

**Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
September 2026**

**Love God, Love People,
and Serve the World!**



Mission:
*To love like Jesus so
that each person
experiences God's way.*

Announcement of a Special Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting on Sunday, October 18, immediately after the worship service. This meeting is for the congregation to vote on preliminary approval for the revised church constitution. All voting members are encouraged to attend in person or online.

An information session will be held from 8:45-9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 11. Members of the Governance team will be available to answer questions about changes to the constitution. A link to the document will be available, as well as printed copies. Any questions to discuss should be directed to Brenda Martin (brenmartin@sbcglobal.net or 830-708-4055) by October 4.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>A Message from the Pastor</i>	2
<i>Wednesday Night Live</i>	4
<i>New Staff - Lairscey Griffin</i>	5
<i>Council Corner & Spiritual Gifts</i>	6
<i>Youth & Adult Groups</i>	8
<i>President's Message</i>	9
<i>Peace Retreat</i>	10
<i>Mission Spotlight</i>	11
<i>Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Prayers</i>	12
<i>Giving & Contact</i>	

A Message from the Pastor

Pastor's Message

**The Way: Practicing
the Life of Jesus
*Rooted in grace.
Formed by practice.
Sent in love.***

Sabbatical was a time of intentional reflection and renewal in the Lord. For so much of life, I know my calendar and the circumstances surrounding me dictate the terms of how I live. But

when you have a chance to step away from the mix of it all, you begin to see more clearly. The old saying, "You can't see the forest for the trees," is true.

Over the past three months, I've been given this amazing gift of rest, but also perspective. I have enjoyed intentional time with God, and I do not want to go back to simply allowing the calendar to call the shots. Rather, I want the gift of sabbatical to continue into the routine of life as I find a new rhythm that seeks to live intentionally in God's presence.

This fall, I invite you to join me in this way of intentional living as we explore a new worship series, "The Way: Practicing the Life of Jesus."

Each week we will be with Jesus in worship, be formed by him in his presence, and learn practices that strengthen our relationship with God and help us participate in God's mission of love for the world.

September will begin that journey by focusing on some of the foundational rhythms of the spiritual life:

September 6 — The Rhythms of Spiritual Life

Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." What if following Jesus isn't about adding one more thing to an already busy life, but learning a different way to live? We will explore how the rhythms and practices of Jesus can shape the ordinary patterns of our lives.

September 13 — Prayer

The disciples saw something in the prayer life of Jesus that made them ask, "Lord, teach us to pray." Prayer is more than asking God for things; it is learning to live in relationship with God. We will explore simple and practical ways of developing a life of prayer.



A Message from the Pastor

September 20 — Scripture

We don't simply read Scripture for information; we allow Scripture to form us. In a world filled with voices competing for our attention, we will practice slowing down, listening to God's Word, and allowing the story of Scripture to shape the way we see God, ourselves, our neighbors, and the world.

September 27 — Solitude

Jesus regularly withdrew to quiet places to pray. If Jesus needed to step away from the noise and demands surrounding him, perhaps we do too. We will explore solitude not as escaping the world, but as creating space to become attentive to God so that we can return to the world more fully present.

These practices aren't ways to earn God's favor or prove that we are "good Christians." We begin with grace. God already loves us. Spiritual practices simply create space in our lives for the Spirit to form us more deeply in the way of Jesus.

My hope is that this series will be more than something we hear about on Sunday mornings. Each week, we will be invited to practice the Way—taking something from worship into our homes, workplaces, relationships, and daily routines.

Sabbatical gave me the gift of stepping away long enough to ask, How do I want to live when I return? Perhaps this fall is an opportunity for all of us to ask that question.

What would it look like for you to live more intentionally in the presence of God? Come and discover with us.

Rooted in grace. Formed by practice. Sent in love.



Sabbatical Sharing Forum

Want to hear more about my sabbatical journey? Join me in our Faith Talk Class on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall on 8/30, 9/6, and 9/13 from 8:45am-9:30am.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jake



Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live: Growing Together in Faith & Community

This fall, Wednesday Night Live is taking on a new rhythm for our middle school and high school youth! **Each Wednesday beginning September 2nd**, students will gather in the Fellowship Hall beginning at **5:45 p.m.** for a meal and time together before splitting into Confirmation and High School groups for age-appropriate conversation, learning, and faith formation.



At the heart of this change is a simple goal: relationships take time. We want to create a consistent space where our young people can belong, build meaningful friendships, grow in their relationships with trusted adults, and explore what it means to follow Jesus in their everyday lives.

We know schedules are full, but we also believe that our young people need spaces where they can slow down, be known, ask questions, laugh, eat, pray, and discover more deeply who and whose they are. Wednesday Night Live is about making that kind of community a regular part of their week.

Middle and High School Youth — Wednesdays from 5:45 pm – 7:15 pm
Come hungry, bring a friend, and join us as we grow together in faith, friendship, and life with Jesus!



New Staff - Lairscey Griffin



We are excited to share that Lairscey Griffin will be continuing her ministry with Peace Lutheran Church beyond the summer! After spending the summer working with our youth and families, Lairscey has joined our staff year-round as our Family and Faith Formation Director, serving approximately 10 hours each week.

Lairscey's ministry will help us continue to grow in one of our important commitments as a congregation: creating meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to grow in faith and community. While her work will continue to include ministry with children, youth, and families, her role will also help us think more broadly about faith formation throughout the life of the congregation.

Faith formation doesn't end with Sunday School or Confirmation. Throughout our lives, God continues to invite us to learn, ask questions, build relationships, practice our faith, and discover what it means to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. Lairscey will help us develop and strengthen opportunities for that kind of growth throughout the year.

We are grateful for the gifts and energy Lairscey has already brought to our ministry and look forward to all that God will do through this expanded role. Please join us in welcoming Lairscey to our year-round staff!

Phone: (936) 494-9757

Email: lairsceygriffin@gmail.com

Council Corner

The following highlights are from the August Church Council Meeting – August 27, 2026.

Governance update—Brenda Martin gave an update on the status of our church's constitution. The synod office has done a preliminary review and approval, and the next step is to present the document to the congregation in a specially called meeting. This has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 18, immediately after the service. Copies of the proposed constitution will be made available before the meeting, and an informational question/answer session will be held on Sunday, Oct. 11 during the Sunday school time. After the congregational vote, the synod council must give approval, and then it will come back to us for a final ratification. Please direct any questions to Brenda Martin so that they may be included in the discussion time.

Sabbatical review—Pastor Jake gave a short summary and thoughts of his time over the summer, and his sabbatical journey will be shared on Sunday mornings during Faith Talk. The congregational retreat in October will also be a part of that sabbatical experience.

Ministry Teams— Topics covered this month focused on using the worship spaces to full extent, especially with properly working TV screens; support for youth programs and Confirmation instruction; and service opportunities such as First Footing.

The Church Council will meet again in late September.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to any council member.

Spiritual Gifts

What are Our Spiritual Gifts?

Christian discipleship is a journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. The more that we can discover who we are and whose we are, the more we can appreciate the journey to which we have been called. This includes discovering our Spiritual Gifts. Each one of us is given gifts by the Holy Spirit that shape who we are and how we operate in the body of Christ. When we identify these gifts, we can better use them to grow in faith, life and discipleship.

Each month we will highlight one of the spiritual gifts that are part of our Spiritual Gifts Assessment. This month we will highlight the gift of *Faith*.

Faith is the spiritual gift that enables the receiver to see the Spirit at work and trusting the Spirit's leading without indication of where it might lead. People with this gift are prayerful, optimistic, trusting, assured, positive, inspiring, and hopeful.

Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment today!

Scan the QR Code or go to:

<https://www.peacenb.org/pages/spiritual-gifts-survey>



Join Youth Remind Group



Sisters and Brothers in Christ



Sisters and Brothers In Christ

We will be traveling to Kerrville to see the Empty Cross and the Sculpture Gardens on Weds., Sep. 23. We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. to carpool to Kerrville. Please contact Becky if you plan to come at 830-587-4003. Yes, the men are invited to join this time!

Peace Youth Night

PEACE YOUTH

Fellowship

Sun / 09.06

6:30-8:00

DINNER, GAMES, WORSHIP

President's Message

Community: Witness in the World

As we come to the end of summer and Pastor Jake's sabbatical, I've been thinking about the theme that guided us these past few months: "A Summer Sabbatical: An Invitation to Renewal." From the beginning, we understood this wasn't meant to be renewal only for Pastor Jake, but for all of us as a congregation - a chance to reconnect with what matters most in our life together as followers of Christ.

I believe we truly embraced that invitation.

Throughout the summer, our worship series, Rooted & Reaching, reminded us that faith is not meant to stand still. We are rooted in God's love and grace, while also reaching outward to serve and care for others. For me, August's theme, Community: Witness in the World, especially speaks to how we live out our faith beyond Sunday mornings and beyond the walls of the church.

Church is more than a building or a worship service. Our witness is shown in the way we treat people each day - encouraging a neighbor, welcoming someone new, helping a person in need, offering forgiveness, showing kindness, or simply being present for one another during difficult times. Faith becomes visible in small, everyday acts of love.

And this summer, I saw those acts everywhere.

I saw members stepping up to lead and serve. I saw ministry teams faithfully continue. I saw worship, fellowship, outreach, and care continue because this congregation understands that the church is not one person - it is all of us together. In many ways, this season reminded us of our shared vision: A world made whole through love.

Renewal does not always happen through big changes. Sometimes it comes quietly - through a fresh perspective, renewed appreciation, greater participation, or a deeper commitment to the work God calls us to do. My hope is that we carry that spirit with us into the months ahead.

As Pastor Jake returns from sabbatical, we welcome him back with joy and gratitude, thankful he had time for rest, reflection, and renewal. At the same time, I hope we don't simply return to "business as usual," but continue growing into the kind of community God calls us to be - rooted in faith and reaching out into the world with Christ's love.

Thank you for allowing me to share these messages during the summer months. It has truly been an honor to serve alongside you and witness the many ways God is at work through this congregation.

May we continue living our faith not only within these walls, but wherever God leads us.
Blessings,
Dan

Peace Lutheran Retreat

Peace Lutheran Congregational Retreat

Reconnect, Recharge, and Reflect

SAVE THE DATE for our First Church Retreat!

Date: October 23 – 25, 2026

Location: Summit Vacation and RV Resort / 13105 River Road / NB

Time: Friday 3:00 PM – Sunday 3:00 PM

Retreat Highlights

- Come for the day or stay in riverside cabins w/ kitchenettes
- Swim in one of three pools or tube the Guadalupe River!
- Outdoor games (basketball, volleyball, tennis, horseshoes, shuffleboard)
- Worship (outdoor riverside chapel and inside the club house on Sunday morning)
- Guest speakers and breakout sessions (including confirmation lessons)
- Relax and enjoy quiet reflection time, small groups, conversation
- Great food (hey, it's Peace Lutheran Church!)



Why Attend?

Escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and immerse yourself in a peaceful environment designed to nurture body, mind, and spirit. This retreat offers opportunities to build on Pastor Jake's sabbatical themes of spiritual disciplines, celebrate Reformation weekend, work with our Confirmation families, and make meaningful connections, gain fresh perspectives, and foster personal growth.

Registration Details

- Retreat program and meals are free!
- Come for a day or there are a variety of housing options available including: Cabins (sleep up to four), Villas (sleep eight), RV hookups, Indian TPs, Covered Wagons (!), or bring a tent! (Cabins subsidized by Lilly Grant for \$50/night)
- **SAVE THE DATE!!** Registration details to come!



More Info? Summit Vacation and RV Resort Website:

www.summitresorttexas.com

Looking forward to a weekend of renewal and inspiration!

September Mission Spotlight



September Mission Spotlight

The Little Pantry That Could...

I cannot help but think of the child's story about a little train that pulled food and toys over the mountain when the larger engines refused to help. I am so thankful that our congregation is always stepping up to help.

Our Little Pantry CAN brighten someone's day, CAN fill a hungry tummy, CAN give someone on the street hope, CAN give us a chance to give back, and CAN show God's love is for everyone!

I am so thankful for the continued support our Little Pantry receives. Our Pantry Angels have faithfully filled the Pantry, rain or shine, on bitter cold days and on our very hot Texas days.

This is a perfect project for families, or you could team up with a friend. We still need Pantry Angels for November and December. Contact Becky Voges for more information at beckyvoges@yahoo.com.

"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." Mother Teresa



Birthdays

Jim Johnson — 09/04
 James Lawton — 09/04
 Cindy Thomas — 09/05
 Mary Sweet — 09/05
 Amy Tiemann — 09/05
 John Tucker — 09/06
 Bryce Parrock — 09/06
 Catherine Fain — 09/08
 Maureen Garcia — 09/10
 Alan Freeman — 09/11
 Connor Huston — 09/13
 Cora Johnson — 09/15
 Haley Luce — 09/15
 Lila Raley — 09/16
 Tim Kaufman — 09/17
 Erika Kaufman — 09/18
 Betty Wilcox — 09/19
 Atali Henderson — 09/20
 Bodie Henderson — 09/20
 Michael McClintock — 09/21
 Gabe Rodriguez — 09/22
 Carol Thatcher — 09/24
 Eleanor Woytek — 09/25
 Peggy Stone Cheek — 09/27
 Kady Wilkie-Dickman — 09/28
 Sinead Healey — 09/28
 Josephine Peebles — 09/29
 Richard Luce — 09/30
 Katrina Johnson — 09/30

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. You can email Becky at beckyvoges@yahoo.com for info.



Anniversaries

Ken & Nanci Witten
 09/03/1983 - 43 years
 Frank & Pamela Krause
 09/03/1994 - 32 years
 David & Susan Heise
 09/06/1970 - 56 years
 Erich & Margaret Weese
 09/06/1969 - 57 years
 Larry & Betty Carney
 09/07/1963 - 63 years
 Nathan & Sharon Anderson
 09/08/1984 - 42 years
 Thomas & Cheryl Braaten
 09/11/1971 - 55 years
 Forrest & Lynda Willis
 09/13/1986 - 40 years
 Shawn & Terri Walker
 09/15/2012 - 14 years
 Michael & Megan Wenzel
 09/29/2018 - 8 years

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 Finance Administrator, Theresa, a call at 830-620-0618.



New Office Hours



PEACE LUTHERAN

new office **hours**



Monday - Thursday
11:00 am - 4:30 pm



Friday - Saturday
Office Closed



Sunday
10:00 am - Worship


Livestream @ [peacenb.org/live](https://www.peacenb.org/live)


 Please leave us a message and we will return your missed calls within **24 hours**.



Peace Lutheran Church

1147 S. Walnut Ave.
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Web address:
www.peacenb.org
830-620-0618

Pastor Jake Fain
830-312-8797

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Friday - Saturday
Office Closed

Sunday
10:00 am - Worship
Livestream @ [peacenb.org/live](https://www.peacenb.org/live)