

PRINTS OF PEACE

FEBRUARY 2024

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Feb. 4 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
Green Book Study (10:30 AM)
- Feb. 11 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Transfiguration of our Lord
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
Green Book Study (10:30 AM)
- Feb. 13 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
Council (6:30 PM)
- Feb. 14 Ashes-To-Go @ NMSU (11-1 PM)
Ashes-To-Go @ Peace (4-5:30 PM)
Ash Wednesday Worship (6 PM)
- Feb. 15 Mobile Food Pantry (7 AM)
Women in Motion (11:30 AM)
- Feb. 18 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
- Feb. 19 OFFICE CLOSED (Presidents' Day)
- Feb. 21 Soup Supper & Guided Table Conversation (6 PM)
Evening Prayer Service (7 PM)
- Feb. 25 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
- Feb. 27 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
- Feb. 28 Soup Supper &
Guided Table Conversation (6 PM)
Evening Prayer Service (7 PM)



SCRIPTURE READINGS



February 4

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 11

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 18

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 25

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

PLC STAFF

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor
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Sandy Johnson, Parish Admin.
office@peacelutheranlc.com

Jieun Newland, Music Minister
Tommy Grimes, Custodian



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Pastor's Message

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. What comes to mind when you hear this... promise? Is it a promise? Or is it a stark reminder of our mortality? (Perhaps... both?)

You may have noticed that this year, Lent begins on February 14, making it both Ash Wednesday AND Valentine's Day. I personally think this is a lovely connection – not because God's love can be equated to candy hearts, a dozen roses, or the commercialization of the deepest "emotion" that we humans experience. But because perhaps it can remind us that the love that is shared among us—from neighborly love to intimate love—the love we share is grounded in a Loving God who dwells among us.

"Remember that you are dust." Receiving this sign of ashes reminds us of our mortality. It reminds us that we are not God, we are not in control, and that death is real. It is quite humbling.

And perhaps humility is the first step of repentance—a return to God. We recognize that, as dust-people, we lack perfection and we hurt one another. And yet—that ash is in the shape of a cross: God's symbol of everlasting grace and forgiveness. The invitation to repent and return is ongoing—God's ongoing refrain for us, based in that same love.

This reminder that we are dust is not a threat, but a promise. There is beauty in our dusty bodies—the same body God breathed into at the Beginning, and the same body God Incarnate inhabited when God put on flesh to dwell among us. It is in this *embodied*-ness that we experience the fullness of God's love.

We will have many opportunities to experience this season of love, repentance, fasting and prayer. I am excited to participate in two *Ashes-To-Go* events on Ash Wednesday, one on campus and one here at the church building. These opportunities will help us to extend our invitation to more folks to engage in this season, and to be reminded of God's presence and promise. In the evening, we will gather around the Table and hear again that we are dust - together.

We have purchased another devotional resource from *A Sanctified Art*—a series called *Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain*. We will have devotional booklets and daily devotional cards for your personal use, and we will utilize the visual art during worship. This series invites us to consider how "in the midst of the motion blur of chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: 'I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.' Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward."

On Wednesday evenings, we will enjoy soup suppers and evening prayer again together. This season during soup, we will discuss together a resource from the Rocky Mountain Synod called *Why Church?* We will ponder together why we do what we do as a congregation and where God might be leading us into the future. Plan to join us for a delicious meal, conversation that will deepen our connections with one another, and simple meditative evening prayer as we journey together through this season of prayer and reflection.

Communal Worship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Ginny Acosta and Carol Eggers

GOSPEL SUNDAY -- February 4

Join us for Gospel Sunday on February 4 in honor of Black History Month!

LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Season of Lent: February 14 – March 23 | Join us on Wednesday Evenings!

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

11:00am-1:00pm Ashes-to-Go outside the NMSU Student Union

(a partnership with St James & St Andrews Episcopal churches)

Students, faculty, and anyone else on campus are welcome to stop by and receive ashes!

4:00-5:30pm Ashes-to-Go at Peace

(This is a good option for folks who cannot make the 6pm service, but all are welcome!)

Come-and-go as you are able to receive ashes and prayer.

6pm Ash Wednesday Service

A service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

Wednesdays in Lent (Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20)

6pm Soup Supper & Guided Table Conversations

7pm Evening Prayer Service

Looking ahead to Holy Week...

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

9am Worship with Palm Processional

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

6pm Holy Communion Service with Foot/Hand Washing & Stripping the Altar

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

12:00-6:00pm Self-Guided Prayer Service

Come-and-go at any time. Prayer stations will be set up in the sanctuary, and you are welcome to come and engage in the stations individually and introspectively.

A guide booklet will be provided with instructions.

Saturday, March 30 - Easter Vigil

5:00pm at St. James Episcopal Church

Join us for this ecumenical Easter Vigil Service with our Episcopalian neighbors.

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

9am Worship followed by a Brunch Potluck

Communal Worship Mission Team

continued

COMMUNAL WORSHIP - FEBRUARY 2024

Yes, we have begun the month of February, a very busy and notable month in the church. So let's begin with February 2^d which is noted as the Presentation of our Lord. This occurred forty day after the birth of Jesus. As per the Jewish law, he was presented in the Temple to be dedicated, as the firstborn son, to God in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt (when the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died and those of Israel were spared). This date is also sometimes known as Candlemas. It is traditional for some where candles are blessed on this day and used throughout the rest of the year.

February 11 marks the Transfiguration of Our Lord. You can read Scripture about this event in Mark 9:2-9. God once again proclaims Jesus as His beloved Son. This event is said to have taken place on Mt Hermon, a 9,000 foot peak and the highest mountain in Israel. The melting snow and abundant rainfall on this mountain feed the springs at its base that form the main headwaters of the Jordan River.

We come to Ash Wednesday on February 14 this year. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the period of Lent. You may enjoy the daily devotional and Scripture reading for February 14 that is found in the booklet Christ in Our Home. There are still some copies of this booklet here at our church. This year there will be a 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday service as well as a time of ashes with optional prayer here at the church any time between 4-5:30 p.m. You might stop in after work or during the afternoon to enjoy a self-paced time of prayer and receive ashes. This will be a new event at our church; all are welcome.

February 18 marks the passing of Martin Luther, who passed away on February 18, 1546.

January saw some new people volunteering in church – thank you!! You all did wonderful work! We look forward to continuing to greet new volunteers. Altar care folks will provide a short training after church on the first Sunday of each month. Please note there will be a training for those interested in assisting the minister on February 11. Please speak with Pastor Hannah or Sandy Johnson to direct you to others who can help you learn ushering duties, greeting at our front entrance and other areas that need volunteers.

Hospitality Mission Team

Council Representatives: Kathie Rich & Sue Ann Collins

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

The Hospitality team continues to work on updating the website. We are excited about the new format which we hope will be current, user-friendly and inviting. Other projects include trying to get the streetlight back on for the basketball court, as well as new nets, contacting Conlee school to see if there are needs we can fill, especially through Lent, and continuing to welcome and follow-up with visitors during Sunday worship. Please share ideas, input and/or feedback if you have ideas for reaching out to our community in a welcoming and inclusive way.

Faith & Fellowship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Diane Powell & Karen Harvey

Who is Missing from the Table?

I am ever aware of the absence of loved ones from our family table, especially during the holiday season. The memories of laughter shared, of hopes and dreams echo through the open spaces and create a longing for fellowship. As we begin a new year at Peace Lutheran Church, who do you notice missing from our communal table? Do you recall who sat next to you in the pew each Sunday, or those you shared a conversation with at coffee hour? Who was it that greeted you with warmth at the door on Sunday morning or served you communion with reverence? There are still many cherished members who have not yet returned to full participation in the life of the church for many reasons, known and unknown. The Pastoral Care Team invites you to reach out and reconnect with those you have missed seeing this past year, in the spirit of community and fellowship. Consider the myriad ways to reconnect:

- A simple, heartfelt phone call,
- An electronic encouragement through e-mail or text,
- The timeless grace of a handwritten note or card,
- An invitation to share coffee or a meal,
- The warmth of a home visit.

Let these gestures be the threads weaving a renewed tapestry of connection, knitting the fabric of our church community closer together.

Lay Eucharistic Minister Training

Pastor Hannah and the Pastoral Care Team will be offering a training session on Wednesday, February 21 at 11am for anyone who feels called to this ministry. A Lay Eucharistic Minister distributes communion to those members in our congregation who request to receive communion in the solace of their home or in a hospital setting. It is an opportunity to weave threads of connection and offer the nourishment of grace to our cherished members who may be physically distant but remain close to our hearts. Please contact Pastor Hannah if you are interested in this ministry or have any questions.

BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Brian Gilbert	2/16 Tom Hillmer
2/1 Karen Quandt	2/19 Scott Smith
2/5 Bob Mitchell	2/19 Marcus Dunbar-Foy
2/6 Adam Winkles	2/22 Mary Bosshardt
2/8 Dorothy Steiner	2/24 Shirley Steinmetz
2/11 Kendra Hernandez	2/26 Pat Walton
2/13 Chris Sanders	2/27 Liz Schirmer

ANNIVERSARIES

2/12 Kathryn & Dan Hill
 2/12 Debby & Lou Sarabia
 2/15 Cheri & Jim Coyle

*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

Pastor Hannah reported beginnings of a Stewardship Team, which she hopes will start meeting before the next Council meeting, and Council discussed names for a Vision (Long Range Planning) Team.

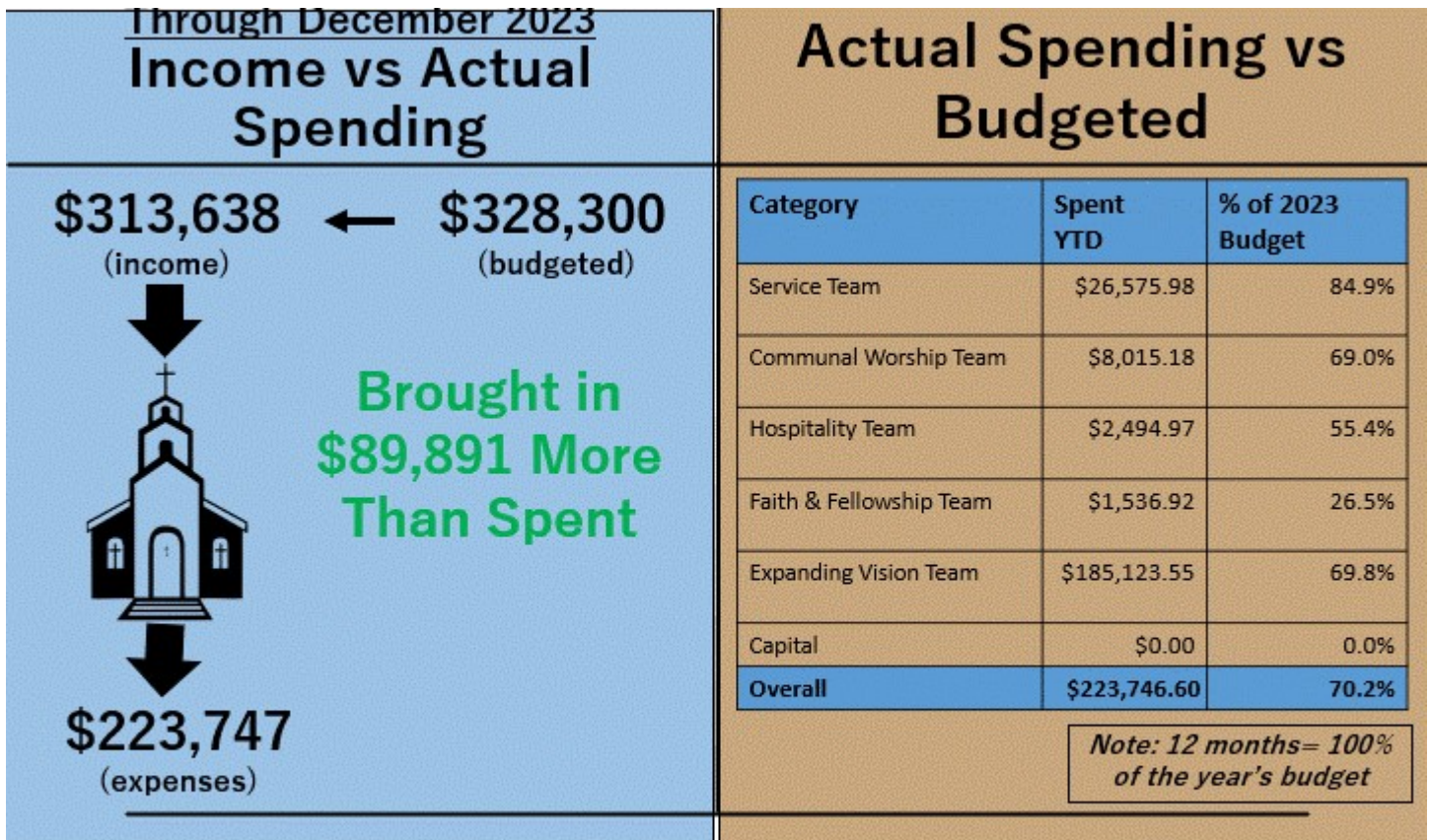
The Service team agreed to take charge of the Souper Bowl of Caring collection on February 11. Council voted to contribute receipts, both items and cash, to the Aggie Food Cupboard.

There was lengthy discussion of new ideas for Lent and Holy Week, following a meeting of Communal Worship Team members a week before. Plans include offering service-related events after worship on Sundays in Lent, and holding Evening Prayer (but not the Holden prayer version) on Wednesdays after soup suppers. In addition, Pastor Hannah will offer ashes on the afternoon of Ash Wednesday in place of a noon service and prepare a self-guided prayer opportunity with stations of the cross on Good Friday afternoon.

We have been invited to join the Episcopalians for Easter Vigil on Saturday, and will have an Easter Brunch after worship at 9:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

Ellen Young, Vice-President

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: January-December 2023



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

Service Mission Team

Council Representatives: Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

LENT: A SEASON OF SERVICE

Lent is a time for many things, including almsgiving--donating to charity or doing more to serve others, as a way to embody the love and life of Christ. Almsgiving flows from prayer and fasting, and it is a way to "give back" to our world and neighbors in need.

This Lenten season, we will have a variety of "Give Back" Service Projects during coffee hour. All are invited to stick around after Sunday morning worship and engage in these projects. Stay tuned for a variety of ways to serve—from donating items in need, such as socks for neighbors on the street; to writing letters to legislators advocating for justice.

SOUPer BOWL OF CARING

Peace Lutheran will be participating in the SOUPer Bowl of Caring and all donations will be shared with the Aggie Cupboard (NMSU Food Bank). Bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations to worship on February 11. You can "vote" for the team that you would like to win the Super Bowl by placing your donations on that side of the table display. We'll see if Peace Lutheran wants the National League or American League team to win this year's big game!



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SURVEY from the Green Team

Help the Green Team understand what creation care "environmental issues" are important to you concerning Peace Lutheran Church. We are asking questions about the Peace Lutheran building and property, routine practices at the church and advocacy for environmental initiatives. The survey will take about 5 minutes to fill out. Click on the link below to fill out the survey. The QR (quick response) code below can also be used to access the survey by using your cell phone.

<https://form.jotform.com/agoodluc/peace-lutheran-church-environmental>

If you prefer to fill out a hard copy of the survey, the Green Team will have hard copies for the congregation to fill out during coffee hour on February 4 and February 18. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Goodluck or Karen Quandt.





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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