

PRINTS OF PEACE

JANUARY 2024

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Jan. 1 OFFICE CLOSED (New Year's Day)
- Jan. 4-8 Pastor Hannah on vacation
- Jan. 7 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Baptism of Our Lord
Taking Down the Greens (9:50 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
Green Book Study (10:30 AM)
- Jan. 9 Council (6:30 PM)
- Jan. 14 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
Green Book Study (10:30 AM)
- Jan. 15 OFFICE CLOSED (Martin Luther King Jr.)
- Jan. 16 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
- Jan. 18 Mobile Food Pantry (7 AM)
Women in Motion (11:30 AM)
- Jan. 21 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
Green Book Study (10:30 AM)
- Jan. 28 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
Green Book Study (10:30 AM)
- Jan. 30 Bible Study (10:30 AM)

SCRIPTURE READINGS



January 7

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

PLC STAFF

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor
pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com

Sandy Johnson, Parish Admin.
office@peacelutheranlc.com

Jieun Newland, Music Minister

Tommy Grimes, Custodian



www.peacelutheranlc.com



www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

Pastor's Message

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

"I will light candles this Christmas.

Candles of joy, despite all the sadness.

Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

Candles of courage where fear is ever present.

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.

Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.

Candles of love to inspire all of my living.

Candles that will burn all the year long."

-Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*

What does a candle hold? When we worship, we light candles. During Advent, we marked time with candles in a wreath. During our Longest Night service, we lit candles in memory and in hope. On Christmas Eve, we shared the light of candles as we sang about the arrival of our Savior.

Candles signify the light of Christ, burning among us and within us. In many congregations, the light is brought into worship at the beginning of worship and taken back out of the worship space at the end, to signify the sending of Christ's light into the world, just as we are sent into the world to serve and love.

The theme of light continues with the turn of the calendar year, as we enter the church season of Epiphany. Epiphany means "manifestation" or a "showing forth," a revelation of sorts. A few characters often found in a traditional Christmas nativity don't arrive until Epiphany: the magi. (These are the "three wise men," but scripture doesn't reveal how many there were.) These folks lived by analyzing the night sky, and now, following a star, they come looking for the *new* king who has been born. They first go to the likely person—King Herod, the ruler representing the empire—but after their encounter with the holy family and a divine message, they disobey the earthly king's orders and go home a different way.

In Advent and Christmas we have encountered the baby Jesus and his family. We heard their stories, felt their fear and their joy. How does this encounter with Christ and his community inspire us to perhaps go a different way? Especially as the new year begins?

As we have considered how does a weary world rejoice—how can we hold both weariness and joy—hope and grief—loneliness and connection—all at the same time, how might we hold all these things as we enter the new year? Where does the light of Christ shine and where is it waiting to burst forth?

"During the passing of the twelve months, experiences have come into our lives which revealed certain things about ourselves which we had not suspected. Some new demand was made upon us which caused us to behave in a manner that was stranger to our established pattern of life, and we felt shocked, surprised, enraged or delighted that such was possible for us ... life is dynamic and we are deeply alive, the end of the year can only mean the end of the year, not the end of life, not the end of us, not even the end of time. We turn our faces toward the year being born with a riding hope that will carry us into the days ahead with courage and with confidence." (Thurman)

Mission Team Goals for 2024

In the final quarter of 2023, your church Council established goals for the upcoming year, according to our congregation's five Mission Teams. The goals are listed below for your review. Please hold our Council and leadership in prayer, and consider where your gifts might fit into these goals and the life of our congregation

Expanding Vision:

Council Liaisons: Ross Staffeld and Ellen Young

- ◆ Create a job description for the Treasurer
- ◆ Improve accessibility in the sanctuary (work with hospitality & property teams)
- ◆ Develop a vision and long-term planning process
- ◆ Improve accessibility in the parking lot with improved concrete & curbs repair/replacement
- ◆ Create a stewardship team and implement a stewardship plan

Communal Worship:

Council Liaisons: Ginny Acosta and Carol Eggers

- ◆ Encourage more members to share their gifts and talents
- ◆ Recruit and train more worship volunteers – hold continued training for volunteers and utilize church communications to recruit
- ◆ Recognize volunteers with periodic volunteer recognition events
- ◆ Increase choir(s) participation

Faith & Fellowship:

Council Liaisons: Karen Harvey and Diane Powell

- ◆ Create new educational opportunities
- ◆ Increase/encourage small group gatherings
- ◆ Recruit volunteers for coffee hour
- ◆ Equip and train communion ministers for shut-ins, hospitals, etc.
- ◆ Create a new directory of the congregation

Service:

Council Liaisons: Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

- ◆ Identify a council liaison for the Mobile Food Pantry & BSC
- ◆ Organize and support shoe drive for Jardin
- ◆ Identify local ministry partners and organize them including a schedule for how/when we support them

Hospitality:

Council Liaisons: Sue Ann Collins and Kathie Rich

- ◆ Update the church website
- ◆ Identify advertising opportunities
- ◆ Follow up with every church visitor
- ◆ Train greeters for intentional welcoming of visitors
- ◆ Increase neighborhood outreach and host several outreach events

Expanding Vision Mission Team

Council Representative: Ross Staffeldt and Ellen Young

COUNCIL NOTES

At the December meeting Pastor Hannah reviewed the special services for the rest of the month, and asked Council members to brainstorm names for both a Stewardship Team and a Vision Team to be established in the new year.

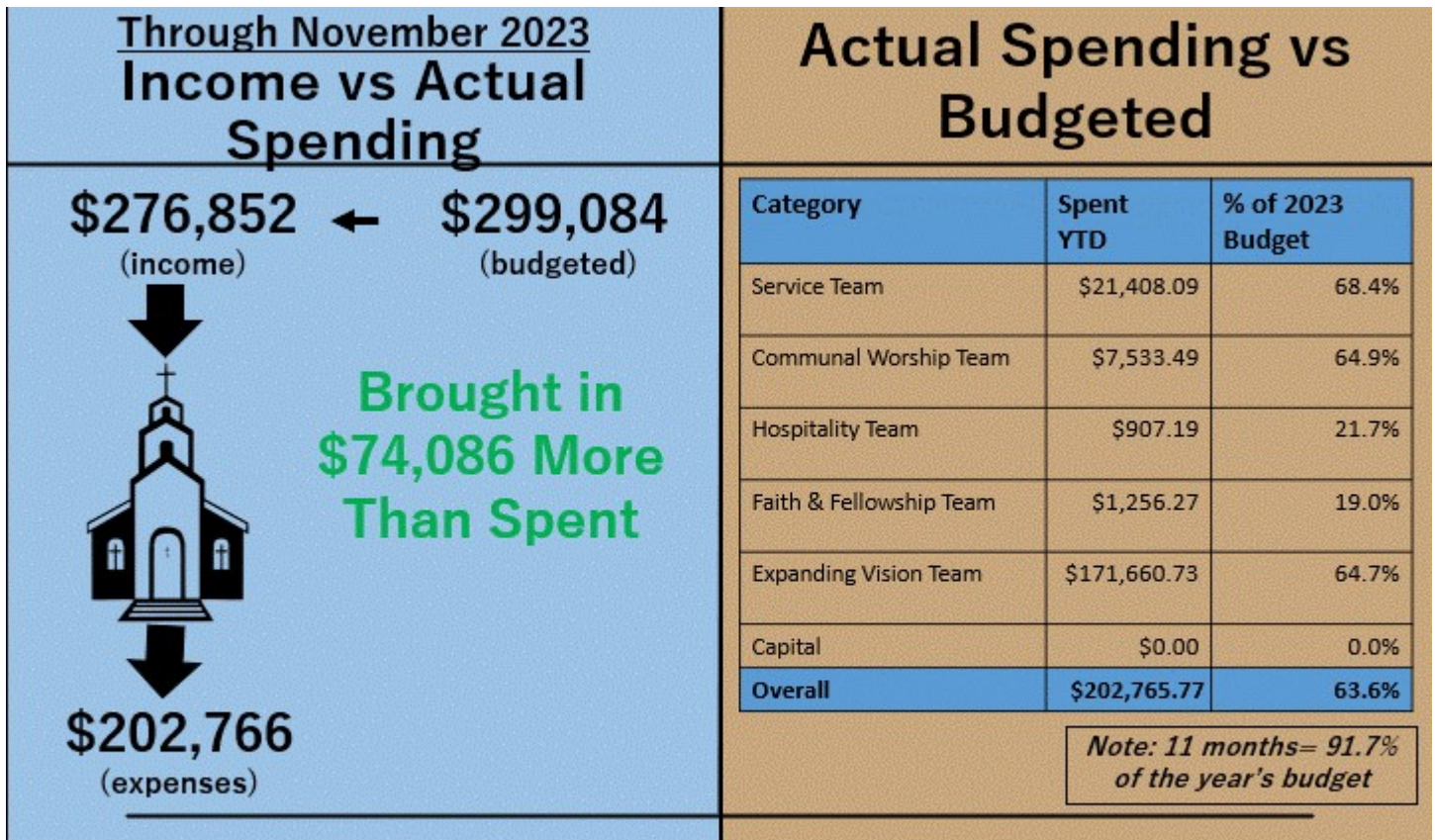
She is looking toward collaboration with the pastors of St. James and St. Andrews Episcopal churches, especially in relation to NMSU.

She also reported that she will be away on Vacation January 4-8, and in Santa Fe January 23 to 25 for Lutheran Advocacy at the Legislature followed by a retreat with the Bishop for New Mexico pastors. Rick Green will lead worship on January 7.

Council members reported on Mission Team activities and had a chance to review the list of their 2024 goals for publication in this newsletter.

Ellen Young, Vice-President

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: November 2023



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

Faith & Fellowship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Diane Powell & Karen Harvey

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 16TH – 10:30-11:30 A.M. Room 107
by Susan Mitchell

We will begin our 9-lesson study “A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians—“Reconciling Paul” in less than 2 weeks, and I encourage you to read the introductory pages of the study guide, including the inside cover and pages 1-7. Then comes Lesson One: The Promise and Problem of Paul. Our author, Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, and Irene Pak, who gives suggested study tips, want us to get started with an overview of the First Letter to the Corinthians—and then launch into the text of Second Corinthians. Hint: There is so much material in this first lesson (plus the introductory material) that I am already contemplating breaking our first class into 2 sessions. This would extend the length of the course by one class session, but I believe we could cover this first lesson better in two 1-hour class sessions. Those who have signed up for the Study will receive an email a week before January 16th, outlining how we will work through the first lesson. Meanwhile, feel free to also start reading 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians in your Bibles!

Here is the planned class schedule—a couple dates may change as we get into the lessons:

Jan. 16 – Intro & Lesson 1 - Jan. 30th –Finish Lesson 1

Feb. 13 – Lesson 2 - Feb. 27 – Lesson 3

Mar. 12 – Lesson 4 - Mar. 26 – Lesson 5

Apr. 9 - Lesson 6 - Apr. 30 – Lesson 7 (Note: Apr. 30 is a suggested date; we will discuss)

May 14 - Lesson 8 - May 21 or May 28 - Lesson 9 (Note: We will discuss date for Lesson 9)

Many of you are familiar with The Message, Rev. Eugene H. Peterson’s “The Bible in Contemporary Language” – and I will use his brief introductory comments for both 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians to help us with an overview of Paul’s letters to the Corinthians. Stay tuned!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

During the season of Advent and Christmas volunteers were busy assisting with worship services and the various projects that support those services -- setting up and decorating the tree, hanging wreaths and swags, changing the banners, folding multiple bulletins, putting batteries in electric candles and putting wax candles in holders for Christmas Eve. We are grateful for those that were willing to greet, usher, and handle the Zoom worship and recording, and provide hands and voices to Campanas de Paz (bells of Peace) and our choir. We also appreciate all those who made Wednesday evenings a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and worship--especially the hosts, soup cooks and bread bakers/bringers.

Our staff and council have also been busy helping make all of our worship experiences meaningful during Advent and Christmas. Please share your appreciation with them.

BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Mary Green
1/5 Miguel Motz
1/5 Debbie Pendleton
1/8 Lucy Dunbar-Foy
1/8 Karin McClain
1/12 Vicki Estrada
1/13 Katy Winn
1/14 Richard Shepan

1/16 Dan Diemer
1/17 Marie Avelsgaard
1/21 Damian Blaschka
1/22 Elaine Rude
1/24 Nancy Redshaw
1/24 Emma Roberts
1/27 Chris Engledowl
1/31 Cheri Coyle
1/31 Jeremiah Lee
1/31 Terri Stockberger

ANNIVERSARY

1/3 Carol & Sam Winkles

Communal Worship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Ginny Acosta and Carol Eggers

The Communal Worship team wish you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year! This year is a leap year so Happy Leap Year!

We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to ALL of you who volunteered (or stepped in to help when needed) to be a part of worship at church in 2023. Your efforts helped make worship a meaningful and beautiful experience for our congregation. You are so appreciated by many!

With a new year, we find ourselves maybe setting new resolutions or goals. There are new things in the year, from calendars and planners, to dreams and wonderful opportunities in life. How did your faith journey progress in 2023? In what ways did you grow in your faith? How did you share your faith with others?

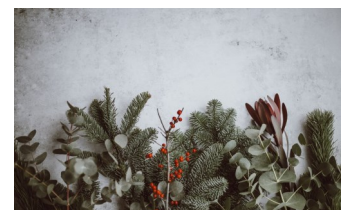
As you may ponder those questions, you now have a new opportunity to serve in our congregation in this new year. You may encounter nagging doubts about volunteering. What seems to prevent you from being a volunteer? Maybe you think your spiritual gifts are not enough or not needed by anyone. Or you wonder what spiritual gifts you may have to offer the church. All good questions and no doubt you have some questions of your own.

Reaching out, serving as a volunteer, can be intimidating if you have never done it. The best place to begin is right here at your church. Altar Care looks like it could be complicated, yet with working with others on that endeavor, it is actually easy to learn and you will have team members to assist and serve with you. Ushers are there to guide you in their role, as are the greeters and those involved with fellowship time. You won't be alone as you volunteer in any capacity. You will be able to connect more with others here at church and probably develop some meaningful friendships, a great extra bonus! It is a wonderful way to also grow in your own faith journey.

We are looking forward to welcoming you as a volunteer in 2024! May you enjoy your New Year and continued growth in faith!

TAKING DOWN THE GREENS

Everyone is invited to help with taking down the greens following worship on Sunday, January 7, as we replace our Christmas decorations for the move into the season of Epiphany.



FLOWER SIGN-UP CHART

Thank you to all who bought poinsettias to help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas.

There is a new flower chart in the narthex for those who wish to provide flowers for Sunday worship. There are dates beginning on January 14 available through February 11 and resuming on April 7 following Lent and Easter.

The cost is \$45 (unless you choose to bring your own flowers); designate flowers on your check. Please be sure to circle *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* on the signup sheet. You may pay ahead and any time, but please be sure you have paid by the date you have signed up for.

Service Mission Team

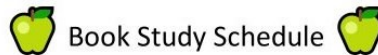
Council Representatives: Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Our NM State Legislature meets beginning January 17, 2024, for a 30-day session. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry will host a briefing and luncheon in Santa Fe on January 23. Bishop Jim Gonia will be present. For more information, contact Ellen Young (ellenpeter@cs.com).

THANKS FROM JARDIN DE LOS NIÑOS

On December 14, two representatives from Jardin de los Niños came to pick up the shoes that our church members provided for 94 children from the 43 families whose names we were given. They brought the large thank you poster seen here, along with their words of gratitude for our continued support of this project. Monica Hillmer did a great job coordinating this effort as well as shopping for those who donated money, securing tags, and making sure we had all the shoes for each family together. Your generosity also provided more than was needed for our shopping, so we were able to provide a check for over \$500 which they could use for children who weren't on the list we were given.



Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future

By Saul Griffith

Meets from 10:30 to 11:30 after church on Sundays

Week 1: January 7 (31 pages)

- Preface
- Chapter 1: A Glimmer of Hope
- Chapter 2: We Have Less Time Than You Think
- Chapter 3: Emergencies Are Opportunities for Lasting Change

Week 2: January 14 (33 pages)

- Chapter 4: How Do We Know What We Know
- Chapter 5: 2020's Thinking
- Chapter 6: Electrify!

Week 3: January 21 (39 pages)

- Chapter 7: Where Will We Get All That Electricity?
- Chapter 8: 24/7/365
- Chapter 9: Redefining Infrastructure

Week 4: January 28 (41 pages)

- Chapter 10: Too Cheap to Meter
- Chapter 11: Bringing It All Home
- Chapter 12: A Mortgage Is a Time Machine
- Chapter 13: Playing for the Past
- Chapter 14: Rewrite the Rules!

Week 5: February 4 (43 pages)

- Chapter 15: Jobs, Jobs, Jobs
- Chapter 16: Mobilizing for World War Zero
- Chapter 17: Climate Change Isn't Everything



The Next Meeting of the Green Committee will be on Tuesday, January 9th, at 3:00 p.m. **IN PERSON** at church. Anyone interested is welcome.



Peace Lutheran Church

1701 E. Missouri Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Address Service Requested

Phone: 575-522-7119

Email: office@peacelutheranlc.com

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

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

JANUARY 2024