

Ministry Plan

2021-2022

peace 
l u t h e r a n

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Pastor: Jonathan Bourman
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Mission

*To bring real peace to real people
through Jesus Christ*

Vision

- *To become the premier destination in Aiken for people seeking Christ's peace through excellent Sunday morning preaching and worship.*
- *To root our members in the truth of the gospel through Peace 101, Peace Academy, Peace Leadership Institute, and Peace Kidz.*
- *To be a true family for one another in times of real joy and real crisis by connecting through life groups, fellowship, and in service of our shared mission.*

Values

We strive to pursue excellence in all we do, being culturally sensitive, always looking forward, and helping people be vocational.

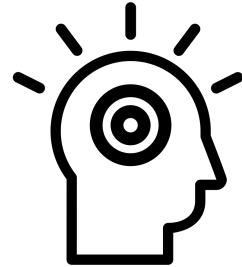
Three Year Goals

- *To increase our first-time guest flow, by improving our website and enhancing our social media output*
- *To accelerate growth, by equipping members with methods to engage in friendship evangelism*
- *To relaunch support groups called Life Groups that promote spiritual growth and provide a sense of community*
- *To provide teaching that helps believers grow in their faith and equips them to talk with skeptics and unbelievers*
- *To identify opportunities to serve the hurting in Aiken and develop a program that engages members in vocational living*
- *To engage members in congregational service opportunities by making our administrative and people systems more accessible*
- *To improve our property to embody Peace fully and to attract first-time guests*
- *To achieve total financial independence in 2022 and maintain it*

How our mission is carried out in the community

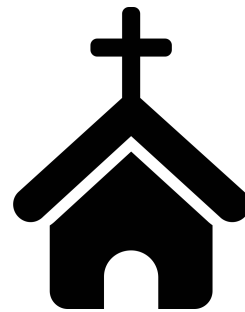
1

Create
Awareness



2

Sunday
Worship



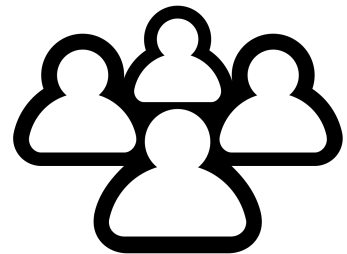
3

Meet the
Pastor



4

Peace 101



How our mission is carried out among our members

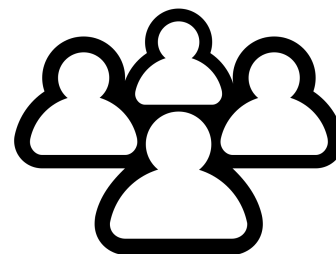
1

Worship



2

Grow



3

Connect



"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

Create Awareness

Through Outreach



The Invitation

The whole of our outreach rises and falls on each of us inviting others to church.

1. Invitation that is done well consists of three parts: Invite to a specific Sunday where you will be in attendance.
2. Give critical information, such as service time and location. We will occasionally equip all members with invitation cards.
3. Personally, look for guests and welcome them, show them around our church, sit by them, and perhaps take them out for lunch.

In the coming year, we will be focusing especially on engaging in friendship evangelism. Through our spiritual growth programs, we will strive to make members comfortable in engaging in spiritual conversations with friends and inviting them to church. Once these guests come through the doors, our Welcome and Usher Teams are trained to ensure that every guest is engaged as wisely as possible.

Marketing

We have used many different kinds of media in the history of our church. You will notice in our budget that we will continue to focus our efforts on online media. This is for two reasons. 1) We believe it is more inexpensive. 2) We want to reach younger families that are not interacting with the legacy types of media that we have used in the past.

1. We will enhance our website to make it more accessible for first-time visitors.
2. We intend to sharpen the focus of our Facebook and Instagram posts.
3. We will continue to offer two different podcasts.
4. We will continue working on more regular offerings on our website's blog.
5. We will continue to send handwritten invitations to new-movers and prospects.
6. We intend to focus outreach efforts specifically on Easter 2022 by distributing invitations, reconnecting with pre-COVID guests, and promoting in-church attendance.

Community Events/Involvement

- VBS in July.
- Participate in a community service project in Nov./Dec.
- Aiken Chamber of Commerce membership.
- We will continue to bless the Cumbee Center with our service and gifts.
- We will continue on our path to develop and search out ways to use our location and facility to be a blessing to our community, including assistance to the homeless and offering childcare during downtown events.
- We will once again open up our building for Night of 1000 Lights in downtown Aiken.
- We will continue to hold many events that bring guests into contact with the Word and build community with them such as Chili Cook-Off, Hanging of the Greens, Special Concert events utilizing the talents on our worship team and choir, Mother's Day photos, Christmas cookie exchange, baby showers, Easter Egg Hunt, and prayer request follow-ups to show we care.
- In everything that we do, we will look to build a culture of welcome and openness to our guests.
- See below for the coming, major, and new ministry programs in this area.

Outreach Beyond this Community

We will continue to give generously to the Mission Work of our larger church body, the WELS, arriving at a tithe of our offerings in this plan. We will remember with thanksgiving that this is how we got our start.

Worship/Youth Ministry

Sunday is to be the highlight and absolute best of all we do



The Message and Form

- We will continue to rely on God's power through his Word and sacraments. We will balance law and gospel in preaching and music with the goal to make the gospel predominate.
- We will continue to use the best of both new and old music. This is in keeping with our desire to hold onto the best of the past while still embracing modern ways of messaging the gospel.
- We will continue to do the same in terms of our liturgies. We want to remain rooted in what Christians have always held dear, but at the same time, meet today's people with the faith.
- We will remain focused on developing people's gifts and making use of them.
- We will continue to follow a well-constructed three-year series of readings that walk the church through the Scriptures.

Sunday morning teams

We will continue to improve our systems to assimilate our guests effectively into our Sunday morning ministries. We plan to work at this, mainly through our Peace 101 classes, where social integration into the church will receive a high level of priority.

Music

We will continue working on music composition. We will continue to ask our most gifted artists to take strong hymns of the past and make them fit into our worship at Peace.

Peace Kidz Ministry

We believe that using the parents as teachers will be beneficial in guiding the parents in Christian instruction in the church as well as in the home, will increase involvement in the program for the whole family, and will bless the children by seeing the example of Christian teaching by their parents. For this reason, we plan to spend the bulk of our resources in developing our parents for Peace Kidz ministry at church and parenting at home.

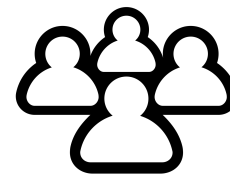
We strive to involve the kids in Sunday morning worship. One way that we will do this is through children's choir and handbells.

We intend to offer a VBS in the summer that will connect young families in the community with our Peace Kidz Ministry.

We remain committed to our nursery and fully staffing it. We will retain our background checks and robust policies for people staffing the space. We have seen that this is an incredibly beneficial service to provide for our guests who come with that expectation or need.

Connect/Serve

The arena for ongoing spiritual growth, fellowship and service



Peace 101

Peace 101 will remain the foundational path to membership in the church. Classes will be offered to prospects on an ongoing basis.

Peace Academy

Outside of preaching, Peace Academy will continue to be the primary way for members to grow in their knowledge and understanding of the various facets of the gospel. It will continue to follow a well-organized curriculum of timely teaching on books of the Bible, doctrinal topics, and church history. Of particular focus here will be teachings on evangelism and apologetics.

Peace Leadership Institute

Peace Leadership Institute continues to offer a seminar each year. PLI exists to identify and raise up people who have demonstrated a teachable spirit and gifts for leadership positions in our local church. It offers both doctrinal and leadership training for that distinct purpose. The graduates of this group will serve as elders, life group facilitators, and in other vital areas of our ministry as well.

Life Groups

Life Groups will be relaunching in 2022. In addition to our men's and women's Bible studies, we believe we need to provide small groups throughout the church. Since the pandemic interrupted our most recent Life Groups, we think 2022 is an appropriate time to restart this ministry. Our church continues to worship over one hundred people. We need these people to be caring for each other more so that the pastor can remain free to serve guests of Peace. This will help ensure that the church continues to grow at a healthy rate. We are asking for prayers as we relaunch what has already been a transformational ministry for the church. This will remain a top priority to support the future growth of the church.

*"Two are better than one, If either of them falls down one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*

Supper & Study

We will continue meeting each Wednesday night for a potluck dinner and Bible study. This ministry has been greatly enjoyed by members of Peace. As we focus our efforts on friendship evangelism, we will encourage members to welcome friends to this more casual evening study.

Community Outreach

In 2022 we are seeking to establish a system that serves our community in a consistent and effective manner. Our mission statement for the program is as follows: *Peace's Community Outreach Program exists to empower Peace's members to vocational living, which hears Jesus' call to serve the vulnerable.* Our basic idea is that we will partner with acceptable organizations in our community simply to care for others. We pray that through this program, we will bless God's world and, more, teach our members to live vocationally for the Lord.

Catechism Class

This is the class that grounds our 7th-8th graders in the Word. It is a 2-year curriculum meeting every other Wednesday during the school year.

Pastoral Growth

The pastor will continue to pursue his doctoral work. In 2022, he will continue his dissertation and final project by positioning the church for a post-Christian America.

Service

The church will build out solid systems



Areas of Service

- ❖ Altar Guild - Beautifying worship space in line with the Christian Church Year and setting up for baptism/communion when necessary.
- ❖ Outreach Team - Helping to plan outreach efforts. Peace will look to Peace Leadership Institute to raise up a leader to take over this team.
- ❖ Tech Team - Running soundboard, monitoring sound quality, control presentation, etc. Peace will be focusing on handing off the leadership of this team as well.
- ❖ Prayer Team - Actively praying for our congregation and community, responding to weekly prayer requests.
- ❖ Sunday Cafe - Preparing coffee, providing donuts/snacks, and setting up and cleaning up the Sunday Cafe.
- ❖ Usher - Showing people to their seats in worship, handing out service cards, receiving the offering each week, and setting up more seating when needed. Recording attendance. Carrying out special instructions for special services. Of particular note: the usher team receives specialized training to read body language and engage appropriately with guests.
- ❖ Welcome team - Greeting guests and members especially during Sunday morning worship.
- ❖ Cleaning team - Coming in during the week to spot clean the whole building, deep clean bathrooms, and other deep cleanings as needed.
- ❖ Peace Kidz teachers - Teaching the children and youth of Peace to know Christ and the gospel.
- ❖ Peace Kidz helpers - Lending a hand to the teachers of Peace Kidz.
- ❖ Nursery Helpers - Keeping children safe and sharing Jesus with them during worship.
- ❖ Worship Team - Using vocals and instrumentation to lead the congregation in worship music as well as preservice music.
- ❖ Voices of Peace - Proclaiming the gospel to the church in song as a choir at various times throughout the church year.
- ❖ Buildings and Grounds - Monitoring and maintaining the appearance and function of the building.
- ❖ Counters - Helping to count offerings in adherence to the financial procedure.

Facility

Embodying in our building what we are spiritually

Maintenance

We will maintain the excellence of our building through proper check-ups and maintenance. A volunteer custodian will ensure that proper maintenance procedures are being completed at the required times.

Art

We will strategically beautify our space with Christian art. We will focus especially on our Welcome Center, as well as the possibility of beautifying the sidewalk area in front of church. We are considering the best way to post our mission statement and our values in the Welcome Center. We have completed and installed our commissioned series of artworks in our hallway. The art features statements of peace from Jesus. There was a series of Bible studies to introduce the art and to educate the congregation on its meaning. Members will be able to point these out to first-time visitors and explain the gospel truths communicated by each.

Facility Development

We want to develop a desk in our Welcome Center, where people can sign up for different areas of service. We want to embody our value at Peace of vocational living. In other words, we want a piece of furniture on which various announcements and sign up sheets may be placed for people to serve the Lord in our church and community in multiple ways.

We are looking at ways we can improve the acoustics of spaces where Bible studies and church gatherings take place. The primary area of concern will be the Welcome Center. This will ensure that people are able to receive clear instruction as well as make the space a more enjoyable area for fellowship.

Facility Safety

We will continue to monitor our safety plans for the facility so that we are as secure as possible. We do plan to install crash bars in our Welcome Center as a part of this effort.

Plan For Support

Giving to the Lord is a matter of the heart.

- ❖ **It's a cheerful response** - *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (1 Corinthians 9:7)*
- ❖ **It guards against sinful idolatry** - *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Matthew 6:24)*
- ❖ **It guards against sinful dependence** - *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (1 Timothy 6:17)*
- ❖ **It's done best by planning a portion** - *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income” (1 Corinthians 16:2)*

A Godly Budget

- 1) **Give** - Set aside first what you plan to give to the Lord
- 2) **Save** - Plan for the future and give yourself a cushion for emergencies
- 3) **Live** - Live on the rest