

**Second Sunday of Advent
In-Person and Online Worship Bulletin
December 8, 2024**



“Berakah” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1701 E. Missouri Ave., Las Cruces, NM • (575) 522-7119
www.peacelutheranlc.com • office@peacelutheranlc.com



www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc

Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

We of Peace Lutheran Church welcome all people to full participation in the life of the church regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical or mental disability.

Children are welcome in any worship service at Peace Lutheran Church.

It is a pleasure to have you worship with us this week and, if you are looking for a church home, we invite you to worship with us again soon. If you are in need of assistance of any kind, please speak with an usher.

P= Presider, A= Assisting Minister, C= Congregation

PRELUDE

La Grâce
Flora Newberry, trumpet

--Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

⊕ ----- GATHERING ----- ⊕

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: If life was a home, then we would pray—
may love be the foundation.
May God be the cornerstone.
May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.
And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

L: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

C: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

L: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

C: Let us worship Holy God.

WREATH LIGHTING

Leaders: A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,
we gather together around the candle of peace.
B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace—
A: peace that rests between us and our grief,
B: peace around our anxiety,
A: peace between us and our self-criticism,
B: peace amidst our relationships,
A: peace at the core of our being,
B: peace hovering through and in our world.
A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.
...So today we light the candle of peace-- as a reminder and as a prayer.
Let it be so. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 - verse 2

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall lead the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them homeward.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In our scripture passage for today, Zechariah, a new father, speaks to his newborn son, John the Baptist, for the very first time. I want you to imagine yourself in his shoes . . .
What would you say to a newborn sleeping in your arms?

I imagine that all of you would speak words of love.
It's impossible not to speak words of love when you're holding a baby, and yet as we grow up, that skill tends to become harder for us to practice. So let us return to our foundation—to words of love, starting with love for ourselves.

A time of silence for self-reflection.

P: Holy God

C: **When John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it.**

**We forget that in the beginning we were made good.
We doubt that we could possibly be enough.
We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection.
We deflect words of praise.
We hide behind shiny first impressions.**

**Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job.
Open our ears as you open our hearts,
so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us.
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

P: Family of faith, No matter how old we get, God continues to say to us:
"You are loved; you are forgiven."
That is the foundation of our lives.
That is the truth upon which we build our home.
So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here.

Join me in proclaiming this good news:

C: **We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



FIRST READING

Philippians 1: 3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

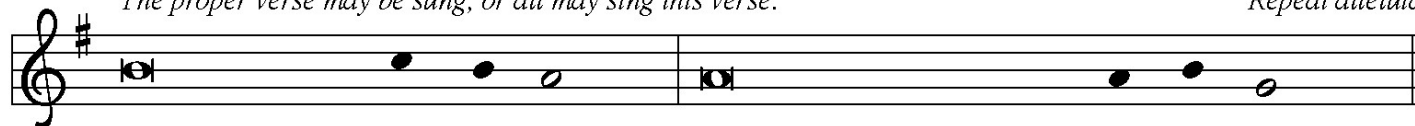
ELW 168



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

***GOSPEL**

Luke 1: 57-80

P: The Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Silence for Reflection

*HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

ELW 255



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
 2 O Je - ru - sa - lem, her - ald good tid - ings, as -
 3 But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 cend to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
 peo - ple the com - ing of their king.
 na - tions and soon will right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 Like flow'rs of the field we per - ish, like
 Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay; the pow'r and the pomp of
 lambs so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now



plac - es where God, our God, may go!
 na - tions shall and pass like a dream a - way.
 lead them, and bring them to your fold.

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A: Lord in your mercy
C: **Receive our prayer.**

Saints of Peace:

Sara Botsford, Lillian Deuker, Fred Landdeck, Ellen Brenckle, Alice Hahn

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in
the name of Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*In-Building: Please share signs of peace in whatever way you are comfortable and
is respectful of your neighbor's comfort level.*

Online: You may share signs of peace in the chat or on video in sign language or waving.

⊕ -----MEAL----- ⊕

OFFERING

*Gifts for the work and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church can be placed in the offering
plates or mailed to the Church Office or sent through on-line giving on our website.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

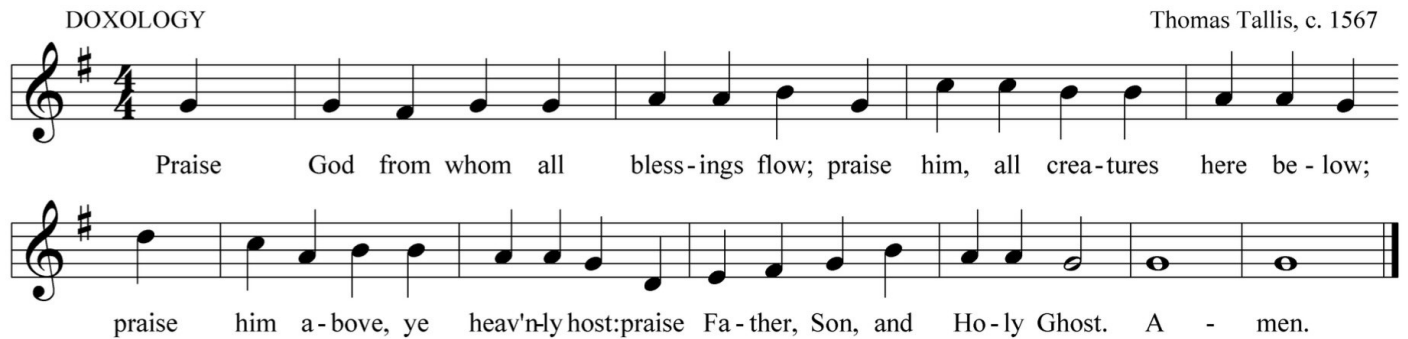
Unexpected and Mysterious

--Calvin Hampton
arr. Ferguson

***OFFERTORY**

Doxology

DOXOLOGY Thomas Tallis, c. 1567



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Holy God,

C: **You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: **We lift them to the Lord!**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

***PREFACE**

P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe!

You draw your people to you
with the promise of salvation.

In your goodness,
every promise you make is fulfilled.

You delivered your people from bondage and exile,
bringing them home and renewing their song.

When your creation was captive to sin,
you sent Christ to restore the whole world.

In your love and by your Spirit,
you have invited us in and welcomed us home.

And so, we thank you with the faithful of every time and place,
as we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



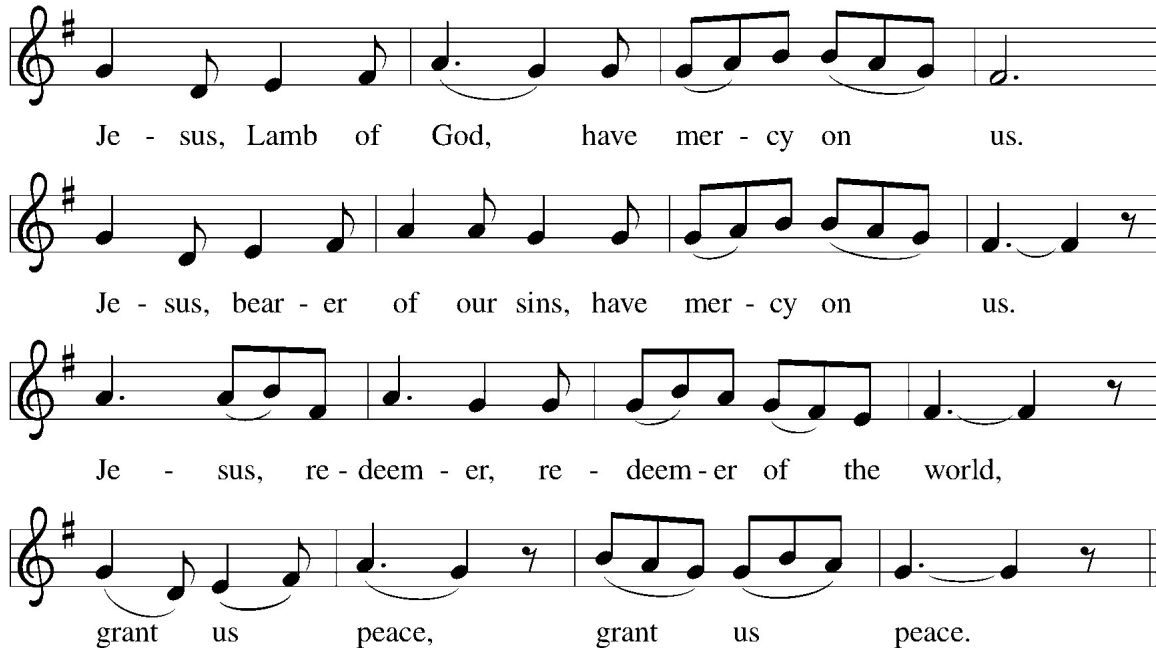
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C: Our Father in Heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive
those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el Cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosotros tu Reino,
hágase tu voluntad
en la Tierra como en el Cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación,
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el Reino, tuyo el Poder,
y tuya la Gloria,
ahora y siempre. Amén.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table for communion, regardless of age or church membership. Come forward up the center aisle, taking an empty cup from the tray at the front. Follow the direction of the ushers and kneel or stand at the rail. The Bread Minister will hand you a piece of bread (gluten-free wafers are available, just ask the bread minister). There are two Wine Ministers. The first pouring chalice offers wine and the second chalice is grape juice.

If you choose not to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing from the Bread Minister. Crossing your arms over your chest will indicate that you would prefer a blessing.

If you have difficulty coming to the front, please notify an usher and communion will gladly be brought to you.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Ahi che s'acresce in me
Flora Newberry, cornetto

--Angelo Notari (1566-1663)

***BLESSING FROM THE TABLE**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

- A: Generous God,
- C: **we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.**

⊕ -----SENDING----- ⊕

***THE BENEDICTION**

P: As you leave *this* service, *your* service begins:
 Comfort the homesick.
 Open your doors to others.
 Seek sanctuary.
 Be brave enough to go home by another way.
 And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.
 In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son ⊕ —
 go in peace.

C: Amen

***SENDING HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS - December 8

If you have Prayer Requests to be included in the Prayers of the Day, please write them before the service on the Prayer Request sheet found on the stand in the narthex.

Flowers in the sanctuary were graciously donated by Dwight and Carol Eggers.

Join us on Wednesdays during Advent 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."

SIGN UP to help with our Advent Soup Suppers on Wednesdays, Dec. 11 & 18. Set-up and Clean-up help are needed, as well as your best soup or bread to share. We've invited the neighborhood to join us, so an extra soup or bread will be appreciated.

Close to Home, An Advent Journey – at-home resources available. Devotional booklets and Advent calendars are available for you to take home for your personal devotional 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.

On behalf of the Peace Lutheran Green Team, **you are invited to make recycled Christmas card gift tags on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 107.** We will need used Christmas cards, small bags, string/ribbon, scissors, hole punchers, stickers, or just bring yourself. You can keep the gift tags but we will also have some tags available to give out the following Sunday. Contact Nancy Redshaw 218-839-2478 if attending.

Poinsettias for Christmas. We have ordered 12 red and 6 white poinsettias for our Christmas service. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you wish to purchase one of these in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost is \$15; please mark your check 'poinsettia. You can take yours home after Christmas.

'Finals Break' Tabling Event at NMSU THIS WEEK - Peace and Morning Star Methodist Church are hosting a table on campus on Monday 12/9 and Tuesday 12/10, from 9:30-1:00, near the Corbett Student Center. We will give away free goodies for the students (thanks to Thrivent Action Teams), as well as church info. We hope to be an encouragement during finals week. If you are able to help out, please let Pr Hannah know. And please stop by if you are on campus!

Longest Night Service - December 21st at 5:00 PM. 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 holiday season. This sacred service, a refuge of compassion and understanding, welcomes all souls seeking comfort and peace in the stillness of the longest night. Come as you are.

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!



Continued -->

Mesilla Valley Chorale presents "Someday at Christmas" at 3:00 p.m., next Sunday, December 15, at the Rio Grande Theatre. \$10 Admission. See the poster in the Narthex. They held a rehearsal here last week; it will be a nice show.

You are invited to the Christmas Posadas of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey: People come to reenact the journey of Mary and Joseph and later celebrate with Mariachis, the traditional Mexican Christmas meal, the Piñata for the kids, and more. **Next Sunday, December 15, at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, El Paso,** the Christmas Service is at 5:00 p.m. and the celebration is at 6:30 p.m. Reserve your ticket (\$10 per person or \$20 per family): text 915-422-5434 or 915-305-1185. See the poster in the narthex for details.

After-school Program Request: The after school program team is requesting a few items of gently used, comfortable furniture, such as armchairs, ottomans, and a small couch or loveseat. Comfortable seating will make the program space more welcoming to our participants. If you or someone you know is planning to replace any gently used furniture in the near future, please consider donating it to the after school program! Contact: Susanna Odegaard anasplacelc@gmail.com anasplacelc@gmail.com There is also a wish list available of other requested items

Our online worship now on our YouTube channel (previously we used Zoom) on Sundays at 9 a.m. Anyone can access the livestream, and chat will be enabled so that you can talk to us and others joining worship. The live video will appear when we go live on Sunday. The worship videos will remain on our YouTube channel for later viewing. Search "Peace Lutheran Church Las Cruces, NM" on YouTube or visit: <https://www.youtube.com/@peacelutheranchurch1668>

 **Green Team Tip**  **Gift the thrift!** Now is the time to peruse thrift stores and secondhand shops for items your loved ones might enjoy for Christmas! Check out some secondhand shops online like Facebook Marketplace, OfferUp, Backmarket, or Thriftbooks.

<u>SCHEDULE - December 8-15</u>		
Sun., Dec. 8	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
Mon.-Tues., Dec. 9-10	9:30-1:00	Table @ NMSU
Tues., Dec. 10	1:00 p.m.	Making Recycled Gift Tags
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wed., Dec. 11	4:00 p.m.	Bells
	5:00 p.m.	Choir
	6:15 p.m.	Soup Supper
	7:00 p.m.	Advent Worship
Thurs., Dec. 12	5:00 p.m.	Ana's Place Open House
Fri., Dec. 13	5:00 p.m.	BSC Holiday Party
Sat., Dec. 14	11:00 a.m.	Dona Ana Communities United winter celebration
Sun., Dec. 15	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
+++++		
OA - Overeaters Anon:	9:30 a.m.	- Sa
AA - Downtown Group:	5:30 p.m.	- Su, M, Tu, Th, F, Sa
	7:00 p.m.	- W
	8:00 p.m.	- Sa
AA - Primary Purpose:	7:00 p.m.	- F