

He is Risen

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

HOLY WEEK



**Palm
Sunday**
April 10



**Maundy
Thursday**
April 14



**Good
Friday**
April 15



**Easter
Vigil**
April 16



**Easter
Sunday**
April 17

4/10 Palm/Passion Sunday — Join us @ 10:00 am to enter the story of Jesus' final week beginning with the triumphal entry and the waving of Palms

4/14 Maundy Thursday — Join us @ 6:30 pm for a Seder Meal remembering Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

4/15 Good Friday — Join us @ 12:00 pm or 6:30 pm for Jesus' death on the cross

4/16 Easter Vigil — Join us @ St. John's Episcopal Church at 8:00 pm in a service of light in expectation of dawn of Easter morn

4/17 Easter — Join us @ 8:00 am or 10:00 am for the joy of Christ's resurrection and Jesus' victory over death



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	2
Abundant Blessings	3
Family Promise	4
Easter Happenings	5
Peace Day Trippers	6
Mission Spotlight	7
Deacon's Desk	8
Music Ministry	10
Finances	11



A Message from the Pastor

From Member Identity to Discipleship Identity

For the next few months we are looking at Mark Tidsworth's book, [Shift: Three Big Moves for the 21st Century Church](#).

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 states the mission of God's church as Jesus says, "19Go therefore and make *members* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Did you catch the word that doesn't belong?

Yea, it's not members; it's disciples.

The first big shift in the church of today is to move away from the membership identity and embrace Jesus' discipleship identity.

In the post WWII era, we built things—really big things. There seemed like no limit to our building projects. Churches flocked with people to these buildings. We built organizational charts and programs to develop church. We created a place where people wanted to be members. It worked for a time.

But as we entered into the post-modern era. We have a lot of buildings with fewer and fewer people inhabiting them.

Membership became an organizational term which included rights and benefits. Members can opt in and opt out of things if they so choose.

Jesus didn't create that church. We did.

Jesus called the church to be disciples, people who followed him and his way of the cross and self-sacrificial love.

The church wasn't meant to be a place that merely instilled beliefs and propositions. Rather, it is a way of life to follow the Lord each and every day accompanied by a community walking together in faith and action to promote the good news of Jesus' redemptive and transformative love. This is a daily discipleship. All the that baptismal identity stuff as we drown the old self in the water and arise made new in Christ each time we go back to the font.

How do we move in this direction?

If our ultimate goal to get people to church, we've embraced the old model that is dying. Bad news. That's not going to work anymore. And we'll see the trend of the church smaller and smaller.

But there's also really good news. When we embrace discipleship as partnering with God and one another to discern where the Spirit is moving and how we can follow, we begin to move and be moved inward and outward to participate with God in union and in mission.

This requires not merely a sales pitch, but a way of life and spiritual practices that position us to follow God's way.

It requires deep, intentional listening to God and the needs of the community around us in which the church is called to serve.

It requires leaning into the reality that church is hard not easy. Following someone else's will and humble submission means imitating Jesus' sacrificial love instead of living on our own terms.

It means asking what can I give and in so doing receive the gift of true discipleship.

It is spiritual renewal in which the word is hungry for and we are called to go and make disciples in that Great Commission.

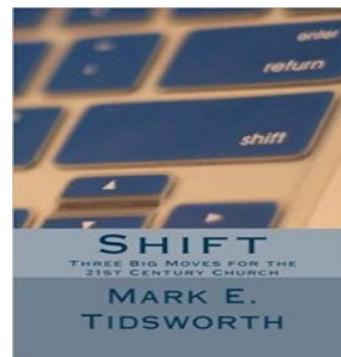
How are you a disciple of Jesus?

Do you make special time for God to listen? To your neighbors?

Have you been caught up in the trap of membership thinking?

What would it take to move one step closer to your walk with the Lord?

If you ever need to talk, please reach out to me. Part of the pastoral role is not to have all the answers, rather to accompany you on the discipleship walk with Jesus.



**Peace,
Pastor Jake**

Abundant Blessings

April Birthdays

02 Alvin Bravenec
 04 Bruce Thatcher
 04 Kathy Mosher
 04 Missy Paullus
 05 Debbie Bell
 07 Terry Westerman
 08 Lisa Harrison
 09 Emma Fain
 12 Christopher Briner
 14 Ann Keeler
 15 Jackson Anderson
 16 Vicky Roda
 16 Jane Moeller
 16 Ruben Butrico
 17 Jace Kaufman
 18 Matt Tippens
 21 Dennis Tumlinson
 24 Hunter Grimsley
 25 Courtney Peebles
 25 Lukas Tippens
 26 Bradley Thomas
 26 Alise Davenport
 27 Camryn Wilkie-Dickman
 28 Marlene Karabinus
 29 Brandie Luce
 30 Xander Khalil

April Anniversaries

John and Patti Kassel
 April 7, 2001
 Brody and Shannon Johnson
 April 22, 2000
 James and Brandy Huston
 April 24, 2004
 Jim and Beverly Giacoletti
 April 27, 1984

In Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers go out to following:

- † Theresa Stanley and her family at the death of her mother-in-law, Edith Stanley.
- † Ellie Woytek and her family at the death of her brother, Roger Hogan.
- † Fritz Friesenhahn and his family at the death of his wife, Janice Friesenhahn.



Thank You

Dear Peace Family,
 Thank you for all of your cards and prayers you sent at the passing of my brother, Roger Hogan. You have brought great comfort to me and my family. Ellie Woytek

*Dear Martha and the "Mat Ministry" Team,
 Thank you so much for donating your time, talent and treasure in creating such beautiful and useful sleeping mats which have improved the lives of many. We at Steve's Pantry are so appreciative of your dedicated service and care for the homeless. God bless you for your kindness, talent and outreach to those in our community who are often underserved and overlooked. You have helped us be the hands and feet of Jesus.
 Blessing upon blessings,
 The Volunteers at Steve's Pantry*

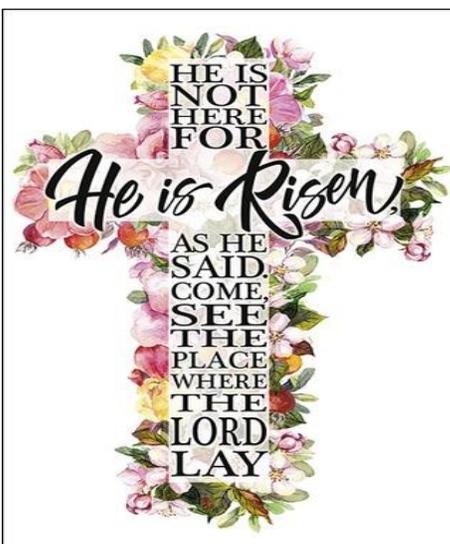
Prayers

Margo Woollven
 Larry Kastein
 Larry Crowell
 Martin Franz
 Helen Probst
 Trice Kastein
 Lindsay Friedrich
 Ron Podojil
 Rhonda Schmidt
 Cody Smith
 Michael Dove

Peace Prayer Ministry

Just a reminder that Prayer requests can be called in to the church office or sent directly to beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

Requests are sent within hours of being received and are prayed for every Monday morning (9:00 a.m.) during our Sweet Hour of Prayer time.



Yard Sale



Saturday, April 2nd
8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We are having a Yard Sale on the front lawn of the church. We will be raising funds for our Live Nativity that is held every December. Please save your treasures for us and bring them to the church. We will pick up large items, if needed. For more information, please contact Becky Voges at 625-1666.

Family Promise



Call for Volunteers - Peace Host Week: *Family Promise of Greater New Braunfels*

Peace Lutheran is on the rotation to host families in late April. *Family Promise's* mission is to help families with children facing homelessness achieve and sustain independence. Families move to a new congregation each week in which they are hosted as guests. Congregations provide shelter, meals, and community for the families in the evenings.

Volunteer Sign-Up sheets will be out in the Narthex starting **Sunday, March 20th**.

Temple Talk/Mission Spotlight will provide more information on **Sunday, March 27th**.

Training for Volunteers will be held after church on **Sunday, April 3rd**.

Host Week of April 24th: we will need daily volunteers for the following:

Serve as overnight hosts

Help with the afternoon/evening set up, clean up, and engagement with families

Support meal preparation, cooking, and serving

Not able to volunteer? We will also need donations of snacks and breakfast items as well as donations of 15-20 Bath Towels. Please reach out to Brandi Raschke for more information at brandileighr@outlook.com.

Thank you!
 Brandi Raschke

Seder Worship



Join us on **Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 pm** for a special Seder Worship Service including a Seder Supper. We will discover the Jewish Roots of Jesus and Christianity while remembering Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. All are welcome. To assist us in preparation, we will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you are unable to sign up in person, call or text Kathi Anderson at 210-643-8855 and she will add you to the list.

Easter Prayer Vigil

April 15, 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.

Members of the congregation are invited to leave prayer requests at the church office or in the wooden box on the table in the Narthex. Prayer requests will also be accepted from the Prayer Wall on our Peace App.



There is also a sign-up sheet on the table for persons willing to take a 1 hour shift to pray. A list of members and their concerns will be given to each person taking a Prayer Vigil Shift.

Easter Breakfast



Members of the Fellowship Ministry Team will be preparing a full breakfast on Easter Sunday, **April 17th**.

Breakfast will be served between the 8:00 am and 10:00 am worship services.

Please join them for a delicious meal and great fellowship.

Peace Day Trippers

SAY CHEESE! The Peace Day Trippers are going to visit and tour the River Whey Creamery in Schertz on **Thursday, April 21!** River Whey cheeses have been in production since October 2014 and are available at HEB Central Markets and Whole Foods Markets all across Texas. This homegrown company says, "We believe in great Texas dirt which makes great Texas grass and great Texas milk. It's our job to turn that into great Texas cheese. We are not just farm to table, but Earth to Soul with a true belief in sustainability and transparency."



The tour cost is \$20 per person, and **we are limited to twenty people**. We will be divided into two groups and will see the creamery production and pack and ship areas. We will also learn about the company and their interesting story and will see their state-of-the-art cave system where certain cheeses are aged. After the tour, we will be offered cheese samples for tasting.

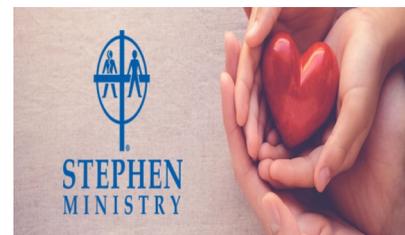
We will meet at the church at 9:15 am to carpool to the Creamery. Or, if you prefer, meet us at the Creamery at 9:45 am for the 10:00 am tour. Their address is 17361 Bell North Drive, Schertz 78154. We will have the option of meeting back in New Braunfels for lunch and more fellowship!

Contact Becky Voges at 830-587-4003 to reserve your spot **no later than Monday, April 18**. Remember, there are only 20 spaces available!

Stephen Ministry

Building a New World

Reading the newspaper this morning there were multiple articles where people were trying to assign blame for our current world situation (it all depends on who is on your list). In today's article from: "Our Daily Bread" entitled "Thanks but no Thanks", a Christian school for autistic children in India had received a big donation from a corporation. After checking to see what was expected from the school if they accepted the money, the school found out that the corporation wanted to have a seat on the school board. At this point the school did not accept the money. They did not want the values of the school to be compromised. The previous narratives found in the books of Kings, and Chronicles describe the conditions that led to the of Judah being given over to the discipline of exile in Babylon



There are many reasons to decline help. When the exiled Jews returned to Jerusalem, King Cyrus commissioned them to rebuild the broken-down temple that was left in ruins. (Ezra 3) When their neighbors said "let us help you build, like you, we seek your God". The leaders of Israel declined. They were concerned that by accepting the offer of help, the integrity of the project might have been compromised and Idolatry could have crept into their community. The Israelites made the right decision, as their "neighbors" then did all they could to discourage the building. The book of Esther gives a view of what was happening among the Jews who'd remained behind in the land of captivity, with each book describes circumstances filled with challenges and struggles.

From Daily Devotional "I Hear His Whisper", March 17, "you are a carrier of hope". Give me your heart seek me with greater passion and leave worry to fend for itself. The more you find rest in my heart, the greater your ability to trust me, but in my presence, you'll discover my kindness comforting you.

Those who are experiencing difficulties, overwhelmed or preoccupied with "unpleasant news", contact the church or a Stephen Minister. 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.peacenb.org/Stephen-Ministry
Ron Podojil, Stephen Minister

Mission Spotlight of the Month

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



Peace Lutheran April 2022 Mission Spotlight: Habitat for Humanity: Sunday, April 24th

Comal County Habitat for Humanity's Mission: "Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." The need for their work "will only increase as housing prices continue to creep (and sometimes leap) higher. In 2019 CCHFH saw an increased need for assistance with affordable home repairs for low income families." With support from the community, they expanded their services to include "repairs for deteriorating homes, allowing more of our neighbors to live in safe, decent shelter."

There are many ways to show your support:

- Volunteering at a worksite
- Volunteering at the ReStore
- Shopping at the Habitat ReStore
- Donating household items to the ReStore

"Lending a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out"

<https://www.comalhabitat.org/>



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



Peace Day Trippers enjoying a delicious meal at Clear Springs Café on St. Paddy's Day!

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

Language Matters



Words are important. They are a wonderful tool in our communication with others. We use words to communicate information, and to express our ideas, thoughts, feelings, questions, opinions, and beliefs. The words we choose to use in our communications with others matter. Words carry within them meaning and reflect our understanding and perspective on the world.

Sometimes words communicate things that we don't even realize or intend, especially if they are words that we've used for most of our lives without really considering what they are saying. I'd like us to reconsider three phrases of words that we frequently use in describing our faith life and relationships, and present some alternatives to those words that might be more effective, beneficial, and meaningful in communicating who we are as Christians.

Have you ever used one or more of these sentences when you are communicating with another person?

“I'm a **member** of _____ church”

“I **go to** _____ church”

“I **belong to** _____ church”

I know I have used variations of all three of these sentences throughout my life, some quite frequently! They are almost automatic. On the surface, these words are quite harmless, and are commonly accepted in our culture as useful ways of describing our connection to the church. But these words are also potentially problematic because of how they limit our Christian identity, even without us realizing it.

Let me offer three alternatives to these sentences. Consider if and how the change in wording changes for you what these sentences are saying about you and about the church.

“I am a member of _____ church” ==> “I am a **disciple of Jesus Christ**”

“I go to _____ church” ==> “I am (we are) **the church**”

“I belong to _____ church” ==> “I **belong to God**”

Can you sense a difference in how this second set of sentences more accurately reflects our Christian identity?

I'd like to offer a challenge to all of us here. **Try to refrain from using the language of the first set of sentences for one month.** See if you can eliminate words like “member”, “membership”, and “going to” or “belonging to” a specific church. Its harder than it might sound! Can you do it?

But Deacon Andrew, if someone asks me about my faith life, what are some alternative words I could use?

Great question! In addition to the three sentences above, here are some other words/phrases you might try:

- *I worship at _____*
- *I serve alongside the people of _____*
- *I'm part of the community/congregation at _____*
- *Member ==> Ministry partner*

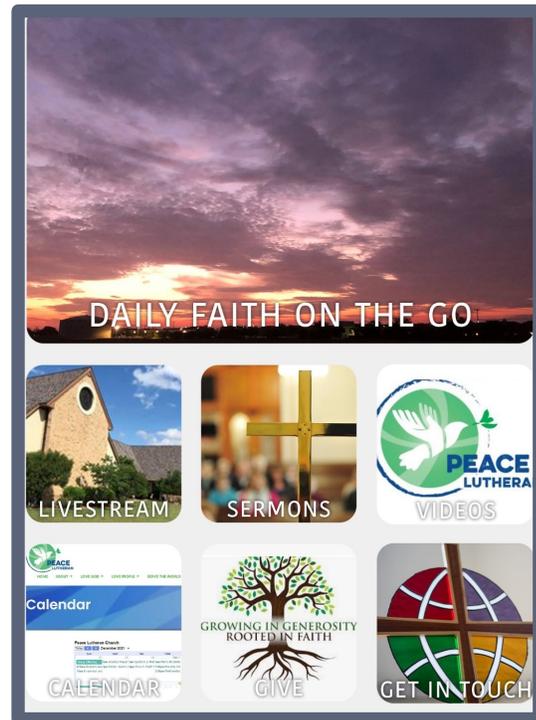
Trust me, I know it will probably feel awkward and cumbersome in conversation, especially at first. Like any new skill, it takes practice. But changing our language can open up a whole new insight into our true identity as disciples of Jesus, and give us a renewed sense of partnership and mission in the world.

From the Desk of Deacon Andrew

Peace Church App

We have launched our Peace Church App! Our hope is that you will find this a very useful resource for your daily faith journey. The app is filled with many features designed to encourage you, inspire you, and keep you connected to our Peace community. One of the main features, our “Daily Faith On The Go” will have short video devotionals from Pastor Jake, Pastor Paul, Deacon Andrew as well as lots of folks from both Peace and St. Andrew (maybe you, too). The app is filled with lots of other useful features, and will continue to grow! Here are the basic steps to download our app:

- Go to your device’s app store (Google Play/ iOS App Store)
- Search “Church App—Tithe.ly”
- Make sure to select the black/blue church app icon. It will look like this:
- Once the church app is downloaded, open the app and search for Peace Lutheran Church by name, local search or zip code.
- The app may ask for permission for your device’s location
- Select the icon for Peace Lutheran Church, That’s all there is to it!
- We recommend saving the app to your device’s home screen for easy use.



Save the Date!



Summer VBS Day Camp Is Coming!

Monday, June 20th - Friday, June 23rd
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
At Peace Lutheran Church

All children who have completed Kindergarten—5th grade are invited to join us for a fun week of VBS adventures, led by the camp staff from Camp Lutherhill. Registration will open at the end of April. Friends are welcome and this is open to the community. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Deacon Andrew.

Young Family Easter Celebration

Saturday, April 16th
10:30 am - Noon

Children of all ages are invited to join us at the church for a morning of activities, games, music, and crafts. Rather than having an Easter Egg Hunt this year (there are tons of those out there now), we are going to have a very special treat—a live butterfly release!



The butterfly is often used as a symbol for Christ’s death and resurrection—a perfect image for our preparation for Easter Sunday the following day!

St. Baldrick's Fundraiser



What an amazing event last month at the St. Baldrick Fundraiser.

Pastor Jake, Brody Johnson, and Martin Franz all got up on stage at the Freiheit Country Store and shaved their heads to raise funds and awareness to combat childhood cancer.

Thank you to all the generous donors. We were able to raise \$2300, and the grand total of the event raised \$32,700!

<https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/1092339/2022>



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 our performance.

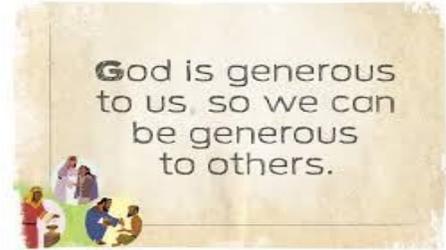
Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2022

Don Hodde - President
 Carol Franz - Vice President
 Matthew Simmont - Secretary
 Megan Wenzel - Treasurer
 Lisa Harrison - Member At-Large
 Vicki Hillmer - Member At-Large
 David Thomas - Member At-Large
 Forrest Willis - Member At-Large

Fellowship Team - Becky Voges
 Finance Team - James Huston
 Outreach Team - Open
 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 February 2022

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 68,191.59	\$ 21,223.28	\$ 34,981.31	\$ 20,300.00*	\$ 74,733.56
Building Fund	\$ 23,165.22	\$ 175.87	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,973.12**	\$ 29,314.21
Endowment Fund	\$ 5,367.51	\$ 222.03	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,589.54
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 165,944.88	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 26,273.12***	\$ 139,671.76
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,781.64	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,782.08
Designated Funds	\$ 31,932.58	\$ 1,167.74	\$ 749.49		\$ 32,350.83
Total Funds	\$ 300,383.42	\$ 22,789.36	\$ 35,730.80		\$ 287,441.98

*\$20,300.00 - Money approved by Church Council to transfer from Endowment Investment Fund

**\$5,973.12 - Money approved by Church Council to transfer from Endowment Investment Fund

***\$26,273.12 - Money approved by Church Council to transfer from the Endowment Investment Fund to the General Fund and the Building Fund



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



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.

New Braunfels, TX 78130