

**Peace Lutheran Church  
Newsletter  
Love God, Love People,  
and Serve the World!  
September 2021**

**Renovate: Building a Life with God**

If you've ever been part of a renovation project, you know how disruptive it can be. Your home is destroyed while the din of hammers and saws commence. But after that time of disruption, the results are a new and beautiful addition.

Join us this fall as we begin a new series called *Renovate: Building a Life with God*.

Each Sunday you'll have opportunities to dive deeper into what it means to build a life with God.

9am – Community time in the Fellowship Hall in which we will watch a brief video clip and receive a prompt to consider or join Zoom for online access.

10am – Worship time in the sanctuary with a sermon series teaching on the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament which deals with the Israelites return from exile and rebuilding the Temple. Although the backdrop of the story is framed around the rebuilding of the Temple, the story also describes the rebuilding of the community itself.

5pm – Return to the Peace Fellowship Hall or join Zoom for online access for small group, facilitated learning opportunities.

My hope is that as we come together as a church, we rebuild our lives centered on God and discover again what it means to walk together in faith as Peace Lutheran Church.

- 09/12 Session 1: Never Too Late for Renovation/Rededication of the Church Building
- 09/19 Session 2: Crying and Building
- 09/26 Session 3: What to Know Before You Build
- 10/03 Session 4: When Others Don't Like Your Plans
- 10/10 Session 5: Inviting Others to Come Home
- 10/17 Session 6: The Big Reveal

Topic: Life Group Meetings

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89734570916?pwd=YUgraHZ2Tm1WMEZldTBzM0lJdEd6dz09>

Meeting ID: 897 3457 0916

Passcode: 867183

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<b>Pastor's Message</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Deacon's Message</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Abundant Blessings</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Confirmation Notes</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Building Renovation</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Finances</b>	<b>9</b>



## A Message from the Pastor

### New Covid Guidelines

August was a challenging month for our society. We experienced yet another surge of the coronavirus flooding our hospitals and medical personnel once again.

We pray for the health of all people, particularly in this precarious time.

Having been through these trying times before, We were hoping we had moved beyond this. But life is full of ups and downs, and part of our walk as Christians is to navigate the shifting landscape and keep walking in the footsteps of Jesus who is always on a mission to heal and reconcile the world.

In response to these rising cases, our safety protocols dictated we suspend in-person activity after a 15% threshold of covid capacity in our hospital region.

With a chance to pause, our Covid Task Force and Church Council re-evaluated our 2020 guidelines and updated new guidelines commensurate with the new realities.

Here are the new guidelines:

### GENERAL

	<p>Peace Lutheran encourages all members to stay informed and adhere to the latest CDC guidelines and practices pertaining to Covid-19. They can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
	<p>If you are feeling ill, stay home. Do not risk impacting others with potential illness.</p>
	<p>If you have not been vaccinated for Covid-19, we encourage you to prayerfully consider vaccination to reduce infection risk to yourself and virus transmission to others.</p>
	<p>The Online worship via Livestream is always available.</p>
	<p>Communion by individual disposable kits.</p>

*(continued on page 3)*

***New Covid Guidelines  
(continued from page 2)***

**HOSPITALIZATIONS ARE **LESS** THAN 15%**

 	Masks are advised, but not required
	Event seating will not be managed – open seating, no social distancing requirements
	Social interactions will not be managed Open Sharing of the Peace

**HOSPITALIZATIONS ARE **GREATER** THAN 15%**

	Masks are required while inside church facility.
	Social distancing will be in effect – sit in groups of 2,4, 6 family units, etc.
	Minimize social interaction indoors No physical contact for Sharing the Peace

**HOSPITALIZATIONS ARE 25% OR GREATER**

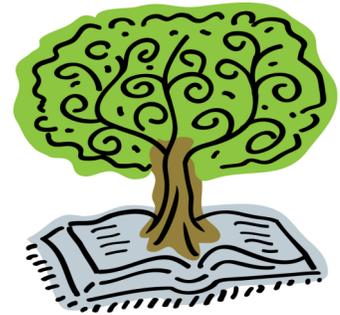
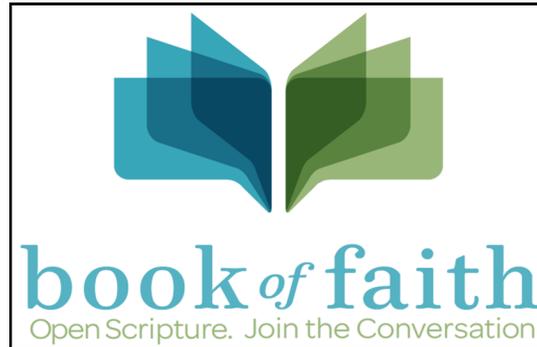
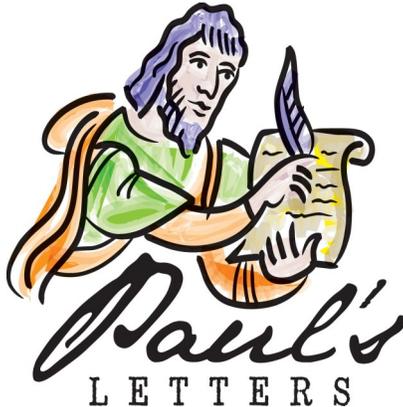
	Suspend all in-person gatherings. Applies to worship, meetings, and gatherings of any kind
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Peace always,

***Pastor Jake***



## A Message from the Deacon



St. Paul's Is A  
Book of Faith Congregation  
"Rooted In God's Word"

### Colossians

#### Some interesting aspects of Colossians:

- Length: Four chapters
- Author: Although the salutation of this writing indicates it is from the apostle Paul (1:1a) and Timothy (1:1b), many biblical scholars think that this writing was actually made by the hand of a second generation Christian from a church community established by Paul, rather than by the apostle himself. As such, Colossians is sometimes put into a category of writings in the NT referred to as “deutero-Pauline”. This distinction does not lessen in any way the validity, canonicity, authority or value of these writings for Christians and for the Christian church. It simply reflects the development of the early church and its interpretation and expression of the faith.
- Interestingly, Colossians is a literary sibling of the letter of Ephesians. Almost one-third of Colossians appears in Ephesians, suggesting a direct literary dependence, where the author of Ephesians appears to have the letter to the Colossians in front of him as he is writing.
- Recipients: Colossae was located in Asia Minor, not far from Ephesus, about 125 miles inland from the Aegean Sea. The church in Colossae was probably founded by Epaphras (1:7; 4:12)
- Colossians emphasizes the important role Jesus Christ plays in God’s plan of salvation and how Christians are now fully united with Christ.
- The author is concerned about the danger of heresy being taught within the church by false teachers regarding special knowledge and strict ways of living needed in order to be fully united with Christ. as well as ethical matters of conduct.
- The letter can be divided into the following sections:
  - 1:1–1:2 Address, Salutation and Greetings
  - 1:3–1:8 Prayer of Thanks
  - 1:9—2:23 Theological Foundation for Ethics: The Supremacy of Christ
  - 3:1-4:9 The Right and Wrong of Christian Living
  - 4:10-18 Greetings and Conclusion
- The foundation of this letter’s understanding of God and Jesus is found in 1:15-20, which is an early hymn celebrating who Jesus is and what God has done through Jesus. Here Christ is called the image of the invisible God, the one through whom God created everything, the one who holds the universe together, and the one whose death brings peace throughout the universe.
- Because Christians of all ages have already been united with Christ through baptism (2:11-15), we therefore let Christ’s love, peace, and forgiveness guide our lives and our relationships with other Christians (3:1-5; 12-17), with members of our family (3:18-4:1), and with people who are not Christians (4:5-6)

*“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Col. 2:6-7)*

## Deacon Andrew's Bible Study Toolbox

### How Lutherans Interpret the Bible Series

#### Scripture In Light of Scripture



Consider the following questions. Have you ever found that, when reading or listening to a particularly difficult Bible passage, sometimes the words:

- ◆ ...are not immediately clear in their meaning?
- ◆ ...seem like they could have multiple meanings?
- ◆ ...seem like they mean different things to different people/groups?
- ◆ ...do not seem to fit exactly with other passages in the Bible?
- ◆ ...sound like they even contradict other passages in the Bible?

I know that my answer to all of these questions is “yes!” My guess is that all of us have encountered each of these “bumps in the road” as we read and listen to passages from the Bible. Don’t fret! This is actually normal, common, and in some ways, even expected.

*“Wait, Deacon Andrew! You mean the Bible is supposed to not make sense?”*

Not exactly. It is true that we might (likely) encounter difficult Bible passages that confuse us. Sometimes this happens when we read or study the Bible on our own. Sometimes this happens when we are listening to a lesson or sermon in worship. Sometimes this happens when someone throws out a passage of scripture that does not make sense to us or does not match what we believe the Bible to say. This is where the tool of **USING SCRIPTURE TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE** is particularly helpful. We can use this tool in three different ways.

#### ◆ Interpret difficult passages in light of more readily understandable ones.

This is like learning to swim. We enter a swimming pool from the shallow end instead of diving straight into the deep end. This helps us get used to the water without worrying about not being able to stay afloat. As we become more comfortable, we can venture into deeper water. Returning to where the water is waist high instead of over our head gives us a chance to relax and learn. Try to consider what is said in one part of scripture with what is said in other parts of scripture.

#### ◆ Avoid proof texting

Proof texting is lifting a passage of scripture out of its larger context in order to make a particular point or settle an argument. In doing this, other parts of scripture that might provide more insight into the topic at hand are ignored (often intentionally). If someone tries hard enough, using proof texts allows that person (or group of people) to make the Bible say almost anything they want it to. Using scripture to interpret scripture helps us to be faithful to the entire Bible rather than just picking some parts and leaving others alone.

#### ◆ Interpret difficult passages in light of the broader message of the whole Bible.

Remember, the Bible is a complex and amazing collection of writings. No passage of scripture exists in a vacuum. Every word, verse, and chapter in every book of the Bible are part of a much larger message of the whole Bible. Sometimes there is tension and even seeming contradiction between Bible passages that say different things. By taking the “broad view” of the Bible, we look for its major themes, what we might call “the heart of scripture”. We can then examine individual passages more carefully, realizing that some passages of scripture are more important than others, and that understanding the whole is necessary for faithful interpretation of its parts.

## Abundant Blessings

### September Birthdays

03	Emily Krauland
05	Cindy Thomas
05	Amy Tiemann
06	Sharon Purcell
06	Bryce Parrock
08	Cathi Fain
10	Maureen Garcia
11	Riley Martinez
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	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

### September Anniversaries

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
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
Nate and Brandi Raschke	September 17, 2016
Alan Ramirez and Tammy Dougherty	September 29, 2012
Michael and Megan Wenzel	September 29, 2018
Kevin and Lindsay Krauland	September 30, 2006

### Prayers

Trice Kastein  
Lindsay Friedrich  
Martin Franz  
Ron Podojil  
Rhonda Schmidt  
Cody Smith  
Helen Probst  
Bob Schlabach

### In Sympathy



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following:

- † Patti Kassel and her family at the death of her cousin, Grady Lefler.
- † The family of Nancy King, who passed away on August 14th.
- † Wil Voges and his family at the death of his cousin, Eugenia (Jeannie) Voges Flink

## Big Serve Weekend



Save the date for the weekend of October 9-10<sup>th</sup> as we gear up for another year of the community-wide effort to serve known as “The Big Serve”.

Multiple churches team up to launch an initiative to flood our local non-profits with servant disciples with big hearts. A variety of projects will be offered for different levels of activity as well as safety due to the state of the pandemic. Regardless, there is a place for everyone to join in the effort to serve the least of these.

More information of work sites and projects will be forthcoming in September. For more information contact Shannon Johnson, [rugratschild@ymail.com](mailto:rugratschild@ymail.com).

## Stephen Ministry

### Normal

How often have we said in the past year when are we going to get back to normal? Normal is an arbitrary time set when life appears stable. Not changing every month or for that matter every week. Life has been continually evolving, with wars, economic crises or pandemics (measles, polio, variants of the flu, AIDs and Covid), as well as changes in transportation, communication and shopping. So what is normal? I would venture that it is an event that is not different from what we have been experiencing. These drastic changes in life style, keeping to ourselves, wearing a mask, not attending a Sunday service in a church building. Not eating in a restaurant, not going to school or work, but attending virtually. All this and more can affect us, some us more than others.



**From our daily bread July 1; “Not Rushing Prayer “**, The Hawaiian people would sit outside their temples for a lengthy amount of time, preparing themselves before entering in. Even after entering they would creep to the altar to offer their prayers. Afterward they would sit outside again for a long time to “breath life” into their prayers. When the missionaries came to the island, the Hawaiians would sometimes consider their prayers odd. They were rushed, different from theirs, not normal. The Hawaiian felt that these were prayers “without breath.”

I mention this to show what was acceptable or normal and different or not normal. That normal is a perception of social standards. Our lives are changing every day, sometimes very dramatic, sometimes we do not even notice the changes they are subtle.

The dramatic changes tend to linger on and cause more problems. Those who are experiencing difficulties with “normal”, contact the church or a Stephen Minister. If you would like some help, contact Pastor Jake or our Referral Coordinator Bill Purcell at 210-846-3315. For more about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages at [www.peacemb.org/Stephen-Ministry](http://www.peacemb.org/Stephen-Ministry)

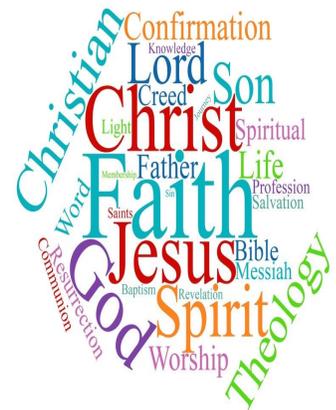
## Confirmation Notes

### Important Upcoming Dates for Peace & St. Andrew together

**Sunday, September 12th** @ 6:30 pm at Landa Park (Shelter #6)  
We begin our confirmation year by gathering together with all our confirmands and their families at Landa Park. This is an important time for us to be together, get to know one another, talk about the upcoming confirmation year, and most importantly, take a new step in our faith journeys together. We will send out a sign-up genius for the meal.

**Saturday, October 2nd**—Day retreat for confirmands and families (place TBA).

We realize that everyone is Zoomed out, but we are also facing rising Covid cases. We’ve decided to move to a retreat based model this year to maximize our time together. The plan is to have quarterly retreats, some local, some at places like Camp Chrysalis and other camps.



## Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2021

Don Hodde - President  
Lisa Harrison - Vice President  
Matthew Simmont - Secretary  
Megan Wenzel - Treasurer  
Carol Franz - Member At-Large  
Hayden Kaufman - Member At-Large  
David Thomas - Member At-Large  
Amy Tiemann - Member At-Large  
Forrest Willis - Member At-Large

Care Team - Ceretta Daum  
Fellowship Team - Becky Voges  
Finance Team - James Huston  
Outreach Team - Becky Voges  
Property Team - John Kassel  
Service Team - Nate and Brandi Raschke  
Worship Team - Judi Miller

## Noisy Offering

Peace will be collecting donations for the following Noisy Offering Sundays:



### Sunday, September 26: 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.**\*\*\*

In Person Worship Service attendees can drop off their donation at that time. Livestream 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](http://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.

## Building Renovation Update

Over the course of this past month, the building continues to be repaired and updates. The sanctuary has been completed including a new floor, paint job, and carpeting over the chancel area.

We switched our inside orientation from the sideview back to facing the cross and chancel.

Some electrical work was needed to restore power to our projectors. Within worship, we now have the full use of our media equipment.

The sound in the sanctuary has a significant reverberation due to the lack of padded absorption in the room. Our hope is that when the padded chairs are returned and banners hung, that will restore our sound quality again.

In addition to the sanctuary work, painting has been finished in the narthex. The narthex bathrooms have been retiled with a fresh new look.

New cabinets have been delivered and laid out throughout the building to go in the fellowship hall and various classrooms.

We suspect that much of the work will be accomplished in the final weeks of August and early September.

Movers are scheduled to begin unloading the pods storing the church's "stuff" on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Our building rededication is scheduled for worship on 9/12. Come celebrate the rebuilding of the church!



## Sunday Morning Music

We have created a Sign Up Genius for those who would like to volunteer on Sunday mornings with our Music Ministry.

We are in need of 2 (two) singers to lead the congregation in singing during the worship service.



We would also like to see people sign up to provide special music. This would entail preparing a special musical offering to share. This offering can be instrumental, bells, solo, duet, etc. Please provide the name of the music and all copyright information when signing up.

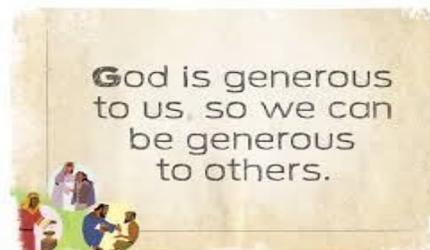
You can visit our website and click on the Sunday Morning Music Button located at the bottom of the home page or click on the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f44afa729a7f58-sunday>

**Deadline to sign up is one week before the date of your performance.**

## Giving at Peace

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.



## Finances July 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 68,816.64	\$ 27,784.68	\$ 30,641.68		\$ 65,959.64
Building Fund	\$ 50,022.35	\$ 4,760.98*	\$ 6,845.00**		\$ 47,938.33
Endowment Fund	\$ 4,200.83	\$ 219.76	\$ 0.00		\$ 4,420.59
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 160,334.34	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 160,334.34
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,778.24	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,778.73
Designated Funds	\$ 29,690.84	\$ 830.00	\$ 130.00		\$ 30,390.84
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 318,843.24</b>	<b>\$ 33,595.91</b>	<b>\$ 37,616.68</b>		<b>\$ 314,822.47</b>

\*\$4,760.98: \$100.00 - Building Fund Offerings; \$20.98 - Interest; \$4,640.00 - Flood Repair Donations

\*\*\$6,845.00: Building Improvement (Plumbing Expense)



Peace Lutheran Church  
1147 S. Walnut Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
Web address: [www.peacenb.org](http://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 Service**

Sunday  
10am Indoor Worship and  
Livestream @ Peace



Peace Lutheran Church  
1147 S. Walnut Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130