

Prints of Peace

Congregational Newsletter
Volume 19 Issue 12

Peace Lutheran Church
December 2017

Special Sundays & Other Church Events

December 7	Adult Forum, 6 PM
December 10	Hanging of the Greens, 10:30 AM
December 12	Council, 6 PM
December 17	Children's Pageant, 9 AM Christmas Caroling, 2 PM
December 21	Longest Night, 6 PM
December 24	Advent 4 Worship, 9 AM Christmas Eve, 4 PM Christmas Eve, 7 PM
December 25	Christmas, 10 AM
December 25, 26	Office Closed

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

December 3

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55 or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 25 (Christmas Day)

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

December 31

Isaiah 61:10- 62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>AGO Sing-A-Long</i>	11	<i>Longest Night</i>	9
<i>Birthdays</i>	4	<i>Lutheran Advocacy</i>	9
<i>Border Servant Corps</i>	6	<i>Nursing Notes</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	insert	<i>Pastor's Message</i>	2
<i>Caroling</i>	11	<i>Poinsettias</i>	11
<i>Coffee Hour Music</i>	11	<i>Synod Fall Meeting Report</i>	8
<i>Congregational Meeting</i>	10	<i>Rocky Mountain Synod</i>	insert
<i>Council Meeting Notes</i>	10	<i>Soup Suppers</i>	7
<i>Directory Updates</i>	4	<i>Thank You Note</i>	4
<i>Faith Formation</i>	5	<i>Three Christmas Services</i>	9
<i>Hanging of the Greens</i>	7	<i>Vicar's Corner</i>	3
<i>Jardin Shoe Tree</i>	4	<i>Women in Motion</i>	4

Pastor's Message

A Simple Christmas Hope – A Savior, the Messiah, the Lord

Blessed Christmas! – It's never too early (or late) to bid family, friends, and strangers a blessed Christmas. As followers of the Messiah, we don't live in suspense about whether or not Jesus was born. The birth of Jesus is a historical event that holds deep theological implications for Christians. We trust that it is God, our Savior, who is born in the person of Jesus, who will bring healing to the nations. In the birth story we perceive that God is not content to exist outside of the human experience, but instead desires a deep connection to humanity. In faith, we believe that God breaks into human history in this profound event of Jesus' birth. God comes to us in human flesh. This is what we mean when we say *incarnation*. The Christ-mass is the worship service that celebrates the coming and incarnation of God, our Messiah. The titles Messiah and Christ are synonymous (Messiah is Hebrew, while Christ is Greek, both mean "the anointed one").

A beautiful aspect to the story of God's incarnation from the Gospel according to Luke is that God comes as a vulnerable child and rests in the care of human agents, Mary and Joseph. As your pastor, this story reminds me that God continues to entrust to troubled humanity the great Good News: God, the Savior is here! Therefore, daily we are caretakers of God's presence in the world no less than Mary and Joseph.

My favorite modern depiction of this great Good News comes to us from St. Linus, in the movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Throughout the movie, Charlie Brown is searching for the meaning of Christmas. Linus, who is perpetually sucking his thumb and clinging to his comfort blanket, walks out on stage and recites Luke 1:8-14:

*"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'"*



No sooner does Linus complete his monologue than his thumb goes right back into his mouth as he walks off stage. It sounds so simple and yet deeply profound.

The simple message of Christmas hope is that Christians trust/believe that God, the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord – is born! Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom God favors. In the life and ministry of Jesus we witness God's loving and compassionate intent for humanity. God comes in human flesh and brings Peace. Peace is something we can all hope for in the coming year.

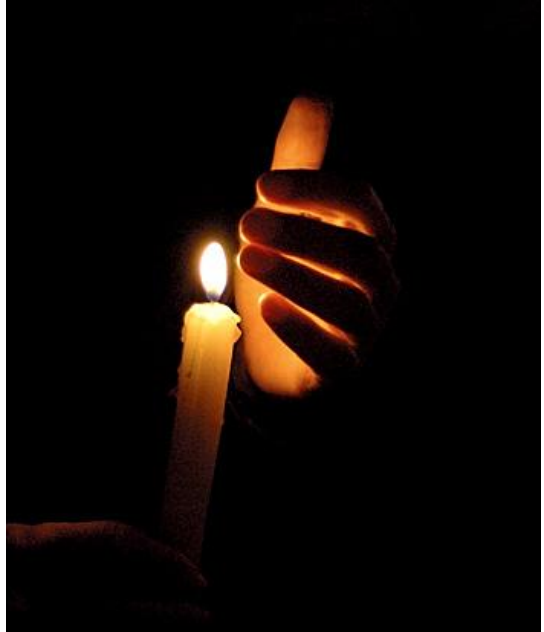
Faithfully Yours,

Jared Carson

Pr. Jared Carson

Vicar's Corner

Writing this in mid-November, Christmas decorations are already going up in stores and homes all over the city. I have been enjoying the sound of Peace's many talented pianists practicing Christmas pieces for several weeks now. However, this vicar's heart is still turned toward Advent. Advent is perhaps my favorite season of the entire liturgical year. Especially as the days grow shorter and the news shows more violence and more division in the world, Advent resonates with me: I find myself longing for a light to shine in the darkness – a light that darkness cannot overcome. It's the waiting, the discerning, the longing, that give the Christmas season its meaning.



For the people of Jesus' time, their hope was rooted in God's promises, promises made manifest in God's leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt into freedom. Remembrance of this promise fulfilled built up their hope for the future. For God's people living now, our hope is rooted in God's promises, promises made manifest in the person of God's son, Jesus. During Advent and Christmas we remember that our living God humbly took on human flesh, entered the world among an oppressed and marginalized people, and became the light burning brightly in the darkness. We remember. And, like the ancient Israelites, that remembrance turns us forward to the future with hope.

The adult forum series I am leading this month is meant to fit right into these forward-looking Advent motifs – to look toward the future with hope. For two weeks, you are invited to gather after worship for intentional and candid conversation about what the future of Peace may look like – specifically with regard to the possibility of bilingual ministry. You all have graciously allowed me to conduct my little bilingual ministry experiment during this year that I am here with you, but whether Peace will continue down this path after I leave is a decision the people of Peace must make. This two week forum is an opportunity to begin exploring, visioning, dreaming about what this might look like. If you are really excited about bilingual ministry, I hope you will come. If you really hate the thought of Peace becoming a bilingual congregation, I hope you will come. If you're somewhere in the middle, I hope you will come.

The darkness is deepening, but the hope our God has given us is a flame that burns brightly in our hearts. Come; let us gather to wait for that light, to see together what it might show us.

Vicar Day

Noisy Offering on New Year's Eve

The fifth Sunday of each month we collect a "noisy offering." December 31 will be the last chance this year for the children to collect your dedicated offering. Start your New Year's Eve celebration early by making a joyful noise to the Lord with your coins.



Please let us know if we missed your birthday!

December Birthdays			
12/1	Katina Ridley	12/12	Philip Yost Jr.
12/2	Johanna Mdoe	12/13	Kari Lenander
12/3	Rose Baker	12/14	Alaina Carnathan
12/3	Susanna Odegaard	12/14	Jon Olson
12/3	Missy Varol	12/14	Anne Woodling
12/4	Kacie Duran	12/16	Tom Rollag
12/5	Matt Pettersen	12/22	Seven Caretto
12/7	Kat Sanchez	12/25	Carol Blaschka
12/8	Rebecca Powell	12/26	Bryan Carter
12/8	Ryan Steinmetz	12/26	Sonya Kumpuckal
12/9	Dwight Eggers	12/27	Mateo Garay
12/11	Sandy Johnson	12/28	LaJune Smith
12/12	Dean Ayres	12/29	Barbara Powers
12/12	Betty Lindsey	12/30	Carlos Campos Jr.

Church Directory Updates

Please notify the office if you have any address, email or phone number changes.

John & Tammy Powers
1708 Defiance Rd.
Las Cruces, NM 88001



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

Return the shoes to Jardin Shoe Tree

Visit our "Shoe Tree," choose a shoe tag (child), go shopping, and bring your shoes back to Peace.

Shoes need to be returned **before Wed., December 6th**.

Contact Laura Carson with any questions.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

We gratefully acknowledge your donation for \$335. Your gift will help us in our daily fight against hunger.

This Hunger Action Month! Casa de Peregrinos' (CdP) program operates through three projects: Food Security, Summer Food, and Rural Initiative. As a major food pantry in Las Cruces, CdP serves not only Las Cruces, but also much of Dona Ana County...*

Sincerely,
Lorenzo Alba, Jr.
Executive Director

(You may read the letter in its entirety on the kiosk.)

Women in Motion

Offerings are collected at the monthly gatherings of Women in Motion. This year, \$505 was donated and used to purchase one hundred chicks, three pigs, three goats, three roosters, three beehives, and two water filters from ELCA Good Gifts to help make a difference in the world.

All women are invited to the next gathering of Women in Motion January 18. More information to come later.

Faith Formation News

Peace Lutheran Church
December 2017

Upcoming Events:

- 12/3—*Borders of the Heart* (10:30am)
- 12/3—Confirmation
- 12/7—NMSU Outdoor Office Hours (11:15am)
- 12/9—Pageant Practice
- 12/10—*Borders of the Heart* (10:30am)
- 12/16—Pageant Practice
- 12/17—Pageant (9:00am)
- 12/17—Confirmation & Youth Group (2-5pm)
- 12/24—Christmas Eve Worship (4pm - Family Service; 7pm Candlelight)
- 12/25—Christmas Day Worship (10am)
- 12/31—Noisy Offering


SPARK
 Sunday School
 (3 years – 5th grade)

Dec. Bible Story
The Widow's Offering
 Mark 12:38-44

Over 200 for Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat is growing at Peace! We welcomed people from our neighborhood and the larger Las Cruces community. Several families shared how grateful they were that we offered this event and said that they really enjoy our Trunk or Treat!



We welcomed over 200 children and their families to our parking lot on October 29th. This event wouldn't have been possible without volunteers and trunk decorators, so THANK YOU to everyone who participated!

~Deacon Laura



Christmas Pageant - Choices!

Children and youth (3 years through high school) are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant. We will be telling the nativity story through the lens of some of the characters that might have interacted with Mary and Joseph. Each of

them had a choice to make.



Join us in worship on Sunday, December 17th for this year's Pageant!

Practices will be held on Saturdays, December 9th and 16th from 10am-11am. Contact Deacon Laura for more information or to sign-up to participate.



Join the
Open House
at



BSCers host Community Nights at/about their service site throughout the service year.

Includes a meal, experiential learning, and reflection—bridging direct service and social justice.

Everyone is invited to attend to learn more about organizations in the region!

Tuesday, December 5th
6:30pm-8:30pm

La Casa, Inc.

800 S Walnut St.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Hosts: Kelly Johnson (BSCer)
& La Casa, Inc. Staff

Potluck: Please bring a dish to share!

RSVP: sophia@borderservantcorps.org
by Sunday, December 3rd!

This event is free & open to the public. Sponsored by BSC BORDER SERVANT CORPS



Hello! I'm Kelly Johnson, a native of Reading, Pennsylvania. The call to continue to deepen my spirituality and commitment to social justice drew me to serve this year with Border Servant Corps, where I will have the opportunity to more fully grow personally and with the BSC community. I am thrilled to serve at La Casa, Inc., and am excited to learn about the history and present-day realities of those living in the border region. I look forward to the joys and challenges that this year will bring (including learning how to become a better cook!), and hope to cultivate meaningful relationships and foster community within and extending outside of BSC.



presents
ISSUES NIGHT

A series of educational evenings featuring guest speakers from the community

Dinner provided by THRIVENT FINANCIAL

RSVP: sophia@borderservantcorps.org
by Thursday, December 7th, 2017

"Immigration & Justice"

Guest Speakers:

Dulcinea Lara, Ph.D.
Nicholas Natividad, Ph.D.



Tuesday, December 12th
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Branigan Cultural Center
501 N Main St, Las Cruces, NM 88001



PRAYER PETITIONS

We invite partners to support BSC, volunteers, and service sites through intentional prayer.

Each month, BSC shares a prayer petition for a different volunteer - corresponding with the Service Site Open House Community Night that each volunteer hosts once a year.

Please feel free to share; we are grateful for your continued partnership and support.

December 2017 Prayer Petition

For Kelly Johnson, BSCer serving as an Education Specialist at La Casa Inc.

La Casa Inc., provides comprehensive services, including shelter, in order to diminish domestic violence and abuse in all forms. Their services are available to ALL individuals, regardless of race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.



BSC is participating in the AmazonSmile #SeasonOfSmiles campaign by posting stories on their social media pages regarding the great work BSC is doing and how AmazonSmile donations are helping further their mission.

Amazon will be sharing inspirational charity stories with Facebook followers.

Amazon will review the charity posts and share one story per day on their Facebook page Nov. 28-Dec. 31.

www.smile.amazon.com

Nursing Notes

December brings more parties and get-togethers with family, friends, old and new. We meet more indoors and share more food and fun. Unfortunately, we also share more germs that can make us sick. **National Handwashing Awareness Week is December 3-9**, so I want to share a review of why clean hands are important, how best to wash, when to use hand sanitizers.

The Principles of Hand Awareness, endorsed by the AMA are:

1. Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating.
2. Cough or sneeze into your shoulder, **NOT INTO YOUR HANDS.**
3. **DO NOT** put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth! (even clean ones).

Washing hands with **soap and water** is the **BEST** way to reduce the number of microbes on them. If you have the choice, opt for good old soap and water. IF you see dirt/grease, **WASH !!**



- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off water, apply soap.

- Lather hands by rubbing them together with soap. Lather backs, between fingers, and under nails.

- Scrub hands for at least 20 seconds. Try singing "Happy Birthday" twice. Kids get into this!!

- Rinse hands well under clean, running water.

- Dry hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

If soap and water are not available, use an **alcohol-based sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol. (Non-alcohol-based hand sanitizers may reduce the growth of germs, but not kill them. These products may be more likely to irritate the skin. Journal of Food Protection, Nov. 2010).

- Apply product to the palm of one hand (read label to learn the correct amount).

- Rub hands together.

- Rub product over all surfaces of hands and fingers, until hands are dry.

CAUTION! Swallowing alcohol-based sanitizer can cause alcohol poisoning.

Keep it out of reach of young children.

The majority of diseases enter our bodies through the **mucous membranes of our eyes, nose and mouth.** For respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases it is **the only** portal of entry!! So, practice **NOT TOUCHING** your eyes, nose and mouth. Help teach children to stay well and keep them from giving themselves a cold, sore throat, eye infection or stomach illness. We can learn as we teach children. Most adults (especially when hurried), are **NOT "Hand Aware"**; just watch some. For more information see www.henrythehand.com or google **CDC handwashing**. Please contact the church office or Carol Winkles, RN at samuelandcarol@msn.com for help with any health-related issue.

Advent Soup Suppers

We will have soup suppers as part of our midweek worship together. Please sign up in the narthex to bring soup to share during Advent. Come join us, December 6, 13, and 20 for soup suppers beginning at 5:15pm. Groups or individuals may sign up to be the "Host" for the soup supper. List of host responsibilities are also on the narthex. The Holden Evening Prayer will begin at 6pm and the choir will practice at 6:30pm. A special thanks to the choir for adjusting their schedule for these Advent meals and worship.



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone is invited to help with Hanging of the Greens as we decorate the sanctuary and hang ornaments on the tree Sunday, December 10, following worship.

Please let the office know if you are able to assist with setting up the tree on Saturday, Dec. 9.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD COUNCIL AND STAFF: FALL MEETING IN EL PASO

By Susan Mitchell, Rocky Mountain Synod Council Member

On November 2, weeks of planning resulted in twenty members of the Rocky Mountain Synod Council and members of the Synod Staff driving from Denver to El Paso in 2 church vans. The journey brought them (plus several other council & staff who either flew in or drove in their own vehicles) to the Border for their fall business meeting. The vans took time to make stops along the way at several of our synod congregations. We were greeted with warm hospitality, snacks, hugs and restrooms! This was a great way to connect with members across the state lines from Colorado to New Mexico to Texas. Since Bishop Jim Gonia and his wife Kim were on the vans too, it was quite the caravan. We were welcomed at King of Kings in Pueblo, CO, St. Timothy's in Albuquerque, NM, Desert Springs in Truth or Consequences, NM, and finally at Cristo Rey in El Paso. Valley Lutheran of Los Lunas, NM and Zion of Trinidad, CO gave hospitality on the way home. We spread out for our 3 night stay. Seven spent the nights at home hosts from 2 El Paso congregations. Special thanks to Pastors Diana Linden-Johnson of Peace and Pastor Matt Barnhouse of Mount Hope for opening their homes plus finding 4 other home hosts in their congregations. Eight slept at Cristo Rey in their border immersion facilities -- bunk beds and comfy mattresses! And a few of us stayed in a nearby motel. Every morning all gathered for breakfast at Cristo Rey. Our meeting, though important for carrying out the business of the Synod, only took one afternoon.

The rest of our time was spent participating in a mini-border immersion, led by Pastor Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman and her husband Fernando of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey. We went to the banks of the Rio Grande and engaged in conversation with 2 Border Patrol agents to learn about the many refugees and asylum seekers who come across the US/Mexico border in and near El Paso. There is a detention center where people are housed and fed while awaiting their asylum hearing. Many are able to go to relatives in the US pending their court dates. We visited Annunciation House, which houses refugees when the detention center is full. The stories are an important part of learning first-hand about the people who are desperate to leave violence and economic hardship in their own countries. Pastor Rose Mary led us to one of the colonias in eastern El Paso, one of many poor, rural areas that often have very limited services like electricity and water. When you hear families speak of their struggles, it becomes very real. That evening, we sat in the home of a family, ate tamales together, and Vicar Day of our congregation sat with the mother, translating her story from Spanish to English for all of us. Day had joined us on Friday in El Paso, helping Pastor Rose Mary at Cristo Rey in addition to her translation assistance.

On Saturday, we boarded 2 Cristo Rey vans and drove across the bridge from El Paso into Mexico. We went to a Mexican colonia--Anapra--just at the edge of the city of Juarez. We went to a library, which was donated to that community by a church in Kansas City. The 2 women who volunteer there gave amazing testimonies to the positive changes they are able to make in the lives of children and their parents--education is not free in Mexico, and scholarships are an important part of the work of these women. We also visited a health clinic and had wonderful conversations with 2 medical doctors there. The vans stopped at the wall built along the Rio Grande so we could look through it towards Texas. At last the vans drove us into downtown Juarez, to the Plaza. Pastor Rose Mary told us it is much safer now than a couple years ago. People were dancing in the street to live bands, and the markets were filled with vendors and customers. We made a stop at the cathedral and then headed back to the bridge to El Paso. Of course we all had to hand our passports to the official at the bridge.

Our week-end ended with a worship service Saturday evening at Cristo Rey. We each shared one important moment and concluded with holy communion. On Sunday, all 5 ELCA congregations in El Paso had worshippers from synod council and staff--Christ's Church, Better Together! We hope this trip gave everyone a deeper awareness of life at the border and how we can work together.

**Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM
Bishop's Luncheon & Issues Briefing
January 22**

You are invited and urged to attend the 2018 Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM Bishop's Legislative Luncheon & Issues Briefing on Monday, January 22.

The morning Issues Briefing will be at the United Church (1804 Arroyo Chamiso, which is near Christ Lutheran Church).

Registration and refreshments will begin at 9:00 am. The Bishop's Legislative Luncheon will be at 12:30 pm La Fonda Hotel (100 East San Francisco). In order to help meet our growing expenses for this event, the cost of the luncheon has been increased to \$35 per person. The cost is reduced to \$30 when 4 or more people attend from your congregation or group. If you are only able to attend the morning Issues Briefing, the cost is \$10.

Deadline for reservations is January 18.

Please make reservations by calling the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM office at 505.984.8005 or sending an email to info@lutheranadvocacynm.org.

Three Christmas Services

This year Christmas Eve is on Sunday, and we also celebrate the 4th Sunday in Advent that morning with worship at 9am.

Peace Lutheran will have three opportunities to celebrate the Incarnation of Christ. On Christmas Eve there will be a 4pm service (a family-friendly service) and a 7pm service (a candlelight service). Additionally, there will be a Sunday service on Christmas Day at 10am. We recognize that our congregation is growing and families have a variety of commitments, We hope that these services will give everyone a change to celebrate Christmas. The 4pm Christmas Eve Service is interactive and has been planned with children and young families in mind. The 7pm Christmas Eve Service will still feature the musical excellence of our choir and the singing of silent night as we light the candles.

Please spread the word and invite friends and neighbors to worship with us. Whenever you and your family plan to join our community in worship, the promise of "God with us" will unite our hearts, prayers, and songs.

The Longest Night Service

On Thursday, December 21st, at 6pm Peace Lutheran will host **The Longest Night Service**. The service of the Longest Night occurs on the December Solstice when night is the longest of the year in the northern hemisphere. The service of The Longest Night becomes a metaphor for people who find themselves alone for the first time or those fighting depression or other forms of mental illness.

Peace Lutheran is committed to reminding all people that they are not alone. We worship together this night to provide hope, strength, and community.

Council Meeting Notes - November 14, 2017

Dennis Rich reported for the committee on the Stewardship for All Seasons campaign, which he called a relatively successful campaign. With the majority of our contributions currently coming from people over the age of 65, there is a need to focus on stewardship and changes in congregational makeup. We will send 10% of what we perceive as an increase in gifts from the campaign to the synod – paying back into the program so other, smaller congregations can make use of it.

Pastor Jared highlighted the many events that we have been involved in the past month, capped off by the 14 new members received last week (council voted to accept them as members). The Lay Pastoral Care team is being more self-reflective about individual visitations, following the example of Stephen Ministry.

Deacon Laura's report included the success and challenges of Trunk or Treat, planning for the ELCA 2018 Youth Gathering (32 people will attend from the Border Conference), and the family interviews as part of her coursework for her certificate program on faith formation.

Vicar Day spoke of her work in pastoral care, stewardship, and her continuing experiences in preaching, teaching during Sunday Morning Learning, and Border Immersion experiences.

Mission Team reports included Communal Worship's recommendation to keep the Wicks organ in the Fellowship Hall, continuing to find ways to make more use of it. Council voted to approve this recommendation. Public Witness reported that the updated Volunteer Directory is being printed.

We have received applications for the parish administrator position and the separate bookkeeper position. Interviews are being scheduled with hiring and start dates planned to overlap for cross-training before Carol Blaschka's retirement.

We will look at using a Resourceful Stewards program in January which may help us to determine if we are doing our best.

We approved a minor change to the Building Use Policy to reflect what really is being done. We plan to do a thorough review of the policy and make further changes as needed in January.

We are reminded that the Synod assembly is voting for a new bishop next year.

Sandy Johnson, Peace Council Secretary

Congregational Meeting - November 19, 2017

Our Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, November 19th, after worship. We received written reports from our congregational mission teams as well as Pastor Jared, Deacon Laura, and Vicar Day. Betty Lindsey, BSC Board President, spoke about BSC's history and many of the current ministries they provide.

Velma Jesser presented the Giving and Spending Plan (often called "a budget"). The 5 Mission Teams helped craft the budget, setting their goals to help to make decisions about the financial needs of our congregation to do the ministry that we believe God is calling us to do. We voted to approve the budget as presented.

Coffee Hour Music

Peace Lutheran pianists invite you to hear Christmas solos in the Fellowship Hall while you enjoy snacks and coffee during Coffee Hour on Sundays through Dec. 31. A few solos will be quietly performed by various pianists as background music, and donations will be collected to help those in need after disasters. Checks should be made payable to Peace Lutheran Church with a note on the check to indicate "ELCA Disaster Relief." We hope you will enjoy this Christmas celebration.

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 17, join us as we go out to share the sounds of Christmas with those who may not be able to worship with us during this season.

We'll leave from the church at 2 pm and car pool to homebound members' residences. We'll return to the church for cookies and a warm drink around 4pm.



HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING, "GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING".

TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please help us to decorate our church for Christmas as we welcome the Baby Jesus!! Poinsettias are ordered and will be \$9.00 per plant for a 6.5 inch pot.

We have 60 plants on order and your generosity will be very much appreciated. Order forms will be in the church bulletins the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please place your order and designate on the form if the poinsettia is in memorial or an honorary donation and the name of that person, or persons.

You may take the plants that you ordered home after the services on Christmas Eve.

The deadline for ordering will be December 10th. Please memo "poinsettia" on your check and place the check or envelope in the offering plate. I do not collect the money.

Questions, call Carol Peterson, 523-2926.
Again Peace Church thanks you for your generosity.



Community Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

As we approach Christmas, there are a number of opportunities to get you in the spirit of the season. The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in partnership with Peace Lutheran Church is hosting a Community Christmas Carol Sing-along on Saturday, December 16th at 3pm. Take a break from last minute Christmas preparations; sing Christmas carols reflecting the reason for the season. Enjoy the music of the Advent and Christmas seasons as we hear the musical gifts of local organists, including our own Steve Helmreich. Stay afterwards for cider and cookies.



**NON-PROFIT ORGN
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 243
LAS CRUCES, NM**

Peace Lutheran Church

1701 E. Missouri Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Address Service Requested

Phone: 575-522-7119
Fax: 575-522-0050
E-mail: office@peacelutheranlc.com

Mission Statement

We of Peace Lutheran Church,
as an ELCA missional congregation, are called
*By God's grace, to grow and share our faith,
welcoming all and striving to live in the spirit
and love of Christ.*

Sunday Worship

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning

Learning

10:30 AM

August—May

Coffee Hour

Following Worship

Every Sunday

December 2017

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed 10:00 am Memorial Service 12:00 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm AA	2 9:00 am Centering Prayer 9:30 am OA 10:00 am Girl Scouts 11:30 am PEO 1:00 pm SNM Church of God
3 9:00 am Sunday Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 am Sunday Morning Learning 12:30 pm Next Step 2:00 pm New Pathways	4 9:00 am Piano 11:00 am Piano 1:30 pm Card Ministry 4:00 pm Piano 5:30 pm Yoga 6:00 pm BSC Board 7:00 pm Celestial Sounds Concert 7:00 CODA -----World-----	5 10:15 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Piano 4:15 pm Pastoral Care 6:00 pm CAP 6:30 pm Hearing Voices Group 6:30 pm Singing Out -----Leadership-----	6 1:00 LC AER 10:00 am Spanish (AAUW) 1:00 pm Spanish (AAUW) 5:15 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Advent Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm AA -----School-----	7 11:00 am Calligraphy 2:30 pm Piano 3:30 pm Piano 5:30 pm Singing Out Board 6:00 pm Community Forum 7:00 pm NA -----Immersion-----	8 Office Closed 12:00 pm Yoga 5:30 pm NMSU PreK 6:30 pm Concert 7:00 pm AA	9 9:00 am Centering Prayer 9:30 am OA 10:00 am Girl Scouts 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal 1:00 pm SNM Church of God
10 9:00 am Sunday Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 am Sunday Morning Learning 10:30 Hanging of the Greens 12:30 pm Next Step 2:00 pm New Pathways	11 9:00 am Piano 11:00 am Piano 2:30 pm Finance Committee 4:00 pm Piano 5:30 pm Yoga 7:00 CODA	12 10:15 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Piano 5:30 pm Church Council 6:00 pm CAP 6:30 pm Hearing Voices Group 6:30 pm Singing Out	13 10:00 am Spanish (AAUW) 1:00 pm Spanish (AAUW) 5:15 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Advent Service 6:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm NAMI Support 7:00 pm AA	14 2:30 pm Piano 3:30 pm Piano 5:30 Internship Committee 7:00 pm NA	15 Office Closed 12:00 pm Yoga 4:00 Empowerment Congress 7:00 pm AA	16 9:00 am Centering Prayer 9:30 am OA 10:00 am Girl Scouts 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal 1:00 pm SNM Church of God 3:00 pm AGO Sing-a-Long Christmas Carols
17 9:00 am Sunday Worship Coffee Hour 10:30 am Sunday Morning Learning 12:30 pm Next Step 2:00 pm New Pathways 2:00 pm Caroling	18 9:00 am Piano 11:00 am Piano 4:00 pm Piano 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm PFLAG Support Group 7:00 CODA	19 10:15 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Piano 3:30 pm Bible Study @ Good Sam 6:00 pm CAP 6:30 pm Hearing Voices Group 6:30 pm BSC Issues Night 6:30 pm Singing Out	20 10:00 am Spanish (AAUW) 1:00 pm Spanish (AAUW) 5:15 Soup Supper 6:00 pm Advent Service 6:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm AA	21 11:00 am Calligraphy 2:30 pm Piano 3:30 pm Piano 6:00 pm Internship Committee 6:00 pm Longest Night Service 7:00 pm NA	22 Office Closed 12:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm AA	23 9:00 am Centering Prayer 9:30 am OA 10:00 am Girl Scouts 1:00 pm SNM Church of God
24 9:00 am Sunday Worship Coffee Hour 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed 10:00 am Christmas Day Service 7:00 CODA	26 Office Closed 10:30 am Piano 6:00 CAP 6:30 pm Hearing Voices Group 6:30 pm Singing Out	27 10:00 am Spanish (AAUW) 1:00 pm Spanish (AAUW) 6:30 pm NAMI Support 7:00 pm AA	28 2:30 pm Piano 3:30 pm Piano 7:00 pm NA	29 Office Closed 12:00 pm Yoga 7:00 pm AA	30 9:00 am Centering Prayer 9:30 am OA 10:00 am Girl Scouts 1:00 pm SNM Church of God
31 9:00 am Sunday Worship Coffee Hour 5:00 pm AA New Year's Eve Party	Notes:					

December 2017

Roster Changes

AUGUST 2017

The Rev. Michael Bastian from Pastor Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Rio Rancho, NM to Pastor Evangelical Church of Trossingen, Germany 8/1/2017
The Rev. Bonita Knox from Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod to Pastor St. Johns Lutheran Church, Riverton, WY 8/7/2017
The Rev. Peter Morin from On Leave From Call to retired 8/23/2017
The Rev. Kristi Beebe from Pastor Nativity Lutheran to Pastor Atonement Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO 8/27/2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

The Rev. Leslie Welton from Sierra Pacific Synod to Assistant to the Bishop for Faith

Formation and Candidacy, Rocky Mountain Synod 9/6/2017

The Rev. Steven Berke from On Leave From Call to Nebraska Synod 9/9/2017

The Rev. Bette Jeanne Larsen Pastor retired from Delaware-Maryland Synod 9/27/2017

The Rev. Raymond Larson retired Pastor to Northwestern Minnesota Synod 9/28/2017

OCTOBER 2017

The Rev. Richard Reiten from South-Central Synod of Wisconsin to Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO 10/2/2017

Deacon Cassandra (Sandy) Olson to South Dakota Synod 10/5/2017

The Rev. Andrew Boesenecker from Mission Developer Pastor Mustard Seed House Churches to On Leave From Call 10/12/2017

ELCA Global Mission

Synods and congregations are invited to accompany migrant children and families through Synod AMMPARO or Immigration Task Forces, as Welcoming Congregations, through the creation of Guardian Angel programs, through prayer and giving to AMMPARO. All ELCA members are encouraged to continue awareness-building and advocacy for the protection of these vulnerable children and families.

At this moment, there are **57**

Welcoming Congregations in 17

synods in 9 regions. Several synods have connected or are in the process of connecting their Immigration Task Forces to AMMPARO or have created

AMMPARO Task Forces, bringing the total of **synods involved** in some way to **26 in all 9 regions.** There are **5 sanctuary synods** and at least **10 sanctuary congregations.**

Find out more:

www.elca.org/AMMPARO



Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA
connection

Lutheran Disaster Relief



WE ARE CALLED TO **ACT** WITH JUSTICE,
WE ARE CALLED TO **LOVE** TENDERLY,
WE ARE CALLED TO **SERVE** ONE
ANOTHER, TO WALK HUMBLLY WITH GOD.

www.ldr.org

This fall we as the church responded with profound generosity to our brothers and sisters who were impacted by hurricanes and tropical storms. Reports as of the end of October reflect gifts totaling over 9.7 million, with over \$250,000 coming from individuals, ministries, and congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Because of your regular mission support giving, 100% of funds given to Lutheran Disaster Response goes directly to response and recovery efforts. Thank you for your continued commitment to being Christ's Church, Better Together.

Learn more about the work of Lutheran Disaster Relief:

www.elca.org/Our-Work/Lutheran-Disaster-Response

Called Forth to Serve



In his final address to the disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus asserts, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren and sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

This "last will and testament" of Jesus reveals his heart and calls us to be as passionate for "the least" as he is. Jesus understood that when we build relationships with and serve "the least", not only are they blessed, but we also are blessed. Nothing is us more than when we love and serve others. Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains takes Jesus' words seriously as we seek to "walk with the vulnerable through services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope." As members of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, we are each called to participate in the important and necessary work of LFSRM.

As a board member, I have had the privilege of participating personally in refugee resettlement, supporting foster families, walking alongside those going through the process of adoption, responding to people affected by disasters, and helping families to care for aging loved ones. Each time that my family

and I have taken this time to get involved, we always say afterward, "We need to do more." There's something about serving and giving generously that transforms us for the better, that helps us to recognize that love, service and generosity is to be our way of life.

I hope that you will take a look at the LFSRM website (lfsrm.org) and the many programs and services that are provided. Identify a program or service that aligns with your heart and passion, make a commitment to get connected, give generously of your time and resources, and experience firsthand what loving and serving "the least" will do in your life. Whether we come together in a spirit of love and generosity, our lives are changed...including our own. The risen Jesus has entrusted the care of his brothers and sisters to us. Jesus is counting on us to respond to this call in a passionate and bold way so that we and all people may experience real life in Jesus' name.

Rev. Doug Hill
Abiding Hope Church
Littleton, CO



**LUTHERAN
FAMILY SERVICES**
Rocky Mountains

Living for our neighbors



As someone who was raised outside of the Lutheran Church, I've been amazed by the impact

that Lutheran communities have had in my young adult life. From attending Luther College, to participating in a service year with Urban Servant Corps, to interning with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, to now creating church-to-community partnerships through Lutheran Family Services, God has presented me with incredible opportunities through the Church and the ELCA.

As we reflect on and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation this year, I've had the opportunity to think deeply about the impacts that Christianity, Lutheranism, and the ELCA have had not only in my life, but in the world in which we live. Luther's calling of the 95 theses and the Reformation they sparked brought turmoil, change, and hope to a religiously, politically, and socially diverse Europe.

In those last 500 years many things have changed, but our church continues to live and serve in the midst of turmoil.

change, and hope in a religiously, politically, and socially diverse world. We continue to seek reform in the well-intentioned but broken systems of our society. And we continue to live, as Luther suggested, "not for [ourselves], but in Christ and the neighbor. [We] live in Christ through faith, and in [our] neighbor through love" ("Freedom of a Christian," LW 31:371).

The Lutheran communities of my young adult life have challenged me to consider this kind of life more deeply, and have shed light on some of the neighbors I am called to live in through love. This is exactly why I love my work with Lutheran Family Services, and why I believe it is so important. We have the opportunity to meet our neighbors in times of great need; whether they are an infant in need of a loving family, a child in need of a safe home, an individual in need of the tools to build a new life, or an older adult in need of companionship and care planning, we as LFS can choose to live in love and guide these neighbors. We can walk with them through times of turmoil, change, and hope, just as we know Christ would do. I personally have the joy of meeting with churches and individuals who share the desire to live this kind of life, and connecting them with opportunities to compassionately live in love for their neighbors.

Katie Eubank
Church Relations and Development
Assistant, Lutheran Family Services
Rocky Mountains



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Office of the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA, is located on the campus of the RMS Lutheran Center, 7375 Samuel Drive, Denver, CO 80221. Connection editor is Elin Power. epower@rmaia.org. Website is rmaia.org. Facebook is [facebook.com/rmaia.org](https://www.facebook.com/rmaia.org). An electronic copy of this LUNNEL-LUTION newsletter is posted at rmaia.org/newsletters.