

**All financial reports have  
been removed on the  
website version of the  
Annual Report.**

**Please email the church  
office for a copy of the  
financial reports.**

**[office@peacelutheranbcs.org](mailto:office@peacelutheranbcs.org)**

# Peace Lutheran Church

**Pastor Travis Meier**

2201 Rio Grande Boulevard  
College Station, TX 77845-5120  
979.693.4403



## **PREVIEW REPORT**

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, November 15, 2020**  
**1:00 pm on Zoom**

Register at <https://tx.ag/plcannualmtg>  
to get Zoom information

***At Peace, we are forgiven by God's grace, renewed by Christ's love, and called to celebrate, learn, and serve.***

***Celebrate:*** We worship, sing, and journey through life together.

***Learn:*** We grow in faith and reflect God's Word in our daily lives.

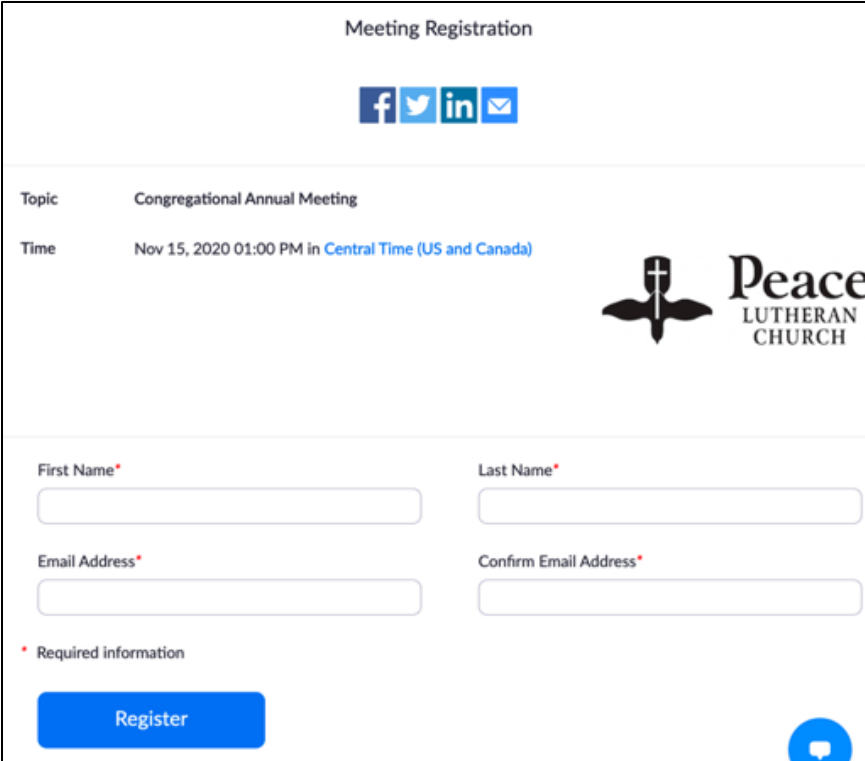
***Serve:*** We respond to physical and spiritual needs in our community and beyond.

**REGISTERING FOR ATTENDANCE & INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THE PEACE LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING  
November 15, 2020, 1:00 pm**

The 2020 annual meeting of Peace Lutheran Church will be conducted virtually over Zoom. So that we have a record of attendance, this will require advanced registration. The following are the steps required for you to participate.

Using your web browser, go to <https://tx.ag/plcannualmtg>. On that page you will find the following form to complete. This is fairly self-explanatory. However, if there will be multiple people participating through a single Zoom connection, please enter all first names in the first name field; e.g., "Marvin & Elizabeth." Be sure to click the "Register" button to submit your registration.

Example:



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Meeting Registration". At the top, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. Below these, the "Topic" is listed as "Congregational Annual Meeting" and the "Time" is "Nov 15, 2020 01:00 PM in Central Time (US and Canada)". To the right of the time is the Peace Lutheran Church logo, which features a stylized cross with wings and the text "Peace LUTHERAN CHURCH". The form has four input fields: "First Name\*" and "Last Name\*" on the top row, and "Email Address\*" and "Confirm Email Address\*" on the bottom row. A red asterisk indicates required information. At the bottom left is a blue "Register" button, and at the bottom right is a blue circular icon with a white speech bubble.

This will generate an email to the address you entered. That email will look like this. Be sure to keep this email, as it contains a link that is unique to you as pointed out in this graphic. On the day of the meeting, you will open this email and click on that link. If you happen to lose this email between now and November 15, don't fret, as we will send a reminder email to you the day before, or possibly the morning of the meeting as well.

(Example next page)

Example:

Thank you for registering for "Congregational Annual Meeting".

Please submit any questions to: [office@peacelutheranbcs.org](mailto:office@peacelutheranbcs.org)

Date Time: Nov 15, 2020 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: [Click Here to Join](#)

Passcode: 1978

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

[Add to Calendar](#) [Add to Google Calendar](#) [Add to Yahoo Calendar](#)

Or iPhone one-tap  
US: +13462487799,,85348642800# or +12532158782,,85348642800#

Or Telephone:  
Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):  
US: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 853 4864 2800

Passcode: 1978

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85348642800>

During the meeting we ask that you keep your microphone muted unless/until you are ready to speak. One thing that will happen during the meeting is you will be given an opportunity to vote on a few matters. Voting will happen through the use of Zoom polls. Normally those polls allow for only a single person to vote on any given Zoom connection, but to accommodate those with multiple people on a single Zoom connection, the polls will be structured to look something like this mockup. On this poll, you are able to check as many boxes as you wish, but we trust that you will check only one box for each person sharing your Zoom connection. You decide among you who is going to be which attendee, and then check either the Yes or No box as desired for each attendee.

Example:

**This is a demonstration poll.**

**1. Regarding the motion on the table, how do you respond?**

☐ Attendee #1: YES

☐ Attendee #1: NO

☐ Attendee #2: YES

☐ Attendee #2: NO

☐ Attendee #3: YES

☐ Attendee #3: NO

Finally, if you find that participating over Zoom is too onerous or complicated, please contact the church office, and we will make special accommodation for you to participate.

## LITANY

P: The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Brothers and sisters, God calls each of us by name.

**C: We are a church that belongs to Christ.**

P: At Peace, we are forgiven by God's grace, renewed by Christ's love, and called to celebrate, learn, and serve.

**C: We are a church whose unity is in Christ.**

P: At Peace, we are forgiven by God's grace, renewed by Christ's love, and called to celebrate, learn, and serve.

**C: We are a church whose unity is in Christ.**

P: We affirm that with our unique gifts we join to:

**C: Celebrate as we worship, sing, and journey through life together.**

P: We affirm that we are part of the body of Christ and also the heirs of a larger story. The Story of God's reconciling grace through Christ. To claim this story as our own:

**C: We Learn, and by learning, grow in faith and reflect God's Word in our daily lives.**

P: We affirm that our gifts are given not only for our own use but to serve others. Together, we achieve things we could not do alone.

**C: We Serve, responding to physical and spiritual needs in our community and beyond.**

P: Let us pray.

Fill us with hope as we engage in worship that celebrates the Creator God. Guide us that we may honor our missional heritage by learning of the works of Christ. And may the Holy Spirit guide us in ways we can serve Christ by serving in our community. Steer our thoughts and words away from distraction and toward your will. In our deliberations keep us close to you and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may serve you in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

## "Sanctuary"

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary; pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

**Peace Lutheran Church**

**College Station, TX**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**November 15, 2020**

**1:00 pm on Zoom**

**AGENDA**

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## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 10, 2019

11:00 am

#### Minutes

1. "Jesus Loves Me This I Know/Amazing Grace", Litany, and "Sanctuary", led by Pastor Travis.
2. **Call to Order** by David Fox at 11:25. David thanked the Council and church staff for a successful year. David also recognized the past Council presidents and thanked them for their guidance – Thomas Gessner, Larry Lippke, Steve Searcy, Todd Huebner, Laura Williams.
3. **The Agenda was accepted.**
4. **Minutes** from the November 11, 2018, and December 16, 2018, congregational meetings were accepted.
5. **Pastor and Committee Reports (summarized from the written reports)**

**Pastor's Report** -- Pastor Travis. 2019 was a busy year, with a healthy and growing church family. Pastor is thankful for the high energy and high level of volunteering by the congregation. There are so many talented, gifted, and gracious people in the congregation. The Treehouse campus ministry, of which he is a board member, is vibrant. He thanked the congregation for its continued support of Treehouse. The annual gala is February 1, 2020, at the Hilton Hotel.

**Mission Committee** – Jeff Rice recognized the committee members by having them stand. The Mission Committee organized the Spaghetti Dinner (\$4,900 raised) and the Grind4God program (21 backpacks filled with school supplies, and then purchased articles of school clothing, and will purchase several Christmas gifts with money remaining). The committee oversees the Social Concerns Committee, Family Promise, the blood drives, the coat and blanket drive, Thanksgiving pies for Twin City Mission, the Angel Tree, and Habitat for Humanity. In the new year, Peace will be involved in the Faith Build of the 300<sup>th</sup> Habitat for Humanity home.

**Worship Committee** -- Kerry Fisher. Working with Pastor Travis and Adam Emery makes this committee's work easy and fun. Special recognition was given

to Bob Gibbons for gathering all of the analytics of attendance each Sunday. All are welcome to join in the fun and joy of decorating the Christmas tree and Church, Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Education, Youth and Family Committee** – Joette Hardin. With the congregation's generous increase in the budget for 2019, financial assistance helped offset the cost of confirmation camp (which is more than \$400 per person). Registration for our summer day camp was \$10 for our children and children in the community. A few congregational members attended the family camp in the fall. Sunday school teachers and helpers are always welcomed. The intergenerational F.A.T.T. Wednesday Bible study is going well; all are encouraged to attend.

**Congregational Life Committee** – Leah Hedgepeth. Putting together the 2019 pictorial directory was a success. The first Red, White, and Blue reception was held in late June; thank you to all who provided family and friend pictures of service men and women. The committee hosted the farewell reception for Pastor Mindy Roll, planned the successful Oktoberfest, and provided two sessions of Grief Share. The committee continues to provide communion for shut-ins. Plans for the annual Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and for the Women's Christmas party on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, are ongoing.

**Building & Grounds Committee** – Scott Gilmore. This committee continues to use the organizational approach started the previous year – teams are assigned to different aspects of maintaining the building and grounds. There are so many skilled and talented persons motivated to see that the property looks nice and the equipment is running smoothly. There are new roofs on all the buildings. The education building also has new air conditioning. With some refurbishing inside still to come, the education building can once again be used.

**Communications Committee** – Carolyn Carr. The goal of the committee is to communicate between the congregation, committees, and the community. New video equipment has been purchased; a large screen television is now in the narthex. A system is in place to post events on the calendar, website, Facebook, and Instagram. More improvements are coming.



6. **Membership Changes** -- Pastor Travis. The congregation is energetically growing; the congregation's wonderful hospitality plays an important role. Because of the growth, there will be a need for more staffing in 2021. Pastor encouraged us to think about our two interns, Stephanie Gossett and Morgan Gates. With all this congregation has to offer, Peace would be a great place to host an intern. Pastor encouraged the congregation "to keep doing what we are doing."
7. **Treasurer's Report** -- Pam Wehmeyer. The Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) is an expanded report. The Steeple Fund is large due to a gift that was given for that purpose. Work has been done on the steeple this year, with more work to come. Current Assets have improved greatly. Prior Period Adjustments of \$21,740.08 is reconciliation from previous years. At the end of the fiscal year, the amount will be included as equity. General giving has been great this year, with November and December giving yet to come. As the activities and budget increase, we will be looking for a full-charge bookkeeper.  
Melinda Grant moved to accept the report.  
Kathryn Lindsay seconded.  
Passed.
8. **Financial Secretary's Report** – Sandra Gossett. The report from January through October was reviewed. The giving for July was notably higher than in other months. It was noted that the \$7,558.07 listed in July's footnote is pass-through money from the Endowment Committee for the six 2019 grants awarded.

## 9. New Business

- a. **Discussion and Adoption of the 2020 Budget** – President Dave Fox highlighted the two large changes to the budget. First, \$15,000 is budgeted for a bookkeeping service; this service will not start at the first of the year since information is still being gathered. Secondly, the Parish Administrator position amount of \$35,568 involves moving Lisa Rives from part-time to full-time employment.  
Laura Williams moved to accept the 2020 budget.  
Jamie Bassett seconded.  
Passed.

**b. Election of the 2020 Congregational Council**

Melinda Grant moved to accept the slate of 13 officers.

Kerry Fisher seconded.

Passed.

- i. President – Natalie Wright
  - ii. Vice-President – Sandra Gates\*
  - iii. Secretary – Dianne Rister
  - iv. Treasurer – Larry Lippke\*
  - v. Financial Secretary – Sandra Gossett
  - vi. Mission Chair – Mary Evelyn Alg / Chair-elect – Kristen Sandlin\*
  - vii. Worship Chair – Mikael Olsen / Chair-elect – Wes Hall\*\*
  - viii. Education, Youth, & Family Chair – Heather Bush / Chair-elect – Tim Siegmund
  - ix. Congregational Life Chair – Leah Hedgepeth / Chair-elect – Linda Drehs
  - x. Building & Grounds Chair – James Bonds / Chair-elect – Eric Johnson
  - xi. Communications Chair – Carolyn Carr / Chair-elect – Christine Hunter
- \* self-nominated during the meeting  
\*\* nominated by Kathryn Lindsay

**c. Election of the 2020 Nominating Committee**

Nominations from the floor included and were authorized:

David Fox and Kerry Fisher, outgoing 2019 Council Members

Paul Brister, Linda Kenyon, Kristen Sandlin

Herb Fisher, Alternate

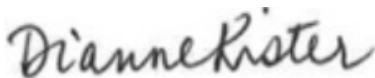
Carolyn Carr moved to accept the 2020 Nominating Committee.

Thomas Gessner seconded.

Passed.

**10. Adjournment and Closing Hymn “Doxology”**

Minutes respectfully submitted,



Dianne Rister  
2020 Council Secretary

## PASTOR'S REPORT

+ November 2019 to October 2020 +

*At Peace, we are forgiven by God's grace, renewed by Christ's love, and called to celebrate, learn, and serve.*

**Celebrate:** *We worship, sing, and journey through life together.*

**Learn:** *We grow in faith and reflect God's Word in our daily lives.*

**Serve:** *We respond to physical and spiritual needs in our community and beyond.*

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus. What can I say about this year? We have all been experiencing life as we never imagined it would be. The pandemic has presented challenges and difficulties that we have not faced before, nor would we ever want to experience again. To say this past year has been different is an understatement. I want to thank you all for your constant patience in the midst of changing circumstances, support in the face of difficult decisions and anxiety, prayers in the presence of crisis, and a faith and hope that continues to empower and sustain our community of faith.

**Celebrate:** I continue to celebrate the energy of this congregation. As this annual report will confirm, we have been a very active community during this unprecedented year. The renovation of our fellowship hall, the addition of Godly Play, and the updates of technology in our sanctuary, are a testament to our commitment to sharing the Gospel. These gifts will continue to strengthen our ministry, for our congregation, and the wider community.

**Learn:** All aspects of learning have changed this year. We have shifted to online learning via Zoom. This has impacted every study I have led and been a part of for the last several months.

Confirmation and Peer Ministry have moved on-line. Our Sunday morning and Tuesday morning Bible studies continue on Zoom. I have been a part of a wonderful conversation about Pastor Bill Williams' book *Naked Before God: The Return of a Broken Disciple* on Tuesday mornings.

With the shift in our worship schedule, I have not offered a class on Sunday morning. I plan to address this in the new year.

I will be traveling next spring to Greece and Turkey (hopefully, after we were postponed from the 2019 trip) The LEAD organization of the Gulf Coast Synod is offering a travel seminar and I have been invited to help teach alongside Rev. Don Carlson. "In Search of Paul" is an opportunity to engage the letters of Paul in the context to which they were written - though 2,000 years apart.

**Serve:** I continue to serve on the board of directors for Treehouse Ministries.

## **Pastoral Acts November 2019 to October 31, 2020**

Baptisms: 2

Weddings: 1

Funerals and Memorial Services: 3

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

2020 has been a year of both blessings and challenges for PLC.

The year started out ordinarily enough with our council retreat in January and our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert auction in February. Attendance for this cherished event was amazing. I have never seen our Fellowship Hall fuller than it was on that night and we raised \$5600 for our mission committee!

Things changed dramatically in March when the "shelter in place" was issued due to Covid, and we were forced to close our doors. Thanks to Pastor Travis, Larry Lippke, Christopher Hunter, and Sandra Gossett, we did not miss a single Sunday morning worship experience as they, within a matter of a few days, produced a Zoom service that would allow us to worship together. We were able to hear a sermon, enjoy sacred music, participate in Communion, and even visit with each other after the service!

Although our doors were closed, our church was most definitely not. Our executive team and church council continued to meet regularly, and our members found ways to do God's work in our community. Organized by Rhonda Raphael and Kristen Sandlin, volunteers made over 4500 masks and distributed over 4,000. Kristen and Connie Flickinger reached out to the Brazos Valley Food Bank allowing us to serve as a distribution center for them and in partnership with Friends United Congregational Church, volunteers have served over 300 families (1200 individuals.) This ministry continues to assist around 100 families per week.

During this period of economic uncertainty, our council took a leap of faith and approved the fund-raising effort for the renovation of our Fellowship Hall, a project that had been approved by the church council in 2019. By using matching funds of \$60,000 from the Byron See/Helen Cohen Strategic Planning Fund, we actually exceeded our fund raising goal of \$130,000 and we now have a beautiful Fellowship Hall with screens and AV equipment that will allow it to be used for social gatherings, Bible study, and meetings. It is a space with a proud and wonderful history, and we have ensured that it will continue to be treasured for many more years. Thanks to Pastor Travis, Eric Johnson, Jimmy Bonds, Bob Gibbons, Rhonda Raphael, Shawn Reynolds, and Tim Siegmund for overseeing this project and to everyone who contributed financially and otherwise, from painting to cleaning!

Prior to the renovation of our Fellowship Hall, our old Early Learning Center, which has been empty since Treehouse moved out several years ago, was repurposed to provide a space for our Boy Scouts to meet during construction and it also now houses the Amber Alert office.

We have striven this year to achieve a balance of keeping our congregation and staff safe and not contributing to the spread of COVID in our community with providing in-person worship to members who desired it. With assistance from our Worship chair, Mikael Olsen, and Pastor Travis, the executive committee established safety guidelines for a phased-in approach to in-person worship.

We started in-person worship outside on Sunday evenings in July and progressed to evening in-person worship in our sanctuary in August. In October, we moved our Sunday service to a morning service in our sanctuary. All the while, we provided a virtual worship service for members uncomfortable with attending in person.

Thanks to many volunteers, we have installed cameras, internet access, and built a control booth in our sanctuary; thus enabling us to provide a quality streaming of our service to anyone in the world who wants to worship from the safety of their home. This was truly a team effort and I hope I am not leaving anyone out. Special thanks to the key players in this effort: Eric Johnson, Chris Hunter, Larry Lippke, Joe Young, Bob Gibbons, Shawn Reynolds, and Erin Provazek.

God continues to bless Peace in so many ways. During these challenging economic times, financial giving has remained strong and our members have found ways to connect with one other and help those who are struggling in our community. It has been an honor to work with Pastor Travis, our great staff- Lisa Rives, Rhonda Raphael, Angela Fleeger, and Adam Emery, and our dedicated church council. I would like to thank our past president Dave Fox and the executive committee- Larry Lippke, Dianne Rister, and Sandra Gates - and our ever-faithful financial secretary Sandra Gossett, for their assistance, support, and commitment to Peace.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Wright  
*2020 Council President*

## **Letter to Congregation regarding TVs in the Sanctuary**

Members of Peace,

Covid-19 has presented many challenges to how we do in-person worship and has caused us to make changes in our Sunday morning worship experience. Notably, we are no longer printing bulletins in order to safeguard against the spread of the virus via touching surfaces that have been handled by multiple people. Some members are printing their own bulletins before coming to church and others are following along on their phones during the service, neither of which are ideal. This presents a special challenge for members or guests who do not know how to pre-print a bulletin and may not bring their phones with them to church.

A synod-recommended solution to this problem is to install TVs in our sanctuary. This would allow us to display the liturgy, prayers, lyrics to hymns, and announcements in a digital format. We have funds outside of our regular budget that would allow us to install these TVs. Not only would the TVs be an environmentally friendly alternative to printing bulletins on paper, but it is also actually a cost-effective alternative. They will allow us to downgrade from our “production quality” copier to a basic business machine at a much lower monthly cost.

We realize this may be a subject that people have strong feelings about, and we would like to get feedback from the congregation before making this move. We will not take a vote in favor of or opposed to installing TVs, but it would be helpful to know your concerns to help the Council decide. We will take in all concerns and strive to do all we can to make them more acceptable or aesthetically pleasing.

Please share your thoughts by November 30<sup>th</sup> in one of the following methods:

**Email:**

[lisa@peacelutheranbcs.org](mailto:lisa@peacelutheranbcs.org)

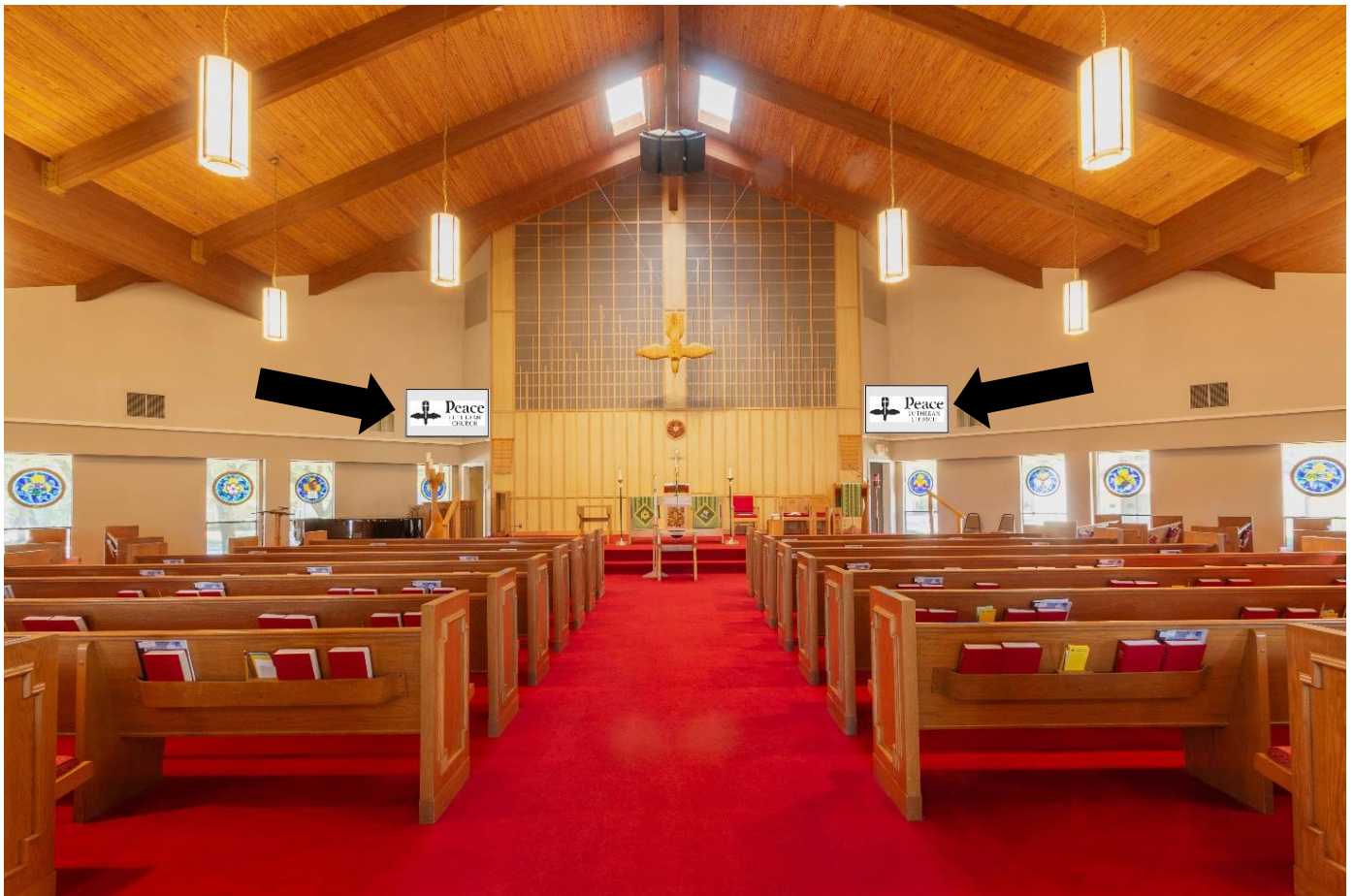
**Mail:**

Peace Lutheran Church  
2201 Rio Grande Blvd.  
College Station, Texas 77845

We are sharing an image of the design plan for your review (see next page).

Yours in Christ,

Natalie Wright  
*2020 Council President*



**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The Endowment Committee is an ad hoc committee of the congregation whose purpose is to oversee the congregation's Endowment Fund, which was established with a balance of \$150,000 in 2005. The fund exists solely for charitable purposes, with the principal objective being the promotion and development of religious, charitable, and educational activities and for non-recurring purposes not regularly budgeted by the congregation. It is a special designated fund and does not appear on Peace Lutheran's Balance Sheet.

### **Financial Status**

An up-to-date report will be included in the final draft of the Annual Report disseminated on November 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Gates

*Endowment Committee Chair*



## **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

The building and grounds committee had a huge year in 2020. In February, we refurbished the women's restroom near the sanctuary by removing wallpaper, restoring the walls and painting, and replacing the baseboards. This was followed up by Rhonda Raphael, who has designed and installed wall décor in each of the restrooms in our building.

In 2019, we installed a new roof and air conditioner on the student center building (former Treehouse building). This year, in May, we divided the classroom space into two offices so that Amber Alert could move into one of the offices, and the Boy Scouts could move all of their items out of the fellowship hall and take over the rest of the student center building. It is great to see this building in continued use by two very worthwhile organizations.

Our biggest project of the year was the Fellowship Hall remodel, which was managed by committee members James Bonds, Eric Johnson, Natalie Wright, Bob Gibbons, Rhonda Raphael, Shawn Reynolds, Tim Siegmund, and Pastor Travis Meier. We began initial planning in late 2019, and the committee was formed and started meeting in February. We met every two weeks for the duration of the project. The committee hired and worked with design/builder Jason Kinnard of Praxis Design Build to both design the space and complete the work. The work included all new interior finishes, new insulation, all new glass and glazing, new doors, new lighting and light controls, motorized shades on the high windows, a sound system, a motorized screen and projector. All painting was completed by church members. The final cleaning was done by church members. A special big thank you goes out to all who gave money, time and talents to make this project a huge success.

The corona virus pandemic created another need we had no idea would be required of us this year. And that was the need to livestream broadcast our church services so those at home could remain part of our congregation. This required the addition of three remote control cameras, a joystick controller to manipulate the cameras, a switch to designate the video feed, a computer for the livestream and graphics, two video monitors, and a hidden wireway around the room to cable everything together. We cut off two pews and built a control booth in the back of the sanctuary. Our first Sunday morning broadcast on October 4th was successful and we continue to broadcast the service every Sunday on YouTube. We are still looking for volunteers who will be trained to run all this new equipment. Now that this system is installed and complete, we are turning over management to the worship committee.

This year we formed the Retired Guys Club to do odd jobs around the church. The Retired Guys meet once a month, usually the second Monday. Some of the items completed were the removal of all of the contents of the fellowship hall prior to the remodel, and moving the contents back into the fellowship hall after the construction work was completed. We also cleaned up the student center so that building could be occupied again.

And, as our building ages, equipment wears out and needs replacement. This year we replaced the air conditioner in the coffee nook and one of the units in the fellowship hall. The coffee nook air conditioner was a special challenge as it is mounted above the ceiling of Classroom B5, next to the nursery. The ceiling had to be taken out completely, including light fixtures, so the air handler and coil could be replaced. It is a 7-1/2-ton unit, or about twice the size of a normal household system. In

replacing the condensers on the roof, we discovered some electrical issues, and had to repair some of the wiring to the rooftop condensing units.

We have 4 teams that rotate to mow the lawn around the church grounds each Saturday to keep our site looking good. Connie Flickinger, Wes Hall, Larry Lippke and Walter Kamphoefner head the four mowing teams. Rhonda Raphael, and David and Linda Bade maintain our flower beds throughout the year. Steve Gossett has been busy replacing parts of various sink faucets and toilets, and Todd Huebner has kept busy repairing our lawn sprinkler system. Bob Gibbons is our liaison with the janitorial service that has had to make several adjustments this year. It takes a lot of people, and a lot of effort to economically keep our building maintained and looking good. Thank you to all who have helped.

Sincerely,

Eric Johnson

*Building and Grounds Committee Chair-elect*

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

This has been an interesting and challenging year for us all as we have been learning new ways to worship, study, and serve in mission together.

We celebrate in that we have had talented people who have kept our church alive and active in this crisis year.

Members of our team and volunteers from the congregation have brought us into the world of internet communication and sharing as Chris, Larry Lippke, and others opened the church for us via Zoom and other media allowing us to share in God's word and work.

We have learned to communicate and make our communication between staff and our web managers easier, quicker, and clearer.

We are guiding our leaders through the process of announcing events, good news, and upcoming activities through our church website.

Through an ad hoc volunteer committee made up of Building and Grounds, Communications, and volunteers from the congregation, we have upgraded our telecommunications ability. We are now hard-wired for internet and have started streaming services; also sharing them via YouTube.

It has been a challenge and a privilege to chair this committee and I thank all the committee and friends for tolerating me this year.

Grace, mercy and peace to you all.

Carolyn Carr

*Communications Committee Chair*

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE**

### **Purpose:**

Congregational Life has been blessed with a year of providing support to the members of Peace. It has been a slow year for Congregational Life as the nation was hit with COVID-19, but that did not stop us from helping our members. Despite the craziness of not gathering, and being forced into social distancing, we did our best to remind them they are loved by the church.

### **Celebrate:**

We rented Lawnpops for Helen Eilers' 100th birthday (yard art wishing her a happy birthday). Helen is a founding member of Peace.

A group sent out note cards to the congregation to remind everyone that we still celebrate them in our lives even though we cannot see each other in person.

We are excited to celebrate our new Fellowship Hall with an old-fashioned, new groove, socially distanced picnic on November 1st.

### **Learn:**

We have learned that our members care about each other immensely. We had a wonderful group of ladies make calls to members to remind them they are still loved by us at the church

Several groups continued to meet via Zoom for Bible study throughout this crazy year. The groups were Men's Bible Study, Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Men's Breakfast group, and Ladies Two or More group.

This summer, we began offering a prayer service meeting on Thursday mornings in person with social distancing and masks. It will continue in the fall and is consistently attended.

### **Serve:**

We continue to serve by offering the 13-week Grief Share program and the Loss of Spouse one-day seminar. This was offered once in the spring and once in the fall.

Time and Talent forms are coming out online and will be accepted October 28th through November 25<sup>th</sup>.

In December, we will be sending a special gift to our members of the congregation. We could tell you now, but it's a surprise!

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Hedgepeth

*Congregational Life Committee Chair*

## **EDUCATION, YOUTH & FAMILY COMMITTEE**

Education, Youth and Family unfortunately had to cancel much of its programs and events this year due to COVID-19, but throughout the year has looked for ways to still encourage intergenerational connections among our members, build relationships among our families, and grow faith in our youth of all ages.

On Sunday, February 23, seven 2nd graders participated in First Communion. An additional ceremony was held in early March for one other child.

Many of our seasonal activities were canceled, including:

- The annual intergenerational Bible study normally held each Wednesday during the Lenten season after the Lenten meal.
- Good Friday Activities Day for Pre-K through 6th grade youth.
- Lutherhill Day Camp at Peace in June for youth ages preschool through 6th grade.
- FATT (Faith at the Table) Wednesday, in which the main course of meal is provided each month and the congregation is invited to bring sides and desserts.

### **Youth Sunday School**

- Sunday School adopted a new curriculum this year, Godly Play. The classes are similar to Montessori style teaching, with hands-on instruction. We were able to purchase a full set of lessons with a grant from the Sarah Hensz Memorial Funds.
- When the pandemic began, Sunday School moved to zoom meetings and the Godly Play kick-off was postponed. Sunday School paused for a short time during the summer months as the pandemic continued. In September, Sunday School resumed, and Godly Play curriculum started. We have condensed the number of classes by combining PreK through 6th grades.
- We have had challenges identifying volunteers to be Sunday School teachers and continue to ask for volunteers for this role.
- When Sunday School resumed in September, it moved to a 9:30 am time slot, before worship, and is now only 45 minutes long to accommodate changes in worship schedule.
- Children's Church was paused during the pandemic and has not restarted as of the submission of this report.

### **Adult Sunday School**

- Steve Gossett coordinates Adult Sunday School
- An 8:30 am class is held before worship, currently led by Steve Gossett
- Pastor Travis is teaching an adult class at 11:00 that has been well attended.

### **Confirmation**

- We currently have 20 youth in grades 7-9 participating in the Confirmation program which meets on Sunday afternoons via zoom, and will move into the Fellowship Hall in the fall.
- Camp was canceled in the summer due to the COVID pandemic.

## **LYO**

- This year, the LYO Mentors are Taylor Baumann and Sam Tetzl. Youth in grades 9-12 meet on Wednesday evenings.

### **Family Fellowship Activities**

- Young Disciples began meeting in January and February for monthly fellowship activities for families with children ages 6th grade and younger, but paused for March through July. In August, youth began meeting again outdoors for family friendly activities and plan to hold a Halloween activity in October. Some of these events have included parents' dinner out while children watched a movie, and enjoyed making tie-dyed t-shirts.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Bush

*Education, Youth & Family Committee Chair*

Tim Siegmund

*Education, Youth & Family Committee Chair-Elect*

## MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee has had a highly active year. The events of the year have changed how things look for our activities, yet it has provided new opportunities for our mission to reach outside our congregation.

### **First, for updates on the “Old”**

- **Spaghetti Supper & Dessert Auction**

- As always, we had a fun and energetic evening with all who attended and participated in this annual event that took place February 9<sup>th</sup>. With approximately 120 guests, we were able to raise \$5,587.50! This year's contributions were shared with Hospice Brazos Valley, Stillcreek Ranch, and Project REACH.

- **Social Concerns**

- The social concerns committee has continued to aid members within and outside the congregation. They assisted with gas cards, rental/utility assistance, and medical-related expenses.
- Beyond this, they continued to work in partnership with Brazos Health Resource to identify persons who need assistance, helping get our funds to those who need it in an organized and responsible way.
- While Easter flowers were a little different this year (provided to the neighborhood around the Blessings Box), sale of the seasonal flowers and Poinsettias will continue to provide additional funds to support this mission.

- **Blessings Box**

- We have continued to keep the Blessings Box filled as the needs of the neighbors around us have continued to grow.
- While the mission and staff members fill the box as the need arises, it is a common site to see other congregation members along with members of the neighborhood not connected to Peace helping to keep the box full.
- This year we have begun filling it with another essential service – books for youth! Keep an eye out for those books soon having their own location.

- **House Painting with Grounds members**

- We had a unique opportunity to help connect a member of the community with members of Peace to do some major house painting and other exterior work to get much needed code issues resolved!
- Huge thanks to the many volunteers and, in particular, Eric Johnson, for helping to bring their talents to assist with this well-deserving neighbor.

- **Backpack Drive for Grind4God**

- Holding this drive for the second year, we requested donations to go towards providing all the new school supplies needed for a deserving group of kids and families.
- Not only did the donations help us fulfill all the backpacks and supplies needed, but we also had extra money that was used to help provide much-needed school clothes for a few of the children!

- **BCS Habitat for Humanity**

- While service opportunities have been minimal with Habitat this year, Mission continues to work through Connie Flickinger to keep our connection to Habitat as an important relationship.
- One of the opportunities we did have was once again sponsoring a pallet with the annual pumpkin patch, as well as adopting a station at their (socially distanced) Trick or Treat!

### **What new things began?**

While the Mission Committee began looking for new opportunities to bring our service to the community around us, COVID really helped drive that forward.

- **Hero Mask Makers**

- Coordinated out of our fellowship hall, volunteers throughout the community came together donating material and time.
- At a time when finding masks to buy was difficult, they were able to fill a giant need providing free masks to those individuals and businesses throughout the Brazos Valley.
- The Hero Mask Makers created 4,500 masks in 4 months!

- **Brazos Community Response Coalition**

- This group formed as a partnership between Peace Lutheran and Friends Congregational Churches to assist the needy in our community by giving out fresh produce every Friday from 4:00 – 7:00pm.
- It has been such a wonderful new opportunity to serve the neighbors around us, while forming a closer connection to the congregation right next door.
- We are excited about where this new aspect of our mission can go and expand to.

### **Looking Forward**

We are so very excited about the things that have been going on with Mission this year – taking care of our long-standing relationships and projects while forging new relationships that will serve as a foundation to bring Peace's mission and drive out into our neighborhood and community.

I need to give a personal giant thank you to our tireless Mission Committee members. With Juliana joining us this year, they had minimal direction from me. However, they are all so knowledgeable, dedicated, and giving of themselves that they truly are the ones that made all the above possible. Thank you all. You guys work hard and often behind the scenes. Thank you for your many hours of work and continued passion for the work this committee does. You are a blessing to this church and to the community.

We are always needing volunteers! Both for the committee and for individual projects – this will be especially true as the needs of our community continue to grow. While the Twin City Mission Coat and Blanket Drive is wrapping up, we are still needing bakers (homemade or just home baked!) to help make pies for the Twin City Mission Thanksgiving Dinner!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Evelyn Alg

*Mission Committee Chair*

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

October 12, 2020

The events of this year are and have been influenced by the restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Guidelines was initially developed for the different phases published for the Covid-19 pandemic by local, State, and Federal government and ELCA Synod. The committee has continued to develop and update the necessary as well as required procedures and protocols for conducting the services and the use of buildings safely.

In April 2020, we started conducting virtual services via Zoom. Thanks to Larry Lippke and Chris Hunter for helping to set up the Zoom meetings and for registering our participation in Zoom. As the positive cases have declined to a safer level for in-sanctuary services, these were begun on October 4th. Adjustments are being made to make sure that communion is dispensed at the best and safest level. These services are streamed live as well. This is made possible through the installation of video equipment in the Sanctuary and was accomplished during the summer by Eric Johnson, Larry Lippke, and Chris Hunter. The committee thanks them as well as the donors, who made it financially possible.

The committee wishes to thank Lisa Rives for her continued help and support with keeping information flowing from this committee to the posted information for service opportunities and assignments. Thanks to Howard Eilers, Kerry Fisher, Michael Williams, Wes Hall, Pat & Bob Gibbons, and Joanne Lange for their help scheduling of assisting ministers, greeters, ushers, lectors, sacristans, and communion bread. Without their help our services would have been most difficult to conduct.

Finally, I would personally thank Pastor Travis for his continued guidance and leadership during these most unusual times. Thanks goes to Adam Emery as well for his continued support of our music program and for his selections of beautiful pieces of music. Your help is most appreciated.

Mikael Olsen

*Worship Committee Chair*



# MEMBERSHIP CHANGES 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Membership Categories	Baptized	Confirmed	Total Members	Households
<i>September 30, 2019</i>	<b>363</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>209</b>
<b><u>Losses</u></b>				
Deaths*	-1	-2	-2	0
Removed/Transferred out	-5	-4	-5	-1
<b><u>Additions</u></b>				
Baptisms	+1	0	+1	0
Confirmed	0	0	0	0
New Members/Transfers in	0	0	0	0
<b><u>Database Corrections</u></b>				
<b>TOTALS</b> <i>as of September 30, 2020</i>	<b>358</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>208</b>

Rev. Travis Meier  
Pastor  
September 30, 2020

*\*Three deaths occurred since our last Annual Meeting. Missing numbers are a result from no Baptism/Confirmation information ever being received/entered into our database.*

	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2011</u></b>
<b>Baptized</b>	<b>358</b>	363	333	571	562	565	551	541	602	615
<b>Confirmed</b>	<b>343</b>	349	328	439	428	426	421	403	448	563
<b>Households</b>	<b>208</b>	209	192	257	251	252	248	238	266	270

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**  
**2021 CONTINUING LEADERSHIP & CANDIDATES**

The Nominating Committee has completed its duties by:

- Confirming the Leadership Team members that will continue to serve in 2020.
- Nominating a candidate to begin serving on the Leadership Team in 2021 as a Chair.
- Nominating candidates to begin serving on the Leadership Team in 2021 as Chairs-Elect.

**2021 Continuing Leadership**

**Past President** – Natalie Wright

**Treasurer** – Larry Lippke

**Financial Secretary** – Sandra Gossett

**2021 Election Candidates:**

**President** – Sandra Gates

**Vice President** – Steve Searcy

**Secretary** – Ruthie Gray

**2021 Council Committee Chair:**

**Worship Chair** – Denise Magnuson

**2021 Council Committee Chairs:**

**Ed., Youth & Family Chair** – Tim Siegmund

**Building & Grounds Chair** – Eric Johnson

**Communications** – Christine Hunter

**Congregational Life Chair** – Linda Drehs

**Mission Chair** – Kristen Sandlin

**2021 Council Committee Chairs-Elect:**

**Ed., Youth & Family Chair-Elect** – Anja Schwalen

**Building & Grounds Chair-Elect** – Jason Vaaler

**Communications Chair-Elect** – TBD

**Congregational Life Chair-Elect** – TBD

**Mission Chair-Elect** – Connie Flickinger

**Worship Chair-Elect** – Michelle Osterholm

*These nominations are respectfully submitted by:*

David Fox, *Nominating Committee Chair*

Paul Brister

Kristen Sandlin

Linda Kenyon

Kerry Fisher\*

*\*indicates outgoing council member as required by the constitution.*

**“Doxology”**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise him, all creatures here below!  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.*