OCTOBER 2026

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PLC Staff

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Events & Birthdays/Anniversaries on pages 1 & 3!

Are you interested in becoming a member of Peace?

Pastor Hannah is hosting 3 sessions for persons interested in becoming a member of Peace. We will cover the "Peace 101" material (history of Peace, current ministries) and have opportunities to get to know one another and ask questions. The sessions are after worship on 9/27, 10/4, & 10/11-Pastor Hannah is available for individual conversation if you can't make the sessions. New members will be welcomed on 10/18! If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Hannah.

Photo credits: Lisa Bates

October Events

- **10/2** — Pastor OUT Sept. 29 - Oct. 2
- **10/3** — Really Really Free Market @10am - 1pm
- **10/3** — Las Cruces Pride Parade @4pm
- **10/3** — Pride on the Plaza Celebration @5-10pm
- **10/4** — Education Hour @9am
- **10/4** — Worship @10am *World Communion Sunday*
- **10/4** — New Member Class @11:30am
- **10/7** — Finance Committee @3pm (Zoom)
- **10/8*** — Peace and Pride Community @7pm *updated date!*
- **10/8** — Women in Motion @11:30am
- **10/8** — Executive Committee @3:30pm
- **10/11** — Education Hour @9am
- **10/11** — Worship @10am *Pride Sunday*
- **10/11** — New Member Class @11:30am
- **10/12** — Green Team Meeting @1pm (In-person/Zoom)
- **10/13** — Council Meeting @6pm
- **10/15** — Mobile Food Pantry @8am (volunteers @7am)
- **10/18** — Education Hour @9am
- **10/18** — Worship @ 10am *New Member Sunday*
- **10/25** — Education Hour @9am
- **10/25** — Worship @10am *Reformation Sunday*
- **10/25** — Trunk-or-Treat Community Event @11:30am

POTLUCK after worship on Sunday, October 18th to welcome New Members! Bring your favorite snack/dish to share!

Recurring events you won't want to miss!

- Tuesdays 10:00 am Bible Study
- Wednesdays 4:30 pm Prayer Meeting
- Wednesdays 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Thursdays 4:00 pm Bell Practice
- Thursdays & Fridays 4:15 pm Ana's Place Afterschool Program

Pastor's Message

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

Have I confused you yet? That's not the statement we hear every Sunday before worship! What's the other thing Pastor Hannah says??

That would be our Welcome Statement, which you might remember we relaunched about a year ago with adjusted language. You can find the whole statement on our website homepage 😊

As much as I feel it's important to SAY our welcome, and BELIEVE our mission to be an inclusive community, what's even more important is that we LIVE our welcome, too. So, this month, leaning into our call and commitment to be a place for *each* and *all*, we will celebrate **WIDE WELCOME Sundays**! Each Sunday will focus on a specific way God welcomes us and we in turn extend that welcome to each other.

We begin by remembering that believing that "God's welcome has no borders" means there is a place for all of God's creation! October 4th is the Feast of St. Francis and officially wraps up the Season of Creation. This provides a natural segue, as we continue to celebrate God's diverse creation, as we lean into our commitment to inclusion, welcome, and celebration.

So our Wide Welcome Sundays officially begin **October 4th with World Communion Sunday**. We will remember how at the Lord's Table there is a place for everyone. We will remember how God connects and unites the whole Church, the whole communion of saints, through all time and space, all over the globe, through this holy communion meal. *And the Table will be Wide.*

Then on **October 11th, we celebrate Pride Sunday**, focused on affirming the divine image in each and all of us. We will hear from members of our Peace & Pride Community about *healing hearts through community and faith.* We will share God's heart through opportunities to receive an affirmation and blessing and to hear you are loved. *And the Welcome will be Wide.*

AND THE TABLE WILL BE WIDE
by Jan Richardson

And the table
will be wide.
And the welcome
will be wide.
And the arms
will open wide
to gather us in.
And our hearts
will open wide
to receive.

And we will come
as children who trust
there is enough.
And we will come
unhindered and free.
And our aching
will be met
with bread.
And our sorrow
will be met
with wine.

And we will open our hands
to the feast
without shame.
And we will turn
toward each other
without fear.
And we will give up
our appetite
for despair.
And we will taste
and know
of delight.

And we will become bread
for a hungering world.
And we will become drink
for those who thirst.
And the blessed
will become the blessing.
And everywhere



Image: "The Best Supper"
© Jan Richardson
janrichardsonimages.com

On **October 18th, we turn our focus to the Baptismal Font**, where God's promises are poured out through water and Word. We will welcome New Members this Sunday, through a service of Affirmation of Baptism and renewing the promises made in our own baptisms. We remember how all are welcomed into God's family and our commitment to working for justice and peace in all the world. *And the Waters will be Wide.*

The final Sunday, **October 25th, is Reformation Sunday!** We remember Martin Luther's vision of a Church where all are welcome regardless of wealth, education, or status, and recommit ourselves to being a church that is always being made new. We wear red this Sunday to celebrate the Holy Spirit and Her ongoing work in the world, in our hearts, and in all of creation. Additionally, after worship, the welcome continues with our annual Trunk-or-Treat, welcoming the neighborhood to experience the joy of our community and experience fun, fellowship, and a safe place for everyone to be creative and be themselves! *And the Vision will be Wide.*

It's an exciting time at Peace Lutheran Church, and I hope you know that *each and all of you are encouraged to fully participate in the life of the Church!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Adrien Munoz 10/2
Barbara Patton 10/2
Clark Alves 10/5
Douglas Abendroth 10/6
Aracely Grijalva-Motz 10/6
Sue Ann Collins 10/8
Dennis Rich 10/8
Barbara Zaborowski 10/9
Lillian Dale 10/10
Jacque Gensen 10/10
Melissa Motz 10/11
Gary Rude 10/12
Ella Campos 10/16
Tyson Nickerson 10/16
Rita Vigil 10/18
Donna Kuehn 10/19
Kiri Daines 10/23
Tom Teckam 10/27
Rick Green 10/28
Nathan Small 10/28
Lizzie Staffeldt 10/28
Evelyn Grassel 10/31

Anniversaries

John & Sharie Behren 10/11
Ed Grave & Anita Rockett 10/20

Coming up in the life of our congregation - save these dates!

Sunday October 18th - NEW MEMBER SUNDAY - we welcome new members during worship and celebrate with cake and **a potluck after worship! Bring your favorite dish/snack to share.**
Sunday October 25th - REFORMATION SUNDAY - wear RED if you're feeling festive!
Also Sunday October 25th - TRUNK-OR-TREAT after worship - see the sign-up sheets in the narthex!
Sunday November 1st - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - see the invitation to submit a suggestion for a special hymn sing! We will also have a short Memorial Service in the columbarium, followed by a 2027 Budget Q&A forum
Sunday November 8th - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after worship - come hear important updates from our Church Council and to approve the 2027 church budget
Saturday November 21st - FRIENDSGIVING - more info coming soon!

All Saints' Hymn Sing

Submit your requests!

On All Saints' **Sunday, November 1st**, in honor of our departed loved ones, we will be doing an entire worship service with hymns that YOU want to sing! Don't worry if your hymn isn't chosen for the gathering, communion, or sending hymn, because the sermon will be a moment to sing and remember your loved ones. Please submit your hymn requests by *October 18th* so that we can find a spot for them in the service. Send them to Dr. Seth Zamora at szamora@peacelutheranlc.com or submit them using our Google Form found via the link or scan the QR code here! https://forms.gle/dYes8BAMyQVu1xVo9

All Saints' Hymn Request Form:

Trunk or Treat

Mark your calendar! On **Sunday, October 25**, we will once again host Trunk or Treat after church. Plan to open your car trunk in the parking lot and be prepared for a steady stream of fun-loving candy-seeking costumed young'uns (and some adults, too). Trunks range from simple to elaborate decorations, and all are welcome to participate. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with games and refreshments, as well as set-up and clean-up. Last year we served 140 hotdogs and could have served more. "Feed them, and they will come." This is a great opportunity to meet and greet our neighbors, and share a few smiles with friends, new and old. Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex. Contact Kathie Rich at kathie.rich@hotmail.com.

October Education Series - Pride & LGBTQIA+ Inclusion

This month's education time embraces the theme of Pride and LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the Church. Join Pastor Hannah and local author, Bethany Meier-Evans, for these opportunities at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Learn more about our guest presenter below!

Pastor Hannah will guide us through this conversation from a Lutheran perspective and current discussions happening in the ELCA. Bethany will guide us through unpacking the bible around queer inclusion and the importance of inclusive language. Join us!

October 4 - "Homosexuality" in the Bible and Unpacking "Clobber Verses" (Bethany)
October 11 - A Lutheran Perspective on LGBTQIA+ Inclusion (Pr Hannah)
October 18 - The Importance of Inclusive Language (Bethany)
October 25 - ELCA's Reconsideration of the Social Statement: "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" (Pr Hannah)



About our Guest Presenter:

Bethany Meier-Evans is the New Mexico Chapter & Initiatives Coordinator with Glisten and a creative spirit, speaker, and writer focused on queer joy, healing, and liberation. She has an M.A. in Gender and Queer Studies, a Master of Divinity degree, and is an ordained interfaith minister. She is the author of Queer Joy: A Mosaic of Self-Love, Community, and Resistance and finds queer joy spending time with her wife and son, their animals, queer entertainment, and iced lattes. You can find out more about Bethany at joyfullyqueer.com!

God's Heart - Our Hands

Beginning 10/7/2026 at 4:30 PM

Have you ever wondered why we recite the Lord's Prayer every Sunday? Why did Jesus include a lesson in how to pray amongst all of the things he wanted to teach his followers? What is the big deal about prayer, anyway?

Prayer is a spiritual act of communication. It is speaking with God, but also it is listening for guidance. Prayer is hoping, perhaps pleading for a certain outcome. But prayer is also an act of worship and reverence, in which we humble our hearts to honor God's supreme holiness and majesty, even when God's answers to our pleas are not the answers we were hoping for.

Many traditions summarize the components of prayer using the ACTS acronym: express **Adoration** for God, make **Confession** of our failures and mistakes, and seek forgiveness, then give **Thanks** for blessings and grace, and finally, make **Supplication** for our needs or the needs of others. Maybe you learned this way, and speak in paragraphs. Maybe you say short abbreviated phrases, like text-speak. Maybe you recite well known poem-prayers. Regardless of how you approach prayer, what is important is opening the conversation.

However often we pray, whether daily or weekly or once in a blue moon, God wants to hear from us, his beloved children. Even if we stutter or stumble in prayer, we can feel blessed and comforted by that act of communication. Talking with God can energize us, physically and spiritually, and renew in us a passion for discipleship.

So…**beginning on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 4:30 pm, and continuing weekly, you are invited to come to the PLC fellowship hall to communicate with God**. We will pray together, we will share prayer concerns of our congregation and others, and we will then spend some time discussing how we can take God's Heart, using Our Hands, out into the world more meaningfully.

If you have any questions about this new ministry, please reach out to Mary McDermott or Pastor Hannah. We'd love to continue the conversation and hear your feedback.

Are you curious? Intrigued? Looking for a way to walk a little more hand-in-hand with God? Come join us on October 7th and experience how developing a deeper prayer life can transform us all.

"…For the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory are God's, now and forever. Amen."

Women in Motion

WIM (Women In Motion) is for all women and their guests at Peace. There are no special requirements other than that we enjoy each other's company and share a meal together! We do occasionally sponsor some of the activities at Peace by organizing and bringing food, but participation is totally voluntary. If you would like to be on an email list to find out about our activities, contact the church office with your email or email Karen Harvey at khpollype@gmail.com.

We meet monthly for a potluck luncheon on the second Thursday of each month, bringing a dish to share with coffee and tea provided. We also celebrate our birthday gals with cards and a joyful "Happy Birthday!" We will meet on **Thursday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at Peace. We do collect an offering, again totally voluntary, that we use at the end of the year for projects.

Join our Team - Walk to End Alzheimer's

This year Peace Lutheran will again have team of walkers and virtual walkers who participate in the WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S. Please join us by walking or contributing financially.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

A few notes on the PROGRESS being made and the HOPE for what your contributions can accomplish:

Where We Are Now:

NEW DIAGNOSTICS - FDA approved a blood test for early diagnosis

NEW TREATMENTS - FDA approved two drugs that provide delay of plaque growth & symptoms for those diagnosed in the early stages.

Where We Expect to Be:

With your help, we expect to be A WORLD WITHOUT ALZHEIMER'S.

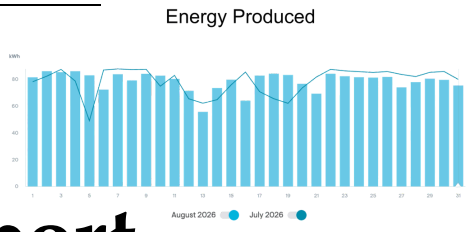
On **Saturday, Oct. 24 at 9am** I invite you to join our team of walkers as you support me and over 46,000 other New Mexicans living with the disease, as well as the 67,000 caregivers who provide 118,000,000 hours of UNPAID care annually. The walk is held at Pat and Lou Sisbarro Community Park, 3205 Arrowhead Road (on the NMSU campus). 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.

by Sandy Johnson

August Solar Panel Production

In the month of August, our solar panels produced 2.4 Megawatt hours! That is equivalent to 1.7 tons of carbon dioxide reduction, or 29 trees planted, or 210,700 phones charged. That's about the same amount of energy they produced in July. Stay tuned for September's numbers!



Financial Report

Receipts – Total cash giving in August was $21,528, compared to $38,729 in July. Budgeted cash giving (giving not including dedicated and pass thru funds) was $19,246. This was a weak income month, regressing to the mean.

Expenses – Total spending in August was $28,684, compared to $34,406 in July. Budgeted spending was $27,856. For the first eight months in 2026, we have budgeted spending of $206,517, or about 55.7% of the $370,950 total budget. *For August, we spent $6658 more than we took in.*

From the Council

The PLC Council is moving along this fall. Treasurer Joel Peterson and the Finance Committee have been working on our budget for 2027. We will continue to work on it over the next couple of months. The budget Q&A will take place November 1st after worship. We will hold the Congregational Meeting November 8th to vote on the budget. Transition Committee has concluded their Listening Circles. We thank everyone for participating in these circles and for the Transition members for their hard work listening to our church community. It's been a year since Dr. Seth Zamora became our Music Director. Council has approved a raise for him. Council heard updates about progress on receiving the state solar credit. Construction is continuing on the Prayer Room. It is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

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, 5:30pm**) – 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.

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?

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.

Come share your heart in this eventful week. We will have signup sheets or you could ask any of our planning committee: Jonathan Danielson, Anna Dykeman, Jimmy Hooley, Carla Kanupp, Pr. Hannah, or Clare Scheffer how you can help.



See https://www.snmpride.org/ for the full schedule of PRIDE 2026 events.



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/PeacePhoto

Or scan to QR code to submit photos!

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

October 2026

www.peacelutheranlc.com

www.facebook.com/peacelutheranlc