

Peace Notes

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From Pastor Kruse's Pen

"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support." Psalm 18:16-18 NIV

In April, you probably heard that a U.S. Air Force F-15E fighter jet was shot down over Iran, forcing the two crew members to eject and land in hostile territory. The first was rescued quickly, but the second- a wounded weapons systems officer- remained missing in the rugged mountain terrain as Iranian forces searched for him and put a bounty out on his head.

Our U.S. intelligence and military kept track of his location throughout the mission to rescue him even while Iranian forces pursued him.

The rescue mission included special forces, massive air support, and a coordinated deception campaign that sought to mislead Iranian troops to think that the wounded officer was running through the desert rather than remain in the mountains.

When the U.S. finally went in to rescue him, they asked him to say something and he said, "God is good" and because they knew he was a Christian man of faith they quickly verified his identity.

In Psalm 18, David thanks God for deliverance from all enemies, including King Saul, godless people, his son Absalom-who tried to usurp the throne, and rebellious Israelites. Although he was in great distresses, God helped him out of them and David praises God for His help, protection and rescue.

Friends, the Lord knows how to protect, deliver and rescue you too. He's already rescued you from eternal death, the devil and has given you life in Jesus' name. Call upon Him in your day of trouble, He will deliver you and you may, in return, honor Him (Psalm 50:15).

Pastor Kruse

Ministry Council Report

Greetings,

By the time you read this, we will have completed our second Vision Steering Team meeting with Jeff Meyer. Thank you for your continued interest and prayers as we move forward together.

We are excited to share that our first “wet cement” session is expected to take place sometime between our May and June meetings. This will be a special opportunity for everyone to join the conversation, share ideas, and help shape the future. We will share the date and time as soon as they are confirmed.

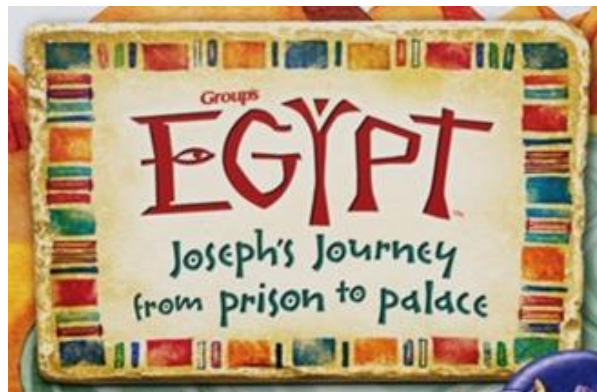
Meanwhile, the staff of Peace and Little Lambs, together with our Treasurer, Marcia Schelle, are diligently working on the 2026–27 budget. The Ministry Council has been discussing a number of important items and offering guidance on expenses such as professional services, possible staff additions, wage increases, synod support, and Christian education support. Budget planning always takes prayerful thought, discussion, and careful review before a final proposal is brought to the congregation. Our June 4 Ministry Council meeting will focus mainly on completing that process.

Please save the date for our June 28 Voters' Meeting, where members will vote on the proposed budget and elect new Ministry Council members. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as Treasurer, Secretary, and one Member at Large. If you feel called to serve, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. As we plan for the future, our desire in all things is to faithfully follow God's will together.

Blessings to all,

Carol Fontanez



VBS 2026

Save the Dates! Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it.

Please join us as we explore “Joseph’s Journey”. June 15-18. 9:00-noon. Please check the bulletin for upcoming registration information.

Everyone who is 3 years old through 5th Grade is welcome! And of course, all interested helpers are welcome too!

Any question? Please contact Debbie Packard or Linda Stanton.

Debbie Packard

Ysleta Lutheran Mission Trip

We will be heading south to the USA/Mexico border again in November to build a home for a family in need in the greater Juarez area! The dates for our next trip are set for November 14 – 21, 2026. This will be our 12th trip, and I would encourage “first timers” to think about joining us on this trip.

Every Christian should try to do at least one international mission trip. People sometimes say,

“Why do I have to go to a foreign country when I can help people here”? We can and should help locally, but there are spiritual benefits to be gained by the Christian if they go.

Gain compassion – Compassion is a Godly trait lacking in too many Americans. We have a “pull yourself up by your bootstraps” mentality. But what if they do not have any boots or even flip flops? Going to a place of extreme poverty is an eye opener and frequently a heart opener as well. When you see it firsthand it changes you for the better.

Grow as a person – When you are out of your comfort zone and away from all the distractions that we all have in our lives, that is prime time for God to go to work on us and in us. I have personally experienced and benefited from God’s attention on these trips and I have seen Him work in others. Can’t God work on you in the good old USA? Of course, but I liken it to one of those fitness boot camps. God can accomplish more in us in a week or two on a foreign mission than in a year or two back home, simply because we are more focused on Him and less distracted.

Grow in faith – Often times you will end up in a situation where you just have to trust God to work things out for you. It is totally out of your control. When we are home, we have a false sense of being in control, because we are surrounded by all of our stuff and our people, but that feeling of control is really just an illusion. God on the other hand is always in control, over everything, over you and your circumstances. When you are isolated from your stuff and your people, you have to put your trust in God and that is when your faith grows.

Faith is like a muscle, the more you use it the stronger it grows and that is why some of the strongest Christians I know are living in places of extreme poverty. When you have to trust in God to provide everything you need, literally your daily bread, your faith gets a real workout. The Christians you meet in these places have granite like faith. They do not doubt or waiver in their prayers. They sometimes ask for

astonishing things, but they have seen God provide daily and they have complete trust in Him. Their faith is a great example for us to strive for!

So please consider making this next trip. The cost will be \$700 per person for ground transportation, plus room in YLM’s El Paso dorm and most meals in their cafeteria. The cost of the airfare will be determined later. Check out their web site www.ylm.org or contact me for more information at 414-870-6461 or mthompson1234t@gmail.com. Thanks,

Marilyn Thompson

Mission of the Month **YLM Building Materials**

Lord willing, in November we will be constructing a 12 ft by 24 ft wood frame house with two rooms, two windows and a door. It will be insulated, drywalled, and have a metal roof, electric outlets and light fixtures. It may not seem like much by American standards, but for a family in need of housing in Juarez, it is a blessing straight from God.

The team members will be paying for their trip costs (\$700 plus the cost of airfare) and so we are asking the congregation to help with the cost of the building materials. We will need to raise \$5,000 to cover that cost. Quite a bargain!

The family who receives the house is chosen by the local Lutheran church with input from YLM. We will paint the outside in a color that the homeowners pick out. The home is built on a concrete slab that the family lays prior to our arrival. The building supplies are purchased by Scott Juengel from YLM who also serves as our job foreman.

If you can help us with this, please use the specially marked envelope at the info desk. Make your checks out to Peace Lutheran and place the envelope in the offering basket or give it to the church office.

Marilyn Thompson

Little Lambs Academy News

The Little Lambs children are really growing! We can't believe that the school year is almost over - it goes so fast! We continue to get outside frequently to use our five senses as we notice the beauty in God's creation of the spring season.

The Infant class is enjoying the spring sunshine and rain! The babies are excited to watch the birds outside their window each day. It's nice to take walks but also fun to get down on the ground, exploring our outside playground!

The 2T Parent and Me Class is busy reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* as they work on colors and sharing with friends. Some of our friends will be ready for 3K in the fall (those who are 3 before September 1st), and some will come back for another fun year of 2T. We have room in our Fall class so please consider signing up!

The 3K classes will be learning all about The Farm in May. They'll make a *Down on the Farm* book, sing "Old McDonald Had a Farm," and even visit Green Meadows Farm! The children will also prepare for our final concert of the year - the Ice Cream Social! This will be held outside during the last week of school, and families will come to see how much they've learned! The 3K kids will make beautiful gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day and continue to practice skills in preparation for 4K such as scissors work, writing their names, and counting.

During May, the 4K students will finish their alphabet study with letters X, Y and Z. They'll learn all about life cycles and insects this month. They even have some caterpillars to watch as they become something new (hint: it flies)! They will learn the parts of the insect and study several different ones - ladybug, bee, dragonfly, firefly and of course butterfly. Their insect study kicks off with an In-School field trip with David Stokes. He brings all kinds of creepy crawly creatures that God made for the

children to observe, plus a picnic lunch! The 4K kids continue to develop their reading and writing skills and work hard every day on their math skills, too. They are really well-prepared for 5K and we are so proud of them!

Registration for our Summer Camps and for next year is underway. Please contact Mrs. Sara Henson at preschool@peacelutheran.org for more information or look for a flyer on the information desk.

Stacy Abraham, 3K and 4K Lead Teacher

Loving Hands Quilters

The Loving Hands quilters continue to piece quilt tops and layer quilts together. After sending all completed quilts to the Ysleta ministry last fall, our storage cabinet is full again. Many of these quilts will be donated to Froedtert Hospital for seriously ill patients.

Several of our quilters attended the annual Mukwonago quilt show on March 28. Two of our quilters won ribbons at the show: Sue Slotke won a first place ribbon for a crib quilt titled "Moon Shadow" and Suzi Banks won a third place ribbon for a bed quilt titled "Viva Las Vegas Mystery Quilt."

A mystery quilt is a challenge quilt where the quilter cuts and sews pieces together following on-line instructions. The quilter has no idea what the pattern design will be until finishing the entire top. The instructions for the quilt blocks are given over a three-day period at set intervals. The final instructions tell how the quilt blocks should be laid out and stitched together. It is then up to the quilter to finish the top at their own pace. Quilters can ask questions throughout the process using computer conversations so that all participants can see the questions and hear the answers.

Several of our quilters have participated in challenge quilts like this and from experience I can tell you it is definitely a challenge!

Vickie Schmidt

City on a Hill

Great sadness is felt as City on a Hill closed permanently as of April 3, 2026.

I wanted to reach out and say thank you for all the support, volunteering, donations and prayers for so many, many years.

Good job good and faithful servants!

Please continue to pray for all the clients that they find another Christian based support in their time of need.

Thank you,

Stephanie Montano

Happy
ANNIVERSARY

May Anniversaries

Joshua & Sara Shaffer	May 2, 2015
Doug & Mary Lewandowski	May 4, 1974
Phillip & Kim Jakubowski	May 7, 2002
Scott & Linda Gridley	May 12, 1974
Gary & Lynn Lenz	May 20, 1983
Thomas & Jill Roberson	May 21, 2021
Joe & LaRae Malinauskas	May 23, 1992
Gary & Joanne Webb	May 23, 1992
Kurt & Betty Barry	May 25, 1968
Mike & Cathy Paddock	May 26, 1988
Gil & Linda Duchow	May 29, 1966



May Birthdays

Sue Slotke	May 3
Carrie Peterson	May 4
Lynn Lenz	
Debbie Packard	May 5
James Peterson	May 6
David Beyer	
Tom Roberson	May 10
Shirley Montano	May 11
Sharon Bartholomay	
Blake Kleinhans	May 12
Brad Rosandich	
Don Springer	May 15
Bruce Schmidt	May 16
Betty Barry	
Noah Hockett	
Anna Thompson	May 17
Penelope Shaffer	May 18
Roger Brunn	May 19
Kristine Videkovich	
Cook Westendorf	May 21
Samuel Boesel	
Bill Eurick	May 25
Melody Erbllich	May 26
Nicole Lau	May 27
Burns Halverson	May 28
Emily Langbauer	
Barbara Neidert	
Ron Peters	May 29