

# PRINTS OF PEACE

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## DECEMBER WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

## SCRIPTURE READINGS



- Dec. 1 *First Sunday of Advent*  
Advent In-Building and Online Worship (9 a.m.)  
Hanging of the Greens (10:15 a.m.)  
Coffee Hour (10:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 4 Midweek Soup Supper (6:15 p.m.)  
Evening Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 8 Advent In-Building and Online Worship (9 a.m.)  
Coffee Hour (10:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 10 Green Team (3:00 p.m.)  
Council (6:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 11 Midweek Soup Supper (6:15 p.m.)  
Evening Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 15 Advent In-Building and Online Worship (9 a.m.)  
Coffee Hour (10:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 18 Midweek Soup Supper (6:15 p.m.)  
Evening Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)
- Dec. 19 Mobile Food Pantry (7 a.m.)
- Dec. 21 Longest Night Service (5 p.m.)
- Dec. 22 Advent In-Building and Online Worship (9 a.m.)  
Coffee Hour (10:15 a.m.)
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve In-Building & Online (5 p.m.)
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Breakfast (10 a.m.)
- Dec. 25-27 OFFICE CLOSED
- Dec. 26-Jan. 6 Pastor Hannah off
- Dec. 29 In-Building and Online Lessons & Carols  
Worship (9 a.m.)  
Coffee Hour (10:15 a.m.)

### December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

### December 8

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

### December 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

### December 22

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

### December 29

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26  
Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Eve Service ~ 5 p.m.

Christmas Day Breakfast ~ 10 a.m.

## PLC STAFF

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor  
[pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com)

Sandy Johnson, Parish Admin.  
[office@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:office@peacelutheranlc.com)

Jieun Newland, Music Minister  
Tommy Grimes, Custodian



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# PRINTS OF PEACE

DECEMBER 2024 & JANUARY 2025

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## JANUARY WORSHIP & SPECIAL EVENTS

## SCRIPTURE READINGS



### January 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### January 12

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### January 26

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

Dec. 26-Jan. 6 Pastor Hannah off

- Jan. 1 OFFICE CLOSED (New Year's Day)
- Jan. 5 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Taking Down the Greens (9:50 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)
- Jan. 8 Worship Planning Meeting (6:30 PM)
- Jan. 9 After-School Program (first day-scheduled)
- Jan. 10 OFFICE CLOSED
- Jan. 12 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)  
Vegan & Vegetarian Cook-Off (10:00 AM)
- Jan. 14 Green Team (3:00 PM)  
Council (6:30 PM)
- Jan. 16 Mobile Food Pantry (7 AM)  
Women in Motion (11:30 AM)
- Jan. 19 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)  
New Evangelicals (10:00 AM)
- Jan. 20 OFFICE CLOSED (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Jan. 26 In-Building and Online Worship (9 AM)  
Coffee Hour (10:00 AM)

Happy New Year

## PLC STAFF

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[pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com)

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## Pastor's Message

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

*“When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. The stories and scripture of Advent are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We hold the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts.”* (from *Sanctified Art* “Close to Home” Devotional)

Our theme for this year's Advent season—*Close to Home*—invites us to consider where we make our home, while God prepares to make a home among us as Emmanuel, God-with-us. And, it invites us dwell in what it might mean for something to hit ‘close to home’ and the feelings that often come with it... heaviness, nostalgia, uneasiness, joy, curiosity.

This Advent season, there is space for whatever you are feeling. We anticipate Jesus' arrival with a hope, an expectation, that God will show up. And, we express the honesty of the moments when we are a little less sure that God will show up.

Gather with us this season to be reminded that God is with-us. That even when something feels a little too ‘close to home,’ God is in the midst of all of it.

Part of why I felt drawn to this theme is because many in our community have experienced very real upheavals of ‘home,’ or what they thought to be home—moves, displacement, losses that have forced them to relocate. Additionally, many in our community have lost other aspects of ‘home,’ be it the security of a job, the companionship of a loved one who has died, the safety nets that are unknown with the most recent election. Different things are starting to feel a bit more personal—a bit *close to home*—and we are called especially in uncertain times to lean into community and to share the good news of love and grace that we have in Christ.

Whatever this season brings up for you, know that you are welcome to show up as your full self to Peace Lutheran Church. Whatever you are feeling, your emotions are welcome. Whatever you are longing for, your hunger is welcome. When you especially need a place to rest, or a glimpse of hope—please come. Join us for worship or for food or for whatever else might be going on. You don't have to be holly-jolly; there's a good chance when you come to church someone will be ready to meet you with a smile or a warm hug.

*“I think we share a collective homesickness. It feels like nostalgia. It looks like the trauma hiding in our past. It can turn into foreboding fear that robs us of real joy. But in this image and in Jesus' words, I see a call to resilience despite the difficult realities that confront us. I see a longing so deep that it keeps us reaching—for a home restored, for comfort renewed, for the fruit that is sure to come.”*



“Awake to Wonder” by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | *Sanctified Art* “Close to Home” Devotional, page 4

# Worship

Council Representative: Ginny Acosta

## COMMUNAL WORSHIP - DECEMBER 2024

Advent begins on December 1. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, which means coming or arrival. We wait and remember during Advent the story in Scripture of the birth of Jesus. If you ever look at the night sky, away from the city lights of your neighborhood, you can see a multitude of stars. Maybe it will be very quiet as you stargaze. As in ancient times, with no lights or noise from a big population, Mary was waiting for her child to be born. His birth, celebrated by angels singing in glorious joy to an audience of simple shepherds in a nearby field, is a true love story, a gift from God to His people! Emmanuel is now with us. And we are richly blessed!

I believe that the best way to truly celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is to fill this time intentionally with faith – prayers, special advent reading plans (like reading a chapter of Luke once a day in December so all 24 chapters are read by Christmas day), faith-related activities, and, of course, Advent and Sunday worship services. Some people have special time set aside for Scripture reading, maintaining a home Advent wreath as well as other cherished traditions. What matters is having Christ in your mind and heart during this wonderful season of Advent.

Let's keep in mind that some people are not perhaps in a holiday sort of mood. There is grief and the holidays are difficult times. We hold those missing/departed loved ones or situations in our hearts and prayers. We give grace to others during the holiday (just as we should all year long). Perhaps you or someone you know might want to attend the Longest Night service here at church on December 21, a Saturday and the night of the Winter Solstice. Often this service is referred to as the Blue Christmas service as it is a special service that allows space for grief in this season.

Christmas Eve is on Tuesday this year and it will be a wonderful service. Christmas Day on Wednesday will be a time of breakfast, fellowship and prayer. While some travel for the holidays, please join us if you are here and able to do so. Bring a friend!

A note of thanks goes to the various worship volunteers in November. The Gather and Grow Sunday saw many familiar faces and new folks who wish to become involved in the ministries in this church and we are grateful for all. Wishing each of you a blessed and Merry Christmas!

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## DECEMBER 1 – ADVENT BEGINS!

On the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, we will launch our Advent theme, and we will Hang the Greens (decorate) after worship. We'll need lots of help with hanging swags, putting ornaments and chrismons on the tree, and preparing our space for the season. Plan to join us!



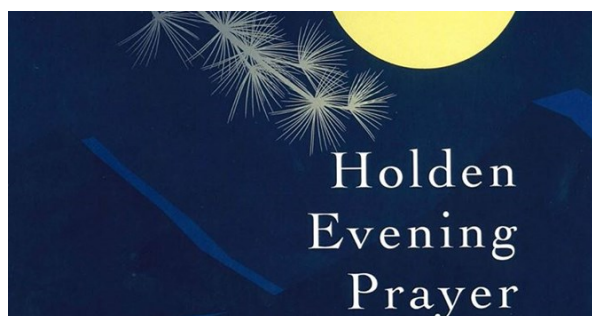


# Worship

Council Representative: Ginny Acosta

## MIDWEEK EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

Join us on Wednesdays December 4, 11, 18 at 6:15 p.m. for a soup supper followed by a service at 7 p.m. We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer and hearing from guest speakers about our Advent theme, "Close to Home." Plan to join us on these Advent evenings for this familiar and contemplative prayer service.



## CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICES (and a sing-along!)

On December 24, at 5:00 PM we will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service, including a special children's message and your favorite carols. Come early at 4:40 to enjoy a Christmas carol sing-along

Then on December 25, Christmas Day, we will gather in the fellowship hall at 10:00 AM for Pancakes & Prayer. Come hungry and join us for a delicious breakfast, followed by a short, festive time of morning prayer. Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets for food and helpers, and plan to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

**Poinsettias for Christmas** have been ordered.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for placing your request to honor or in memory of loved ones.

The cost for a red or white poinsettia is \$15; please mark your check 'poinsettia.'

You can take yours home after Christmas.



## Faith Formation

Council Representative: Carol Eggers



### ***Close to Home, An Advent Journey*** **– at-home resources available**

Devotional booklets and Advent calendars are available at the church for your personal use. These booklets are full of readings, poems, prayer prompts, and visual art to help you experience God this Advent season. The Advent calendars are designed to be kept on your fridge, utilizing your own magnet(s) to journey through the days and their invitations to a daily activity. If you'd like a copy of the devotional booklet electronically, please email the office.

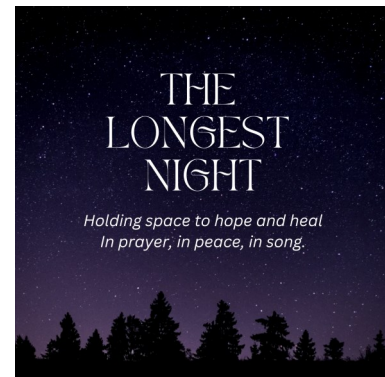
## Pastoral Care

Council Representative: Marty Avelsgaard

### THE LONGEST NIGHT- AN INVITATION

*In the quiet hush of winter's embrace,  
As shadows stretch and steal the light,  
Come gather in the sacred space,  
On winter solstice-the longest night.*

*We'll face together the darkness we feel,  
Redeem the pain we've held so long,  
Holding space to hope and heal,  
In prayer, in peace, in song.*



On the eve of Saturday, December 21, at 5 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church will open its doors for a solemn gathering: the Longest Night Service. In the gentle embrace of this quiet, contemplative assembly, we extend a hand of solace and support to those journeying through the valleys of loss, grief, sorrow, or any pain that weighs upon the heart. This sacred service, a refuge of compassion and understanding, welcomes all souls seeking comfort and peace in the stillness of the longest night.

### PASTORAL CARE VISIT REMINDER

Pastor Hannah and members of our Pastoral Care Team and Eucharistic Minister Team are available to visit you in the privacy of your home or in the hospital at your request. Please telephone or email the Peace Lutheran Church office to request a visit or a visit with communion.

# Neighborhood Outreach

Council Representative.: Monica Hillmer



## THANK YOU FROM CONLEE ELEMENTARY

A big thank you to the women from Peace Lutheran Church who donated these beanies to our Conlee Head Start little ones. Just in time for winter.

# Advocacy

Council Representative: Gene Quandt

## NOURISH OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Bread for the World leaders in New Mexico and Southwest regional organizer Ken Fujimoto invite you to register for the national launch of the Nourish Our Future campaign, Bread for the World's Offering of Letters for 2025 and 2026. The virtual event will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 6:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. Talk with Lynette Schurdevin for details.

# Fellowship

Council Representative: Karen Harvey

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/3 Susanna Odegaard
- 12/3 Robert Treulich
- 12/7 Jackie Jenkins
- 12/8 Hilikka Byrd
- 12/8 Rebecca Powell
- 12/8 Ryan Steinmetz
- 12/9 Dwight Eggers
- 12/11 Sandy Johnson
- 12/12 Dean Ayres
- 12/12 Betty Lindsey
- 12/12 Philip Yost, Jr.
- 12/13 Kari Lenander
- 12/24 Irene Villalobos
- 12/25 Carol Blaschka
- 12/26 Bryan Carter
- 12/27 Mateo Garay
- 12/28 LaJune Smith
- 12/29 Barbara Powers
- 12/30 Carlos Campos
- 12/31 Mark Hallamore

*Please let us know if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect or you have updated contact information.*

- 1/1 Mary Green
- 1/5 Miguel Motz
- 1/5 Debbie Pendleton
- 1/8 Lucy Dunbar
- 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
- 1/28 Greg Lindsey
- 1/31 Cheri Coyle
- 1/31 Jeremiah Lee
- 1/31 Terri Stockberger

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/16 Susan & Scott Smith
- 12/30 Lindsay & Adam Roberts
- 1/3 Carol & Sam Winkles

### DIRECTORY UPDATES

Sue Ann Collins - **NEW E-Mail**  
SueCollins795@gamil.com



# Fellowship

Council Representative: Karen Harvey

## WIM - WOMEN IN MOTION

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month except December for a potluck luncheon at Peace at 11:30 a.m. All women are invited to come and join us. You are asked to bring a dish to share (homemade or purchased); coffee and tea will be provided. We celebrate each month's birthday gals with cards and a lovely, joyful rendition of Happy Birthday. An envelope is passed around for donations to be used for any projects, gifts or concerns at the end of the year in November. Any needs can be presented and we all choose the ones most pressing.

An email list is available to remind you and keep you updated about our activities. If you wish to be on the list, please email me, Karen Harvey, at [khpollype@gmail.com](mailto:khpollype@gmail.com) or let the church office know.

In December, we will be sponsoring one of the Soup Suppers on Wednesday, December 4, at 6:15 p.m. We will need volunteers to set up, serve and clean up that evening. Everyone in our congregation is asked to bring soup or bread for our meal as well as us all. This year, we will be opening our meal to our neighbors so extras will be needed.

Our meeting in January will be on Thursday, January 16, at 11:30 a.m. If you work but can join us briefly, we'd love to have you! There is always enough food...and the selection is always a surprise. Please let us know that you are coming; it helps us to know how much food to make.

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## ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

During the season of Advent, our congregation meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. for a simple meal of soup and bread. The meal is followed by a worship service using the Holden Evening Prayer. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite soup to share. It's a great time to try some new soups or breads, too! Last year, we found out that we have some awesome bread bakers!

This year we will be inviting our neighbors to come and share our meal. Three groups will be handling the set up, serving and clean up. On 12/4, WIM (Women in Motion) will provide the helpers; on 12/11, the Green Team will provide the helpers and on 12/18, Church Council will provide the helpers. Come join us!





## Service Council Representative: Amanda Goodluck

### **A NEW GREEN HOLIDAY TRADITION: Tofu Ham and Turkey**

By: Amanda Goodluck

Every family has their own special traditions around Christmas. A big focal point for mine was food. One of the foods was my grandmother's Christmas Crackers that some of you may remember from last December's Fellowship Hour. We also eat oyster stew every Christmas Eve and a big ham roast on Christmas Day.



My husband, Clark, didn't grow up in a church. I attribute his family's relative lack of a holiday meal tradition to this fact. Sometimes his mother would make enchiladas on Thanksgiving, but they never held too much reverence for it. However, his father did grow up in the Seventh Day Adventist church. That means my father-in-law and his immediate family never ate pork. He still has a slight aversion to it, and he carried that pork avoidance into Clark's childhood.

Since moving out of my parents' house I have tried to live as climate-conscious as possible. Reducing my meat consumption was one big step. Why shouldn't we continue this meat reduction into the holidays?

What a better time to try this new way of eating than during our first Christmas together, in 2020, right in the midst of a big COVID wave! Without wanting to infect our parents, we spent Christmas together, just the two of us. We went to Sprouts and bought a Tofurky Roast with Wild Rice Stuffing and the Tofurky Ham Style Roast.

We promise you that it tastes nothing like the chewy tofu packages you get at the store or eat at an Asian restaurant. Tofurky has the texture of a smooth meat that tastes like it's been marinated in real animal flavors. Clark and I love this tofu "meat" so much that we've decided to make it a new tradition. We now eat real turkey on Thanksgiving and the Tofurky and Tofu Ham on Christmas Day!

The Tofu Ham tasted so real to Clark and his father, that they couldn't eat too much of it due to their Adventist roots. So don't let the fear of a new vegan food scare you! I urge all of you to try one of these meat substitutes this holiday season, even if it's still alongside your normal roast. If you do not have solar, the Green Team asks that you consider if this a path for you.

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### **THE GREEN TEAM'S VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN COOK-OFF!**

Reducing your carbon footprint can be as easy as reducing meat in your diet. However, it can be difficult to find tasty vegetarian and vegan dishes. If you have a special vegetarian or vegan recipe, bring some for the congregation to sample after worship on January 12, 2025! We will hold a vote for the best food, and maybe even give out a prize!

## Administration Council Representative: Lisa Bates

### GATHER AND GROW SUNDAY



I just wanted to thank everyone for their hard work and participation in the Gather and Grow Service. We had a few key people who were ill and had to miss, but I think it still came together quite nicely. Thank you Kathie Rich, Jeanne Brown, Pr. Rick Green for your participation. The Council and Pastor put in a lot of thought and planning to ensure that it was a purposeful and meaningful service that would help Peace continue this journey of growing our ministries. And WOW, did you as a congregation come together and offer you talents. I am looking forward to Peace's future!!

### COUNCIL MEETING NOTES - November 12

Council met on November 12. Worship plans from 24 November to 12 January along with other church activities were reviewed. The insurance coverage needs clarifying and training volunteers for Ana's Place, the after-school program. Five candidates were named to ask to serve on the Call Committee. A vision team will be formed under 'Churches In Mission.'

### DEACON CALL COMMITTEE

Thank you to the following people who have agreed to serve on the call committee for calling a part-time deacon: Carol Eggers, Lynette Schurdevin, Kathie Rich, Mark Lusk, Julie Phillips, and Clark Alves. Church council approved the call committee members, and they will begin their work soon, which includes working with the transition coach from the Rocky Mountain Synod, interviewing our candidate, communicating to the congregation, and making a recommendation to the church council.

## Worship Council Representative: Ginny Acosta

### SAVE-THE-DATE – WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The World Council of Churches encourages churches around the world to observe the Week of Christian Unity each January. There will be an ecumenical service here at Peace on Wednesday, January 22nd along with other Christian communities in Las Cruces. Time TBD, keep an eye on the announcements for more info.

# Worship

Council Representative: Ginny Acosta

## COMMUNAL WORSHIP - JANUARY 2025

Happy New Year! It's a time to consider new beginnings, new opportunities to enhance both your life and others. Palms open for blessings, hands and hearts serve the Lord.

January 1 is known as the feast day of Mary, Mother of God. We always think of her beautiful surrender to God and steadfast love of her son Jesus.

Epiphany, which actually starts on January 5, often celebrated on the 6th, marks the date when the Magi came to pay homage to baby Jesus. It is often called Three Kings Day. The Magi or kings were important symbolically as they illustrate that Jesus was the king of all kings who came for the Jews and the Gentiles. Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts, celebrated since the end of the second century, even before the Christmas holiday was established. It is also known as the Twelfth Night. Epiphany means manifestation or showing forth and refers to the church season that follows the day. We celebrate Epiphany to remember we too are invited to witness the life of Jesus and be blessed as we begin a new year.

Also on Epiphany is the tradition of "Chalking the Door". This is a centuries-old way, believed to be an Anglican tradition, to celebrate and mark the occasion with God's blessing of our lives and homes with sacred signs. It set the houses apart as places of Christian hospitality, as safe places of the Kingdom of God in the world and as places of healing and rest. Chalk is used because it is an ordinary substance of the earth and, while it will fade with weather and time, we will remember the reason for it. The doorposts of homes are chalked each year with the year and the letters C+M+B which is Latin for Christus Mamsionem Benedicat which means "May Christ Bless this Home". The letters can also mean the names of the Magi who visited baby Jesus: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. So in 2025 it is: 20+C+M+B+25

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in the church in December! To those of you stepping up and into new volunteer opportunities here at church, welcome and thank you!

## TAKING DOWN THE GREENS - JANUARY 5

Everyone is invited to help with taking down the greens following worship on Sunday, January 5, as we replace our Christmas decorations for the move into the season of Epiphany.



## WORSHIP PLANNING FOR THE SPRING/SUMMER

Pr Hannah will be hosting a meeting on Wednesday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. This will be a chance to share some ideas for upcoming Lent and Easter season. If you have ideas to share, or just want to be a part of the conversation, please plan to join us! This meeting is open to anyone from the congregation. Feel free to bring dinner with you. Zoom will also be available, reach out to Pr. Hannah or the office for the link.

## FLOWER SIGN-UP CHART

There will be a new flower chart in the narthex for those who wish to provide flowers for Sunday worship. Dates are available January 12- March 2 and resume on April 27 after 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 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.



**Peace Lutheran Church**

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Las Cruces, NM 88001

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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

**DECEMBER 2024-**  
**JANUARY 2025**