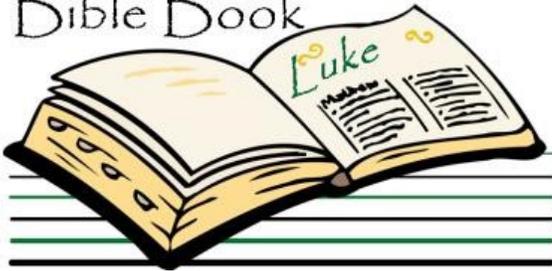
A Lutheran theological reading of the Bible is more specific to those of us in the Lutheran tradition. This lens asks us to approach the Bible texts using central questions in Lutheran theology such as; "where is there Law (judgment) in this text?" "Where is there Gospel (good news) in this text?" "In what way does this text reveal Christ to us?" "How does this text fit with other teachings in scripture?" "What would this text have meant to its original audience?" "How is this text heard by others besides me?"

4 Good Things To Expect From Reading The Bible

- ⇒ We come not only to read about God but also to experience God directly.
- ⇒ We come not to learn about Jesus but also to meet Jesus.
- ⇒ We come convinced that this encounter will bear fruit in our lives for the sake of God's world.
- ⇒ We trust that becoming more fluent in the Bible will help us live our calling as God's people of faith.

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

December's Bible Book



The Gospel of Luke

As we enter into this Advent and Christmas season, this is a great opportunity to go deeper into Luke's account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Also, be sure to watch our newest Exploring the Bible Together videos on our YouTube channel, which walk us through Luke's gospel from start to finish.

Some Important Characteristics of Luke's Gospel:

- Length: 24 Chapters (that's perfect for reading one chapter a day in a month!)
- Authorship: Early Church tradition suggested that "Luke" was the physician and travelling companion of the Apostle Paul. We do know that "Luke" was not one of the original disciples of Jesus.
- Luke is known as one of the three "synoptic" gospels in the New Testament (the others being Matthew and Mark), meaning there is quite a bit of overlap of material between the three of them.
- For sources for his writing, Luke uses about half of the Gospel of Mark, portions of material that he shares with Matthew's gospel, as well as his own unique material that is not found in any of the other gospels. An example of this latter category are the first two chapters of Luke's gospel, focusing on Mary, the mother of Jesus. Here and elsewhere, this uniquely Lukan material reflects a superior literary quality, revealing Luke's high level of education and gifts for storytelling.
- Luke is the only gospel to identify its audience (Theophilus), and its purpose (Luke 1:1-4). The name "Theophilus" means "one who loves God", and could be referring to an actual historical person, or perhaps as an address to anyone who reads the gospel writing and who loves God (you and me!).
- Luke carefully sets the historical context of his writing (Luke 1:5; 2:1-3; 3:1-2), helping us to understand exactly when in human history these events occur.
- Luke is one of two gospels which include the story of Jesus' birth (the other is Matthew).
- Luke contains several liturgical "hymns" which are often referred to today by Latin titles; the Magnificat (1:46-56), the Benedictus (1:67-79), the Gloria (2:14), and the Nunc Dimittis (2:29-32).
- Luke contains a genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Adam (3:23-38).
- Luke includes more parables than any other gospel, including ten parables only found in Luke, such as the Good Samaritan, The Rich Man and Lazarus, the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son.
- Jesus prays and talks about prayer in Luke's gospel more than any other. Jesus prays at his baptism, transfiguration, crucifixion and throughout his ministry. Jesus teaches his disciples the Lord's Prayer (11:2-4).
- In Luke, the role and ministry of women are lifted up and receive special attention.
- Luke's gospel emphasizes Jesus' ministry to those on the margins of society (poor, oppressed, excluded).
- The story of two disciples' encounter with the risen Jesus on their way to the town of Emmaus after the crucifixion is found in Luke. We are told that, "beginning with Moses and the prophets, (Jesus) interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.
- Salvation is an important theme in Luke, the only synoptic gospel to call Jesus "savior" (Luke 2:11). Luke emphasizes the present consequences of God's saving action (2:21; 4:21; 5:26, 19:5, 19:9, 23:43).
- Another unique characteristic of Luke is that it is the only gospel to have a sequel (Acts).

Stephen Ministry

Changes

How are you doing? It's been several months now. For some of us, it is living and working at home. Others living at home and doing essential work out in the world. Then there are those who are living at home and not working anywhere. We're stuck with the kids, the parents, or just ourselves alone, together apart, apart together. It all sounds so confusing. Grocery runs, a wait at the post office, protests, gas for the truck. Sometimes it feels as if the only pleasure available in the day comes when we can step away, finally, to do something to take our minds off the state of the world.



I recently read in "Our Daily Bread: Aug 17, 2020" about gold and how impurities were removed by refiners. In Biblical times refiners used fire as a gold purifier. Perhaps you feel like you are in the refiner's fire, feeling the heat of setbacks, illness or other challenges. But hardship is often the process by which purifies the gold of our faith. In our pain we might beg God to quickly end the process, but he knows what is best for us.

The Stephen Ministers are here to help through these difficult times. If you are experiencing problems and do not know where to turn, remember that you are not alone. Consider talking with 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, Stephen Ministry

Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering is back! Peace will be collecting donations for the following Noisy Offering Sundays:

December 27th Habitat for Humanity

The Noisy Offering will be collected a little differently though. **We will not actually collect coins, rather, we will collect cash and/or check donations.*****

Early Parking Lot Service attendees or Late Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Live Stream Worship Service attendees can drop off donations in the church mailbox or mail their donation directly to the church. Please make your check out to Peace Lutheran Church and put Noisy Offering in the memo.

*****Giving online is always a great option as well. Go to the church website, peacenb.org, and click on the Ways To Give Tab. Choose Online Giving and follow the instructions. Please remember to designate Noisy Offering in the memo.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Church Council

Patti Kassel - President
Don Hodde - Vice President
Brenda Martin - Secretary
Amy Tiemann - Treasurer

Becca Clark - Member At-Large
Matthew Simmont - Member At-Large
Matt Tippens - Member At-Large
Forrest Willis - Member At-Large

Altar Flowers



ALTAR FLOWERS

Each Sunday a beautiful arrangement of fresh flowers, donated by members and friends of the congregation, adorns the cross in the chancel area of Peace Lutheran Church. The 2021 Flower Chart had been posted on the front page of the Peace [website](#) along with the [link](#) to sign up. We have removed the sign up temporarily while we explore other sign up options for our flowers. Please watch your eblasts for further details.

Finances

October 2020

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 92,286.50	\$ 20,055.53	\$ 35,277.85		\$ 77,064.18
Building Fund	\$ 32,523.11	\$ 161.54	\$ 0.00		\$ 32,684.65
Endowment Fund	\$ 7,155.27	\$ 362.76	\$ 0.00		\$ 7,518.03
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 133,875.47	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 133,875.47
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,773.20	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,773.93
Designated Funds	\$ 29,925.66	\$ 685.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 30,460.66
Total Funds	\$ 301,539.21	\$ 21,265.56	\$ 35,427.85		\$ 287,376.92



There are several giving options at Peace: Offering Envelopes; Online Giving (Website); AmazonSmile Program; Bank Drafts. 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.



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

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

Worship Services
Sundays
8:00 am Parking Lot Service
10:30 am In Person or with
peacenb.sermon.net or
[Facebook.com/PeaceLute](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLute)



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