PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



PLC Staff

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Events & Birthdays/Anniversaries on pages 1 & 3!

Photo credits: Jim Rice

September Events

- **9/3** Executive Committee Meeting @3:30pm
- **9/3** Peace and Pride Community @7pm
- **9/5** Really Really Free Market @10am - 1pm
- **9/6** Education Hour (new series) @9am
- **9/6** Worship - *Feast of Creation* @10am
- **9/8** Council Meeting @6pm
- **9/10** Women in Motion @11:30am
- **9/13** Education Hour @9am
- **9/13** Worship @10am
- **9/14** Green Team Meeting via Zoom @1 pm
- **9/17** Mobile Food Pantry @8am (volunteers @7am)
- **9/20** Education Hour @9am
- **9/20** Worship (*with council installation*) @10am
- **9/26** All-Ages White Sands Concert-carpool @4:30pm
- **9/27** Education Hour @9am
- **9/27** Worship @10am
- **9/28** Pride Multi-Faith Service - Downtown Plaza @6pm
- **9/29** Pastor OUT Sept. 29 - Oct. 2

Recurring events you won't want to miss!

- Wednesdays 5:00 Choir Rehearsal
- Thursdays 4:00 Bell Practice
- Thur/Fri 4:15 Ana's Place Afterschool Program

Are you interested in becoming a member of Peace?

Pastor Hannah will be hosting three sessions for anyone interested in becoming a member of Peace Lutheran Church. We will cover the "Peace 101" material (history of Peace, current ministries, etc) and have opportunities to get to know one another and ask questions. The sessions will likely be held after Sunday worship—schedule will be released soon! If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Hannah.

Pastor's Message

Another season of Creation?! Haven't we heard Genesis 1 two times already this year??

Indeed, we have been talking about creation a lot this year. But now with it being the time when the seasons tease us with potential change, schools starts, and other jobs, subscriptions, classes, etc start a new term. It's a time of transition, a time of beginnings, of new creation. It's a great time to ground ourselves—yes, yet again, in God's good creation, and remember our foundational identity as created in the *imago dei*—the image of God.

The Church (the big "C" Church—as in, Christ followers all over the world) is leaning into this time. **September 1st has officially and liturgically been designated "Creation in Christ" Day.** The ELCA worship office offers this explanation:

"Supported by the Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches, ELCA worshiping communities are encouraged to celebrate this new day, using the lectionary texts provided by the Consultation on Common Texts."

But this isn't a new concept. They continue: "Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year ... We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. **God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.**"

As another colleague put it, the Season of Creation "illustrates a kind of ongoing ecumenical creativity across denominations." I think that's pretty cool.

So, on Sunday, September 6th, and the weeks following that, we'll hear about Living Water (again) and remember our connectedness to all of creation—rejoicing in that gift, lamenting our exploitation of it, and celebrating ways to move forward with a more creation-conscious outlook.

We'll look at resources not only from the ELCA (our denomination) but also from ecumenical leaders from around the world, who have developed the theme: ***Immersion in Living Water*** – "drawn from Ezekiel 47:1- 12, which portrays God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognizing ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together" (seasonofcreation.org).



Water, wind, earth, fire, life, creation…they already saturate our worship together, let's lean into it again and learn a little more. I hope you'll come and see.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Brithdays

Carol Winkles *9/3*
Dave Skari *9/4*
Julie Treers *9/10*
Denise Shepan *9/10*
Sharon Hartford *9/10*
Kendra Sarabia *9/12*
Cory Shepan *9/12*
Nancy Greene *9/13*
Travis Shepan *9/13*
Krysteen Jenkins *9/14*
Ron Odegaard *9/15*
Arlyss Skari *9/20*
Ed Grave *9/22*
Mary Winkles *9/22*
Jim Bentley *9/23*
Nancy Apodaca *9/24*
Rhonda Simmons *9/26*
GrantStockberger *9/26*
John Behrens *9/29*

Anniversaries

Carol & Damian Blaschka *9/3*
Betty & Don Lindsey *9/3*
Al & Karen Harvey *9/4*
Wayne & Julie Treers *9/13*
Dennis Morin & David Owens *9/16*
Geri Ayers & Lisa Bates *9/22*
Chris & Mark Sanders *9/25*
Lance & Denise Shepan *9/29*

Roadrunner Mobile Food Pantry

Roadrunner Mobile Food Pantry has successfully delivered and distributed food to 312 families between April - July of this year.

April was another month of 5 Thursdays - though we give the clients the schedule, it still becomes a light distribution. We served about 74 families.

In May we served 84 families.

In June we served 83 families.

In July, another month of 5 Thursdays, we served 71 families.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email the office administrator or pick up a flyer in the Narthex with a detailed account of what our distribution day looks like.
Roadrunner Mobile Food Pantry distribution is held every third Thursday of the month.

All Ages Outing to White Sands

SAVE THE DATE!
There will be an all ages outing to White Sands on September 26 for the Full Moon concert to see musician Randy Granger. To participate in the carpool, meet at Peace on September 26 at 4:30pm!

Education Hour in September

In the month of September, Paul Christensen will lead a four-week series called "Unboxing the Bible: A Four Week Journey from Scrolls to Scripture".

Week 1 (*9/6*): Raw Materials: oral traditions, scrolls, codexes and fragments.
Week 2 (*9/13*): Origins of the Old Testament: tradition, language & translation.
Week 3 (*9/20*): New Testament Writings, Translations, and the early Christian Church.
Week 4 (*9/27*): The Edit Room and the Final Cut.

Paul will have some Bibles available and will encourage conversation and inquiry while sharing a lot of history and discovery that culminated in the Bible we know today.
Join us for this fascinating history into the origins of our sacred canon!
Then, look forward to October where we will learn about Pride and queer theology during Education Hour, Sundays from 9:00 to 9:45 am.

Photo Dump!

Want a chance to be featured in next month's newsletter? Submit your best photos of you and your church community to be featured in our gallery! Or, submit a nature photo you took for a chance to be on the cover of the next newsletter. Submit all photos by emailing photos@peacelutheranlc.com, or submit to the DropBox folder below!

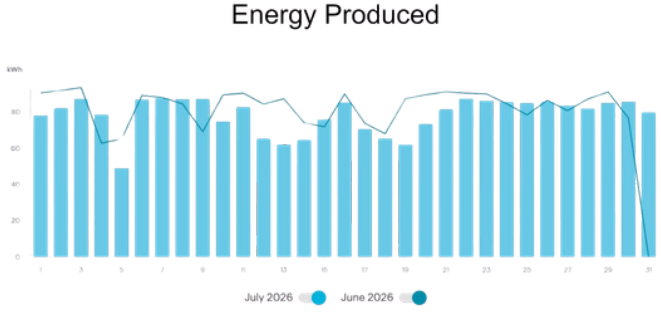
DropBox Link: https://tinyurl.com/PeacePhotos

Or scan to QR code to submit photos!



July Solar Panel Production

In the month of July, our solar panels produced 2.4 Megawatt hours! That is equivalent to 1.7 tons of carbon dioxide reduction, or 29 trees planted, or 210,200 phones charged. For comparison, the panels produced 2.5 Megawatt hours in June. Stay tuned for August numbers!



Women in Motion

This past month, we met for our potluck luncheon and everyone introduced themselves and answered a question, "What brings you joy today." We learned so much about each other! Come next month and find out our new question...you don't have to participate if you choose not to - no worries!

We will be meeting on Thursday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Peace. Please bring a dish to share; coffee and tea will be provided. You are free to bring a friend - everyone is welcome even if you can't bring food or can only stay for a quick chat. We celebrate birthdays with cards. An envelope is passed around for an offering which we donate to our favorite causes at the end of the year.

If you wish to receive emails about our group, give your information to the church office or email Karen Harvey at khpollype@gmail.com



Walk to End Alzheimers

The past several years, Peace Lutheran has had a team of walkers and virtual walkers participate in the WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S. During that time there have been many steps forward in the fight to END Alzheimer's including:

- FDA approval of two drugs that provide delay of plaque growth & symptoms
- FDA approval of a blood test for early diagnosis

Thirty years ago when I participated in my first WALK, I was involved in helping care for mother during her journey with Alzheimer's before those services existed.
On Saturday, Oct. 24, I invite you to join our team of walkers as you support me and over 46,000 other New Mexicans living with the disease, as well as the 67,000 caregivers who provide 118,000,000 hours of UNPAID care annually.

Come to the Pat & Lou Sisbarro Community Park, 3205 Arrowhead Road (on NMSU campus) at 9:00 a.m., October 24. Your participation (and any donations/fundraisers) will enable further research and continued support for caregivers and those on the journey through the disease.

Join our "Peace Lutheran Friends" Team (register) and/or donate ahead of time or in person at the WALK. Go to http://alz.org/walk to find our team at the Las Cruces Walk.

~ Sandy Johnson

Financial Report

Receipts - Total cash giving in July was $38,729, compared to $23,620 in June. Budgeted cash giving (giving not included dedicated and pass thru funds) was $37,312. This was a strong income month, partially due to some quarterly givers.

Expenses - Total spending in July was $34,406, compared to $21,543 in June. Budgeted spending was $28,815. For the first seven months in 2026, we have spent $178,662, or about 48% of the $370,950 total budget.

For July, we received $6,570 more than we spent.



From the Council

Council had the first meeting of the new year with the new Council members. We are thankful for all the work done by last year's officers: Lisa Bates: president, Mary McDermott: vice president, and Ross Staffeldt: secretary. Thank you also to our former council members Don Lindsey and Marty Avelsgaard.

New officers were elected: Mary McDermott: President, Jerry Ethridge: Vice President, and Amanda Goodluck: Secretary. Joel Peterson will continue as church treasurer. Please continue to pray for, support, and encourage these officers and all council members. The Wicks Organ from the fellowship hall has been donated to Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. The organ will be moved next month. Pastor Hannah has been given a much-deserved raise.

Benevolence Funds have been designated for the year to Conlee Elementary, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope for their "Tents to Rents" program, and Jardin de Los Ninos.

Southern NM Pride 2026

We are excited to participate in Southern New Mexico Pride 2026. We have a committee planning how we will be present, be supportive and celebrate with the community. Our theme this year is: Healing Hearts through Community and Faith. You guessed it: There will be many hearts in LGBTQ+ rainbow colors, matching the colors in our PLC logo.

We are actively involved in three areas for Pride Week:
Pride Multi-Faith Service for Blessing and Renewal: (Monday September 28, 5:30)
Our own Jonathan Danielson will be sharing his story at this event. We need people to help set up and take down chairs, and of course, to be present.

Table: Peace will again have a booth at Pride on the Plaza (Saturday, October 3, 5pm-10pm)
We will have goodies, affirmations, and information about Peace to hand out --think hearts. We will also have people available to pray with anyone desiring prayer. We need people to sit at the table, help with setting up, and taking everything down.

Float: We will again have a float in the Pride Parade (Saturday, October 3, 4pm)
Think hearts and more hearts! We need people to decorate the float, ride on the float, or walk along beside. Did we mention hearts?

Come share your heart in this eventful week. We will have signup sheets or talk to any of our planning committee:
Jonathan Danielson, Anna Dykeman, Jimmy Hooley, Carla Kanupp, Pr. Hannah, or Clare Scheffer.
See https://www.snmpride.org/ for the full schedule of PRIDE 2026 events.



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

To receive a physical copy of this newsletter, contact the church office.

Sundays: Education Hour 9:00am
Worship 10:00 am

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm

September 2026

www.peacelutheranlc.com

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