



February 1, 2023 | Volume 2023:2

## Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter

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# Lent

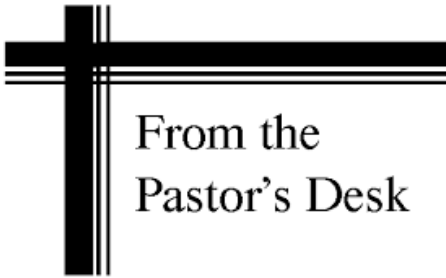


### Highlights:

- Peace Church Newsletter
- A Message from the Pastor
- Council Corner
- Peace Calendar
- Peace Bulletin Board
- Thank You Notes

# A Message from Pastor Gary ...

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## **For Everything There is a Season**

Time is relentless. I can hardly believe that it is February already, although the stores are displaying the pink, white and red for Valentine's Day. February is also the month when Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is the twenty second. The season of Epiphany is a time that we come to know who Jesus really is in our lives. Lent can be described as a time when we consider who we really are.

Lent is the season of repentance. We think about our priorities, our shortcomings, and our general self-centeredness. Here's the interesting think about repentance though, if we could change the way we are on our own, we would have done so by now. We pray for the ability and the willingness to be more like Jesus, to be more selfless than selfish. God never asks anything of us without also giving us what we need to achieve it. Time is relentless, but it is also a blessing. Time and time again we are presented with the opportunity to grow in our relationship with Christ. Lent is a great time to seize the opportunity once again.

Pastor Gary

## Council Corner ...

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Council Corner – January 2023

To keep the congregation more informed about what's going on at Church Council, I thought I would try something new and give a few quick highlights after each Council meeting. I'll keep these short and quick, but feel free to ask me, Pastor or any Council member for additional information.

- We have an Outreach committee again to help us reach out to and serve members of our community! Thank you, Gary Schaeffer, for grabbing the reins and working with a small but mighty group to propose some new ideas including hosting Community Craft Fairs and summer Community Worship Events.
- There was a motion made and approved during the December Congregational Meeting to review our by-laws with the goal of creating more flexibility in how funds from our bequests are used. A law firm has been identified for this work and Council voted to approve an initial budget.
- Did you know Peace is on Facebook? We have some professional support with our Facebook page now so check us out! Search for Peace-Tohickon Evangelical Lutheran Church and follow us.

In Peace,  
Heidi Gerth, Council President

## Important upcoming dates ...

February 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7pm-Faith & Fellowship Committee Meeting via Zoom 	3	4
5 5 Epiphany 8:15am+10:15amWorship 9a-Sunday School  7pm - NA	6	7 1pm-WELCA Meeting @Peace Guest Speaker – Lindsay Moyer, Saint Paul's UCC	8	9 9am-Outreach Committee Meeting via Zoom	10	11
12 6 Epiphany 8:15am+10:15amWorship 9a-Sunday School 7pm – NA  Super Bowl LVII 	13	14 Valentine's Day  	15 Lunch Bunch and Movie	16 1pm-Executive Council Meeting via Zoom	17	18
19 8:15am Worship 10:15am New Spirit 9am-Sunday School  5pm-Stewardship Thank You Dinner @Fellowship Hall 7pm - NA	20 Presidents Day  	21 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23	24	25
26 1 Lent 10:15amWorship 9am-Sunday School  11:30am-Congregational Semi-Annual Meeting  7pm - NA	27	28				

## Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements



Dear Friends of Peace,

As our prayer list grows, we would like to separate it into two parts -- a long-term list and a short-term list. Those who are on the long-term prayer list will remain there. The short-term prayer list will be updated every month, unless you request the listing to remain on the list. If someone has been removed from the short-term list and you would like them to be reinstated, please contact the church office. Thank you.



### DATE SAVER ...

Stewardship Thank You Dinner

Please join us for a potluck dinner on Sunday, February 19, 2023 beginning at 5:00PM in the Fellowship Hall, as we come together to enjoy each other's company and celebrate the many blessings that God has bestowed on us and our church.

A sign-up sheet for the dinner is in the Narthex. We hope to see you there.

### UPCOMING NOTICE Congregational Meeting



A Congregational Meeting

will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 11:30AM in the sanctuary.

The purpose of this semi-annual Congregational Meeting will be to review the annual reports for Peace's areas of ministry.

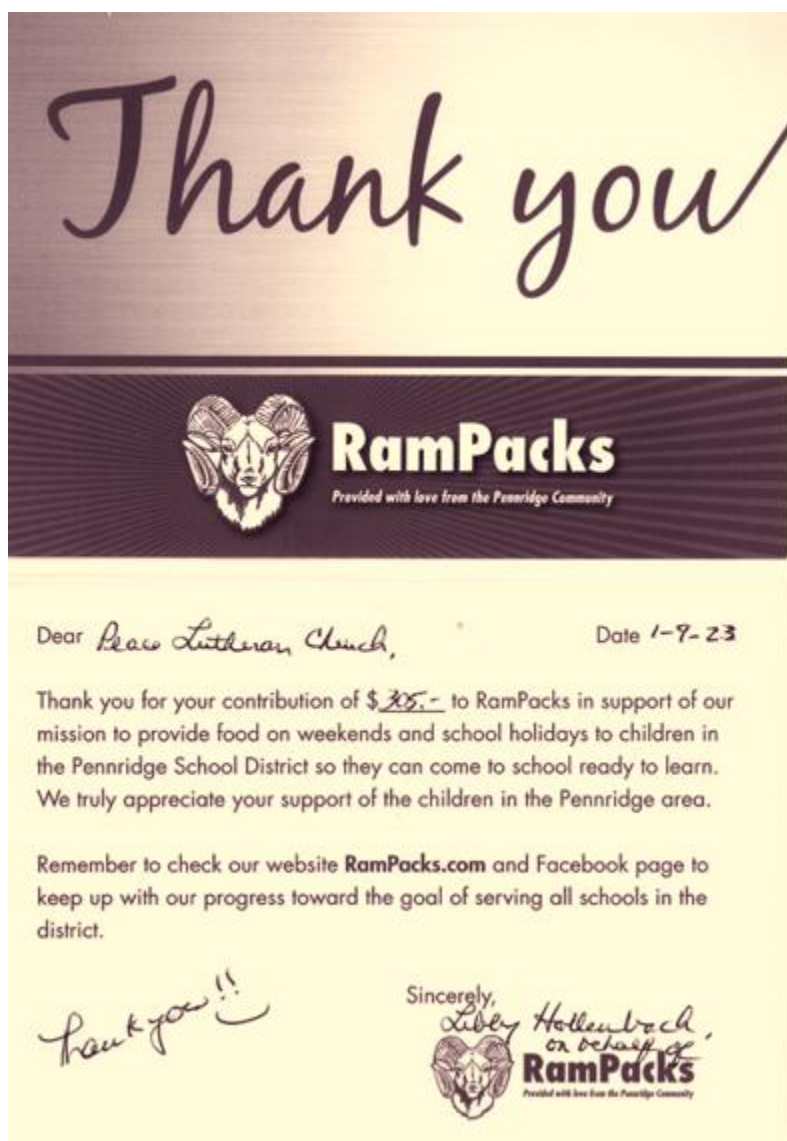
The Sunday, February 26th service will be held at 10:15am (no 8:15am service).

## Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters to Us:



Dear Friends of Peace,  
I would like to thank the people of Peace for all the many cards, well wishes and prayers that have been sent my way! Please know that all these acts of kindness are most sincerely appreciated!  
I am making progress with my recovery and with my physical therapy and hopefully will soon be ready to resume my normal activities.

Love and Peace,  
Nancy Cygan





*A Woman's Place*  
ON THE ROAD TO FLOURISHING

January 26, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Road  
Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944-3716

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of A Woman's Place staff, board and thousands of survivors, I would like to thank you for your gift of \$195.00 to A Woman's Place received on 1/17/2023.

Your donation supports those in our community experiencing domestic violence and helps to transform the future of Bucks County into a community where all individuals are safe in their relationships.

Because of you, our compassionate, trauma-informed services for our clients in crisis are possible. We continue exciting new community outreach and education programs in Bucks County schools reaching almost 6,000 students last year. With support like yours, we can empower survivors to get back on their feet, out in their communities, into new jobs, and on to new adventures through programs that heal and inspire.

**Your generosity provides safety for those in crisis, empowerment for the marginalized, education for the future, and puts our whole community on the road to flourishing.** Thank you for supporting our vision of a community where all people are safe in their relationships and can flourish.

If you have any questions about this letter, your gift, or anything AWP does, please don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail ([mlynch@awomansplace.org](mailto:mlynch@awomansplace.org)) or by phone at (215) 343-9241 ext. 111.

With Sincere Thanks,

Marianne G. Lynch  
Executive Director

*For your tax records, please know that 100% of your contribution to AWP is tax-deductible. This letter serves as your record for tax purposes. As you may be aware, the IRS no longer will accept a canceled check as substantiation of a charitable contribution of \$250 or more. AWP's federal tax identification number is 23-2034180. AWP's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

Donation Amount: \$195.00  
Donation Date: 1/17/2023  
Check Number: 2998661033

*Free, Private, Confidential*

24-hour Hotline: 1-800-220-8116 | Administrative Office: 215-343-9241 | Fax: 215-343-3411 | P.O. Box 299, Doylestown, PA 18901 | [www.awomansplace.org](http://www.awomansplace.org)

100 Old Bethlehem Road | Perkasie, PA 18944 | 215-257-3294



January 24, 2023

The Rev. Gary Costa  
Peace Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Rd  
Perkasie, PA 18944-3715

Dear Pastor Costa:

Thank you for having a caring heart and loving your neighbors. Your gift of \$25.00 for Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries is a wonderful expression of love for the countless senior adults and families who depend on Diakon for care and services.

Diakon has served our neighbors for more than 150 years because caring people like you saw a need and chose to do something about it. As the individuals Diakon serves face another year of challenges, we are reminded of Christ's love for others and that compassion and love for others is truly our highest calling.

I know you recognize how important your support is to Diakon's mission of service. Your gift becomes love in action as we continue to provide comfort and security to seniors and provide counsel to families in crisis.

Thank you for your generosity.

Gratefully,

Scott D. Habecker  
President/CEO

SDH/hah

*Diakon has provided no goods or services as defined by the Internal Revenue Service in consideration for this gift.*





Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

January 23, 2023

*Thank You*

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Rd  
Perkasie, PA 18944-3715

Dear Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$50.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

*This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!  
("What Child Is This," ELW 296)*

This season we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, you share the everlasting joy of that transformation with our neighbors around the world.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and across the globe. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

In Christ,

*Amanda White*

Amanda White  
Director, Congregational Generosity

*P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.*

8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • 773-380-2700 or 800-638-3522 • [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org) • [LivingLutheran.com](http://LivingLutheran.com)

100 Old Bethlehem Road | Perkasie, PA 18944 | 215-257-3294



January 20, 2023

Reverend Gary Costa  
Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Road  
Perkasie, PA 18944


Dear Pastor Costa,

We have received and thank you for your **donation of \$25 (check dated January 12, 2023)** that will help us continue to provide vital behavioral health, prevention, child welfare, and educational services for at-risk youth and families. Your support truly matters! We are very grateful for your continued friendship and generosity to Gemma Services (formed by the merger of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School and theVillage)!

With the help of friends like all of you, Gemma is providing crucial services for more than 4,000 youth and families each year. Our dedicated teams help children, teens, and their families to heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, and navigate difficult times. As you know, when the pandemic began, we shifted to provide many of our services remotely via Telehealth and online platforms. We have now transitioned many services back to in-person with enhanced virus protection and prevention protocols, while we continue to provide services virtually as needed. Now that we are able to have in-person visitors once again, we would love to welcome you to tour any of our three locations.

We are especially grateful for your ongoing partnership during these recent times of unprecedented challenge for those we serve, for our communities, and for our organization. Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a time to visit, please contact me at 610-825-4440 ext. 3206 or [Lunipan@gemmaservices.org](mailto:Lunipan@gemmaservices.org). On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE  
Chief Development Officer

*Thank you!*

*No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift. Gemma Services is a 501(c)(3) organization. (Tax ID #23-2310084; corporate name: Silver Springs-Martin Luther School). Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

Formerly theVillage  
**theVillage**

512 W. TOWNSHIP LINE RD | PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA 19462 | 610.825.4440  
[GEMMASERVICES.ORG](http://GEMMASERVICES.ORG)

Formerly Silver Springs  
  
**SILVER SPRINGS**  
MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL



Fund Development  
960A Harvest Drive, Suite 100  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
610-825-9360  
fund.development@kencrest.org  
KenCrest.org

January 19, 2022

The Rev. Gary Costa  
Peace Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Rd  
Perkasie, PA 18944-3715

Dear Pastor Costa:

Thank you very much for your generous support of KenCrest over the past year. Though the global pandemic continued to confound our best laid plans, your unwavering support eased the burden and brightened the prospects of the communities we serve.

Your support helped us to provide safe and nurturing living options for more than 600 adults, across three states. That support also helped us deliver an enriching curriculum to more than 600 pre-school aged children in some of Philadelphia's most under-resourced communities. You also helped us provide supports to nearly 200 individuals as they pursued competitive employment, and the dignity and independence that accompanies a paycheck. You helped us provide early intervention services to nearly 9,000 children throughout the region.

You also helped us explore new ideas, reach new constituencies, and provide piece of mind to the thousands of families who've come to count on KenCrest for the most fundamental of supports. YOU, our benefactors, did all this; and for that, KenCrest and the communities we support are deeply grateful.

On the back of this letter is a summary of your cash gifts for 2021, along with recognition of how those donations were used to further our mission: to explore possibilities, mobilize resources, and empower dreams.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Duhnow  
Chief Development Officer

KenCrest is a 501(c) (3) tax-free corporation (EIN 23-1711070).  
*Please save this letter as your receipt.*





*Fund Development*

960A Harvest Drive, Suite 100

Blue Bell, PA 19422

610-825-9360 fax 610-825-8736

[fund.development@kencrest.org](mailto:fund.development@kencrest.org)

January 19, 2023

The Rev. Gary Costa  
Peace Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Rd  
Perkasie, PA 18944-3715

Dear Pastor Costa,

**Thank you for being a hero in the KenCrest story.** Your donation of \$25.00 (check number 2998661087 received on 1/19/2023) helps rewrite the story of people in the KenCrest family.

At KenCrest, we take pride in being "unique." With more than 12,500 individuals in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut utilizing our services, there's no shortage of stories of people finding ways to live their best, most meaningful lives. **Your support ensures each individual has the opportunity to author their own unique story.** You have recognized the critical need KenCrest fills in your community, and your investment adds a new chapter to our story of exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources, and empowering dreams.

We are grateful to have supporters like you who will help us care and boldly advocate for those in our community. **Thank you for your generosity, and for being a part of the KenCrest Family.**

With gratitude,

Russ Stewart  
Director of Development

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT! THE  
PEACE PERKASIE FAMILY IS  
TRULY MAKING A DIFFERENCE.  
GOD BLESS!

*Official tax receipt. No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.*







January 4, 2023

The Reverend Gary Costa  
Peace – Tohickon Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Road  
Perkasie, PA 18944

Dear Pastor Costa,

Thank you and all of our Peace Lutheran friends for thinking of the children and families of Gemma Services (formed by the merger of Silver Springs – Martin Luther School and theVillage) again this holiday season! We have received and appreciate your **donation of gift cards totaling \$230 (received December 5, 2022) and a car full of gifts including dolls, sports balls, games, remote control cars, personal care items, Legos, art supplies and more!** Your generous donations helped us to ensure the holidays were bright and full of joyful memories for the children we serve, and for their families!

With the help of friends like you, Gemma is providing crucial services for more than 4,000 youth and families each year. Our dedicated teams work tirelessly to help children, teens, and their families to heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, and navigate difficult times. As you may know, when the pandemic began, we shifted to provide many of our services remotely via Telehealth and online platforms. We have now transitioned many services back to in-person with enhanced virus protection and prevention protocols, while we continue to provide services virtually as needed.

We are especially grateful for your ongoing partnership during these recent times of unprecedented challenge for those we serve, for our communities, and for our organization. Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a time to visit, please contact me at 610-825-4440 ext. 3206 or [Lunipan@gemmaservices.org](mailto:Lunipan@gemmaservices.org). On behalf of all at Gemma, thank you and happy new year!

Sincerely,



Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE  
Chief Development Officer



*No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift. Gemma Services is a 501(c)(3) organization. (Tax ID #23-2310084; corporate name: Silver Springs-Martin Luther School). Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please retain this letter as a receipt and consult with your tax advisor to discuss your individual situation.*

Formerly theVillage  
**theVillage**

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