



# PEACE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Worship and Events

Sun, Feb 1	Worship Fellowship/Sunday Host Orientation	9am 10:15am
Wed, Feb 4	LAM-NM Legislative Briefing & Bishop's Luncheon in Santa Fe Choir Practice	10am  5pm
Thur, Feb 5	Executive Committee Mtg Campanas de Paz Practice Peace & Pride Community	3pm 4pm 7pm
Sat, Feb 7	Really Really Free Market	10am-
Sun, Feb 8	Worship Fellowship	9am 10:15am
Tues, Feb 10	Bible Study Church Council Mtg	10am 6 pm
Wed, Feb 11	Choir Practice	5pm
Thur, Feb 12	Campanas de Paz Practice	4pm
Sun, Feb 15	Worship – Transfiguration Sunday Fellowship	9am 10:15am
Mon, Feb 16	Documentary Movie Night	6pm
Tues, Feb 17	Bible Study	10am
Wed, Feb 18	Ashes-to-Go at Peace Choir Practice Ash Wednesday Service	4:30pm 5pm 6:30pm
Thur, Feb 19	Mobile Food Pantry Women in Motion Campanas de Paz Practice	8am 11:30am 4pm
Sat, Feb 21	Lenten Prayer Retreat (Holy Cross)	8:30am
Sun, Feb 22	Worship – 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Fellowship	9am 10:15am
Tues, Feb 24	Bible Study	10am
Wed, Feb 25	Choir Practice Lenten Soup Supper Contemplative Evening Prayer	5 pm 6pm 7pm
Thurs, Feb 26	Campanas de Paz Practice	4pm

Ana's Place After-School Program –  
Every Thurs & Friday at 4:15pm!



### PLC Staff

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

Anna Dykeman, Deacon  
[deaconanna@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:deaconanna@peacelutheranlc.com)

Diane Haugesag, Office  
Administrator  
[office@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:office@peacelutheranlc.com)

Dr. Seth Zamora, Music Director  
[szamora@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:szamora@peacelutheranlc.com)

Dr. David Klement, Choir Director

Tommy Grimes, Custodian

## Lenten Soup Suppers/Evening Prayer

Find the Lenten schedule inside!



### February Birthdays

Brian Gilbert	Feb 1
Karen Quandt	Feb 1
Rono Danakili	Feb 2
Jeanne Brown	Feb 4
Adam Winkles	Feb 6
Dorothy Steiner	Feb 8
Kendra Hernandez	Feb 11
Chris Sanders	Feb 13
Tom Hillmer	Feb 16
Marcus Dunbar-Foy	Feb 19
Shirley Steinmetz	Feb 24
Liz Schirmer	Feb 27
Jerry Ethridge	Feb 28

### February Anniversaries

Eve Adams & Betsy Cahill	Feb 7
Lou & Deb Sarabia	Feb 12
Cheri & Jim Coyle	Feb 15
Mark & Martha Hallamore	Feb 25

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## *Solar Panel Update!*

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The solar panel installation was completed on January 15th, 2026. The final step was approval from El Paso Electric, and the installation of the solar meter. Organ Mountain Solar (our supplier) is monitoring the system for a couple of weeks to ensure that everything is working properly. Once that is confirmed, they will instruct us on how to monitor the system ourselves using the Enphase app, which will allow us to keep track of how the system and components are performing.

Thank you to everyone for your support on this project!

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## *Notes from the Green Team!*

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### **The Vegan/Vegetarian Cook-off was a Success!**

January 11th was the second time Peace has held a competition for the best tasting plant-based dish. Thank you to all the cooks who submitted a dish and all of you who tried and voted for them! The winners are:

**1st Place: Chris Bibzak's Smashed Edamame on Toast:** Smash/blend 125 g shelled edamame beans, 1 T runny tahini, 1 T lemon juice, ¼ tsp sea salt, 1 garlic clove, ⅛ tsp black pepper, 1 T red onion, 1 T lime juice, and add red pepper flakes to taste. Spread on a slice of sourdough toast.

**2nd Place: Karen Quandt's Breaded Eggplant**

**3rd Place: Jeanne Brown's Blue Corn Muffins with Honey Whipped Butter**

Each winner received a cotton bag for holding produce and bulk items. The 2nd place winner also received Swedish dishcloths, and the 1st place winner received a potted succulent.

The recipes for all submissions are available on the Green Team Bulletin Board if you're interested in making them yourself!

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### *Pastor's Message - Rev. Hannah DiPasquale*

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*“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!” (Micah 6:3)*

What does the LORD require of us?

God's message as quoted above is piercing. In this time when many are living in fear and violence fills our streets, I'm pulled to scripture texts like this where God seems to be upset, disappointed...and even angry.

...is it OK for me to say that God gets angry? Remembering the season we just celebrated, we trust the promise of Immanuel, a *with-us* God, not a wrathful God who seeks vengeance when we fall short. Instead, I wonder, is God *with-us* so much that even God experiences anger? Not to hold against us, but in solidarity *with-us*? God knew suffering. God experienced death—and revealed salvation not through dominance and power, but through weakness and pain.

In the prophets I don't think we encounter a *wrathful* God; but I do think we find an *angry* God. **God is angry at injustice, mistreatment, misalignment. The prophet Micah also reminds us that God demands a response from God's people.** As followers of Christ, we understand God to be *less about transactions and more about grace*. Our response to God's love is not because we have to buy or *earn* that love—this promise of love was sealed in the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even when we let God down, God does not give up on us. AND, at the same time—God demands a response from us.

**As people who claim the name of Christ, we cannot be idle in our faith. God demands a response from us, and our faith in Christ demands action. Action grounded in incarnation—embodying God's grace by showing up when our neighbors are suffering and advocating for their wellbeing.**

This month many of our Lutheran and ecumenical siblings from around New Mexico will gather in Santa Fe during the third week of the legislative session. They will engage with our Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of NM team about priority issues and hear from our synod bishop on these issues and how the Gospel calls us to 'faith in action.'

I know not all of us can travel to Santa Fe, but we all live in this state. We are all affected by the laws being made and budgets being passed. We all have neighbors and may know some of them living in fear. We keep in mind our vulnerable neighbors for whom access to housing, healthcare, and food, aren't always guaranteed.

We aren't all able to make the trip to Santa Fe and experience the roundhouse directly. But we can do other things—we can show up in our own community, contact legislators, organize with others, serve our neighbors, and we can pray. **I invite you to join me in prayer this legislative session:**

- Pray for our **lawmakers** that they would be called to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly; and keep the best interests of all New Mexicans in mind.
- Pray for **Kurt Rager and the Lutheran Ministry advocates** who join him at the state capitol on Advocacy Days, that their voices would be empowered and heard.
- Pray for **our neighbors**, especially those among us living in fear and those most affected by decisions made about the necessities of life like food, housing, and healthcare.
- Pray for **Peace Lutheran Church and the whole Church** that we would be advocates of God's mercy, peace, and justice.

*(cont. page 4)*

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

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### *Advocacy*

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**The 2026 NM Legislative Session began January 20th** and runs through February 19th. Our lawmakers have just one month to discuss and vote on issues deemed important for our state. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM and its policy team (of which our own Mary Green is a part!) prayerfully discern priorities for us to be thinking about, praying over, and taking action on. This year’s policy priorities include: ***Hunger, Affordable Housing & Homelessness, Family-Sustaining Income, Health Care, Tax Policy, Criminal Justice, Care of Creation, Good Governance.***

Consider attending the Bishop’s Luncheon on February 4<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe! The AM session includes guest speakers, Bible study, and a discussion of LAM’s advocacy agenda and issue briefing. The afternoon features lunch at La Fonda Hotel, award presentations, and a keynote address from the Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod (ELCA), the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. A carpool from Las Cruces is planned - contact Mary Green (cheeseheadinid2@yahoo.com). Stop by the table in the Narthex for more information or visit [www.lutheranadvocacynm.org](http://www.lutheranadvocacynm.org).

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### *Mini Lenten Prayer Retreat – Sat. Feb. 21 – 8:30AM*

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Begin your Lenten journey this year with a quiet morning at Holy Cross Retreat Center. We will spend a few hours praying for and with one another and engaging in contemplative practices including the outdoor labyrinth. Join us as we draw near to God and humbly consider our path with Christ toward the Cross. All are welcome—no matter your experience with prayer practices. Come and see. *A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex and more information will be shared in Sunday announcements.*



“You show me the path of life” Psalm 16:11



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### *Ash Wednesday and Wednesday Soup/Evening Prayer*

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#### **ASH WEDNESDAY – February 18**

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. Join us for these opportunities to receive ashes:*

#### **9:00 – 4:00 Ashes-to-Go outside the NMSU Student Union**

Partnering with other Las Cruces churches; students, faculty, and anyone else on campus are welcome to stop by and receive ashes!

#### **4:30 – 6:00 PM Ashes-to-Go at Peace**

Come-and-go as you are able to receive ashes and prayer in the Peace parking lot.

#### **6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service at Peace**

A service of Ashes & Prayer in the Peace sanctuary.

#### **WEDNESDAYS IN LENT - February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25**

**6:00 PM** Come for soup, bread, and fellowship

**7:00 PM** Stay for contemplative evening prayer with reflection, song, and silence

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### *Bible Study at Peace – Book Study – Paul Christensen*

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We are excited to offer a new bible study based on the book *Through Middle Eastern Eyes - Cultural Studies in the Gospels* by Kenneth E. Bailey.

The author is a research professor of Middle Eastern New Testament studies who shares the cultural context of those living during biblical times. These insights bring richer meaning to much-loved scripture including Jesus' birth, the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, Jesus' parables, and more.

This bible study will begin on **Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m.** at church in Room 107. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex. There will be a few copies of the book available for the study, but you are certainly welcome to purchase your own copy or download the book on an e-reader.

This study will be based on in-class reading and discussion. Don't worry! The author's writing style is easy to read and has led many to an even greater appreciation for the richness of scripture.

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### *Ana's Place Afterschool Program – Volunteer Needs!*

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Ana's Place is a free afterschool program for youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades. Youth can enjoy snacks, hang out, receive homework help, take part in 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

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### *Deacon's Message – Deacon Anna Dykeman*

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Our new Welcome Statement says a lot about what we believe, what we practice, and what we are committed to learning about.

The second line, “We are committed to the ongoing work of racial equity, inclusion, and social and environmental justice” requires us to learn and practice together in community. One way we will be engaging in this important work is to gather monthly to watch documentaries on a variety of topics regarding equity, inclusion, and justice.

We began 2026 with *Sugarcane*, which gave us space to learn together and talk about the way the Christian church has imparted intergenerational religious trauma on Indigenous communities through the creation of Indian Boarding Schools.

**On February 16 at 6 PM** we will view *13th*, a documentary (2016) that highlights the broken US prison system and how black people are at much higher risk for imprisonment than others. This is a famous documentary and one worth watching again if you've already seen it. There is something powerful about exploring systems of oppression, justice, inclusion, and equity together in community.

If you recommend a documentary that aligns with sentence two of Peace's Welcome Statement, please email me your suggestion: [DeaconAnna@PeaceLutheranLC.com](mailto:DeaconAnna@PeaceLutheranLC.com). Information about each gathering will be shared in newsletters and announcements. I hope you'll join us monthly for documentary night!

Learning together,

Deacon Anna



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### Thank you for Giving! – Penny Smith

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THANK YOU for your financial giving to God’s mission through Peace Lutheran Church in 2025. Your gifts make it possible for all of us to participate in our call *to be an inclusive community, sharing God’s grace through worship, service, and hospitality*. Your generosity is much appreciated, and your giving allows us to continue the expanding vision God has for this church.

Giving statements for your tax reporting purposes were *emailed* to you in January. Look for an email from “Intuit” in your inbox and check your Spam folder if you have not seen it. The message includes your 2025 PLC Contribution Report, attached to the email as a PDF file. Hard copies of your statement can be requested by contacting Penny Smith or emailing [financial@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto:financial@peacelutheranlc.com).

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### Women in Motion (WIM) – Karen Harvey

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Women in Motion is open to all women of Peace and their guests. We gather for a potluck luncheon on the 3rd Thursday of the month, celebrate each month's birthday gals and share fellowship. We sponsor a Soup Supper during the midweek Lenten services, providing set up, serving and clean up. We collect an optional offering each month for gifting at our annual November gathering. Our goal last year was to fund a family farm; we far exceeded that by being able to fund a village farm!

We will meet on **Thursday, February 19, at 11:30 a.m.** at Peace in the Fellowship Hall. 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](mailto:khpolltype@gmail.com)

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### Financial Report – Dec 2025 & YTD

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#### GIVING

<i>BUDGETED</i>	<i>ACTUAL Dec.</i>	<b>2025 YEAR-END ACTUAL</b>
\$32,867*	\$49,257	\$327,574

*\*giving not including dedicated & pass thru funds*

#### EXPENSES

<i>BUDGETED</i>	<i>ACTUAL Dec.</i>	<b>2025 YEAR-END ACTUAL</b>
\$25,490	\$54,758	\$296,440

**For December, we spent \$5,217 more than we received. For 2025, we spent 91.3% of the budget.**

**Finance Committee Members:** Joel Peterson, Dwight Eggers, Sandy Johnson, Sue Miller-Wiltz, David Owens, Steve Ruwoldt, Penny Smith, Elaine Stover

### Have You Visited Our New Online Directory??

We've heard from a few of you how helpful – and sometimes frustrating – this new directory option is! Here are a few tips to make it work for you and help us continue connecting as a community!

#### Accessing the Online Directory

You can always find the online directory by visiting our website [www.peacelutheranlc.com](http://www.peacelutheranlc.com) and click the menu title “**Church Members.**” Scroll down and the click the orange button “Click to Connect.”

#### Sign-in

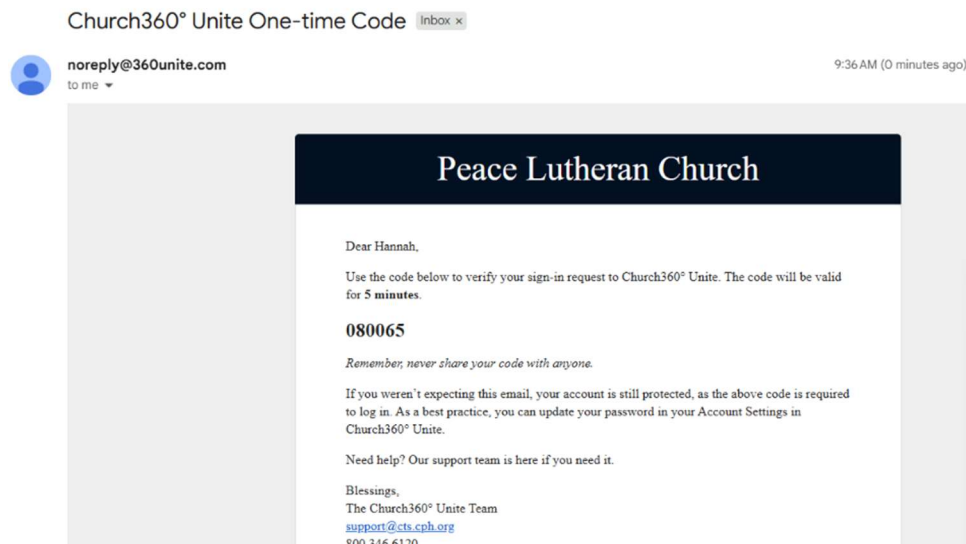


Sign up or sign in with the email address that is included in the directory. If you have issues with this, contact the church office.

#### One-Time Code

When you sign in to Church360 Unite, it will often prompt you to enter a one-time code. This 6-digit code is sent to the email address you're using to sign in. If you don't see it in your email inbox, check your “Promotions” or “Updates” or “Spam” folders. Unfortunately for some users, it will prompt you for a code every time you sign-in. We have asked the company about how it prompts some users *every time*, and the software support has informed us that “This is an additional layer of security that our team has introduced to better protect your congregation's information.”

The email looks like this:



#### I see the person I'm looking for, but it doesn't show the contact information I'm looking for???

Although we don't have *everyone's* contact information, we do have more than what meets the eye. If you're looking for a specific person's information, you must click the individual's name. For example, you're trying to find Hannah DiPasquale's email address, you sign in to the directory and see the “DiPasquale” under Members, but no email addresses. Click the individual's name such as “Hannah” and that person's contact info will appear.

### Church Council Update – Lisa Bates

Council hit the ground running this new year! Solar installation is complete and by the time you receive this newsletter we anticipate the final inspections to have been completed and the “solar switch flipped!” We are once again advertising for a paid Audio/Visual assistant. A job description is available if you or someone you know is interested. Thanks to Karen and Gene Quandt for their collaboration in establishing a Property Committee once again. This committee is needed and will be of great assistance as Peace continues to grow. Another much-needed committee is a Personnel Committee. Do you have a background and/or knowledge in policy development, hiring/firing procedures, performance evaluations, job descriptions, etc.? If so, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in a committee, please contact any council member and/or the Pastor.

The survey results are in and posted below. Council felt there was not enough clear and convincing information in order to make a final determination on the path forward for Peace. While the option with the most votes (40%) was to remain the same, 60% of you wanted something other than 9:00am.

And the  
Survey  
Says...

	9:00	9:30	10:00	SubTotal
<b>Online</b>	25	14	21	60
<b>Paper</b>	11	11	9	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>39.56%</b>	<b>27.47%</b>	<b>32.97%</b>	
		<b>60.44%</b>		



Council wants to perform due diligence before deciding on such a possible big change for Peace. Therefore, we are going to conduct another survey. There will be two options, 9:00 or 10:00.

1. 9:00 – status quo, no changes
2. 10:00 – with these additions/changes
  - a. 9:00-9:45am – Weekly Educational Class – Bible Studies, discussions on various topics, presentations by Pastor, Deacon and other lay members
  - b. 10:00 Worship Service followed by coffee hour/fellowship
  - c. Potluck Luncheon once a month -IE every 2nd Sunday

As you consider and discern your decision, know that we appreciate and value your input. The survey will work the same way as before. An email with the link to the survey will be sent out to the same group as before. You may vote electronically via the link OR paper ballot in the narthex of the church. If members of your household use one email, then one person can vote electronically and the remaining household member/s will utilize the paper ballots. **Voting will close at midnight, Sunday February 8th**, and council will again evaluate and discuss the results at the February council meeting.

Continuing with one of the Council priorities for 2026 - reaching out quarterly to our neighbors – building a longer table. We are in the initial planning stages for an event on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Peace will host another neighborhood dinner. FriendsGiving was such a wonderful event; well received with a lot of positive feedback from our members and those that attended. Many of you helped to make that a success and we are asking you to help us again with the event in March. Look for additional information in the coming weeks. If you want to be part of the planning committee, please reach out to Mary McDermott (our council point person) or any council member.

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### *Meet our Choir Director – Dr. David Klement!*

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Dr. David A. Klement conducts choirs, orchestras, musical theater ensembles and operas, and has taught private voice studios. He recently taught courses in choral and instrumental conducting, choral arranging, secondary choral methods and choral literature. An active all-state adjudicator and presenter, Dr. Klement has judged soloists and choirs and presented in NMMEA, GMEA, IMEA and other state festivals. In addition to his conducting, teaching and vocal solo work, he is an active composer, specializing in choral music for adult and children's choirs. His music has been sung by choirs in multiple states. The son of a Methodist pastor, he has also led distinguished church music programs for over thirty years, which also included the directing of handbell choirs.

Dr. Klement has served as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Idaho, interim Director of Choral Activities at Valdosta State University and New Mexico State University following his role as full-time Director of Music at Asbury First United Methodist Church and the Founder and Conductor of the Rochester Boys Choir in Rochester, NY. In addition, he has taught at the University of Northern Colorado, Dartmouth College, the Eastman School of Music, and the Albany Academy for Girls.

A native of New Jersey, Dr. Klement began his music career as a boy chorister in the esteemed St. Thomas Choir School in NYC where he studied with Gerre Hancock and was awarded the Head Chorister Award. Following attendance at the Quaker high school George School, he received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Literature from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the Eastman School of Music, and his Doctorate of Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. He is extremely honored to have studied under choral luminaries such as Sir David Willcocks, Donald Neuen, Dale Warland, Daniel Moe, Samuel Adler, Melinda O'Neal, Alfred Mann, Jill Burgett and Galen Darrough. Their passion for teaching and spreading the choral art to the next generation continue to inspire him!

David is excited to be directing the choir at Peace Lutheran Church. He and his wife Margaret Goehring (Art History Professor and Department Head of the Art Department at NMSU) are proud to call Las Cruces our home.

Welcome, Dr. Klement! We are so fortunate to have someone of your caliber conducting our choir here at Peace! The choir welcomes anyone who loves to sing – there is always a place for you!



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### *AV/Tech Position Available*

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Our commitment to be an inclusive community has motivated us to extend our welcome even beyond our walls, and our sanctuary's audio-visual set-up helps us do this every Sunday through our YouTube livestream. We have folks join us at the 'extended' communion table, and our AV capabilities have allowed us to give access to families at a distance to participate in their loved ones' funerals, host movie nights and show video clips, reduce our paper usage, and encourage us to 'look up and around' when we worship together.

Our technology efforts are made possible by a very dedicated and talented group of volunteers (shout-out to Karen Harvey, Lisa Bates, Sandy Johnson, Betty Lindsey, Kathie Rich, Clare Scheffer, Mary Luckie, and Bob Treulich—thank you!)

Sometimes, our AV needs surpass our volunteer capacity and it would be useful to have a trained, paid person who can troubleshoot, fill in any role, and update our technology as needed. We are looking for this person to help us lead and troubleshoot our AV (livestream, slides, sound, etc) mostly on Sunday mornings but also for special events and worship services. See the description below and send any candidates to Pr Hannah.

#### **AUDIO-VISUAL TECHNICIAN (with optional COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT role)**

**Description:** This is a paid part-time position, average of 2.5 hours per week / \$17.50 per hour (2.5 on Sunday mornings required), under the supervision of the Pastor. \*There is the potential of more hours if skills and qualifications for the Communication Assistant are also met.

**Audio-Visual Technician Qualifications:** This person will possess and demonstrate:

- Expertise in Audio-Visual equipment and software technology.
- Experience in coordinating AV systems for other events or programs.
- Ability to troubleshoot AV and computer issues, both immediate and research ways to improve.
- Ability to adapt to new programs and consider creative alternatives.
- Interpersonal skills to work effectively and cooperatively with staff and volunteers.
- A familiarity with liturgical Christian worship and a commitment to the role of technology in the Christian worship experience.

**\*Communication Assistant Qualifications: not required, but highly regarded and would increase working hours:**

- Proficiency in navigation of websites, social media, livestreaming, and common digital communication tools.
- Ability to use appropriate software to create appealing and effective digital content.

**Principal Duties:**

1. Primary AV Tech: Assist with technology during communal worship on Sunday mornings
2. \*Secondary Communication Assistant: Enhance and coordinate the church's online presence, digital worship experience, and electronic communications (could be done remotely)



1701 E. Missouri Ave.  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Address Service Requested

Phone: 575-522-7119

Email: [office@peacelutheranlc.com](mailto: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 Service 9:00am**

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

**February 2026**



[www.peacelutheranlc.com](http://www.peacelutheranlc.com)



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