

Epiphany

Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!
January 2024

Annual Congregational Meeting

Peace's Annual Congregational Meeting

1/28 Sunday after the 10am worship (11:15am)

- A Look Back at 2023
- Election of Council
- Budget Approval
- A Vision for 2024

Informational Meetings

1/17 6:00pm Tuesday

1/20 9:00am Saturday

Informational pre-meetings are either January 17th or 20th 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.

A Pre-meeting Video Presentation will be sent out electronically in mid-January



Meetings in-person @ Peace and online

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89472903587>

Meeting ID: 894 7290 3587

Phone: +1 669 444 9171 US



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	2
Pastor's Message	3
Deacon's Message	4
Abundant Blessings	5
Mission Spotlight	6
Peaceful Yoga	7
Finances	8



A Message from the Pastor

New Year's Resolutions

Carey Nieuwhof writes a leadership article I read each month, and I'd like to share January's thoughts concerning New Year's resolutions.

For 92% of people, New Year's resolutions fail.

"New year, new me" is actually "New year, same me" for all but 8% of people. Chances are, that means you too.

For far too many, "goals" and "resolutions" are merely pipe dreams. Something you strive for that never stands the chance of becoming reality.

Why?

Pitfall #1 – Your goals die on a piece of paper because nothing happens beyond writing them down. You've heard it said more than a few times: If you have a goal, write it down.

The truth is, that's actually *great advice*.

The problem, of course, is that for the vast majority of people, that's where their New Year's Resolutions stop.

But what if they DO make it past the piece of paper?

Pitfall #2 – You create a false sense of momentum to trick yourself.

Momentum can be a powerful tool. But it also masks underlying problems and creates a false sense of success.

If you've fallen into the cycle of diving 100% into something only to burn out a few months later, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

When the momentum and motivation ends (as it inevitably will), you end up with a much bigger mess to clean up than if you worked on the things that produce long-term growth all along.

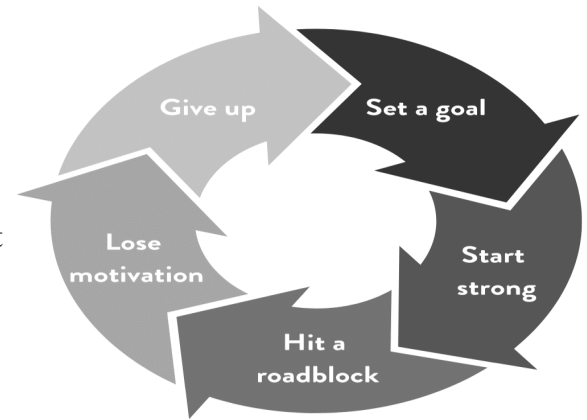
Which leads to...

Pitfall #3 – A lack of momentum creates a false sense of failure... "I'm just not cut out for this."

In the same way that momentum can create a false sense of success, the lack of momentum you're currently facing can prematurely create a sense of failure—that any attempt at a fresh goal is useless.

But that's a lie.

It's a cycle that far too many people get trapped in.



A Message from the Pastor

Without a strategy that works, you can spiral for YEARS without seeing any progress.

“This year is going to be different.”

“I just need a reset, and I’ll be fine.”

“Maybe I just need to try harder.”

“A change would fix everything.”

“I feel like I need to build up more motivation...”

“I don’t even know if it’s worth trying anymore. Maybe I’m not cut out for this.”

<https://careynieuwhof.com/why-new-years-resolutions-and-goal-setting-can-be-a-massive-waste-of-time/>
Nieuwhof’s point is that most of the time we fail before we even start, and that’s because we don’t give legs to our plans.

It’s easy to say I’d like to lose 10 pounds in the new year. It’s much different to say I’m going to work out 3 days a week for 30 minutes and stop eating sugary food.

It’s not a matter of how long it will take, rather that a lifestyle change will produce a change over time.

Our congregation has done a lot of discernment work in 2023. We’ve gotten clarity on our mission, vision, and core values to serve as our north star guiding us in every decision. In November, our leadership team took some time to create some goals and begin building a strategy to live into our identity.

You’ll hear more about it this new year, and even more so you’ll be invited to share your gifts so that we can be the church that loves like Jesus so that each person can experience God’s way (that’s our mission).

But I’d also like to take the time to support you as you set your new year’s resolutions. Maybe it’s spending more time with family or building deeper relationships. Maybe it’s learning a new skillset—a language or instrument or technical ability—to help bless the world in a richer way.

I’d like to suggest that you center on your spiritual why before you set those goals. Why do I want to do this thing, and keep that front and center driving forward in times when life gets busy or challenges emerge and you want to give up.?

Further, I’d like to suggest that you deepen your discipleship and relationship with God keeping that the core of all your other relationships and gifts.

To say, I’d like to become closer to God may be true. But to say I’m going to position myself to grow in my relationship with God by starting a daily devotion that I read over breakfast each morning. Or I’m going to commit to a Sunday morning fellowship group to broaden the conversation of faith in my community’s life. It doesn’t matter how long it is; what matters is that you’re growing because you’ve made that commitment.

I hope we can continue to grow together in faith and deepen our calling as God’s people blessing the world.

Peace,
Pastor Jake



A Message from the Deacon



FAITH TALK

with Pastor Jake and Deacon Andrew

Sunday mornings from 8:45 am—9:30 am
In the Fellowship Room
All ages welcome

Bring your coffee & snacks and join us for a time of weekly conversation together. Our focus will be learning basics about Christian faith, belief, and practice through a Lutheran lens. We want this to be an open time for questions and conversation—all questions are allowed!

Think of it like “Christianity 101”, designed both for folks who are newer to learning about the Christian faith, as well as for anyone who would like to deepen their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in the world today. We look forward to seeing you!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Updates

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth through our M&M and Cocoa Cone fundraisers!



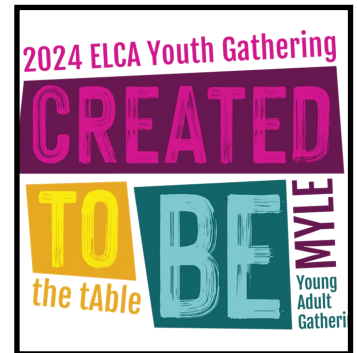
Between Peace and St. Andrew combined, we've raised \$3,000 towards the cost of our trip next summer. This is a wonderful step towards our fundraising goal! Next year, Cocoa Cones will be back! We'll even be taking pre-orders starting a month before Christmas.



Created To Be: **Brave**

Each month we'll look at one of the five primary themes for the upcoming 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. The first theme we learn about is

“Created To Be Brave—To Show Up With An Open Heart And Willing To Be Challenged.”



Being brave doesn't mean being without fear. In fact, being completely comfortable doesn't require any bravery at all. On the contrary, researchers find a direct link between bravery and vulnerability. Brené Brown shares, “Courage is a heart word. The root of the word courage is cor — the Latin word for “heart.” Courage originally meant “to speak one's mind by telling all one's heart.” Being brave and being courageous is accompanied by one more feeling — vulnerability. You are not either brave or afraid, brave or vulnerable. To be brave is to be vulnerable



As Christians, we are called to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus was brave *and* courageous *and* vulnerable. Jesus demonstrated these qualities by his willingness to see the needs of the world around him and to meet people in the midst of those needs. Jesus touched their lives and offered himself for their healing. We are called to do the same today - to see, to meet, to touch, to offer.

“O Lord, you are aware of all the ways we need you if we are to be brave. As we seek your way, guide us into the courage needed to face the ideas, places or people we fear. Help us

to see your purpose as far more significant than our own comfort. Give us the wisdom to be brave and not foolish. We pray this in the name of our brave Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen”

Abundant Blessings

January Birthdays

02 Lynda Willis
 03 Rory Martinez
 04 Landon Garcia
 06 Hayden Kaufman
 08 Brett Kriley
 09 Maxine Goodson
 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 Maria Haiyasoso
 15 Amanda Martin
 18 Jean Pfluger
 18 Kimberly Pampell
 20 Vicki Hillmer
 20 Trice Kastein
 21 Gary Goodson
 22 Michelle Davenport
 24 Anita Hill
 26 Linda Lange
 26 Heidi Stone
 28 Jeannie Kawazoe
 28 Lindsay Friedrich
 29 Darcy Mittelstaedt
 30 William Purcell
 30 Marsha Dove
 31 James Huston

January Anniversaries

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

Peace Prayer Ministry

Peace Lutheran Church has an active Prayer Ministry. We have an Email Prayer Chain, we have a Zoom "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Group that meets every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., and we have a Prayer loom that is included in our Sunday morning prayers. All are welcome to join our email Prayer Chain and our Monday morning Prayer Group.



We have experienced some amazing, answered prayers this year and we have given comfort to many of our members in their times of distress. Please consider being a part of our Prayer Ministry in this new year. You can email me at beckyvoges@yahoo.com for info.

Prayers

John Kassel
 Patti Kassel
 Tommy Perkins
 Judy Clark
 Lavern Kistner
 Becky Perkins
 Martin Franz
 Nora Miller
 Carol Franz
 Steven Robbins
 Barbara Doleshal
 Maureen Garcia
 Bob Johnson
 Jim Miller
 Jack Ralph
 Riley Martinez
 Michelle Rappmund
 Rick Smith
 Betty Wilcox
 Margaret Weese
 Judy Phife
 Earl Blaschke
 John Claycomb
 Arlene Wold
 Helen Probst

In Sympathy



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Michael McClintock and Missy Paullus at the death of his wife and her mother, Linda McClintock.

January Mission Spotlight First Footing Homeless Shelter

First Footing was created through NB Housing Partners in February 2021 for the New Braunfels' community. Their focus is on solving homelessness by giving people a safe place to stay and connecting them to others services they need. The program has been operating out of motels such as Edelweiss Inn most recently, but this setup has not been conducive to meeting the needs of the community as the population and home prices of New Braunfels have skyrocketed. First Footing is excited to be moving into its first permanent home, located at 4130 Loop 337. To learn more about their mission, ways to get involved, or how to support visit their website: <http://nbhousingpartners.org/what-were-doing/>

If you would like to support this cause financially, please make checks out to Peace Lutheran Church. Giving online is available as well by clicking the link or scanning the code below. Regardless of your method of support, please be sure to include "Mission Spotlight" in the memo.

<https://bit.ly/3MP8sPF>



Thank You



The Christmas tea committee would like to thank all the Servers, Peace Bells, Becky Voges, Jeannie Kawazoe and Darcy Mittelstaedt . We are so very grateful for your time and help during the tea. You guys did a great job. Thank you.

The Christmas Tea Committee

Our Live Nativity was a huge success! It takes many willing hands and hearts to make this event happen. We had the very young and the young at heart, sharing the Christmas Story with our community. Each year seems to be more special than the last. The Lord gave us a beautiful and clear night to share the gift of Jesus and we feel so blessed to have had a part in it!

Becky Voges



Church Council and Ministry Team Leaders 2023

Carol Franz - President
Megan Wenzel - Vice President
Matthew Simmont - Secretary
Don Hodde - Treasurer
Kathi Anderson - 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 - John Kassel
Service Team - Brandi Raschke
Worship Team Judi Miller

Peace Little Pantry

Blessings abound for our Little Pantry Ministry. We raised over \$1500 from the Fall Festival at St. Andrew, we continue to receive monetary donations through church offerings and our neighbors are contributing groceries as well. Our Pantry Angels are devoted to keeping the Pantry stocked. It is a New Year so we will need to have Pantry Angels for February-December. If you would like to help, email Becky Voges at beckyvoges@yahoo.com to sign up for a month. Thank you so much for helping us help others. Every time I see someone sitting on that bench under the tree, eating something we left for them, I am touched beyond words. We are making such a difference in the lives of people every day!



JOIN US FOR PEACEFUL YOGA IN 2024!

YOGA

Tuesdays @ 5:30pm,
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

CHAIR YOGA

Thursdays @ 11am,
Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall



RSVP at least 30 minutes before class. Scan the QR code with your phone camera to RSVP.

Classes begin the first week of 2024!
Donation based - \$10 per class recommended.

Members, non-members, beginners, and experienced yogis are all welcome!
email office@peacenb.org for more info.

Giving at Peace

There are several giving options at Peace: Bank Drafts; Online Giving (Website); Offering Envelopes. If you would like more information on any of the options listed above, please give our Business Administrator, Valerie, a call at 830-620-0618.



Finances November 2023

FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPENSE	TRANSFERS	ENDING BALANCE
General Fund	\$ 12,305.54	\$ 25,280.30	\$ 32,112.59		\$ 5,473.25
Building Fund	\$ 15,342.85	\$ 606.12	\$ 0.00		\$ 15,948.97
Endowment Fund	\$ 9,086.67	\$ 132.86	\$ 0.00		\$ 9,219.53
Endowment Investment Fund	\$ 126,483.91	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 126,483.91
Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,489.58	\$ 8.00	\$ 0.00		\$ 6,497.58
Designated Funds	\$ 33,241.59	\$ 867.84	\$ 997.60		\$ 33,111.83
Total Funds	\$ 202,950.14	\$ 26,895.12	\$ 33,110.19	\$ 0.00	\$ 196,735.07



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
peacenb.org/live



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