MISSION STATEMENT
By God’s grace, we grow and share our faith, welcoming all and striving to live in the spirit and love of Christ.

JULY 2020

Sunday Worship Videos
9:00 AM

Prayer Videos
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat
12:00 PM
www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday Worship Service Videos
Available at 9:00am

Conversation with Your Ministers
Tuesdays (10am-11am)

July 8   Music Minister Meet & Greet (6pm)
July 12  Congregational Forum (10am)
July 26  Drive-In Communion Service (10am)
August 2 Congregational Meeting (10am)

IMPORTANT UPDATES – COVID-19
Our facility remains closed through August 31st. As of June 15th, our office is staffed from 9am-12pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please read the article on page 5 with more information from our Re-Opening Team.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

July 5
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:1-5a 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19
Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Drive-In Communion Service
On June 28th, we held our first Drive-In Communion Service, and we will do it again on Sunday, July 26th at 10:00am.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION
The primary way that we are communicating about changes and updates to ministry at Peace Lutheran Church is through our email list. If you are not receiving these updates, please let us know. We will help you sign-up or make sure you receive pertinent information by phone or letter.

www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc
PASTOR’S MESSAGE: The Patience of the Gardener

Recently, I was in my backyard sipping coffee in the cool early morning appreciating the shade provided by the canopy of our Honey Mesquite Tree. I reflected on how small and sad the tree looked when we moved into this home. And also a year and a half later, when on New Years Eve of 2016, a winter snow descended upon Las Cruces and heavy wet snow gathered on the long flowing branches of the Mesquite. I had considered going outside to shake the snow off the branch that evening, and the next morning, I awoke to find that the main trunk of the tree had cracked under the weight of the snow. Only a smaller trunk (with less branches) held fast. My heart ached as I cut the broken trunk removing nearly half of the tree. Yet, even after this setback, with continued pruning and vigorous watering the tree again grew. The branches with their leaves provide a lush full canopy that bear the heat of the summer sun. This tree in my yard made me think of a parable of Jesus from Luke 13,

Then [Jesus] told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Now, I do not look for my Mesquite to produce edible fruit. But, I am reminded of the patience of the gardener in contrast to the impatience of the land owner. It’s the patience of the gardener that I need to channel when I begin to feel impatient about wanting to return to public worship. The secret of the gardener is the knowledge that God gives the growth. The slow tending of the tree mixed with the “manure of life” that will season the soil.

We are four months into worshiping from home, and God’s mission for Peace Lutheran Church is being accomplished by the lay leaders of our congregation. The use of digital technology has enabled meetings to take place. Here are some of the highlights that bring joy and gratitude to the heart of your pastor:

The Congregation Council has met for regular and special meetings to discuss how to approach the health and safety of the congregation. You should be proud of the honest and thoughtful conversations that our council has undertaken. The council established a Re-opening Team to develop a plan for phased reopening of our building and public ministry. Digital Worship and Daily Prayer Videos are blazing new trails, and people are participating from as far away as Albuquerque, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, and Madagascar! The Music Minister Search Team fulfilled their work reviewing candidates’ applications, interviewing, sharing in honest conversation about strengths and weaknesses and ultimately made a recommendation to the Congregation Council. You can read more about Jeun Newland, our new Music Minister, on page 5. We hosted a Digital VBS in partnership with two Lutheran congregations in Southern Ohio, more than 60 individuals participated. The Mobile Food Pantry had enough volunteers to resume serving hungry neighbors, in June, with a drive-thru style operation. Other group meetings like Bible Studies and Finance Committee have continued to meet to nourish the spirit and oversee good stewardship of the congregation.

Like the tree in my backyard, in the midst of our current grief and what has been pruned away from our shared life, we trust that, in time, God will bring new growth.

Faithfully Yours,
Pastor Jared Carson

7/1 Gretchen Engliedowl
7/1 Diane Powell
7/2 David Casteel
7/3 Derek Baker
7/9 Rebecca McNair
7/9 Roseann Moen
7/11 Milton Winkles
7/14 Kristi Campbell
7/16 Briana Winn
7/17 Linda Long
7/18 Lennae Bentley
7/19 Susan Yarne
7/20 Freddie Winn
7/21 Peg Miller
7/21 Caitlyn Munoz
7/22 Monte Coleman
7/23 Kelli Duran
7/24 Mary Edmisten
7/26 James Moya
7/28 Scott Caretto
7/29 Erika Moya
7/30 Christine Munoz

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Contact the Church Office for updates to our Church Directory.

PLC COUNCIL NOTES

by Kristen Rogers, PLC Council Secretary

- Overall, our giving remains strong. We had a deficit in May, the first time this year. However, overall for the year, we are still showing a surplus.
- VBS will take place next week and it is for preschool through adults.
- The re-keying of the church has been completed and work is being done on office re-arranging.
- The final candidate from the Music Ministry Search Team was approved. A new bookkeeper was approved.
- A congregational meeting has been set for August 2nd to take place digitally on Zoom.

WORSHIP SERVICES—Sundays at 9:00am

Although worshipping in-person is preferred, your ministers are working hard to provide digital worship services that are meaningful in your homes. Worship Services are made available on Sundays by 9am, and you are encouraged to participate with a Bible and Candle. You can find the videos in three ways:

- Email List - Worship Videos and Announcements are sent by email
- Website - www.peacelutheranlc.com “Recent Posts”
- Facebook - www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

ANNIVERSARIES

7/1 Pattie & Richard Shepan
7/4 Diana & Dan Diermer
7/10 Susan & Bob Mitchell
7/19 Rose & Derek Baker
7/31 Rebecca & Edward McNair

Please let us know if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.
FAITHFUL GIVING by Dwight Eggers, PLC Treasurer

Through all of the personal and community disruptions due to COVID-19, PLC members have continued to give faithfully. The first quarter of the year, prior to the COVID-19, giving was particularly robust, so we entered the closure period in a strong position. Giving through the second quarter has continued at a level that is typical of the historic pattern for Peace. The building closure has provided some relief to routine expenses, but these have barely offset the loss of building-use revenue. We have sustained our commitments to Public Witness ministry partners. In addition, members have responded to appeals to support the medical workers at Memorial Medical Center and social needs at Conlee Elementary.

Dedicated giving to mortgage debt reduction has continued strong.

In April, following the passage of the Federal CARES Act, the Finance Committee and Congregation Council decided to pursue funds from the Payroll Protection Program portion of this economic stimulus legislation. Our application was approved in early May for the amount of $52,848. This has allowed us to help alleviate the disruption of the building closure for our waged employees and will provide a cushion to face uncertainty in the coming months. The funds are in the form of a loan, but it will be fully forgiven when we submit the required documentation in the coming weeks. About 36% of this amount is for the benefit of Border Servant Corps.

The Peace Lutheran Council and Finance Committee are grateful for your faithfulness in giving that has helped us maintain financial stability through the early months of this economic crisis.

OFFICE HOURS and COMMUNICATION

The church office is currently being staffed from 9am-12pm Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. This does not mean that the church building is open. It does mean that phone calls and emails will be responded to during that time. You can still contact your ministers outside of these hours by email or cell phone.

PRAYER VIDEOS

During the summer months, there are four prayer videos posted each week. Join Deacon Laura and Pastor Jared on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays for Prayer at 12:00pm. You can view the videos even if you are not on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR MINISTERS

This summer, Pastor Jared and Deacon Laura are available for digital conversation once a week for anyone who would like to attend (no agenda, just conversation – bring your own coffee – come for part or all of the time).

Tuesdays from 10am-11am

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/811703324
**BORDER SERVANT CORPS UPDATES**

**Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. — Martin Luther King, Jr.**

- **Gratitude for All Who Have Supported Food Baskets for Families**
  Once again, words cannot express our gratitude. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of partners locally and from across the nation. More than 25 donors (individuals, churches, and organizations) have come together to provide $2,495 to our partners in Anapra — at a community center with which we work — to purchase food baskets for 60 families in the community. As you know, many maquilas continue to be closed, and salaries are decreasing percentage-wise with each passing week. To date, many parents are only receiving about $30 per week (50% of their typical salary of around $60 per week). We cannot thank you enough for your support and partnership as — together — we care for families in the borderlands.

- **Seeking Local Sewists for 500 N99 Masks for Anapra**
  BSC is seeking local sewists to help create 500 N99 Face Masks for people with pre-existing conditions and the indigenous population in Anapra, Chihuahua, México (in response to a request from a doctor serving families in this community). If you’re interested, please contact HospitalityNM@gmail.com, and we’ll connect to provide you with materials.

- **Thank You**
  Thank you to LaJune Smith for her Thrivent Action Team which was used to purchase supplies (elastic, thread, nose bridge strips) for volunteers sewing facemasks.

- **Thrivent Action Teams**
  Create a Thrivent Action Team to host a service activity, educational event, or fundraiser to support BSC. Looking for project ideas or have questions? Contact OfficeNM.BSC@gmail.com

- **Remember & Connect with Families in the Borderlands**
  At this time of physical isolation, we welcome you to write a note to an asylum-seeking family in the borderlands to provide them a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten. These notes will be delivered to families when they receive boxes filled with basic necessities. In addition, you can write a note to an individual or family who regularly shares with our immersion groups, and we will share them with our partners here in the borderlands. Send notes to the BSC Office (1701 E. Missouri Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88001).

- **Donations**
  At this time, to protect the health and safety of everyone involved with donations, BSC is only able to accept NEW items. Please contact BSC Staff at HospitalityNM@gmail.com to schedule a time to drop off donations.

- **Weekly updates** (with pictures) that include volunteer opportunities, donation updates, and more may be found on BSC's Facebook page. **Sign up to receive weekly updates by sending an email to HospitalityNM@gmail.com.**

---

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—AUGUST 2nd**

In April, the congregation council choose to postpone our regularly scheduled congregational meeting that is held in May. At this meeting, we elect council members and other leadership roles within the church. Last November, we updated our constitution to allow us to hold digital congregational meetings. Although, we never anticipated a time when we would need to hold a meeting in this way, we are grateful that we made these changes to our governing documents.

Your participation is needed for a congregational meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, August 2nd at 10:00am**. The link to participate will be sent by email. If you have questions about participating or would like some tech support, please contact our ministers, Deacon Laura or Pastor Jared Carson.

---

**PLC RE-OPENING TEAM and CONGREGATION FORUM**

The congregation council approved parts of Phase 1 for re-opening, which allows for staff to be in the building, as needed, and modified office hours. As of June 15, the office is staffed from 9am-12pm for timely responses to phone calls and emails, along with additional work. The building will remain locked during this time. The entire building has been re-keyed and new codes are being created for our security system. The main office is also being re-arranged for the safety of our staff and to allow for physical distancing.

The re-opening team and council will be hosting a forum for conversation and questions on **Sunday, June 12th at 10:00am via Zoom**. The link to participate will be sent by email. There will also be a survey available in early July to help with our continued re-opening process.

**Sandy Johnson, Manuel Ceja, Carol Winkles, Brook Stockberger, Pr. Jared and Dcn. Laura Carson**

---

**MEET OUR NEW MUSIC MINISTER**

The Music Minister Search Team has been hard at work during the past several months. They are delighted to introduce you to Jieun, who will begin her ministry with us in mid-August.

Jieun Kim Newland is an organist and harpsichordist currently working in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. She is a native of Seoul, South Korea, started piano at the age of six and had her first organ lesson at thirteen. Her music studies brought her to The United States in 1999. Jieun holds a bachelor’s degree from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri—Kansas City and a master’s degree from the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University.

Jieun began her career in Church Music at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri where she served three terms as Resident Organ Scholar. It was in that role that Jieun discovered her love of Anglican Church music and also met her husband, The Rev. Benjamin J. Newland, an episcopal priest currently serving as a U.S. Army Chaplain.

Jieun has served at Episcopal, Presbyterian, and UCC churches in various locations. She currently serves Nu‘uanu Congregational Church as organist and substitutes occasionally at Lutheran Church of Honolulu, Kawaiaha‘o Church, Central Union Church and St. Andrew’s Cathedral.

Join us on **Wednesday, July 8th for a Digital Meet and Greet** with Jieun on Zoom. You will be able to find the link to participate in our e-letter. Jieun’s audition video will be available to you soon.