

PRINTS OF PEACE

APRIL 2024

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Apr. 1 OFFICE CLOSED (Easter Holiday) (No Foolin')
- Apr. 7 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
- Apr. 9 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
Council (6:30 PM)
- Apr. 13 Clean-up Peace Day (8:30 AM)
- Apr. 14 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Re-Dedication of the Bethlehem Room
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
- Apr. 18 Mobile Food Pantry (7 AM)
Women in Motion (11:30 AM)
- Apr. 21 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
New Member Orientation (10 AM)
- Apr. 23 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
- Apr. 25-27 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in Colorado
- Apr. 28 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10 AM)



SCRIPTURE READINGS



April 7

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1--2:2
John 20:19-31

April 14

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 21

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 28

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

PLC STAFF

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor
pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com

Sandy Johnson, Parish Admin.
office@peacelutheranlc.com

Jieun Newland, Music Minister
Tommy Grimes, Custodian



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Pastor's Message

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

"...So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (Mark 16:8)

This year's Easter scripture reading perhaps does not have the ending which we expect or want.

Is it surprising that the women's immediate reaction to the empty tomb was *terror and amazement*? And that they kept this news to themselves? (Although they obviously told others later.) How do we respond to this? Can we relate?

This ending may feel incomplete, but perhaps it is the ending we need. For it is actually a *beginning*. The resurrection is not confined to that one day, nor is it confined to the past. Instead, **resurrection is God's living, dynamic activity in the world**. Resurrection transcends one moment or one place, and is still being enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

For some Christians, the story of resurrection might not hold a central place in their faith; but I have to say, for me, the resurrection story is *pivotal*. I wonder if our concept of resurrection—new life—has been stifled, narrowed down too far. For me, resurrection is less about what happens when I die, and more about what happens while I'm living. I lean into the mystery of new life—trusting that on that day when this earthly life has ended, we will continue to be with God. **But can we also lean into the mystery of new life, right here and now? And help make resurrection happen, right here and now?** Can we be amazed at the ways God is still bringing forth new life, even here and now?

Resurrection is what the world needs... what the world *longs* for. Anytime that we bring LIFE into a situation of dying, suffering, or injustice, we are living out Christ's resurrection. Anytime we connect with one another—helping us feel less alone, a little more supported, cared for—we are living out Christ's resurrection. Anytime we cultivate peace or growth or creativity, we are living out Christ's resurrection. Anytime we are willing to see a new way forward, follow a new way of possibility, we are living out Christ's resurrection.

The Gospel story continues in *us*—we have been entrusted with a message of new life which we and our world are longing to hear. And we are resurrection preachers for one another: *"It's the community that helps to make the resurrection real to each of us—rejoicing together over a new job, beating cancer, accomplishing a goal, paying off debt, and so on. We point to the goodness of God with our lives, wounded and transformed."* (Sundays & Seasons Preaching).

What we read in Mark 16 is not the end of the story. We continue the story by going out into the world, with both our *terror and amazement*, trusting that God's story is not finished and that resurrection is real. But this resurrection work is hard work, because so often the world and circumstances in our lives can diminish the promise of new life. We get discouraged, but even then—we dwell in the *terror together*, seeking the amazement of resurrection even when things are hard. "Things can be scary and okay at the same time" (*Again & Again A Lenten Devotional*, 50).



Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead

Communal Worship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Ginny Acosta and Carol Eggers

COMMUNAL WORSHIP - APRIL 2024

In April 2024 we find ourselves fully into the season of Spring. We are also in the Season of Easter and will be until we come to Pentecost in May 2024. Lent gave us a time to more deeply reflect on God and Scripture. Holy week led us to the glorious Easter celebration.

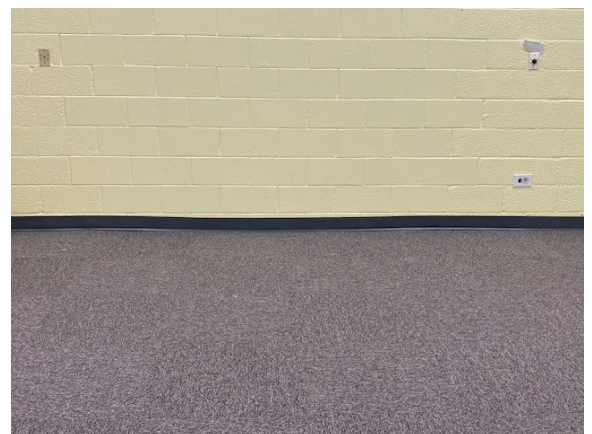
As always, we serve a Risen, Reigning and Returning Redeemer. There is such beauty in that thought as well as gratitude and love.

We remember the theologian and Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German who opposed the evils of the Nazi Regime and was killed on the 9th of April, 1945. He had been imprisoned at the Flossenburg concentration camp. His death, at age 39, happened just days before the American liberation of the camp.

May you discover more of the love of God in your faith journey, in your service to others and in your worship endeavors! Thank you to the volunteers who help make our church worship and church interactions so positive! You are always welcome to volunteer with us!

BETHLEHEM ROOM RE-DEDICATION

At the end of our regular worship on Sunday, April 14th, we will move from the current sanctuary into the Bethlehem Room and have a brief service of rededication. The Bethlehem Room, as its name reflects, is the original sanctuary of the church and was recently rebuilt and remodeled after roof/water/mold damage, thanks to the hard work of our Property Team and many volunteers from Peace. Plan to join us in worship on the 14th as we give thanks to God for this space!



From Jardin's 'Mickey' flooring

to

fresh paint and carpet
ready for the next chapter

Faith & Fellowship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Diane Powell & Karen Harvey

WOMEN IN MOTION

By Karen Harvey

Women in Motion - WIM - meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month to share lunch and fellowship. We have been bringing potluck food to Peace at 11:30 a.m.; there's always enough food and all are welcome whether you have a dish to share or not. If you are working and can take a few minutes to drop by, we'd love to have you come! We also celebrate our birthday gals with cards and a lovely rendition of "Happy Birthday!?!". We collect money for projects which we vote on at the end of the year - one of our gals is still voting for an 'elephant!' For more information or to be included on the emails sent out to the group, contact Karen Harvey at khpollype@gmail.com or by text at 435.720.2520. See you on April 18th!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Interested in becoming a member of Peace? Curious what that means? Join Pastor Hannah on Sunday, April 21st immediately after worship for a membership orientation. We will get to know one another, share some history of the church, talk a little theology, explore how to get involved in the life of the congregation, and answer any questions you may have. Seekers are welcome! Even if you are unsure whether or not you want to officially join the congregation as a member, please join us.

BIRTHDAYS



4/1 Austin Powell	4/17 Betty Dirk
4/4 Susan Smith	4/17 Phil Yost
4/5 Carol Powers	4/19 Dick Irons
4/7 Linda Braxton	4/26 Adam Roberts
4/7 Jessie Stockberger	4/26 Kristen Rogers
4/8 Marty Avelsgaard	4/26 Lance Shepan
4/8 Lily Pinkes	4/28 Becky Simpson
4/12 Sam Winkles	4/30 Collin Roberts

ANNIVERSARIES

4/19 Diane & David Powell
4/23 Barbara & Dave Baron

*Please let us know if your
birthday or anniversary
is missing or incorrect.*

Expanding Vision Mission Team

Council Representative: Ross Staffeldt and Ellen Young

COUNCIL NOTES

Susan Mitchell came to the March meeting to report on a visit being planned for four leaders from our companion Synod, Madagascar, in September. Since they will begin with meetings in Chicago, then fly to El Paso, they will come through Las Cruces, though whether overnight or just passing through has not been decided. They will end their U.S. visit with attendance at the Installation of our new Bishop (to be elected this April) in Denver.

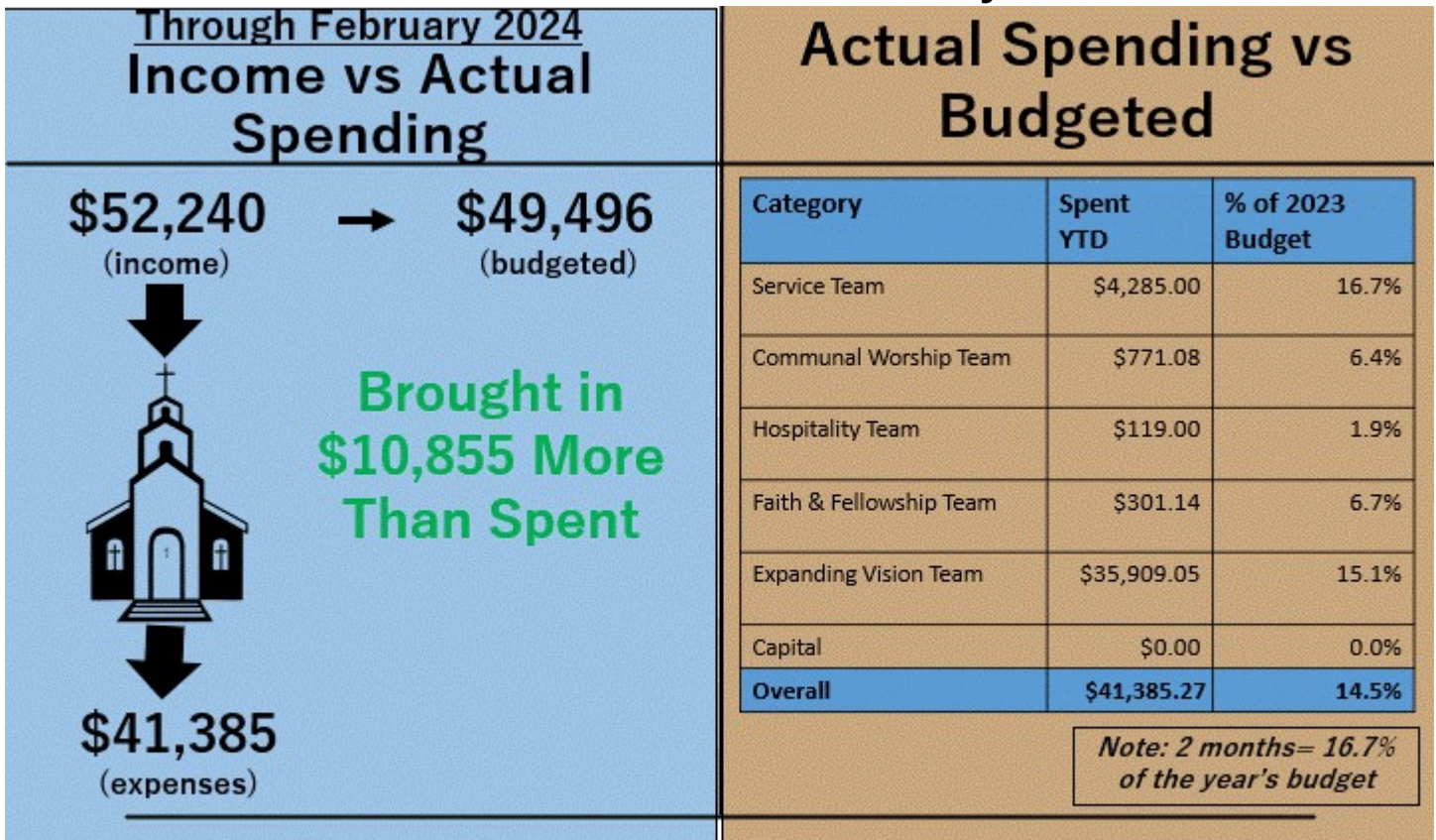
Treasurer Joel Peterson explained new report forms. He also asked Council to approve clearing out the negative balance in the Dedicated Building Fund. This line item was established to track loan money for repairs to the Bethlehem room, but no loan was needed. Work on the Bethlehem room is complete; a rededication service is planned for April 14.

The next major property item is expected to be improvements to the parking lot. Council will review proposals and bring them to the congregation at the May meeting.

Gene Quandt has agreed to be coordinator for the Easter Brunch. There will be sign up sheets so that all can contribute.

Ellen Young, Vice-President

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: February 2024



Finance Committee Members: Dwight Eggers, Penny Smith, Al Harvey, Elaine Stover, David Owens, Joel Peterson, Ellen Young, Sandy Johnson.

Expanding Vision Mission Team

continued

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE & YOUR DONATIONS ARE WELCOME



The Mason S Brown Scholarship has been made available through the generosity of Mike and Jennifer Brown more than 19 years ago after the death of their infant daughter, Mason. In spite of their grief, God inspired the Brown family to consider the needs of others, and this scholarship is a witness to their love.

Peace Lutheran hopes to award the Mason S. Brown Scholarship to a graduating high school senior or person who is attending a college, university, community college, or vocational-technical school on a full-time or part-time basis, and is an active member/participant in good standing at Peace Lutheran Church.

Application forms are available at Peace Lutheran Church and must be submitted by July 10. Scholarships will be awarded during a worship service in August.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, please place your donation in the offering plate or send it to the church office. We can continue to help students with this scholarship through your generosity.

PEACE CLEAN-UP DAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 13

It's time for a spring clean-up at Peace. There are many projects to keep all hands busy. You can help in whichever area you are drawn to -- from polishing the pews to scrubbing the garbage cans to cleaning windows to putting new rubber feet on tables to cleaning kitchen cupboards. . . .

We'll start at 8:30 a.m. There will be coffee and something to nibble on (donuts?).

Service Mission Team

Council Representatives: Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

FEATURED MINISTRY PARTNER -- LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICERS

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountain is a ministry of our Synod. Based in Colorado, they added offices in New Mexico to address the resettling of Afghan refugees. When they started their work in Las Cruces they were based at Peace. Now they have their own facility downtown.

As their resettlement work continues they have a need for many household items to set up apartments. They have shared a list of these, which is available in the narthex. As you are doing spring cleaning, consider whether there are things you no longer use that are on their list.

If you are not spring cleaning, they also need some things new, such as pillows, cleaning supplies, toothbrushes—check their donation list.

Bring your items to the church over the next few weeks. Everything collected by April 21 will be delivered to the agency by the Service team.

Service Mission Team

Council Representatives: Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

GREEN TEAM -- ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

The results are in! In February, the Green Team asked the congregation how they think we should fight climate change! Out of 56 submissions, the most important categories to focus on are the church's Practices, Property, and then Advocacy. The rest of the results are listed below:

How important do you consider this ministry?



Peace Practices

1. Reduce the amount of paper printed for Sunday worship.
2. Continue to include green tips in our announcements.
3. Create an educational guide for green resources.
4. Create a carpooling network.
5. Hold more book studies on climate change.

Peace Property

1. Conduct an energy audit of the church.
2. Put solar panels on our roof or future carport structure.
3. Compost church kitchen waste.
4. Harvest rainwater on church property.
5. Install a car charger in the parking lot for electric cars.
6. Start a vegetable garden on church property.

Peace Advocacy

1. Advocate for better public transportation, including pedestrian, wheelchair, and bicycle pathways.
2. Advocate to streamline solar bureaucracy with El Paso Electric.
3. Advocate to require electrification of new construction at Las Cruces City Council.
4. Advocate through Rocky Mountain Synod initiatives.

EARTH DAY AT PEACE -- SUNDAY, APRIL 21



In honor of Earth Day, and based on the Environmental Survey results, the Green Team will host a "Screen Challenge Sunday" on April 21st! We will encourage everyone to use the TV screens, phones, tablets, or hymnals instead of the paper bulletins. There's no judgment if you still need a physical bulletin, but those who are able can kick the single-use paper habit!

Members of the Green Team will also share meaningful environmental quotes during the service that Sunday.



Peace Lutheran Church

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MISSION STATEMENT

**We are called to be an inclusive
community, sharing God's grace
through worship, service, and
hospitality.**

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 AM

Office Hours

M-T-W-F 9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Thursdays 1:00 PM—4:00 PM

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