

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

April 2018 Newsletter

All articles for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to
Barbara@stpaulslascruces.com by the 15th of the month.

Our purpose is to lead
people to become
disciples of Christ, who
know and love God
and transform our
world from the heart of
Las Cruces.



Easter Exclamation!



In his book *If I Should Die Before I Live*, Joe Lomusio writes: "If I were to ask you to describe Easter without using any words, and you could only use punctuation marks, which punctuation mark would you choose to describe this Easter for yourself?"

"Maybe this Easter is a comma for you. It makes you stop, pause, think, and listen, but that's about it. Perhaps today is a downer -- a big bold period. You thought you'd feel excited, but instead it seems to be more like empty ritual. You feel like you're not on the inside, but on the outside . . . an onlooker. It was day when life felt like a period for Jesus' disciples. He was dead. He was buried. An end to expectations.

"But wait -- news of an empty tomb . . . the period is no longer a period, it's a question mark. That's worse than a period. Now they're beginning to doubt. Where is He? They're perplexed. The guards are gone, the stone is rolled away. He is not there. And if not there, where? An angel speaks, 'Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and how He must be crucified, and the third day He must rise again?'

"Of course they remembered! The periods are gone. The question marks are removed. There is one massive exclamation point! That's what Easter is all about . . . an exclamation of gratitude and of praise for the resurrection Jesus Christ and for the salvation His victory over death brought to us."

COMING SERMON SERIES: "GOD NEVER SAID THAT!"

What if I were to tell you that you currently believe God said things that he never did. Our culture tells us God wants you happy, but that's not true. You may have heard another one, "God won't give you more than you can handle." I heard this plenty of time, but is that what God said? Or how about, "it doesn't matter what you do or even what you believe." Did God say that? If you have said those things or have wondered about these sayings, then come and find out what God really said.

April 8th – "God Wants You Happy"

April 15th – "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle"

April 24th – "It Doesn't Matter What You Do"

April 29th – "It Doesn't Matter What You Believe"

Blessings,

Darren



AMAZING APRIL

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of former member Dean Hawkins who passed away in Canyon, TX, Friday, February 27, the family of Alice Helfrich who passed away Wednesday, February 28 and to the family of Marilyn Ferguson who passed away March 3.



Easter Sunday Worship Experiences:

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service at Plaza de Las Cruces with local Methodist churches involved.

8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. – Worship experiences in St. Paul’s Sanctuary.

Big Mama’s Last Will and Testament (so far)
LCCT One Act Play Festival
Written by Roxana Gillett
Directed by Gorton Smith
April 13th - 15th
313 N. Main St./575-523-1200



Our newest members

Heather McElhinney and daughter, Kamryn Neill

Las Cruces Chapter
American Guild of Organists
Presents:
Sing to the Lord!
A Hymn Festival
Sunday, April 22
3:00 PM

Peace Lutheran Church
1701 Missouri Avenue
Corner of Missouri & Locust
Las Cruces, New Mexico



Come Sing with Us!

RUTH ISSACKS/JESSIE LYNN CIRCLE
Our April Circle meeting has been changed from the first Tuesday, to Tuesday, April 10 this month. Linda Lundeen and Dona Horton will be our hostesses at Linda’s Lundeen Inn of the Arts. Directions to Linda’s Inn will be included in an email a few days before the 10th. Visitors are welcome – hope to see you there!

Needed: Part time volunteers for front desk

We have a good, reliable group of volunteers for our office front desk each week. But those people sometimes have things come up and cannot be here on their assigned day (vacations, medical appointments, etc.) What we need are a few volunteers who can fill in as substitute "desk sitters/greeters/office workers" on very short notice. This will be for Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering in this way, please call Barbara at 541 3179. Leave a message if you don't get her.



First Friday Fun Night will be held April 6th from 5:00-8:30 pm. Join us for an Earth Day Celebration where we will learn about conserving our resources and make recycled crafts! Children 18 months and up are welcome. \$10 per child, \$30 max per family.



Do you have a heart for little ones and an hour a week to devote to them? We are looking for a Sunday School teacher for our littlest disciples, 2-5 years old! This would be a small class and would focus on playing games, singing and learning about God together. Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am. Please let Sheryl know if you feel the call!



Family Movie Night



The whole church is invited to our Family Movie Night on April 27th from 6-9 pm. We will be showing **Ferdinand** in the Fellowship Hall on the big screen. Entrance to the movie is free. We will be selling concessions as a Children's Ministry Fundraiser! If you can donate any items to our concessions, such as chips, candies or drinks, please let Sheryl know! Bring your own camp chairs, sleeping bags, pillows etc. and join us for a fun night!

Thank you to all who donated of your time, money or talents to make our Annual Easter Egg Hunt a success! Check back next month for pictures and updates.



Baskets for Graduating High School Seniors

St. Paul's is blessed to have eight high school seniors graduating in May. Many of these students will be moving on to college. A majority of them will be attending NMSU in the fall.

As the church, we will have the opportunity to show and share our love and best wishes for them through "Baskets for Graduates." These baskets will be available in The Commons area beginning April 8th. Members are welcome to bring items students might need for college. Examples are, an encouraging note, laundry detergent, towels, wash clothes, toilet paper, Kleenex tissue, printing paper, pens, highlighters, a blanket, a gift card (Starbucks, Panda Express, Barnes & Noble etc.) or whatever members would like to give.



For more information please contact Sheila at 5752639071.

FOCUS ON PRAYER

“A Meditation for Easter Evening”

By William Barclay

Lord Jesus, on this Easter Sunday evening, although we cannot see you, help us to feel that you are very near and close to us. Help us to discover for ourselves that you are not a figure in a book, but that you are a living presence, nearer to us than breathing, and closer than hands or feet. Help us tonight to know you as our risen, ever-living, ever-present Lord. This we ask for your love's sake. Amen.



(Read Luke 24: 13 - 35)

O God, our Father, we thank you for this Easter evening for every part of the life of Jesus.

We thank you for his life.

That he had to grow up and to learn just as we have to do;

That he had to go to school and learn a trade and work at a job, just as we have to do;

That he had to do a day's work, to earn pay, to support a family, just as we have to do;

That he know well what everyday work and life are like:

We thank you, O God.

For his words of wisdom and his deeds of love:

For his kindness to the sick, and the suffering and the sad;

For his friendship to all kinds of people, even with people whom

The respectable would have nothing to do:

We thank you, O God.

We thank you for his death

For the courage which made him go to the cross;

For the obedience which made him accept your will without question;

For the love which suffered and bore that for us:

We thank you, O God.

We thank you for his resurrection this Easter Day.

That he conquered death and rose from the grave;

That he is alive forevermore;

That he is with us always even to the end of the world;

That nothing in life or death can separate us from him.

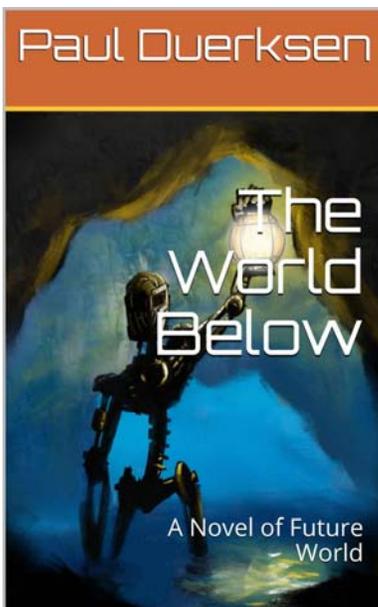
We thank you, O God.

Amen.

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225 West Griggs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526-6689
Change of address requested

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSLASCRCUCES.COM



Paul's Newest book will be here soon: "The World Below!"

Thanks to all who supported this church in February at my last book sale. You helped earn \$75 for this church's general budget. NOW, my newest book (second one out this year) is "The World Below: A Story of Future World." It's a story of a man who is sentenced to life in prison in the early twenty-second century. He is sent to a penal colony below the earth's surface not far from Omaha, Nebraska. City 11 is a very dark, dirty, dangerous place. But David Reynolds manages to survive by forming friendships with a few of the strange people that live there. Buy it for \$12.00 on Sunday, April 22 between services. You'll be blessed and your imagination will be stirred (that's a promise!) once you've traveled to "The World Below." You'll also come away with a greater appreciation for whatever family God has given you. Half the sale price goes to this church's general budget (the world above!). See you soon. Pastor Paul