

*Peace Lutheran Church
Newsletter
October 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 in the weekly enews, as well as printed copies by request. Any questions to discuss should be directed to Brenda Martin (brenmartin@sbcglobal.net or 830-708-4055) by October 4.



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A Message from the Pastor

Pastor's Message

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

— Mark 6:31

Imagine living at such a hurried pace of life that you didn't even have a chance to stop and eat. For a lot of people, that's probably not too far off.

Jesus knew that pace too. People were constantly coming and going. There were needs to meet, people to heal, crowds to teach, and places to go. Yet right in the middle of it all, Jesus invited his disciples to come away with him and rest.

Not simply the rest of an extra hour of sleep—although that's nice! Jesus offers a deeper kind of rest: rest for our souls. He invites us to learn a different way of living, one shaped less by the hurried rhythms of the world around us and more by the gracious rhythm of life with God.

As we continue this fall in our series, *The Way: Practicing the Life of Jesus*, we are exploring spiritual practices that help us do just that. Spiritual practices aren't another list of religious things we have to accomplish. They are ways of making ourselves available to God's grace—practices through which the Holy Spirit forms us more deeply into the people God created us to be.

During September, we explored prayer, Scripture, and solitude. In October, our attention begins to turn outward. The life Jesus invites us into is never just about "Jesus and me." As we are rooted more deeply in God's love, that love begins to shape how we live with others, how we serve, and how we use what God has entrusted to us.

Here's where *The Way* will take us in October:

October 4 — Community

We were never meant to follow Jesus alone. Community is the practice of intentionally sharing life with others—worshiping, eating, praying, learning, celebrating, forgiving, and carrying one another's burdens. Jesus formed a community around himself, and he continues to form us through one another.

October 11 — Service

Jesus said that he came not to be served, but to serve. Service is the practice of turning our attention outward and asking, Where can I join God in loving my neighbor? Through simple acts of compassion and generosity, we learn to see others as Jesus sees them and discover that God often transforms us as we serve.

October 18 — Generosity

Generosity is about far more than money. It is learning to live with open hands. Our time, abilities, possessions, relationships, and resources are gifts entrusted to us by God. Generosity loosens the grip that fear and scarcity can have on us and teaches us to trust in God's abundance.

October 25 — ReFormation

On Reformation weekend, we will gather for a special congregational retreat and worship



A Message from the Pastor

experience centered on allowing God to continually re-form us. The Reformation isn't only something that happened 500 years ago. God is still at work—renewing the church, reshaping our lives, and forming our hearts and minds more fully into the image of Christ.

My hope for this entire series is not simply that we learn about spiritual practices, but that we actually practice them. Because following Jesus isn't merely believing certain things about him. It is learning, day by day, to live with Jesus and become more like him.

In a world that constantly tells us to hurry, achieve, consume, and keep moving, Jesus still speaks the same gracious invitation:

"Come with me."

Come pray. Come listen. Come rest. Come into community. Come serve. Come live generously.

Come and learn the unhurried, grace-filled way of Jesus.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jake



Special Congregational Meeting

Informational Meeting: Sunday, October 11, 8:45am-9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

Special Called Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 18, immediately following worship in the sanctuary

At Peace Lutheran Church, our mission is **to love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's way**. Everything we do—including how we organize

ourselves—should help us live more faithfully into that calling.

On Sunday, October 18, Peace will hold a **Special Called Congregational Meeting** to consider updates to our church constitution. A church constitution is the foundational document that guides how we order our life together, including our leadership, decision-making, ministry structure, and relationship with the wider church. Simply put, **our constitution provides a structure that helps us carry out our mission**.

The proposed updates will accomplish two important things. First, they will bring our constitution into compliance with the current constitutional provisions of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**. Second, they will better align our congregational structure with Peace's four ministry pillars: **Worship, Community, Stewardship, and Discipleship**.

These pillars are more than organizational categories. They describe important parts of our life as followers of Jesus: gathering around Word and Sacrament, building relationships and belonging, faithfully using the gifts God has entrusted to us, and growing as disciples who live the way of Jesus in the world.

Before the vote, an **Informational Meeting will be held Sunday, October 11, during the Sunday School hour** to explain the proposed changes and answer questions. The **Special Called Congregational Meeting will then be held Sunday, October 18, immediately following worship**.



Congregational Retreat

Peace Lutheran Congregational Retreat | October 23–25, 2026

Come with Me to a Quiet Place and Rest—Mark 6:31

Reconnect. Recharge. Reflect.

You're invited to Peace Lutheran's first Congregational Retreat!

Come away for a weekend of **faith, community, rest, and fun** along the beautiful Guadalupe River at Summit Vacation and RV Resort in New Braunfels.

Whether you stay for the entire weekend, spend one night, or simply join us for the day,

there's a place for you! Together, we'll step away from the busyness of everyday life to reconnect with God and one another, deepen some of the spiritual practices we've explored this fall, and enjoy time together as the people of Peace.

Friday, October 23 – Sunday, October 25

Friday at 3:00 PM through Sunday at 3:00 PM

Summit Vacation and RV Resort

13105 River Road, New Braunfels

Throughout the weekend, there will be something for every age and stage: worship along the river, guest speakers and breakout sessions, Confirmation activities, small groups and conversation, quiet time for reflection, swimming and tubing, outdoor games, and plenty of opportunities simply to relax and enjoy one another.

And, of course, there will be **great food—this is Peace Lutheran Church, after all!**

Come for the day—or make a weekend of it!

Retreat programming and meals are FREE. Overnight accommodations are available in cabins, villas, RV sites, covered wagons, teepees, or tents. Thanks to support from the Lilly Grant, **cabins are subsidized to just \$50 per night.**

As we celebrate Reformation weekend together, we'll continue building on our fall journey of practicing the way of Jesus—making space to listen to God, strengthen relationships, enjoy God's creation, and consider how God is calling us to live together as a community of faith.

Bring the kids. Bring a friend. Bring your Bible. Bring your swimsuit. And come ready for a weekend of renewal, connection, and joy!

Ready to join us?

Register for the retreat using our online registration form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe07LPSLsjrEDxsPjbIRnPGYFwExarbdP6Sf1omILVOTxiIA/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=107762937212860676180>

If you need help registering online, we'll have folks available to help on Sunday mornings at worship.

We hope you'll join us for this special weekend as we **reconnect with one another, recharge our spirits, and reflect on where God is leading us next.**

Come for a day. Stay for the weekend. There's a place for you at the retreat!



Outdoor Pet Blessing

Outdoor Pet Blessing Worship

Sunday, October 4 | 10:00 AM | Peace Lutheran Front Lawn

Bring your furry, feathered, scaly—or otherwise beloved—friends and join us for a special **Outdoor Pet Blessing Worship** on Sunday, October 4!

October 4 is the traditional day when the church remembers **St. Francis of Assisi**, whose life and ministry remind us that all creation belongs to God and that we are connected not only to one another, but to the whole of God's good creation. In that spirit, we'll take our worship outside and gather as one community on the front lawn of Peace.

During worship, we'll give thanks for the animals who share our lives and bring us companionship, laughter, comfort, and joy. **Each pet will have an opportunity to receive an individual blessing.** Don't have a pet? Come anyway! This is a celebration of community and all of God's precious creatures.

Our pets have a wonderful way of reminding us that community is about belonging, presence, and unconditional love. As we gather together, we'll celebrate the many ways God surrounds us with life and calls us to care for one another and for the world God has made.

Bring your pet, bring a lawn chair, and come ready to worship! Please keep pets safely leashed, or secured for the comfort and safety of all our two-legged and four-legged worshippers. All are welcome—paws, claws, feathers, scales, and people too!



Sisters and Brothers in Christ



Sisters In Christ will not meet in October and November.

See you on Dec. 16 for our Christmas Party.

Council Corner:

Information from Church Council Meeting—September 24, 2026

Governance— This coming month will include the next step in our Constitution update. The synod office has done a preliminary review, and now the document must be approved by 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 before adoption. Please direct any questions to Brenda Martin so that they may be included in the discussion time.

Congregation Retreat—The retreat planned for October 23-25 is the finale to Pastor Jake's sabbatical. Information and registration is included in the weekly newsletter, and some costs are being subsidized by the sabbatical fund. You are encouraged to attend for all or part of the retreat time!

Help Needed—Two areas of support that need some assistance:

- Some new offering counting teams are needed—please let Pastor Jake know if you would be interested.
- Donations of gas cards (example: \$20 HEB card) would be appreciated as discretionary funds for individuals requesting aid.

Ministry Teams— Topics covered this month focused on activities for fall such as special services and stewardship season, support for youth programs, and some new service opportunities.

The Church Council will meet again in late October.

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

Attention All Thrivent Members

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial did you know that you can request funds for 2 events that benefit the community at large per year for Peace Lutheran Church ?

Already this year both the Quilters and First Footing Shelter breakfast have received \$250 toward supplies. It's easy to request online.

Also you are allocated Thrivent Choice dollars that you can direct to Peace Lutheran or other qualified organizations on their website throughout the year.

Thrivent gives you the opportunity to direct these funds in order to qualify as a tax exempt organization based on your investments and other financial services that are available.

If you are a Thrivent member and would like to learn more on how to do this please contact Michele Bauman at micheleabauman@gmail.com

New Peace Grief Group

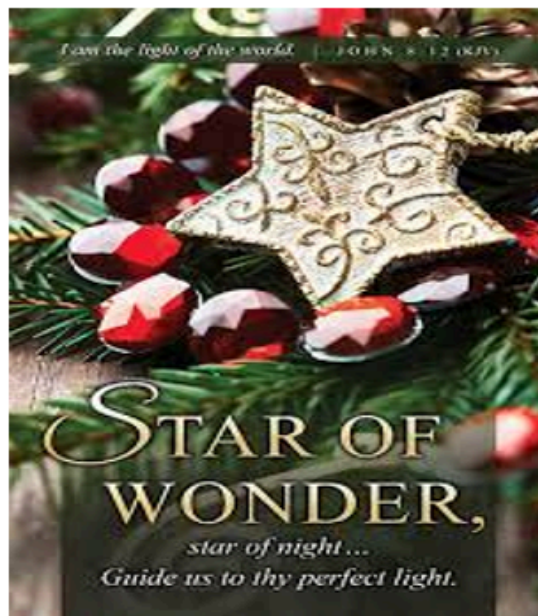


A Grief Group for members at Peace who have lost a loved one in their family has begun which will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am at Peace.

If you are interested in joining, please call Terry Westerman at 210-573-4509. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 7.

Save the Date: Christmas Tea

STAR OF WONDER



The Christmas Tea will be on December 5, 2026 from 10am to 12am. This year's theme is A Star of Wonder tickets are \$10.00 per person. They will go on sale in October. We will have forms at the church in the Narthex. You can also call any member of the tea committee. Deadline is November 30. Can goods will be collected for the SOS food bank.

First Footing Fundraiser

Dining for Hope

An evening à la Julia Child

All proceeds go to
First Footing meals.

PRICE
\$50
/Person

A lovely meal and a Silent Auction

Nov. 21, Peace Lutheran Church

6:00 p.m. – Mocktails and Wine

7:00 p.m. – Dinner

Limited seating

**For more information contact
Becky Voges or Kathi Anderson**



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 ***Skilled Craft***.

Skilled Craft is the spiritual gift that enables the receiver to create, build, maintain, or repair items used within the church. People with this gift are usually creative, resourceful, helpful, design-oriented, practical, handy, and used to functioning behind the scenes.

Take the Spiritual Gifts Assessment today!

Scan the QR Code or go to:

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



October Mission Spotlight

Four years ago, a devastating fire ravaged Crisis Center of Comal County. Now a new center on Landa Street celebrated its Grand opening in June of 2026, and also marked the 40th anniversary of CCCCs work in New Braunfels..

The new shelter is not just a building, it is a lifeline and haven for its residents as they too rebuild their lives. The Crisis Center is creating a new location for healing, safety and hope.

Case managers work individually with clients and provide goal focused services. Trained advocates assist on a 24/7 hotline with urgent support, information and referrals related to crisis or trauma service, domestic violence, sexual assault, or homelessness.

Licensed counselors assist clients in overcoming victimization effects through individual and group counseling and offer support groups for adults as well as children.

Legal advocacy for clients includes preparing protective orders, affidavits and police reports, offer escorts to law enforcement and criminal justice offices and aid in completing crime victim compensation claims.

The Crisis Center of Comal County offers education and prevention programs on domestic violence and sexual assault for civic, education and church groups.

As shelter residents begin their next phase of healing and success CCCC offers support to secure safe, stable, sustainable housing.

Please add the Crisis Center to your prayers as it literally rises from the ashes and continues to lift up and care for these survivors of violence and/or housing insecurity. Contact crisiscenternb.org for further opportunities to volunteer, donate or shop the Comal Thrift Shoppe or become a donor to their capital campaign.

Join us on October 25, as we spotlight Crisis Center of Comal County and collect a dedicated offering for their mission.

Peace
Karen Laughlin
Service



Birthdays

Merle Cavanaugh — 10/01
 JoAnn Schlabach — 10/04
 Rick Smith — 10/06
 Brody Johnson — 10/08
 Brian Peebles — 10/08
 Clayton Smith — 10/08
 Barbara Doleshal — 10/09
 Emma Armstrong — 10/11
 Jack Ralph — 10/13
 Braden Kriley — 10/13
 Susan Briner — 10/15
 Steel McCoy — 10/16
 Carla Carter — 10/16
 Daylin Tiemann — 10/18
 Steven Anderson — 10/19
 Matthew Simmont — 10/20
 Parker Kaufman — 10/20
 Eric Dickman — 10/21
 David Lange — 10/21
 Jennifer Phillips — 10/21
 Karen Ryan — 10/22
 Kristen Mosher — 10/24
 Lavern Kistner — 10/24
 Katharine Mosher — 10/25
 Bobby Laughlin — 10/25
 David Heise — 10/26
 Jake Fain — 10/29

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

David & Ann Keeler
 10/07/1966 - 60 years
 Antonio Rosales & Raquel Gordillo
 10/10/2012 - 14 years
 Jim & Michelle Johnson
 10/10/1992 - 34 years
 Chase & Amanda Martin
 10/16/2021 - 5 years
 Lindsay & (Roy) Friedrich
 10/22/2005 - 21 years
 Mitchell & Catherine Fain
 10/23/1982 - 44 years
 Clint & Jennifer Phillips Sr
 10/25/2008 - 18 years
 Kristyn & (Andrew) Ladshaw
 10/29/2016 - 10 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)