

*Peace Lutheran Church
 Newsletter
 Love God, Love People,
 and Serve the World!
 February 2022*

Wednesdays in Lent—Living Our Baptism

LIVING OUR **BAPTISM**...Five gifts of discipleship

When a baptized Christian affirms the faith (often called confirmation) the presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism and asks the question:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God’s faithful people,
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

RESPONSE: We do, and ask God to help and guide us.
 (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)

And so begins a daily claiming and re-discovering of the God-given gifts of discipleship. These gifts overlap and are intertwined as one gift flows into another and into faithful living.

Join us on Wednesdays in Lent from 6-6:30pm for a meal followed by worship at 6:30pm. You may join in-person or on our livestream.

- 3/02 Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes
- 3/09 To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper.
- 3/16 To live among God’s faithful people.
- 3/23 To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.
- 3/30 To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.
- 4/06 To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.



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A Message from the Pastor



Seismic Shifts

Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”
Matthew 27:54

There’s a few interesting occasions of earthquakes in the Bible. These moments typically bring about a couple of reactions: fear and a recognition of the divine.

When you’re witnessing the destructive power of an earthquake, you recognize how small we are and how little control we have. Therefore, it’s quite natural to turn to something much larger than we are—God.

When I was in Greece and Turkey a few months ago, we saw so many ruins. The refrain we kept hearing was that these giant monuments and architectural feats of glory all toppled at one point—usually multiple points as the ground shifted and the ruins fell. The archaeologists did their best to unearth the fallen remains and re-erect them to their original form.

These past few years have been tectonic shifts in our world. And the reality is we can build things back, but its going to look different. When the world shifts and things topple our first reaction may be to fear. What happens if all we know comes crashing down? How can we rebuild? What is the future in an uncertain world?

But it also reminds us to turn to the God of the cosmos—so much bigger than our small vision. As we rebuild, the hope is that we do not return to the way things were, rather we envision together the seismic shifts in our culture and how we might be a living church who meets the needs of the world today.

In 2021 our Church Council studied a book called [Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church](#). This book was written just before the pandemic, but the lessons are true and only exacerbated in the years that followed.



Over the next couple of months I’ll share some thoughts on these big shifts:

- 1) From Membership Identity to Discipleship Identity
- 2) From Attractional Church to Missional Church
- 3) From Consumer Church to Sacred Partnering

Each of these shifts are seismic in nature. They are not small fixes rather the toppling of a system that no longer serves the transformational gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, our reaction will likely be like the centurion and the soldiers witnessing the earthquake at the cross.

Fear of the power of the earthshattering, ground shaking beneath them. But a turn to the great proclamation—”Truly this is the Son of God!”

Peace,
Pastor Jake

Abundant Blessings

February Birthdays

03 Dave Keeler
 03 Antonio Rosales
 05 Johnana Clark
 06 Dayna Cantu
 06 Debra Ullrich
 06 Anthony Rosales
 07 Alex Keatts
 08 Lavonne Ohnheiser
 09 Pam Kurczewski
 11 M.L. Friedrich
 12 Marvin Monson
 12 Brandi Raschke
 14 John Kassel
 15 JoAnna Wold
 16 Tammy Dougherty
 23 Joe Wold
 28 Vicki Ralph
 28 Michele Kriley

February Anniversaries

Bobby and Karen Laughlin
 February 2, 1980
 Salim and Emily Khalil
 February 17, 1996

In Sympathy

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

† Lisa Harrison at the death of her mother, JoAnn Lange



Prayers

Helen Lieck
 Janice Friesenhahn
 Martin Franz
 Carol Franz
 Arlene Wold
 Charles Probst
 Helen Probst
 Jim Miller
 Lillie Braune
 Trice Kastein
 Lindsay Friedrich
 Ron Podojil
 Rhonda Schmidt
 Cody Smith
 Michael Dove

The Peace Staff Appreciates You!



Our staff at Peace wanted to express just how grateful we are for the overwhelming generosity shared with us for Christmas gifts. Never before have we received this kind of affirmation and surprise at the close of a year.

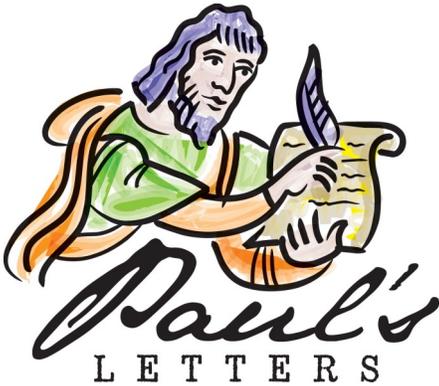
In a year that was certainly hectic and stressful, we are reminded of the deep love and many people who care for us and express their support.

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to all of you. We are so blessed to be a part of this amazing community entrusted with serving the mission of the gospel.

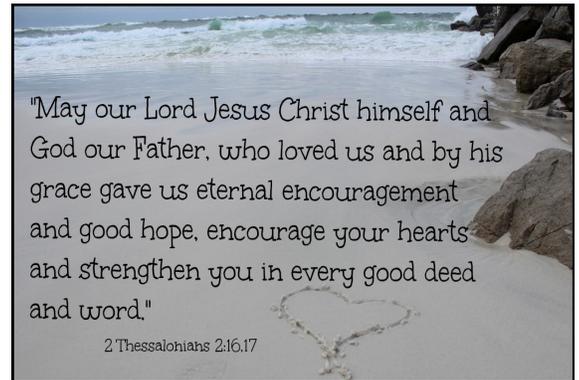
Peace, joy, and love,

Pastor Jake, Deacon Andrew, Valerie, Elizabeth, Jeannie, and Donna.

A Message from the Deacon



2 Thessalonians



- Length: Three chapters
- Author: This letter is attributed to the apostle Paul (1:1), but may actually have been written in his name by one of his co-workers such as Silvanus or Timothy at a later date. Notice that the salutation in 1:1 is the same as in 1 Thessalonians with an extended blessing of grace and peace in verse 2.
- Date: This letter appears to be written much later than 1 Thessalonians, evidenced by its concern for those Christians who were enduring ongoing hardship and suffering for their faith and also by their heightened expectation and confusion surrounding the timing of Jesus' return.
- 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).
- In 2nd Thessalonians there is a strong emphasis on the phrase "the day of the Lord". This phrase referred to the anticipated day when Jesus would return again to bring about God's final righteous judgment. Apparently there were some who were trying to argue that the day of the Lord had already arrived (2:2). Paul reminds the Thessalonian Christians of the events which must take place prior to Jesus' return, including rebellion and the revealing of Satan, (the lawless one, destined for destruction 2:3), who would then be destroyed by Christ. This is the only one of the Pauline letters that mentions this appearance of Satan as a part of coming apocalyptic events.
- One of Paul's concerns is for those Christians who were living lives of idleness, not doing any work (3:11), perhaps because they expected Jesus to show up at any minute and were just waiting for it to happen..
- Paul warns against this notion and makes it clear that Christians believers are to continue with their lives in an active, responsible, and productive manner ("Brothers and sisters, do not wearing in doing what is right" 3:13)
- This seems to be in contrast with what Paul had said in 1 Thessalonians where he encourages the believers to stay alert, warning them that the end will come like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2-6).
- As one scholar summarizes,

*"(Paul) urged his readers to keep the faith and to maintain their hope but not to expect the end of the age in the immediate future. God's plan for the end was in the process of being implemented, but believers must not be too eager, living only for tomorrow and not tending to the needs of today. They must suffer boldly and wait faithfully for the day of judgment in which their longings would be fulfilled and their afflictions vindicated."**
- Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonian believers (1:3 and 2:13), referring to them as the "first fruits for salvation", called by God through the work of the Holy Spirit (2:13-14).
- He prays for them, for strength, comfort, and steadfastness. Paul also asks for prayers for his own ministry of spreading the gospel that God's word would spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere (3:1).

* Bart D. Ehrman, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings* (Oxford Press, 2000, p.346)

Peace Church App Launch & Tutorial Party!

**Sunday, February 27th
Following Worship**

It's a party! Bring your cell phone or tablet and please plan to join us on Sunday, February 27th either in-person in the Fellowship Hall or via livestream following our morning worship.

We are excited to announce that Peace is launching a new app designed to help keep you connected to our community and to encourage and equip you on your daily faith walk. Now, wherever you go, we are only a tap on your smartphone or tablet away. Think of it as a faith pit stop you can pull into anytime for inspiration, prayer, time with God's Word, and lots of ways to connect with the ministries of our congregation.

The Fellowship Ministry Team is hosting a potluck lunch that day for those joining us in person. The team will provide the meat and drinks. They ask that those attending the party bring a side dish or dessert to share.

For those joining us by livestream, we have set up a [Zoom Link](#) so you can join the party too! You are welcome to grab lunch at home and then listen and watch along with us as we walk everyone step-by-step through the process of downloading, installing, and using the new Peace church app. We pray that this will be a helpful tool to add to your faith toolbox, and become a regular part of your day!

Meeting ID: 894 7290 3587



Financial Peace University

Peace Lutheran Church will host a 9-week course from Dave Ramsey titled Financial Peace University, starting Tuesday, February 1st. We will meet in person every Tuesday (except for March 15—spring break week) at 7:00 pm through April 5, 2022 at Peace Lutheran Church, 1147 S. Walnut Avenue, New Braunfels, Texas 78130.



This is an excellent interactive class to get you started on your way to financial stability and freedom! For more information, contact the church office at 830-620-0618 or by email at office@peacemb.org. Sign up today at fpu.com/1141628

Mission Spotlight of the Month

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

Sunday, February 27th: Meals on Wheels (contracted by the Comal County Senior Citizens Foundation).



The *Comal County Senior Citizens Foundation* is the only contracted organization that serves *Meals on Wheels* to our community of Comal, Guadalupe as well as Karnes and Wilson Counties. Meals are either dropped off to individuals houses or can be picked up at the *Comal County Senior Center*. In 2020, they served over 1,300 seniors and disabled adults over 122,000 meals! More information and ways to give your time will be shared during Sunday's Temple Talk.

deliver a difference 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, peacemb.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!
Brandi Raschke

Overwhelmed



How often do we get overwhelmed in our daily lives? From “Isaiah 30:15-18, we find that God helps during our struggles. From “Our Daily Bread”; December 7: “The Perfect Name”, waiting for God’s help in the midst of trouble can be very tempting to find our own solution first. The Israelites did just that. Undertreat from their enemies they sought help from Egypt instead of turning to God. But God told them that if they would repent and put their trust in God, they would find strength and salvation. (V15) In fact he added “the Lord longs to be gracious to you”. (v18). Stuff just seems

to happen. Then there is something new that we need to deal with. It always appears to be the darkness before the dawn. God promises that if we trust in him we will do alright. How often as we get closer to a big event do we ask ourselves is everything going to come together. From “Our Daily Bread”; December 7: “The Perfect Name”, in Isaiah vs 7:14 “therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The young women pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel”. Isaiah’s sign seeks to reassure Ahaz that he need not fear the problems. The Lord has shined on us and blessed us. In Isaiah he gave a Savior named Emmanuel.

I have counted myself blessed several times. First when received a Christmas card from a young lady in Connecticut when I was in Vietnam and most recently with my recent diagnosis; I was afraid that the treatment would not get completed, but it all came together. I am thankful for the friends we have here at Peace, and I am thankful for their prayers. From “Our Daily Bread”; December 24: “The Prince of Peace”, when John's cold turned into pneumonia, he ended up in a hospital. His mom was being treated for cancer a few floors above him, and he felt overwhelmed with worries about her health, and his own. Then on the radio he heard “Oh Holy Night”. John was flooded with a deep sense of peace. He listened to the words about our dear savior’s birth. "A thrill of hope that a weary soul rejoices for younger breaks a new and glorious morn." In that moment, his worries about himself and his mother vanished. This “dear savior” born to us as is Jesus, is the “Prince of Peace:.

(Isaiah 9:6) as Isaiah prophesied (Isaiah 9.6) Jesus fulfilled this when he came to earth as a baby, bringing light and salvation to those of the shadow death”. There in the hospital, John experienced the peace that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7) as he pondered the birth of Jesus.

Are you experiencing difficult times in life? Do you need some help? A Stephen Minister may be able to help. Stephen Ministers are trained to give one on one Christian caring. Contact Pastor Jake, or Bill Purcell, our Referral Coordinator at 210-846-3315 or any of the Stephen Ministers. They will be wearing a blue name badge on Sundays. For more information about Stephen Ministry at Peace Lutheran Church, see the web pages 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.

Narcotics Anonymous

We welcome a new group using our facilities and give thanks God has given us a place to provide respite and healing for folks.

Narcotics Anonymous is an open meeting 12-step program that encourages people to work through addiction and find community support.

They will be meeting in the Peace Fellowship Hall every Tuesday from 6:30pm-8:30pm. May God bless their ministry of healing and support.

Part of our goals is to make sure the space God has given us is used as much as possible to bless the community. We look forward to this new partnership and welcoming our brothers and sisters in Christ.



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.

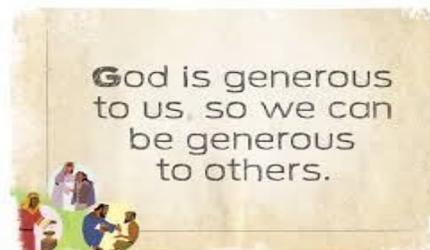
Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2021

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

Fellowship Team - Becky Voges
 Finance Team - James Huston
 Outreach Team - Becky Voges
 Property Team - John Kassel
 Service Team - Brandi Raschke
 Worship Team - Kathi Anderson

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 December 2021

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 50,427.92	\$ 46,549.92	\$ 39,504.48		\$ 57,473.36
Building Fund	\$ 24,878.11	\$ 11,300.23*	\$ 13,193.53**		\$ 22,984.81
Endowment Fund	\$ 5,063.27	\$ 147.09	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,210.36
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 160,024.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 160,024.61
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,780.66	\$ 0.49	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,781.15
Designated Funds	\$ 30,778.84	\$ 1,495.00	\$ 1,363.75		\$ 30,910.09
Total Funds	\$ 276,953.41	\$ 59,492.73	\$ 54,061.76		\$ 282,384.38

*11,300.23: \$175.00 - Offerings; \$11.70 - Interest; \$50.00 - Flood Donations;
\$11,063.53 - Insurance Check

**\$13,193.53: \$11,063.53 - Insurance Payment for final cleaning and moving back into the facilities;
\$2,130.00 - Plumbing



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



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