



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship and Special Events

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Wed, Dec 3 | Choir Practice Advent Soup Supper Midweek Evening Prayer | 5pm 6pm 7pm |
| Thur, Dec 4 | Exec Committee Mtg Campanas de Paz Practice Ana's Place After School Program Peace & Pride Community | 3pm 4pm 4:15pm 7pm |
| Fri, Dec 5 | Ana's Place After School Program | 4:15pm |
| Sat, Dec 6 | Really Really Free Market | 10am-1 pm |
| Sun, Dec 7 | Worship Fellowship / Hanging of the Greens Foodbank Fundraiser Recital | 9am 10:15am 3pm |
| Tues, Dec 9 | Church Council Mtg | 6:30pm |
| Wed, Dec 10 | Choir Practice Advent Soup Supper Midweek Evening Prayer | 5pm 6pm 7pm |
| Thur Dec 11 | Campanas de Paz Practice Ana's Place After School Program | 4pm 4:15pm |
| Fri, Dec 12 | Ana's Place After School Program | 4:15pm |
| Sun, Dec 14 | Worship Fellowship / Crafts & Carols | 9am 10:15am |
| Wed, Dec 17 | AARP Meeting Choir Practice Advent Soup Supper Midweek Evening Prayer | 2pm 5pm 6pm 7pm |
| Thur, Dec 18 | Mobile Food Pantry Campanas de Paz Practice Ana's Place After School Program | 8am 4pm 4:15pm |
| Fri, Dec 19 | Ana's Place After School Program | 4:15pm |
| Sun, Dec 21 | Worship Fellowship / Candle Making Longest Night Service | 9am 10:15am 5pm |

PLC Staff

Rev. Hannah DiPasquale, Pastor
Pastorhannah@peacelutheranlc.com

Anna Dykeman, Deacon
deaconanna@peacelutheranlc.com

Diane Haugesag, Office Administrator
office@peacelutheranlc.com

Dr. Seth Zamora, Music Director
szamora@peacelutheranlc.com

Dr. David Klement, Choir Director

Tommy Grimes, Custodian

Advent/Christmas Eve Schedule!

Find the Advent & Christmas Eve
schedule inside!



Prints of Peace

Dec 2025/Jan 2026

| | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Wed, Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Service | 5pm |
| Sun, Dec 28 | Worship – Breakfast Church | 9 am |
| Sun. Jan. 4, 2026 | Epiphany Worship – Fellowship / Taking Down the Greens | 9 am 10:15am |
| Sun. Jan. 11, | Worship – Vegan & Vegetarian Cook-off | 9 am 10:15am |
| Tues, Jan 13 | Church Council Mtg | 6:30pm |
| Thur, Jan 15 | Women in Motion | 11:30am |
| Thur, Jan 15 | Mobile Food Pantry | 8am |

December Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Susanna Odegaard | Dec 3 |
| Robert Treulich | Dec 3 |
| Jackie Jenkins | Dec 7 |
| Hilkka Byrd | Dec 8 |
| Rebecca Powell | Dec 8 |
| Ryan Steinmetz | Dec 8 |
| Dwight Eggers | Dec 9 |
| Sandy Johnson | Dec 11 |
| Dean Ayres | Dec 12 |
| Betty Lindsey | Dec 12 |
| Philip Yost Jr. | Dec 12 |
| Kari Lenander | Dec 13 |
| Alaina Carnathan | Dec 14 |
| Anna Dykeman | Dec 22 |
| Carol Blaschka | Dec 25 |
| Angeleen Lazarin | Dec 25 |
| Bryan Carter | Dec 26 |
| LaJune Smith | Dec 28 |
| Barbara Powers | Dec 29 |
| Carlos Campos | Dec 30 |
| Mark Hallamore | Dec 31 |

January Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Mary Green | Jan 1 |
| Miguel Motz | Jan 5 |
| Debbie Pendleton | Jan 5 |
| John Starich | Jan 6 |
| Lucy Dunbar | Jan 8 |
| Karin McClain | Jan 8 |
| Vicki Estrada | Jan 12 |
| Katy Winn | Jan 13 |
| Amanda Goodluck | Jan 14 |
| Richard Shepan | Jan 14 |
| Dan Diemer | Jan 16 |
| Marie Avelsgaard | Jan 17 |
| Damian Blaschka | Jan 21 |
| Elaine Rude | Jan 22 |
| Nancy Redshaw | Jan 24 |
| Greg Lindsey | Jan 28 |
| Cheri Coyle | Jan 31 |
| Jeremiah Lee | Jan 31 |
| Terri Stockberger | Jan 31 |

Dec/Jan Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Susan & Scott Smith | Dec 16 |
| Jonathan Danielson & Jim Hooley | Dec 23 |
| Carol & Sam Winkles | Jan 3 |

Peace Lutheran Church Food Pantry – Dennis Morin

Thanks to all who showed up to help on November 20, not knowing if the rain would stop for us. Mother Nature was very gracious to us and kept the rain away.

We distributed food to **103 households**, which was comprised of 64 children, 118 adults and 85 seniors. The bulk of the donations for the families that did not receive turkeys came from the food collection at the last No Kings Rally, plus other donations. These numbers are reported to the Roadrunner Food Bank. We were moved back from 100 families to 84 because, for a while, we were not making it to 100 families. Considering the need, I will contact them to see what we have to do to get back to 100 families.

Be Aware of Scam Emails!

We are seeing and hearing of a rise in scam emails COMING FROM STAFF AT PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH requesting gift cards, money, or sensitive information. These emails often come from names such as "Rev. Hannah" or "Pastor" but it is from a fake email address.

- **Emails from Peace staff are “Name”@peacelutheranlc.com.**
- **ALWAYS double check the email address on EVERY EMAIL**
- **NEVER respond to requests for gift cards, money, private information, or "assistance with a personal matter."**
- **ALWAYS verify information with the person's KNOWN and CORRECT contact information.**

Don't hesitate to call the church to verify if the Pastor or church staff actually reached out to you.

Pastor's Message - Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

An Invitation to Insist on Hope This Advent

What do you fear?

I'll admit, I haven't thought a lot about fear. But I sure have heard a lot about it. Especially this past year...

In the message from a church member, afraid that their social security check is going to disappear. In the downcast face of a concerned family member, afraid of what comes next for their declining loved one. In the comments from the same-sex couple, afraid of what could happen to their marriage in this political time. In the heart of the concerned parent, afraid for their child and raising them in this country when rates of gun violence continue to surpass anything we've seen before.

...that last one is my own.

I am afraid, even if I don't always admit it.

My fear mostly manifests these days as fear *for* others—for my church people, for my friends, for my family, especially my son, who at only a year and a half, having the rest of his life ahead of him already gives me so much fear... and hope, too...

Fear and *hope* are always held together, are they not? Or, at least I think we strive to hold *fear* and *hope* together, because we know that fear *without* hope is a sure recipe for despair.

This is why I think this year's Advent theme: *What do you fear?* is so important. I'm excited to dive in with you.

In this season of anticipation, I invite you to bring your fears and be honest about them. This season of darkness, long nights, waiting—anxious waiting, longing waiting, impatient waiting, necessary waiting... whatever waiting looks like for you, I hope that as we grapple with our own fears and vulnerability that we will more deeply encounter God-with-us.

"Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?" (from the *What Do you Fear?* Advent devotional booklet, introduction)



Stewardship is Caring - Rev. Hannah DiPasquale

What's Your STEWARDSHIP STORY?

In November, we heard stories from three congregation members about how they understand stewardship and their invitation for us to consider how we steward our Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Bob pointed us to the variety of ministries to get involved in, which you can see on the new "menu" of PLC—a whole list of opportunities to serve God through this congregation and the many many ways to get involved.

Jane grounded us in her own story as she reminded us that stewardship is about community and how being part of the Church is about giving back with whatever gifts God has equipped us.

Dan challenged us to match our financial giving to the church to match the growth of our annual church budget, which reflects a 14% increase from 2025 to 2026.

Stewardship, simply put, is caring for what we have received. First and foremost, we have received the gift of God's grace, which we never have to earn, but to which we respond in generous gratitude. There is never any obligation to give to the Church; and we also know that building meaningful community means giving back, and our life as Peace Lutheran Church is enhanced when we all give a little (more) of our time, talent, and treasure.

Foodbank Fundraiser Recital

in partnership with Roadrunner Foodbank

*****Admission is donation based!*****

Peace Lutheran Church

1701 Missouri Ave.

December 7th @ 3:00pm



***featuring Angel Ornelas, Violin and
Dr. Seth Zamora, Piano***

***Works by Bach, Beethoven,
Shostakovich, Poulenc, and more!***

Get Ready for PLC's 2nd Annual Vegan Cook-off!

The Green Team will be hosting the Second Annual Vegan and Vegetarian Cook-off on **Sunday, January 11th, 2026** after worship in the Fellowship Hall! Eating just one vegetarian meal a week helps fight climate change! Reducing animal meat consumption reduces the carbon used to transport the animal feed and the meat itself. Lots of water and land is needed to take care of the animals and grow their food. That's not even including the highly powerful greenhouse gas of methane produced by cows. So come show off your delicious plant-based dish, snack, or dessert in January! Mark Lusk's Spinach Balls won the popular vote in 2025. Will your recipe win you a prize this year? Check out the Green Team bulletin board in the narthex for all the recipes used in 2025!

Bible Study at Peace – Looking Ahead! – Susan Mitchell

Our Bible Study will have concluded the study of Paul's Letter to the Romans by the time this newsletter is sent out. We finished Chapters 8 through 16 on November 25th with an average attendance of 15. Reading scripture together and having robust discussions were highlights of the class, and we are already planning for the next course – which is not firm yet, but I can give you a hint!

I am leaning towards leading a study titled Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today. The study guide is written by Rev. Barbara Rossing, a Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. The guide, published by the Presbyterian Church, USA, consists of 9 lessons in a beautifully illustrated format for a very reasonable cost of \$9.00. In 2012, I led a group of Peace members through this study, and it was well received.

Check your 2026 calendars and you will find that if we start this class on Tuesday, Feb. 3rd and meet for 4 Tuesdays in February and 5 Tuesdays in March, we will complete the study of the Book of Revelation before Easter. (Palm Sunday falls on March 29th) After Christmas I will have sample study guides available for you to see – watch for bulletin announcements.

Ana's Place Afterschool Program – Volunteer Needs!

Ana's Place is a free afterschool program for youth in 6th-8th grades. Youth can enjoy snacks, hang out, receive homework help, music, cooking, and more! Can you help with the following needs?

- ❖ Volunteer to be a hall monitor/chaperone!
- ❖ Purchase/provide frozen mini-pizzas that can be heated up in the microwave! These are a favorite for the hungry afterschool crowd!

Contact Susanna Odegaard if you can assist with the above – (575) 323-1562

Friendsgiving Success!!

What a joy to welcome so many community members and church family into our building on November 24th and enjoy wonderful food and fellowship together. THANK YOU to the many people who roasted turkeys, brought casseroles, peeled potatoes, served food, washed dishes, moved tables, and more! This was truly a community effort and the GRATITUDE is overflowing.

Poinsettias for Christmas



Poinsettias for Christmas have been ordered!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for placing your order in honor or in memory of loved ones. The cost for a red or pink poinsettia is only **\$15** and we have reserved 20 plants! Please mark your check 'Poinsettia' and place in the special offering envelopes marked as such.

You can take your plant home after Christmas. Thank you for helping to decorate our sanctuary!

Longest Night Service – December 21

On the eve of Sunday, 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.

*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.*

From Pastoral Care Committee...If you need a RIDE to the Longest Night service or Christmas Eve service, please let us know by contacting the church office, Pastor Hannah, or Karen Quandt.



Healing Hearts through Community and Faith

Our LGBTQIA+ peer support group - allies welcome! We will gather in the Bethlehem Room:

Thursday, December 4, 7 PM

Thursday, January 8, 7 PM

For more info, chat with Mary McDermott, Jim Hooley, Jonathan Danielson, or Deacon Anna

Deacon's Message – Deacon Anna Dykeman

Let us give thanks for the many groups we have the opportunity to share our safe, good space with! The Peace Lutheran Church building has been a sanctuary for so many in the Las Cruces community. The following non-profit organizations and groups utilize Peace Lutheran's building:

AARP

Alcoholics Anonymous – Downtown Group

Alcoholics Anonymous – Primary Purpose

Alzheimer's Women's Dementia Caregivers Support Group

American Guild of Organists

Ana's Place

Aprendamos Family of Services

Border Servant Corps

FLARE (The Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts)

Kitty Glitter

Lutheran Family Services

NM Watercolor Society – S. Chapter

Overeaters Anonymous

Peace & Pride

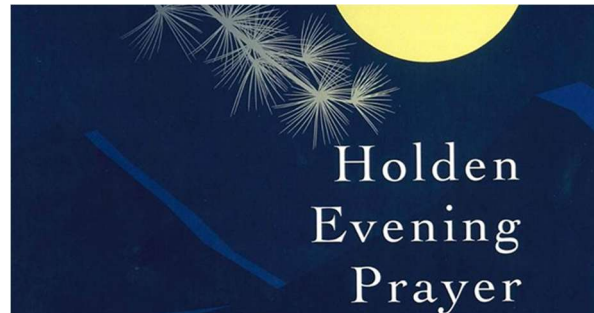
Performers of the Mesilla Valley

Really Really Free Market

Roadrunner Food Bank

Zamora Piano Studio

Midweek Evening Prayer Services



Join us on Wednesdays December 3, 10, 17

6:00 p.m. - Soup supper

7 p.m. – Prayer service

We will be singing the Holden Evening Prayer. Plan to join us on these Advent evenings for this familiar and contemplative prayer service.

Women in Motion (WIM) – Karen Harvey

Thank you to all our members for their generous donations this year! We met on Thursday, November 20, for our last luncheon of the year, and voted on our giving...and we not only met, but exceeded our goal of funding a family farm! We funded an “Abundant Community” – a full village farm! – through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. We didn't have any birthdays this month but did sing to those who have December birthdays...cards to follow.

WIM is open to all women of Peace AND their guests. We gather for a potluck luncheon on the 3rd Thursday of each month and celebrate the birthdays from that month with cards and singing! We share a meal and fellowship. We sometimes sponsor some of the Soup Suppers during Advent & Lent as well as special occasions like baby showers! If you work and can drop in, feel welcome - there is always enough food! We will meet next year - 2026 - in January on Thursday, January 15, at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a dish to share, coffee and tea will be provided.

If you wish to be on our email list to receive notifications of our meetings, contact the church office or email Karen Harvey at khpolltype@gmail.com

Online Giving – Some Points to Ponder!

Our ministry at Peace is sustained by generous donations and tithes from our church community, and we are so grateful for your faithful giving. **Thank you!**

We want you to know that when giving online through our website and you choose to use your **credit card** instead of your checking account, the processing company currently retains 2.65% plus a \$.38 transaction fee.

For example:

\$10.00 donation-PLC receives \$9.35

\$20.00 donation-PLC receives \$19.09

\$25.00 donation-PLC receives \$23.69

\$50.00 donation-PLC receives \$48.29

\$100.00 donation-PLC receives \$96.97

\$150.00 donation-PLC receives \$145.64

By all means, continue to use your credit card for giving if you choose, but please be reminded of the fees incurred at **your** expense. No fees would be assessed to you when using a **checking account**, which can also be done through online giving or by completing an Automatic Giving form (available on our website and in the narthex).

Breakfast Church – 1st Sunday of Christmas – Dec. 28

Join us for a special Christmas worship on December 28! We will gather at our regular 9 a.m. time in the Fellowship hall. Our service will be centered around a potluck breakfast meal. Look for more details soon!

Welcome New Members!

On November 23 we welcomed 20 new members to our church community and enjoyed a pie reception to celebrate! Welcome to Peace!

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Eve Adams | Brian & Mary Erickson |
| Molly Austin | Jerry & Lore Ethridge |
| Ron Bussian | Coni Grabarkewitz |
| Cynthia & Paul Christensen | Diane Haugesag |
| Kiri Daines | Carla Kanupp |
| Jonathan Danielson | Sue Miller Wiltz |
| Juan Delgado | Dave Sobera |
| Gretchen Dodson | Cannon Trujillo |
| Marie Dodson | |

Financial Report for October 2025

GIVING

| <i>BUDGETED</i> | <i>ACTUAL October</i> | <i>ACTUAL Sept</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| \$26,001* | \$28,837 | \$35,678 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

*giving not including dedicated & pass thru funds

EXPENSES

| <i>BUDGETED</i> | <i>ACTUAL October</i> | <i>ACTUAL Sept</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| \$26,394** | \$49,469 | \$23,934 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

**\$20,400 of this total spending was for the solar panel project.

Overall for October, we spent \$18,507 more than we received.

Finance Committee Members: Joel Petterson, Dwight Eggers, Sandy Johnson, David Owens, Steve Ruwoldt, Penny Smith, Elaine Stover



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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 Service 9:00am

**Office Hours: Mon 11:00am-3:00pm
Tues-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm**

Dec 2025/Jan 2026



www.peacelutheranlc.com



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