

Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
January 2022

Peace's Annual Congregational Meeting

1/30 Sunday after the 10am worship (11:30am)

- A Look Back at 2021
- Election of Council
- Budget Approval
- A Vision for 2022

Informational Meetings

1/15 9am Saturday

1/18 7pm Tuesday

Informational pre-meetings are either

January 15th or 18th to allow for questions and feedback from the congregation.

Annual reports will be available for pickup in the narthex 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting or sent out electronically



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Pastor's Message | 2 |
| Abundant Blessings | 3 |
| Deacon's Message | 4 |
| Communion Instruction | 5 |
| Mission Spotlight | 6 |
| Stephen Ministry | 7 |
| Finances | 8 |
| Lutheran Disaster Relief | 9 |



A Message from the Pastor

Is It 2022 Already?

It's hard to believe it's already the new year. If you're anything like me, you're scratching your head saying, "Where did the last two years go? Is it 2022 already?"

It feels like the pandemic has left a hazy fog in the regular rhythms of our lives, so much that time isn't as predictable as it once was. Essentially a calendared, rhythmic life allows us to predict what to expect in the future. But when that is disrupted, all of the sudden everything is thrown off kilter—including our bearing.



We thrive on patterns and routines because it allows us to plan out the way we spend our time. But oh what a mess when pesky things like pandemics and natural disasters strike.

Allow me to argue that if you're feeling like this, there's a silver lining.

For instance, all the disasters our world has faced, though terrible and trying for so many, also reveals the character of people. It is in the messiness of life in which God acts to rebuild.

The recent tornados in Kentucky illustrates that we never know when disaster can strike. But it is in the aftermath of destruction in which people emerge to bring healing and hope. The stories of rescue workers plowing through buildings to find people; of citizens banding together to rebuild their neighbors' homes; of people all over the country sending aid because somehow we are connected. We see ourselves in the shoes of those who have faced disaster and the compassion of loving our neighbor kicks in.

This is the story of God. Christmas doesn't end on December 25th. Have you heard of the twelve days of Christmas? It's the story of Immanuel which means God with us. Christmas keeps going. God continues to be with us through thick and thin. This incarnational God joins us in the vulnerability of our humanity that the world might be restored and made whole again.



We've faced our own challenges and disasters as a church, but thanks be to God for the disaster response of the faithful who rebuild in love. My hope is that as we rebuild, we not only celebrate the beauty of our new facilities and re-emerging community, but that we develop a deeper capacity for compassion rebuilding others whose lives have been devastated.

God be with you (Immanuel) in every moment of life as we seek to bring God's hope in the disaster-ridden places of life.

Peace,
Pastor Jake

Abundant Blessings

January Birthdays

02 Lynda Willis
 03 Rory Martinez
 04 Landon Garcia
 06 Hayden Kaufman
 08 Kelly Benedict
 08 Brett Kriley
 11 Elva Wenzel
 11 Michelle Rappmund
 12 Andrew More
 13 Carl Mincemoyer
 13 Nate Fain
 14 Erich Weese
 14 Mary Mielke
 14 Heather Salas
 14 Jacob Johnson
 15 Becky Perkins
 15 David Oestreich
 15 Karen Patterson
 15 Maria Haiyasoso
 18 Jean Pfluger
 20 Vicki Hillmer
 20 Trice Kastein
 20 Cody Miller
 22 Michelle Davenport
 24 Anita Hill
 25 Cody Smith
 26 Linda Lange
 26 Heidi Stone
 28 Jeannie Kawazoe
 28 Lindsay Friedrich
 29 Darcy Mittelstaedt
 30 Stephen Clark
 30 Bill Purcell
 30 Marsha Dove
 31 James Huston

Prayers

Jim Miller
 Lillie Braune
 Trice Kastein
 Lindsay Friedrich
 Martin Franz
 Ron Podojil
 Rhonda Schmidt
 Cody Smith
 Helen Probst

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the following members and their families:

- ✠ The family of O'Neal Weigelt, who passed away on November 24th
- ✠ JoAnn Schlabach at the death of her husband, Bob
- ✠ Ann Keeler at the death of her mother, Margaret Mayer
- ✠ Sharon Monson at the death of her sister, Linda Johnson
- ✠ Natanael Lizarazo Florez at the death of his niece, Jenni
- ✠ Andrew More at the death of his aunt, Liz More



Thank You

Dear Friends,
 Thank you for your support of Maya Works! Sales support the artisans and their families and promote free trade. May God bless you for your generosity.
 Sincerely,
 Gail Krueger

*I would like to say thank you for the prayers and meals when I recently broke my hand.
 Thanks again,
 Lillie Braune*

The Christmas Tea Committee would like to say thank you to the servers, Becky Voges, Jeannie Kawazoe and Pastor Shelley Simmont in making the Tea a success.

Congratulations!

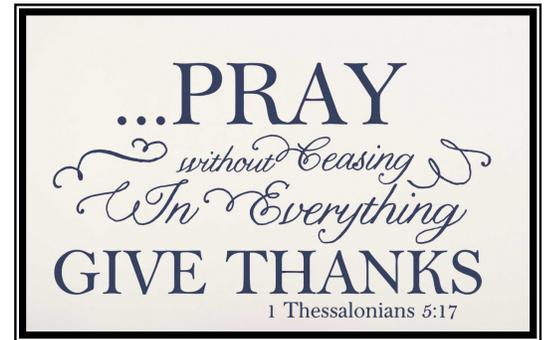
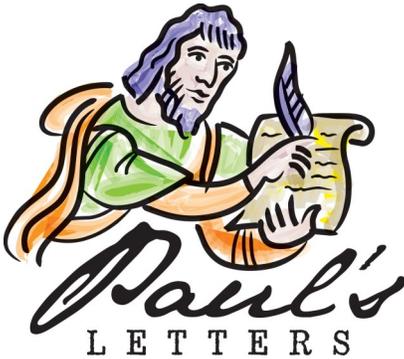
Congratulations to Ken and Nanci Witten on the birth of their grandson, Evan Wayne Nasr. Evan was born on December 13th.

January Anniversaries

Carl and Debra Mincemoyer
 January 7, 1994
 Brent and Missy Paullus
 January 11, 1992



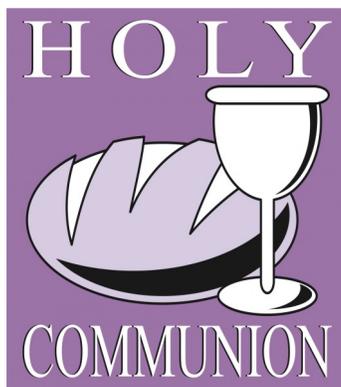
1 Thessalonians



- Length: Five chapters
- Author: This is one of the seven undisputed letters by the Apostle Paul.
- Most scholars agree that this is the earliest of any of the surviving letters we have from the Apostle Paul, written somewhere around 50 BCE.
- Recipients: Thessalonica was the capital city of the region of Macedonia, and served as a vital trade center and port city in the Roman empire. Paul founded the church in Thessalonica shortly after he left Philippi (see Acts chapter 17).
- Paul writes the letter we now call 1st Thessalonians after he had moved on to Corinth and Athens. Concerned for their development as a new congregation in his absence, Paul sent Timothy, one of his co-workers, to check on their welfare and then report back to him. This letter then is Paul's response to Timothy's report.
- Paul begins by praising the Thessalonians' steadfastness of faith despite all the pressures they faced from the non-Christian society all around them. This letter is full of words of encouragement, thanksgiving, and joy for their partnership with Paul in the ministry of the gospel.
- As was he custom, Paul first brought the message about Jesus the Messiah to the Jews in the local synagogue and then expanded his missionary ministry to the local Gentile population in the area. At one point Paul praises how these Gentile believers turned from worshipping false idols to worshipping the one true God (1 Thess. 1:9).
- Paul defends the motives and integrity of his ministry from some who were apparently suspicious of him while he was in Thessalonica. He points out that he did not come to them out of greed, deceit or selfish ambition, but rather as a pure and genuine response to Christ's commission to spread the gospel (2:3-6).
- This letter shows Paul's great affection for the Christian communities he founded. Here he uses the image of a wet-nurse who tenderly cares for her children as a metaphor for his deep caring for them (2:7-8). In a manner of speaking, since Paul was the one who first brought the message about Jesus to them, he did "give birth" to these new children in Christ. A few verses later, Paul uses a second image, the image of a concerned father, as an example of his sincere desire to encourage them in their newly developing lives of faith (2:11-12).
- In this letter, Paul praises the Thessalonians' for their faith, love, and hope (similar to 1 Cor. 13:13, but notice the different order), lifting them up as virtues by which Christians are to orient and live their lives. He also speaks of living as children of the day, living in the realization and joy of God's plan for salvation as revealed through Jesus Christ.
- There was concern among the Thessalonian Christians about the timing of Christ's return. Paul himself believed that Christ would return sooner than later, but there had already been some death's among the Thessalonian community and they were concerned about the fate of their deceased family and friends. Paul emphasized the hope of all Christian believers in Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, and reassures them that all Christians, both those who have died and those who are alive, will together experience the fullness of God's promise of eternal life (5:13-18).

Holy Communion - Conversation & Instruction

Sunday, January 9th
11:30 am—1:00 pm
Sanctuary



On **Sunday, January 9th** Pastor Jake and Deacon Andrew will lead a time of conversation and instruction about the sacrament of Holy Communion in our sanctuary from **11:30 am – 1 pm**.

We are excited to offer this for any children in our congregation who have been waiting for “First Communion” training during this Covid time. We are also opening this up to ANY of our young children and their parents who would like to learn more about this amazing gift of God’s grace, and what it means to us as a sacrament of the Church. There is no age or grade requirement – everyone is welcome! Whether your son or daughter has never tasted the bread and wine before, or has been communing for years, you all are welcome. **Lunch will be served, so please RSVP to Deacon Andrew if possible.**

Thank You Bell Ringers

Peace volunteered to serve as bell ringers for the Salvation Army in December. They cheerfully rang the bell and even provided music. Thank you to Eric, Lyndsey, Camryn, and Kadya Dickman, Martin Franz, his son, Martin, Dan Orban, Cory and Valerie Wood, Don Hodde, Kurt Andersen-Vie and Brandi Raschke. It was very cold, but a great day.



Martin, Martin Franz and Dan Orban



Don Hodde and Kurt Andersen-Vie

Mission Spotlight of the Month

Peace will be collecting donations for the following mission during January:

Sunday, January 30th: Synod Mission Endowment

The Southwestern Texas Evangelical Mission Endowment Fund supports the renewal of ministries that are struggling to engage in mission.

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 Mission Spotlight.



*****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 Mission Spotlight in the memo.**

Thank you for your continued support.

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.

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 - Brandi Raschke
 Worship Team - Judi Miller

Puzzles



How often, while you were growing up, did you put puzzles together? Even now, you may relish at dumping a box of 300 pieces or greater and feel gratitude when you put the puzzle together. I use to start with the corners and then the sides, then finally fill in the middle. Sometimes life is like a puzzle, as we balance our schedule to accomplish what we want to do by a specific date. As that date creeps closer and we wonder are we going to get everything done? I can feel

my hair turning grey just thinking about it. And then the calm comes over you as all the pieces of life come together.

From Our Daily Bread November 20, 2021, Peace in Chaos, “Psalm 121 is a reminder for us to look toward God in times of trouble. Here we can see that we can have peace and calm because our help comes from the Lord.”

From Our Daily Bread February 14, 2021, Sending Out an SOS, “Are you in a desperate situation and crying out for help? Be assured that God still hears and responds to our prayers today and takes away our fears.”

Do you feel that you are missing a couple of pieces in your life? That everything is a jumbled mess. Are you frustrated because the confusion just does not appear to have an end in sight? If you are having difficulties, talk with a Stephen Minister. They may be able to help.

For more information about how to become involved in Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, or how to get a Stephen Minister for yourself or others, talk to Pastor Jake, or contact Bill Purcell, our Referral Coordinator at 210-846-3315 or ask any of our Stephen Ministers. On Sundays, they’ll be wearing the distinctive blue Stephen Ministry name tag. You may also find this information, at how to get a Stephen Minister for yourself or others, by going to the web page at www.peacemb.org/Stephen-Ministry.

Ron Podojil,
Stephen Minister

2022 Flowers



Signing up for flowers is just a click away. We utilize a Sign Up Genius online.

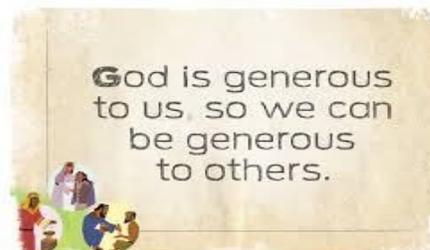
Visit the Peace website at www.peacemb.org. Scroll to the bottom and click on the Flower Button. This will take you directly to the Flower Sign Up Genius.

Please review the available slots, click on the date to sign up, then scroll to the bottom and click the Submit and Sign Up Button. Enter your dedication, name(s), and email. Click the Sign Up Button Now.

Cost of flowers is \$40.00. Make checks payable to Peace and mark "flowers" in the memo. Contact the church office if you need any assistance.

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



Finances November 2021

| FUND | BEGINNING BALANCE | INCOME | EXPENSE | TRANSFERS | ENDING BALANCE |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| General Fund | \$ 54,276.19 | \$ 25,010.61 | \$ 28,858.88 | | \$ 50,427.92 |
| Building Fund | \$ 24,218.14 | \$ 659.97* | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 24,878.11 |
| Endowment Fund | \$ 4,911.28 | \$ 151.99 | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 5,063.27 |
| Endowment Investment Fund | \$ 160,024.61 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 160,024.61 |
| Deferred Maintenance Fund | \$ 5,780.18 | \$ 0.48 | \$ 0.00 | | \$ 5,780.66 |
| Designated Funds | \$ 30,133.84 | \$ 1,098.37 | \$ 453.37 | | \$ 30,778.84 |
| Total Funds | \$ 279,344.24 | \$ 26,921.42 | \$ 29,312.25 | | \$ 276,953.41 |

*659.97: \$600.00 - Offerings; \$9.97 - Interest; \$50.00 - Flood Donations



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 Service

Sunday
10am Indoor Worship and
Livestream @ Peace

Lutheran Disaster Relief

On the night of December 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed, including a candle factory in Mayfield, Ky., where first responders are still searching for survivors. More than 330,000 people are without electricity across multiple states. The full extent of the damage is expected to become clear in the coming days.

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

For ways to offer support you may visit:

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/US-Tornadoes>

A local effort named "Kindness for Kentucky" is making strides to help. More details:

Ms. April Bruce, of New Braunfels has organized a very wide-ranging effort to collect and send disaster relief items to families in KY who were impacted by the recent tornados.

April is working with The Lions Club, The American Legion, churches, and many area companies like IBTX. A series of tornados caused in western KY resulted in one of the worst disasters in US history, and has left large numbers of residents without housing, food, and water. April is coordinating a humanitarian response and is reaching out to many businesses and local non-profits to identify trucks, drivers, donation collection stations, and storage facilities to collect and transport needed items across the U.S. to the disaster area. This list indicates the items identified as being needed the most.

Please consider collecting some of these items for possible donation.

Tarps
Hammers
Nails
OTC medicines
Vaseline
Deodorants
Masking Tape
Battery Lanterns
Batteries
Walkie Talkies (battery operated)
BP Monitors
Pulse OX Meters
Wheel chairs
New Shoes (all sizes, all genders, organized, shoelaces tied together) Workboats (all sizes, shoelaces tied together) Oxygen tanks, Work gloves (S,M,L), Headlamps, Flashlights, Portable Propane Kerosene cans, Gas/Diesel cans (both cans and pumpable containers), Extension cords, Fuel pumps for truck beds for hauling, New blankets/new pillows (not accepting used), Food pantry Toiletries, New Baby/mother items, Pet Care, Pet Food, Kennels, Home Health Equipment, Back Packs, Toys/Books, Feminine Hygiene Products, Buddy Heaters, Shovels, Bottled Water



The American Legion at 410 W. Coll St. will be accepting donations beginning Tuesday from 4-10, and on Mondays beginning December 27 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

The NB Noon Lions are also supporting this very important effort. Accepting donations at: Fastest Labs of New Braunfels (next to the new City Hall) 965 N. Walnut Ave #500A New Braunfels, TX 78130 (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm and closed 12pm-1pm for lunch.)



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