

The Contact

January 2024, Volume 63, Edition 1

A Newsletter for:

SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Carlsbad NM



Ministry Appreciation Luncheon highlights,
December 16, 2023

BIRTHDAYS: This Month

January 1 LeVelta Jenkins
January 5 Sam Howard
January 9 Jill Thompson
January 23 Jan Rosencrans

ANNIVERSARIES: This Month

None this month

*If we have inadvertently omitted anyone,
please contact Laura Dhenin at the St. Peter
Church Office. Thank you!*

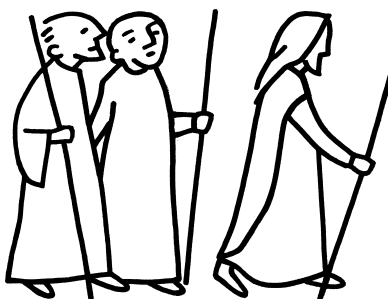


Worship:

Sunday at St. Peter:

10:30 am: Worship

11:45 am: Fellowship Time



God's Work, Our Hands

The things we do and ways YOU can HELP...

- ♦ **Noisy Offering Collection for ELCA WORLD HUNGER:** Bring your spare change every week. Look for the milk can in the Narthex.
- ♦ **Food Drive for JONAH'S HOUSE:** Jonah's House needs canned goods and other non-perishable food items. A collection box is next to the Pastor's office.
- ♦ **Can Tabs for RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:** A collection jar is in the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ **PACKS FOR HUNGER:** Feeding **nearly 300 Carlsbad-area children PER WEEK!** Please consider making a monetary or food donation. Lists of suggested food items and a collection container are in the Narthex.
- ♦ **Sock Drive:** Donations of (new) socks and undergarments for boys and girls, pre-K-12th grade can be made throughout the year by placing them in the Packs for Hunger collection box in the Narthex.

CONTACT Information:

St. Peter:

Address: 1302 W Pierce Street. Carlsbad NM 88220

Phone: 575-887-3033

Email: stpeter@splcnm.com

Website: www.splcnm.com

Choir/Music Director: Linda Servold

Office Administrator: Laura Dhenin

Congregational Council:

Council President: Carolyn Olson

Council Vice President: LaVelta Jenkins

Council Secretary: Linda Servold

Council Treasurer: Susan Knight

Council Financial Secretary: Dianna Hutchison

Council Representative: Christine McCraw

Council Youth Representative: Colette Dhenin

NEWS & EVENTS

A Prayer from the ELW

Eternal God,
 you have placed us in a world of space and time, and
 through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.
 Grant that in the new year we may know your presence,
 see your love at work, and live in the light of the event
 that gives us joy forever – the coming of your Son, Jesus
 Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 Amen

St. Peter Tax Aide Site:

The St. Peter AARP Tax Aide Site is a FREE income tax preparation service available to the Carlsbad Community. This vital community ministry is coordinated by LeVelta Jenkins.

Income Tax filing will be done on an appointment-only basis. An Income Tax packet must be filled out prior to the appointment. Packets can be picked up from the St. Peter Fellowship Hall beginning February 3:

Mondays, and Thursdays 6:00-9:00 pm

Saturdays, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

HELP NEEDED:

- **Hospitality:** Provide snacks and meals for the Tax Aide volunteers, specifically on the Saturdays when the site is open (February – April).

If you are available to help, please contact LeVelta.



NEWS & EVENTS

NEW Daily Devotional Available:

The January, February & March edition of *Christ in Our Home* daily devotional are available in the Narthex.



Pick up your FREE copy today and some to share with family and friends.

ELCA DAILY PRAYER VENTURES:

January Leaflets are available in the Narthex.

Join ELCA members from across the country in daily prayer petitions for global, social and outreach ministries of the ELCA, as well as for the needs and circumstances of our neighbors, communities and world.



In Our Prayers...

Sharon Ricketts, Marge Sumner, Carol Worley, Terri Berry, Scarlett Nichols,, Harley Sargent, Beverly Florez, Alice Martin, Isabelle Carrasco, Aidan Ortiz, Joyce Sumner, Earl, Gene Harbaugh, Pat Corado, Jane Harrington, Linda Stinson, Ella and Family, Rev. Marty Singleterry, Dawn Hanson, Robert, Nancy, Benny Jones, John Warren, Donna Harbaugh, the Fuentes Family, Arturo Estrada, James Shipp, Jesus Estrada, Joe Morales, Arthur Wright, Serge Sisler, Carol Long, Dawn Duff, Tiffany, and Jeannie Patterson



In Loving Memory...

The 11 hikers killed in Mount Marapi volcano eruption in Indonesia, December 3, 2023

The victims killed in a shooting at UNLV, December 6, 2023

The victims killed in flooding in Seychelles, December 7, 2023

Mike Knowlton, brother of Toni Thompson, December 10, 2023

The victims killed in the 7.5 magnitude earthquake that struck the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa, Japan January 1, 2024

All those who are victims of the conflict in Gaza

All those who are victims of the war in Ukraine

Please help us keep our prayer lists up to date. If you would like to be added to our prayer list or have family or friends in need of prayers, please share those names with us. Also, please notify us when you, or your friend or family member can be removed the list. Thank you.

Better Together

NEWS! FROM THE BISHOP ELECTION COMMITTEE

Rocky Mountain Synod congregations, councils, and members have the opportunity through **January 15, 2024** to suggest potential nominees to the office of Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Please use the link below to make a nomination. Those suggested by the community in this way will be contacted by the Bishop Election Committee and will have the opportunity to fill out a biographical form if they are open to discerning a call as bishop.



Any Word and Sacrament Minister who is open to being nominated for bishop may complete and submit biographical information on the synod website beginning in late January. Anyone who submits biographical information must still be nominated on the first ballot at the Synod Assembly to be considered. Information received about potential nominees will be disseminated to voting members prior to the Assembly April 25-27, 2024.

If you were unable to attend your conference meeting in October, you are invited to participate in a Zoom conversation **Monday, December 11, 6:30-8pm**. Discussion during the Zoom meeting will be similar to the conference discussions and information about the logistics of the bishop election will be shared. If you're interested, this meeting is for you!

Questions? contact Pr. Ann Hultquist [HERE](#)

[Nominate a Bishop Candidate HERE](#)

[Sign-up for Monday's ZOOM](#)

Young Adults in Global Mission UPDATE!

Meet Sara Larson

Sara Larson, a recent graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, participant in Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry (Greeley) and Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp staff member, is currently serving as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) in Budapest, Hungary. In her recent newsletter she writes, I am “currently serving Budapest Fasori Evangelikus Gimnazium as an English-speaking volunteer and Phiren Amencia as a volunteer... The last few months have been getting used to living in a new place, meeting new people, and creating relationships with the people I work with.” If you’d like to learn more about Sara’s experience, visit her full newsletter [HERE](#).



Young Adults in Global Mission is a ministry of the ELCA that “invites ELCA young adults ages 21-35 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service.” Learn more about YAGM [HERE](#)!

Better Together

Office of the Bishop Staff Changes

With prayers for God's healing presence, we offer our sincere thanks to **Andy Nakatani** for his service as our **Communications Assistant**. Andy has worked faithfully to share news and updates from across our synod, most notably by publishing our weekly E-Connection and updating our Synod website. Andy is stepping aside due to a recently diagnosed illness.

At the end of December we will also say farewell to two additional staff members. **Tina Kvitek** will complete her work as our **Assistant to the Bishop for Generosity**, and **Kinna Nordstrom Kemp** will conclude her service as our **Synod Faith Formation Coordinator**. Budget constraints prevent continued funding of these positions at this time.

We thank **Tina** for her tireless energy and contagious passion that have fostered a mindset of abundance among God's faithful people. Her contribution to our *Better Together, Next Faithful Step Campaign* made it possible for us to invest in critical ministry initiatives that have impacted every corner of our vast synod. She has also stirred up a spirit of gratitude and generosity within congregations, ministries and individuals as they steward their gifts and resources for the sake of God's mission.

Kinna has brought her abundant gifts to the work of connecting and resourcing faith formation leaders during a time of rapid change in the church and world. Her leadership in addressing racism in our church and her commitment to a vision of *Church Better Together* have left a lasting contribution in our synod.

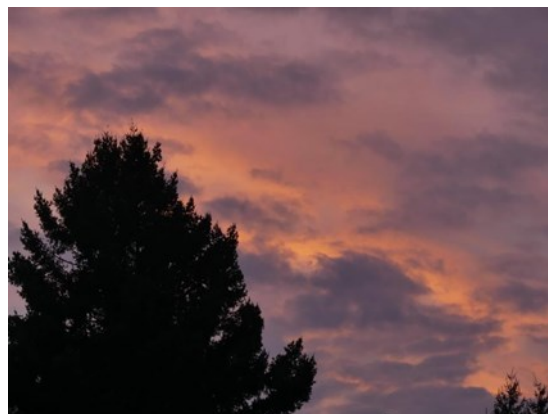
December will also see a change in leadership for our **Director for Congregational Transition**. **Deacon Janice Zimbelman** will be retiring from this half-time position that is shared with the Grand Canyon Synod as **Deacon Katie Kline** takes up this work in an interim capacity. Deacon Janice has provided a thoughtful and innovative spirit to this critical ministry that includes overseeing eight transition coaches, working with interim pastors and discerning with ministers (pastors and deacons) seeking a new call - not to mention navigating the peculiarities of two bishops! We are also thankful for the roles that **Rachel Line** and **Janice Ladd-Horkey** have played in supporting the work of Deacon Janice with technology assistance and candidate identification. Those responsibilities will now be taken up by Deacon Katie, whose gifts and experience we welcome in her role as Interim Director.

We invite you to express your own gratitude to Andy, Tina, Kinna and Janice for their ministry with us in the Rocky Mountain Synod, and to welcome Katie in her new position January 1st.

CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS!

Luther House - Albuquerque, NM hosted an Anti-Gun Violence Prayer Vigil and Action and were featured in the Albuquerque Journal.

"Today, we will beat our guns into garden tools in an act of defiance, in an act of prayer, in an act of spirituality," Luther House pastor, the Rev. Rhonda Newby-Torres



Better Together

2024 Legislative Issue Briefing and Bishop's Luncheon!

LAM-NM is excited to invite you to our annual Legislative Issue Briefing and Bishop's Luncheon. There are changes to locations for each event this year but the event content will remain similar to previous years. The **2024 Issue Briefing and Bishop's Luncheon** will take place on **January 23, 2024**.

We are very grateful to **First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe**, a long-time member of our advocating congregations program for their willingness to host the morning **Legislative Issue Briefing**. Following the briefing participants will move to the **La Posada de Santa Fe Hotel** for the **Bishop's Luncheon**.

Here is the schedule for the day:

- 8:45-9:15 a.m. Check-in, refreshments, and fellowship time at First Presbyterian
- 9:15 a.m. Welcome and opening reflection
- 9:30 a.m. Guest Speakers
- 11:00 a.m. Bishop Jim Gonia
- 11:15 a.m. Legislative Issue Briefing
- Noon – 12:15 p.m. Arrive at La Posada
- 12:30 p.m. Bishop's Luncheon Begins
- 2:00 p.m. Luncheon concludes

The registration cost per person remains the same as last year at **\$40 per person**. However, the week before the event and beginning on **January 16th**, the registration cost is **\$45 per person**.

Please register and buy your tickets [HERE!](#)

(Please note, this is not a fund-raiser as the registration charge simply covers the anticipated cost for the luncheon.)

These events are always special and well worth your attendance. This year's events will however be the final ones for our current Bishop, Jim Gonia. Bishop Gonia has been a true champion of our synod's state-level advocacy work here in New Mexico as well as in Colorado and Utah. I hope you will join us in expressing our gratitude for his support and involvement over the last 12 years at the Luncheon.

We are excited and looking forward to seeing you at the 2024 Issue Briefing and Bishop's Luncheon!

*** Plan to attend! * Plan to Attend! ***

The Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – New Mexico office is located in Albuquerque, at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Our address and phone number are:

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – New Mexico
1100 Indian School Rd. NE * Albuquerque, NM * 87102
505-242-2493



Better Together

Ghosted: Ministering to Estranged Parents

Family estrangement in general and parental estrangement in particular is being recognized as an emerging public health problem in our society. Roughly 70 million persons over the age of 18 indicate they are estranged from a family member, and one in eight parent-adult child relationships is estranged. In this SPEAK Awareness Training for Faith Communities, participants will learn practical skills for making a life-changing difference for estranged parents and grandparents in their congregations and communities.



Date/Time: Thursday, January 18, 2024 5-7 pm MT

Registration Fee: \$30 for LFCNA members/ \$50 for non-members

OBJECTIVES

By the close of this training, participants will be able to:

1. Define what we mean by parental estrangement.
2. Name a Biblical passage addressing estrangement (King David and son Absalom).
3. Articulate the characteristics of parental estrangement
4. Identify the various aspects of parental trauma
5. List solutions that do not work.
6. Identify possible indicators of an estranged parent
7. Engage an estranged parent in an affirming, healing conversation using the REACH model.
8. Assemble an estranged parent resource kit.

This activity has been submitted to Montana Nurses Association for approval to award contact hours. Montana Nurses Association is accredited with distinction as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. To receive contact hours for this event, attendees must attend the entire event and submit a completed evaluation form.

[Click Here](#) for a flyer that can be posted and/or shared with others.

Living Lutheran magazine will print its final issue in December 2023

Living Lutheran magazine will print its final issue in December 2023. The ELCA Churchwide Organization will not stop telling stories of this church when the printing of the magazine ends. This year, *Living Lutheran* will begin transitioning to a full online storytelling engine featuring new ways of reaching people, providing a more economical and far-reaching approach to engage with a broader audience. You will start to see these throughout the year, with videos, audio stories, podcasts, live events, and more.

Living
Lutheran

Living Lutheran



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St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
1302 W Pierce Street
Carlsbad NM 88220

