


PRINTS OF PEACE

MARCH 2024

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Mar. 3 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour + Service Project (10 AM)
- Mar. 6 Soup Supper & Guided Table Conversation (6 PM)
Evening Prayer Service (7 PM)
-  Don't miss worship on March 10. Remember to SPRING AHEAD and set your clocks one hour ahead when you go to bed Sat. night, March 9.
- Mar. 10 **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**
In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour + Service Project (10 AM)
- Mar. 11-15 Pastor's Vacation
- Mar. 12 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
Council (6:30 PM)
- Mar. 13 Soup Supper & Guided Table Conversation (6 PM)
Evening Prayer Service (7 PM)
- Mar. 17 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour + Service Project (10 AM)
- Mar. 20 Soup Supper & Guided Table Conversation (6 PM)
Evening Prayer Service (7 PM)
- Mar. 21 Mobile Food Pantry (7 AM)
Women in Motion (11:30 AM)
- Mar. 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Coffee Hour (10 AM)
- Mar. 26 Bible Study (10:30 AM)
- Mar. 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
In-Building and Online Worship (6 PM)
- Mar. 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**
Self-Guided Prayer Service (12-6 PM)
- Mar. 31 **EASTER**
In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)
Brunch Potluck (10 AM)
- APR. 1 **OFFICE CLOSED (Easter Holiday) (No Foolin')**

SCRIPTURE READINGS



March 3

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 10

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 24

Mark 11:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1--15:47

March 31

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

PLC STAFF

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor
pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com

Sandy Johnson, Parish Admin.
office@peacelutheranlc.com

Jieun Newland, Music Minister

Tommy Grimes, Custodian



www.peacelutheranlc.com



www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

Pastor's Message

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

I pray that God's presence and love has been made known to you *again & again* throughout this Lent, and that you have found ways to respond to the invitation to deepen both connection with God and with others—especially neighbors in need—this season.

This month, we have several opportunities to continue deepening our connection with God and one another. We hope to continue seeing you on Wednesday evenings for soup, conversation, and evening prayer. Easter is in March too! But before we get to Easter... I invite you to *dwell* a little longer on the journey, and join us for Holy Week.

Holy Week: An Invitation to DWELL

"...the Word became flesh and DWELLED among us." Wait a minute...isn't that a Christmas text?

Christmas and Easter. They are more than just the two days of the year when church attendance spikes. They are intricately connected to one another. You can't have the death of Jesus without the birth of Jesus...and vice versa.

But there's more to it.

When Jesus came to *dwell* among us - to be *God's flesh on earth* - he didn't just go to the places that made him feel good. He experienced all of it.

He prayed. He laughed. He wandered. He ate.

He also cried. He felt pain. He grieved. He loved.

He didn't just do what was convenient or nice or clean. He showed up in the whole range of human experience. God who put on flesh. God who dwells among us.

Come and *dwell* with us this Holy Week.

On *Thursday*, we gather like Jesus and his disciples did that first, last Supper, the bread and the wine, becoming Christ's own body and blood for us... for *you*. Jesus tells us, take these promises...and love one another. We kneel at one another's dirty feet. In humble service, we go out, nourished and strengthened, to *dwell* with the stranger, the outcast, the poor, the oppressed.

On *Friday*, we ponder the cross, where the Savior gasped his last words and took his final breath, dwelling with us...with *you*... even in death. Death is real, his death was real. We don't gather to feel guilty or afraid, but to *dwell* in even the death itself. Because we are not ashamed of it. We dwell there, in grief *and* in hope.

On *Saturday*, we gather for vigil and prayer. We *dwell* in scripture, remembering our story—God's story of being with us... with *you*. In the beginning of all creation to the valley of dry bones to the night of Passover. We light a new fire, we *dwell* in the anticipation.

On *Sunday*, we rejoice. Not forgetting what all just happened, but dwelling in a hope in things stronger than even death itself...

But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Easter is coming...but let us *dwell* a little longer with Jesus before we get there.

Where is Jesus?

In the grief. In the hunger. In the pain. In the tears. In the darkness. In the quiet. In the waiting. The waiting...waiting...not unlike Advent...

On Easter, we will shout with joy that our Savior is risen! Life wins!...

But in the meantime? Come and dwell.

Communal Worship Mission Team

Council Representatives: Ginny Acosta and Carol Eggers

COMMUNAL WORSHIP - MARCH 2024

We now find ourselves in the month of March and very much into the Lenten season. This will also be a season of change as Daylight Saving Time will take place on March 10th and March 19th will usher in the first day of Spring. Spring will bring the annuals peeking out in gardens and the joy of spring colors.

The three full weeks of Lent in March will bring us to the Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday on March 24th. We still have the opportunity to join together Wednesdays in March (the 6th, 13th and 20th) for Soup Supper with guided table conversations at 6 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. evening prayer service.

Holy Week will be special for us here at church this year as it is our first Holy Week with Pastor Hannah. Easter Sunday on March 31st will be a joyous worship service here at church at 9 a.m. followed by a Brunch Potluck. We hope you can join us for both worship and brunch.

A note of thanks to all the volunteers who have stepped up to serve in February and those serving in March; you really do help make worship special. Taking part as a volunteer gives one a deeper connection to the worship experience. Join in and discover the beautiful impact it can have for others as well as in your life.

More about Holy Week...

Come have your feet or hands washed!

Maundy Thursday will be a full service of Holy Communion, Foot/Hand Washing, and Stripping the Altar. You are invited to come and participate as fully as you feel comfortable. We will have stations available for either foot or hand washing. We follow Jesus' example of service when, at the table, he "poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet..." (John 13:5)—participating in that act of humble service for one another, being sent out into the world to serve our neighbors too.



So What's Happening on Good Friday??

You may have noticed on our Holy Week schedule that we are doing something different for Good Friday this year. Instead of having one time for a worship service on Good Friday, we are offering an extended time where you can come-and-go as you are able. The sanctuary will be open from 12:00-6:00 PM with prayer stations set up. You are invited to come and engage with the stations individually and introspectively, at your own pace. This practice of individual prayer and introspection is not meant to be isolating, but is our hope to be more inclusive so that more people can attend and participate. Additionally, the prayer stations will be designed to cultivate an attitude of solemn devotion and reflection at the foot of the cross, which is the focus of Good Friday. Come and see.

Easter Vigil with our Episcopalian Neighbors

Our siblings in Christ at St. James' Episcopal and St. Andrew's Episcopal have invited us to join them for Easter Vigil worship on Saturday, March 30th (the night before Easter morning). We will join them for an outdoor service at 5:00 PM at St. James (102 St James Ave—on Main St just south of I-10). Pastor Hannah will be preaching.

Communal Worship Mission Team

continued

LENT & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesdays in Lent (Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20)

6pm Soup Supper & Guided Table Conversations

7pm Evening Prayer Service

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

Hospitality Mission Team

Council Representatives: Kathie Rich & Sue Ann Collins

MARCH EXPECTATIONS and FEBRUARY WELCOMES

The hospitality team continues to anticipate (along with the rest of the congregation) the updated website. We are excited with the progress and feel it will be a welcoming and user-friendly site for members and seekers alike.

In February, we delivered baskets to our neighbor, Conlee Elementary School, with lots of snacks and pampering items. We will continue to partner with the school to support both students and staff.

We continue to look for an AV tech to support worship as well as social media and website. A job description is available if you know someone who might be right for this position.



A big thanks to David and Barbara Baron for tending all the plants inside the church. They faithfully water, feed and trim the plants, as well as making sure the pots are cared for and properly sized. It adds to the welcoming feeling as you enter the building.

Both lights now work in the parking lot and along with new basketball nets make a safe and inviting space for neighborhood players.

Anyone who has an interest in hospitality or sees a way we can reach out to the community, please contact Kathie Rich or Sue Ann Collins

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!?!". Our birthday gal for March is Elaine Stover. 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!'

Recently, we sponsored one of Peace's midweek Lenten soup suppers. Thank you to everyone that helped with the setting up, serving and cleaning up as well as bringing soups and bread for our meal.

Finally, we are working on a secret project! Come this month and find out what it is and how to be involved! See you on March 21st!

BIBLE STUDY CLASS UPDATE

By Susan Mitchell

We are studying Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, using a study guide published by Presbyterian Women, Inc. Our group of men and women meets twice a month on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in Room 107 – all are welcome - even if you missed the first sessions! We studied Lesson 3 (of 9) on Feb. 27th. There are extra study guides available for \$8. Contact Sandy Johnson in the office for a copy.

BIRTHDAYS



ANNIVERSARIES

3/1 Elaine Stover	3/17 Diane Odegaard
3/2 Monica Hillmer	3/21 Lisa Bates
3/2 Janine Smith	3/21 Richard Rice
3/4 Tanya Watson	3/23 Samantha Schirmer
3/8 Ron Brooker	3/23 Pattie Shepan
3/8 Marv Smith	3/23 Debbie Sweem
3/13 Mary Luckie	3/23 Grace Yost
3/14 True Caretto	3/28 Debbie Sarabia
3/15 Melora Caretto	3/30 Gary Stephens
	3/31 Clarice Irons

3/1 Becky Simpson & Debbie Sweem
3/16 Marie & Marty Avelsgaard

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

Faith & Fellowship Mission Team

continued

A BOOK WORTH READING

Suggested by Paul R. Miller

Tim Alberta is a young journalist making his mark as a writer for *The Atlantic*, but also as a reporter helping us make sense of the culture and times in which we live.

Having just finished his recent book, *"The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory: American Evangelicals in An Age of Extremism,"* I recommend it to you to deepen your understanding of the forces and personalities at work in part of the Christian Church giving birth and clout to Christian Nationalism, probably more widespread than most of us realize.

Alberta's book is highly biographical. He grew up in Brighton, Michigan, where his Father was a long-time pastor of the Evangelical Church, one of the branches of the Presbyterian Church coming out of the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversy of the 1920s. He is a thoughtful Christian, troubled with what he saw taking place in his father's life and its impact on their church's life. Alberta is grounded in the scriptures, theologically astute, and driven to comprehend more fully what was happening to a community of faith, which he dearly loved.

Like any good journalist, Tim went on the road for four years, covering the places and people very much involved in shaping a mentality and message with great appeal and success, yet terribly troubling within Alberta's own soul. From Jerry Falwell and family, and the creation of Liberty College (now University) in Virginia, to the upheaval over authority in the Southern Baptist denomination, to Wheaton College and Moody Bible Institute, along with random larger congregations encouraging and sustaining a hard drive to the right culturally, religiously and politically, Alberta reported the incessant drumbeating for power and money. There is much pain in all that he shares. He endeavors to help all of us to see the larger picture.

Alberta's overall theme is that *The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory* belong to God and especially not to the hard right-wingers who have misread and distorted the Gospel. The Shepherds have led their people astray. His plea is for a return by the Church to sanity, moderation, integrity, health, and wholeness. To be sure, he is speaking to the whole church, but no less to those in public and political life who have not been reluctant to stoke the fires of fear, division, and distrust for their own benefit.

More than 75 years ago, Reinhold Niebuhr used to say to all of America and beyond, "the ultimate test of faith is not zeal, but charity." The writer of Ephesians is no less succinct, "speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." Throughout his 445-page book, Tim Alberta recommends comparable wisdom and passion for all of us.

Expanding Vision Mission Team

Council Representative: Ross Staffeldt and Ellen Young

COUNCIL NOTES

At the February meeting Council approved twelve weeks of parental leave without conditions for Pastor Hannah. She will offer training for members of the congregation who might like to learn how to share their thoughts on the lessons in worship as lay preachers.

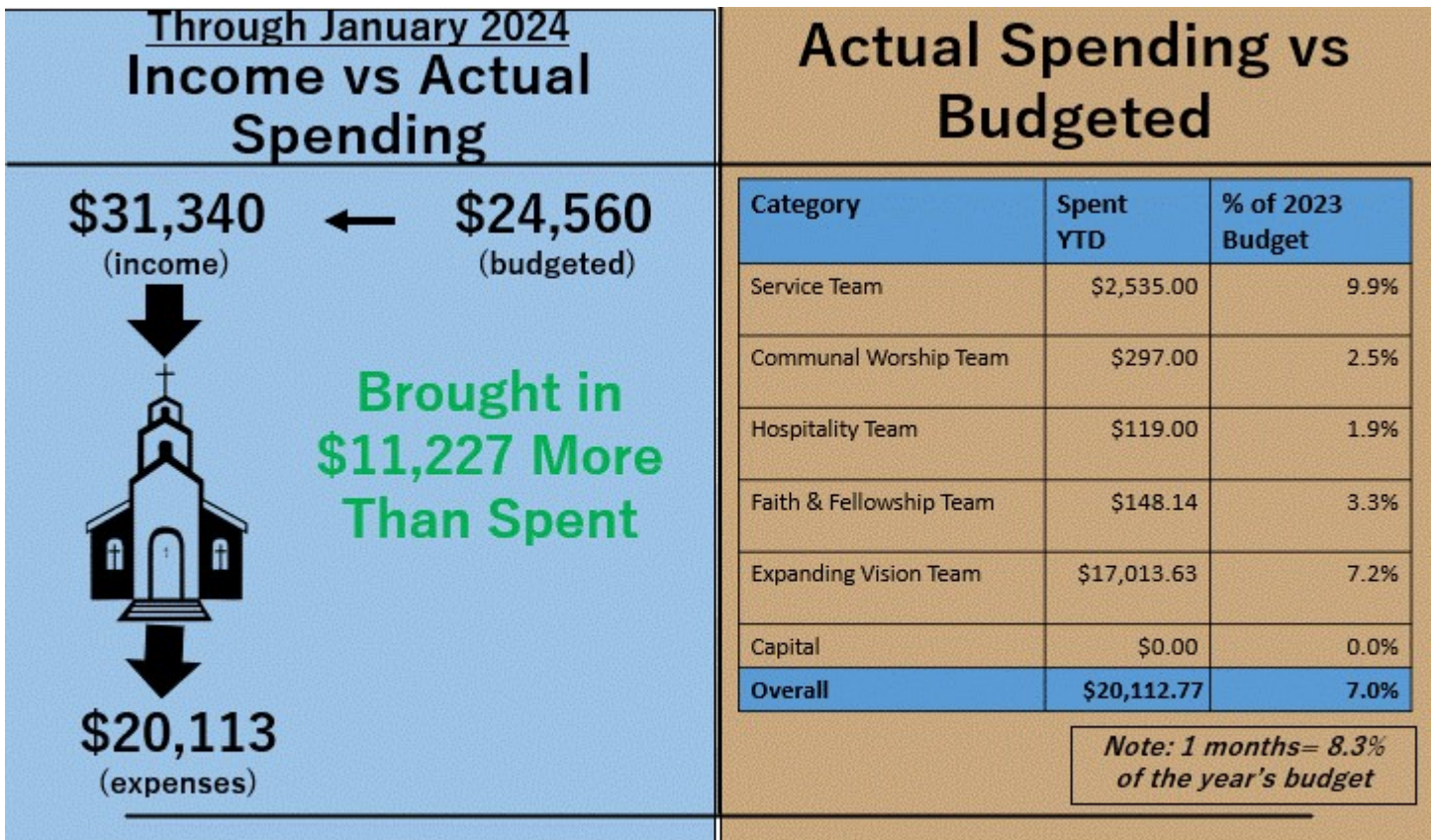
Pastor Hannah is planning a brief rededication service after worship one Sunday, when the repairs to the Bethlehem room, which are close to completion, are finally finished.

Council set a retreat for May 11 to discuss how well the current Mission Team structure is working, whether changes need to be made, and how to involve more congregation members as Team leaders.

The congregational meeting for election of Council members and committee members is scheduled for May 19.

Ellen Young, Vice-President

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: January 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

BETHLEHEM ROOM REPAIR AND RENOVATION

FEBRUARY 2024

By Joel Peterson

Many of our members played an important role in the rebuilding of the Bethlehem room. From cleaning to demolition to rebuilding to painting and decorating, these volunteers stepped up and helped when they could. Be sure to thank each of them for their efforts.

Glenn Kuehn	Bob Treulich	Ed Grave	Ron Bussian
Dwight Eggers	Gene Quandt	Karen Quandt	Dan Diemer
Jeanne Brown	Sandy Johnson		

The Holy Cross Retreat Center loaned us the scaffolding to do the painting and drywall work.

These companies were the ones we used in the repair and rebuild process. We had excellent results from them, and you are encouraged to consider them if you need their services.

Lewis Construction rebuilt our metal roof and repaired other roof holes.

(575) 496-3704

Advanced Restoration removed moldy walls, contents and carpet, then cleaned the room.

(575) 888-4789

Four Seasons Heating and Cooling replaced the heating system and ductwork.

(575) 523-4381

Rios Painting repaired stucco around the building and painted areas inside and out.

(575) 621-6573

Dunn Edwards supplied the paint at a nice discount for us.

(575) 523-1412

Malooly Flooring prepared the floor and installed new carpet.

(575) 523-0633

Service Mission Team

Council Representatives: Monica Hillmer and Gene Quandt

OFFERING OF LETTERS MARCH 3

Our Lenten service project for March 3 will be writing letters to our representatives in Washington in support of the Farm Bill.

Does this sound familiar? Yes, it's the same topic we wrote about last year. Congress failed to reauthorize the bill and it was extended. Our letters will not be the same, however, as pushback on the elements that help feed hungry people has increased. Our own people in Congress (Senators Heinrich and Lujan and Representative Vasquez) are already concerned about hungry people in New Mexico, but we need to write them to encourage them to specific actions.

All materials and sample letters will be available in the fellowship hall after worship. You can also take materials home, and bring letters back for dedication in worship on March 10, but hand-written letters have more impact because they can't be done quickly with cut and paste.

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.



LOGO CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED

Cindy Peterson, standing with Pr. Hannah, won the Peace Lutheran "Peace Has a Green Heart" Logo Contest with her beautiful graphic of the cross surrounded by heart-shaped philodendron leaves. Diana Diemer won second place, Diana Ayers third place, and Betty Lindsey honorable mention. Thank you to our artists and to our congregation for selecting the winning logo.



SHOW YOUR GREEN HEART



Show your green heart by wearing green on Sunday, March 17th, St. Patrick's Day!

The green team will provide some green treats during coffee hour. We will also provide the results of the environmental stewardship survey that the congregation filled out in February.

In keeping with a green theme, we will have a speaker, Lisa LaRocque from the Las Cruces sustainability office. She will talk about environmental issues and answer questions you may have.



Peace Lutheran Church

1701 E. Missouri Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Address Service Requested

Phone: 575-522-7119

Email: office@peacelutheranlc.com

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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

MARCH 2024

PROCESS FOR SELECTING THE PLC TRANSITION TEAM

Any member of PLC is eligible for the Transition Team with the following exceptions:

- No staff members or staff spouses
- No council members
- Only one member per household
- No youth
- No self-nominations

Congregation members offer potential names of Transition Team candidates to Council President Ellen Young at: ellenpeter@cs.com or (575) 532-9239. Deadline for nominations is Sunday, December 12th. The following are preferred traits for Transition Team members:

- Trusted by one or more factions within the congregation,
- Respected,
- Prayerful,
- Spiritually wise,
- Regular attender (doesn't have to be "in person"),
- Regular financial contributor,
- Able to listen to and speak to hard things,
- Willingness and availability to do some intense work for several months until this team's work is completed.

The council works to balance the nominations, narrowing to (approximately) 8-10 candidates no later than the January 11th council meeting. Particular attention will be given to:

- Connections to groups in church
- Age
- Gender
- Leadership roles
- Length of time as a member in the church
- Known factions within congregation
- Consideration of the preferred Transition Team member traits

Pastor Rob finalizes list (approximately 5-8 members). Transition Team is established no later than January 25th.

Transition Team installed during worship on Sunday, January 30th.

Help with the Transition Process!

Schedule a time to meet with Pastor Rob to share your hopes for the future of Peace. Click on (or copy) the link below, click on an available day, click on an available time, and confirm. You can meet via Zoom or in person at the church (vaccinations and masks please) .

This will help us in upcoming steps that are part of the Transition Process.

https://calendly.com/pr_rob/30min

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