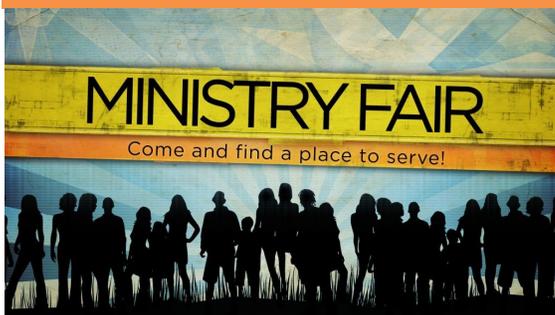


**Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
September 2022**

Ministry Fair



As Peace Lutheran Church we are called to love God, love people and serve the world.

We do this in a variety of ways as we seek to live this out as a beacon of light to our greater community.

On **September 11th**, the church will host a Ministry Fair featuring the various ways we might live into this mission.

Sunday morning is a wonderful time to come and be renewed and praise God in worship. However, being a follower of Jesus means we live this out every single day. This Ministry Fair is meant to both give you an overview of a holistic life of faith, and to provide on-ramps so that you can use the gifts God has shared in glory and service to the Lord.

This special Sunday will begin with worship highlighting the ways we serve the Lord and how the Spirit leads us. After worship, we gather for the Ministry Fair in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall where booths will be set up for you to see and hear the host of ministry opportunities in which you can serve.

In addition, Mediterranean food will be provided in a cocktail party style for you to eat and visit with our ministry teams. The special food is a teaser to prepare for the following week's Journey with Paul series.



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A Message from the Pastor

Journey with Paul

“Go, for he is a chosen vessel of mine, to bear my name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel, ... For I will show him many things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”
Acts 9:15-16

It can be reasonably argued no other human being apart from Jesus himself, has had a greater impact on the world than the Apostle Paul.

Thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament are attributed to him, and one half of the Acts of the Apostles centers on his story.



Today, one-third of the world’s population look to his writings for spiritual direction and ethical guidance.

Paul, however, is a complex figure. Originally a persecutor of the early Christian movement, his spiritual encounter with Jesus transformed his life into the instrument of God’s mission to the world. Dedicating his life to following this resurrected Lord, Paul journeyed across land and sea to build communities and share the gospel message to the far reaches of the known world.

This Fall, you are invited to journey with Paul to experience the depth of faith and the missionary call we all have to both be transformed and to transform the world through the gospel of Jesus.

Each week we will walk in Paul’s footsteps as we seek to hear that voice of Jesus calling us to be in mission with him.



- 9/18 Called to Follow Christ
- 9/25 Called to the Gentiles
- 10/2 Bring Back the Table
- 10/9 Paul’s First Missionary Journey
- 10/16 Paul’s Second Missionary Journey
- 10/23 Paul’s Third Missionary Journey
- 10/30 Paul’s Final Years

In conjunction with this special worship series, I will offer a conversational Bible Study each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall from 8:45 am - 9:30 am. Study guides will be shared weekly on the e-blast and website if you would like to host your own study or use for personal devotions.

Peace,
Pastor Jake



Abundant Blessings

September Birthdays

05	Mary Sweet
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	Bodie Henderson
21	Michael McClintock
24	Carol Thatcher
25	Ellie Woytek
27	Peggy Stone Cheek
28	Kadyn Wilkie-Dickman
29	Margo Woollven
29	Josephine Peebles
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
Thomas and Cheryl Braaten
September 11, 1971
Forrest and Lynda Willis
September 13, 1986
Ray and Kristan Martinez
September 14, 2013
Nate and Brandi Raschke
September 17, 2016
Alan Ramirez and
Tammy Dougherty
September 29, 2012
Michael and Megan Wenzel
September 29, 2018

Prayers

Dennis Tumlinson
Charles Probst
Fritz Friesenhahn
Sharon Podojil
Earl Blaschke
Art Woytek
John Claycomb
Margo Woollven
Arlene Wold
Martin Franz
Helen Probst
Trice Kastein
Lindsay Friedrich
Ron Podojil
Cody Smith

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.

Office Hours

Our Peace office hours have been updated.

Monday - Thursday 8:00am - 3:00pm

Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm

Elizabeth Hoenemeyer and Valerie Wood continue to do stellar work in the office and keep things moving.

If you need assistance, feel free to contact them

Elizabeth: office@peacenb.org
Valerie: valerie@peacenb.org
830-620-0618



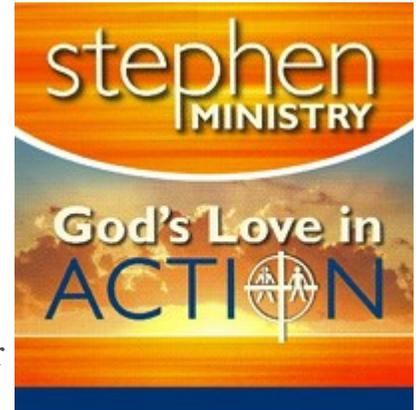
Congratulations!

Congratulations to Michele Bauman on the birth of her new granddaughter. Rose Bauman was born on August 4th, weighing 6 pounds, 8 ounces. Parents are Michael and Rachel Bauman and big sister, Elora.



Stephen Ministry

Our Stephen Series, for which Peace will begin training in January, benefits many others besides those who *receive* the care of their Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers grow greatly as they learn about helping others—and they learn about themselves. As the hurting members of our congregation grow stronger through this caring ministry, the whole church is built up and made stronger. And, of course, we all can have the knowledge that when the pains of life come our way, someone will always be there, ready to care for us, to bring God’s love to us in a special, personal way. Perhaps God is calling you to be one of these caring, committed servants who offer Christ’s love to those who are hurting.



Stephen Minister training is an engaging, energizing experience that features a mixture of presentation, video, group discussion, skill practice, and spiritual growth activities. Since 1975, more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been equipped by this training to provide care to millions of people.

Stephen Minister training . . .

- teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others.
- gives you new insight into the thoughts, feelings, and actions of people who are hurting.
- equips you with relational and caring skills you can apply to all aspects of your life.
- helps deepen your faith as the Holy Spirit fashions you into a Christ-centered caregiver.
- builds a special bond of Christian community and camaraderie among all those in your class.
- is highly interactive, engaging, and a lot of fun!



Stephen Ministry

Not everyone elects to become an active Stephen Minister following training. Those who do will be commissioned through Peace to help others who are experiencing a traumatic time in their lives. Even those who do not become active Stephen Ministers will gain insights that will benefit them throughout their lives. Here are a few thoughts from people who have gone through this training in the past.

“Stephen Minister training has helped me grow—personally, spiritually, and professionally. I use my Stephen Minister skills all the time with patients, peers, and physicians.”

Anna | Registered Nurse | Hendersonville, Tennessee

“Stephen Minister training has enhanced every relationship I have. Now I can listen and be there without feeling like I need to rush in and try to fix things. (My 15-year-old finds this a great blessing!) I’m much more at peace in difficult situations because I realize that it’s not me—but Christ within me—who does the work.”

Susan | Licensed Massage Therapist | Saint Petersburg, Florida

“Stephen Minister training has given me skills I use all the time with my patients, particularly when they experience a crisis, large or small. It enables me to provide a level of emotional care that enhances our clinical care.”

Barbara | Dental Hygienist | Saginaw, Michigan

“Stephen Minister training has helped me relate better to family, friends, neighbors—everyone I meet!”

Maria | Mother | Ridgefield, Connecticut

Isaiah 58:10-11 says “If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.” Throughout the Good News Jesus tells us to help one another, especially in troubled times. Is God calling you to help others?

Bill Purcell
Stephen Minister

September Mission Spotlight



Since 2014, the Big Serve has been New Braunfels' annual unifying city-wide Volunteer Day.

Peace Lutheran has been involved with the **Big Serve volunteer event** since its inception and look forward to continuing our engagement the weekend of **October 8th and 9th**. Our congregation will participate in 2 major volunteer projects as well as 1 donation initiative. Projects will go live in September, so be on the lookout in our weekly E-Blast,

Facebook, and church announcements on how to get involved.

Click the link below for more information about the event. *The ServeSpot website is a resource worth bookmarking* with year-round volunteer opportunities, a directory of local non-profit organizations, and much more.

<https://volunteer.servespot.org/bigserve2022>



Thank you! Service Ministry Team

MAKE A *difference*

2022 ELCA churchwide Assembly and Updates from the Southwestern Texas Synod

August 8-12

This week voting members from all over the country have convened for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, working diligently to decide some of the details of our denomination's future.

Wednesday

Wednesday of the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was focused heavily on Native American and Indigenous perspectives, including the wearing of red to honor and recognize missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, a worship service led by indigenous Lutherans, and several speakers, including our synod's very own Vance Blackfox, ELCA Director of Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, as well as Fawn Sharp, President of the National Congress of American Indians. There was also a recognition of the life of Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo, the first Native American woman ordained in the Lutheran Church. The assembly also heard the reports of the Presiding Bishop, Vice President of the ELCA, and Secretary of the ELCA which addressed the denomination's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the actions brought forward by the church council to the assembly, and what it might look like to reconstitute the ELCA. The presidents of the ELCA colleges and universities were also welcomed and conducted the college corporation meetings of three ELCA colleges and universities.

Wednesday's business included a vote on a memorial to advance salary equity:

- **"Memorial A6 – Advance Salary Equity:** Calls on (774-46) the Church Council to consider commissioning a study of pay gaps among ELCA rostered ministers and to share the findings throughout the church. The adopted memorial also encourages Portico Benefit Services and the churchwide organization to revise bylaws and privacy policies to facilitate deeper understanding of compensation patterns among rostered ministers and calls for an update to compensation-related questions in the Rostered Minister Profile." Read more about Wednesday's happenings [here](#).

Thursday

On Thursday the assembly was invited to participate in "Thursdays in Black," a campaign towards a world without rape or violence led by the World Council of Churches. Several important business items were also conducted including the adoption of the following memorials:

- **"Memorial A8 – Land Back:** Calls for (737-65) ELCA ministries and partners to engage in deeper collaboration with Indigenous partners, including incorporating land acknowledgments as part of public gatherings, exploring the creation of restorative justice programs, and studying funding needs and sources for ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries.
- **Memorial B8 – Separation Agreements:** Affirms (721-79) a churchwide organization commitment to limit the use of nondisclosure provisions and to urge other expressions and partners of the ELCA to also limit the use of nondisclosure agreements, including as a matter of course or in termination of calls of rostered ministers.
- **Memorial A14 – Roe v. Wade:** Encouraged (776-27) support and prayer for people affected by the overturning of Roe v. Wade, including rostered ministers and lay staff at congregations and social ministry organizations. It also called for conversation on the church's teaching on abortion and related topics, as well as synodical reviews of the impacts that overturning Roe v. Wade and other related local rulings may have on pastoral counseling and the pastor-client relationship."

continued on page 8

2022 ELCA churchwide Assembly and Updates from the Southwestern Texas Synod

The assembly received the report of the Conference of Bishops and voting members also discussed and acted on several proposed amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and approved (708-93) a motion that authorizes a possible revision of the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” that will reconsider the church’s current concept of the four positions of bound conscience.

Thursday's highlight will have been the election of the [new Vice President of the ELCA, Imran Siddiqui](#), to a six year term. Mr. Siddiqui follows the interim Vice Presidency of Mr. Carlos Pena following the unexpected death of Vice President Mr. Bill Horne in 2021. Mr. Horne's life was recognized earlier in the assembly.

Thursday afternoon also featured the greetings of several of our ecumenical and interreligious partners as well as the announcement of our full communion partnership with the Anglican Church of Canada, completing what they have coined "Churches Without Borders," a four part partnership between the Anglican/Episcopal and Lutheran (ELCIC/ELCA) churches of North America.

Also on Thursday was the first common ballot, in which all ballots had a majority vote including to elect our very own **Deacon Darcy Mittelstaedt** to the Committee on Appeals.

Friday

Friday's half day saw the completion of unfinished business, including the adoption of more memorials.

- **"Memorial B11 – Specialized Ministries and On Leave from Call Status:** Directs (642-76) the Church Council to establish a process for examining policies, procedures and constitutional provisions related to specialized ministry calls and on-leave from call status, as well as protocols for removal from rosters and communication on such actions. The memorial also urges bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action that removes a minister from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons until this review process is complete.
- **Memorial A4 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction:** Reaffirms (672-45) the church’s commitment to engage in creation care and to act in support of 50% reduction in 2005 U.S. levels of greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, including having the churchwide organization meet these goals. The memorial also urges continued work with the Creation Care Network, encourages congregants and rostered ministers to witness to the climate emergency and affirms the Mission Investment Fund’s “Green Building” initiative.
- **Memorial B5 – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) ELCA Governance Audit:** Authorizes (538-175) the Church Council to determine parameters, expenses and revenue sources to provide for an external audit of the “Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA” that examines diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in the church’s governing documents. The memorial calls on the Church Council to report the findings of the audit and directs the legal committee to recommend changes."

We are grateful for **Pastor Drew Ingram's** speaking to the memorial on greenhouse gas reduction which was sent by our synod and many others, offering an amendment which held the churchwide organization to the same standards for which the organization intends to advocate. Following the memorials the assembly took up voting on remaining resolutions and took some time to honor the outgoing bishops and to welcome those newly elected, as well as making some final announcements before declaring the 2022 Churchwide Assembly Adjourned. Among those final announcements was the location of the 2025 Churchwide Assembly which will take place in Phoenix, Arizona.

September Peace Day Trippers

**Thursday, September 15th
11:00 a.m., Peace Fellowship Hall**



We will play some Bingo and enjoy a Salad Lunch. Clean out your closets and bring some goodies to share as prizes. Your trash might be someone else's treasure.

Bring a friend and let us know you are coming so we can prepare enough salad. Call Becky Voges at 830-625-1666 to reserve your spot.

Peace Pantry Angels

We would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering their time to monitor our Peace Pantry. Phillip, Maureen, Landon and Juliana Garcia; Tom and Cheryl Braaten; Jeremy, Michelle, Elise, and Brenton Davenport; Judy Phife; and Michael and Megan Wenzel, and Haley and Lillian Morelock.

This takes care of the Pantry until the New Year. If you would like to help in the new year, let Becky Voges know what month works for you.

If you have any questions about the Pantry or would like to help in some way, please send an email to beckyvoges@yahoo.com.



The Dedication and Ribbon Cutting of the Pantry will be held on **September 11**. Thank you for the amazing support you have given this new outreach to our neighbors.

A Message from the Council President



Greetings to you all! Wow! It's almost September already as I write this! Where has 2022 gone? I guess in retrospect, all years seem to be flying by!

I don't write an article for the newsletter very often, so when I do, it's for something I consider pretty important. Two topics today.

First, I hope you've noticed a marked improvement in how the outside of our church building looks! While the color differences are subtle, the entire outside of the building, from stucco, to wood trim, to metal door frames has been completely repainted in the prior month! And it looks great! Due to the unfortunate incident with the flooding of the building last year, we had to do substantial renovation work to the interior of the building. The work effort uncovered problems with the condition of exterior trim, paint, caulking and other things that if not addressed would put much of the investment we made in the building last year at risk. The external work completed in July now puts our church facility in great shape for many years. Many thanks to John Kassel and the Property Team for their work to complete this project!

You may recall that earlier this year we had to replace two HVAC units that service the Fellowship Hall and Narthex. This required spending money out of our Building Fund. Given the need to also paint the building, we launched a campaign to raise \$50,000 to help pay for the paint job and replenish our Building Fund to levels to what it was prior to these big-ticket expenditures.

I'm happy to report that through your generous donations, we have raised almost \$20,000 of the \$50,000 target. Thank you! This has allowed us to complete the work needed without impacting our General Operating Funds. But at about \$10,000, our Building Fund balance has become relatively low when compared to what could be needed for major enhancements or repairs. One or two more unexpected expenses in a building the size of our church will deplete our reserves.

If you haven't yet made a gift or a pledge toward this \$50,000 building campaign, I'm asking that you prayerfully consider doing so, in light of your capacity to give a gift over and above your regular giving. Maybe you have already given a gift but have the capacity to make another. Or perhaps, you may consider giving a monthly gift to the Building Fund in addition to your regular giving to the Operating Fund, if you don't already do so. Those gifts are needed as well. While having reached 40% of our target in just a few weeks is exciting and appreciated, we have a ways to go! I look forward to seeing how the people of Peace respond in the coming weeks and months! Let's work to celebrate this coming holiday season with being able to report we hit our goals!

A Message from the Council President

One other key initiative your church council is addressing is church campus safety. Safety for those active on our church campus is one of church leadership's primary responsibilities. Safety has broad reach, from evacuation plans for inclement weather or fire danger, but also unfortunately includes violent, vicious attacks by those with ill intentions as well.

As a result, your church council has authorized formation of a task force charged with assessing church campus safety readiness and making recommendations for how to assure a safe space to worship and participate in church activities. The expectation is that recommendations by the task force will be delivered to the Peace Lutheran Church Council by October 7, 2022. We expect to hear recommendations ranging from new security equipment needs to new procedures and protocols for ushers and greeters and others on how manage church events with more safety emphasis. It will likely include information and perhaps awareness training for members as well! Expect to hear more about this important initiative in the weeks ahead!

Feel free to reach out to your church council members if you have questions, suggestions, concerns, etc. We welcome feedback and perspectives that help us provide better leadership to Peace Lutheran Church. Your council members are myself, Don Hodde, Carol Franz, Vicki Hillmer, Matt Simmont, David Thomas, Megan Wenzel, and Forrest Willis.

See you in worship!

Don



Nursery News

The Nursery is currently open for the 10:00 am Sunday Service! All volunteers have been certified to serve in this ministry. However, we need more volunteers to help keep it up and running. If you're interested, please contact Deacon Andrew for more details.



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.

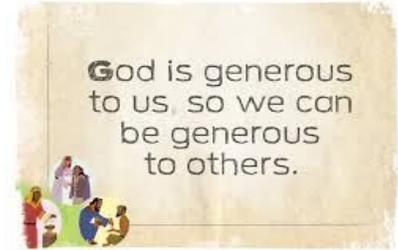
Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2022

Don Hodde - President
 Carol Franz - Vice President
 Matthew Simmont - Secretary
 Megan Wenzel - Treasurer
 Lisa Harrison - Member At-Large - Resigned
 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); Peace Church App; AmazonSmile Program; Bank Drafts. If you would like more information on any of the options listed above, please give our Business Administrator, Valerie Wood, a call at 830-620-0618.



Finances July 2022

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 57,074.69	\$ 28,993.84	\$ 31,073.94		\$ 54,994.59
Building Fund	\$ 25,657.33	\$ 5,221.17*	\$ 19,384.66**		\$ 11,493.84
Endowment Fund	\$ 6,337.25	\$ 172.12	\$ 0.00		\$ 6,509.37
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 119,190.38	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 119,190.38
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 5,784.33	\$ 1.47	\$ 0.00		\$ 5,785.80
Designated Funds	\$ 34,967.03	\$ 1,635.00	\$ 1,361.81		\$ 35,240.22
Total Funds	\$ 249,011.01	\$ 36,023.60	\$ 51,820.41		\$ 233,214.20

***\$5,221.17 - \$5,215.00 - Building Offerings; \$6.17 - Interest**

****\$19,384.66 - Exterior Painting**



Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Web address: www.peacenb.org
830-620-0618

830-312-8797 - Pastor Jake Fain
830-609-8359 - Valerie Wood

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday
8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Worship Service

Sunday
10:00 am - Indoor Worship and
Livestream @ Peace



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New Braunfels, TX 78130