August 1, 2026 | Volume 2026:8

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter

Highlights:

- Peace Church Newsletter
- A Message from the Pastor
- Peace August 2026 Calendar
- Peace Bulletin Board
- August Birthdays
- Thank you Notes

Our Mission at Peace:

Trusting in God's love, we grow in faith, celebrate His Word, care for His gifts, and serve others.

A Message from Pastor Gary …

Commentary Comments Related to John

The gospel of John lends itself to various interpretations. I will highlight a few alternate interpretations from John 14 in this short newsletter article.

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." (14:2) The Aramaic verse says, "there are many dwelling places on the way to my Father's house." It further implies that each believer is a dwelling place for others on the way to the Father's house. Might we commit ourselves to being dwelling places of Christ as others make their journey on the way to the Father's house?

John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life." This verse includes three of the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus. When we think about Jesus saying He is the truth, He is saying I am real. I will stand the test of time. I will last. Visualize the things in your house or any building. Then visualize a scene from a movie where the apocalypse has taken place. There is lone survivor. He enters a house. Everything is dusty, nothing works, the very structure is falling apart. If we agree that what is true is real, then all of our possessions that seem real are not real at all. Or they are only real to the degree that they are part of a world that has an end. They won't last.

When Jesus says I am the life He is saying I am eternal. In me you can live forever. Without me you will cease to exist. You will become dust. One day it will all fall apart. Nothing will work anymore. In me you will have life that will last.

The most fascinating of the I AM sayings before us in verse 6 is I am the way. Some things seem so obvious that we never stop to think beyond our assumptions. So, we may immediately think that Jesus is saying that He is the way to heaven, but Phillip asks Jesus to show him the Father. (14:8) Could Jesus be saying that He is the way to the Father in verse 6? Sure, we can make that adjustment, but we still hold another assumption that heaven and the Father are the same thing. Could there be a difference? On the one hand, it doesn't seem possible to experience the Father without experiencing heaven, but could it be possible to experience realms of heaven without experiencing the Father, the inner sanctum and source of it all? Jesus seems to be intent upon saying He is the way to the Father. We are the ones who automatically think that heaven and the Father are exactly the same thing. I would ask you to ponder these Christological considerations and remain open to various interpretations of Scripture.

Pastor Gary

Important upcoming dates and information…

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	10	11 7:30pm-Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom	12 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	13 1:00pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	14	15
16 8am-New Spirit Rehearsal 9am-New Spirit Worship @Pavilion 7pm-NA	17	18 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	19	20	21	22
23 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	24 **September Newsletter Deadline**	25	26	27	28	29
30 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	31					

Important upcoming dates and information…

Peace Bulletin Board … August

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Tuesday, 8/11 - 7:30PM Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 8/12 – 6:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Thursday, 8/13 – 1:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, 8/16 – 8:00AM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 8/18 – 7:00PM Church Council Meeting via Zoom
- Monday, 8/24 – September Newsletter Deadline

Important upcoming dates and information…

Altar Flower Sponsorships for 2026

The 2026 Altar Flower Chart is up and ready for your requests! The new flower chart for 2026 is hanging up outside the coat room. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on a specific date in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please sign up on the date you'd like to reserve or contact Cheryl Saint-Pol at 267-664-8140 or email her at ccsaint@verizon.net reserve your requests for 2026.
Thank you for your continued support!

2026 Envelopes Available for Pickup

You may pick up your 2026 Offering envelopes anytime during regular church office hours or by appointment. Call the church office at 215-257-3294.

Outdoor Service:
Can you lend a hand?

During the warm months our church has an outdoor service in the pavilion on the third Sunday of the month. We all enjoy this service. However, setting up the equipment, chairs, tables, and altar requires some work.

We are looking for a volunteer or two who are willing to arrive early on an outdoor service Sunday, to help with the setup.

We will need volunteers on:

Sunday, August 16	Please arrive at 7:30am
Sunday, September 20	Please arrive at 8:30am

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please sign up, if you are willing to help on any of these three dates. Thank you.

Important upcoming dates and information…

The Peace Garden

The Peace Garden has been planted and has already produced weekly harvest and crops for Pennridge FISH; such as, lettuce, radishes, onions and broccoli. Our Peace Garden helpers are always ready to work the garden.

Please feel free to check out the Peace Garden.

A Big VBS Thank You

Thank you to everyone at Peace who donated items, participated in working with the children at VBS, supported the Code Blue offering, and kept VBS 2026 in their prayers. We celebrated God's love with 22 children through music, Bible stories, crafts and games, which focused on knowing that God strengthens us in meeting life's challenges. A heart felt thank you to Barb Nemecek, Pastor Ann, and all our friends from St. Michael's Lutheran Church for directing, leading, and feeding our children as they took part in the Snowball Mountain Challenges!

Important upcoming dates and information…

Date Savers for the Summer of 2026 …
Summer Worship Services will be from Sunday, June 21st to Sunday, September 6th starting at 9:00AM. Rally Day, Sunday, September 13th, will resume the regular worship services times (8:15AM and 10:15AM).
Peace Outdoor New Spirit Services will be held in the Peace Pavilion on the following dates: • Sunday, August 16th @9:00AM • Sunday, September 20th @10:15AM (Blessing of the Animals) Chairs will be provided; however, if you have your own chair (i.e., camper chair), please feel free to bring it with you on these days.

Important upcoming dates and information…

Peace Fellowship Project for August

The Peace Fellowship Project for August is to help Pennridge F.I.S.H. by supplying summertime healthy friendly foods for children ages 5 to 18. Many children receive subsidized breakfast and/or lunch during the school year, but when summer rolls around, these benefits disappear. FISH attempts to fill the gap by offering extra food to these families.

They are now collecting the following items for the summer lunch bags:

- Applesauce
- Canned chicken
- Canned chili
- Canned pasta
- Canned tuna
- Cereal
- Fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Instant oatmeal
- Jelly
- Juice (bottles or boxes)
- Macaroni & cheese packs/cups
- Mayonnaise
- Peanut butter
- Pudding and Jello cups
- Raisins
- Ramen
- Ravioli packs or canned
- Snack pack crackers
- Soups

Please place non-perishable foods and snacks in the grocery cart located in the narthex.
Your generosity is appreciated.

PENNRIDGE
FISH

Peace Garden This Month

WELCA
FALL MUM
FUNDRAISER

Autumn is a favorite time of year to decorate your home with Chrysanthemums of all colors. WELCA is selling these Mums as a fundraiser for the local charity organizations to which we donate as a group (FISH, Rampacks, A Woman's Place and more).

We are selling the 8-inch Mums for $9.00 each. Orders will be taken during the month of August. The plants will be available for pickup on Sunday, September 20th. Please complete the order form with cash or check for the total due and place in the offering plate clearly marked "WELCA MUMS". Make checks payable to "Peace Lutheran Church" and write "WELCA MUMS" on the notation line.

Deadline for Orders is Sunday, August 30, 2026

Your Name: _____

Number of Plants: _____

Total Paid: _____

Paid Check # _____ **Paid Cash:** _____

Important upcoming dates and information…

Upcoming Date Saver …
Peace Craft Show & Marketplace

Peace Bulletin Board … Announcements

August Birthday Calendar at Peace

Happy Birthday to you!

8/1	Annabelle Neary
8/3	Sarah Neary
8/4	Addelyn Link
8/7	Nadine Scholl
8/10	Andy May
8/13	Tamara Hawthorne
8/14	Richard Miller
8/17	Madison Wilfong
8/23	Nancy Frank
8/27	Makenzie Wilfong
8/29	Michael Cygan
8/30	Dick Burkett
8/31	Herta Altner

Happy Birthday to you!

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

EVERTRUE™

One South Home Ave.
Topton, PA 19562
EverTrueLiving.org

June 22, 2026

Peace Lutheran Church
100 Old Bethlehem Rd
Perkasie, PA 18944-3716

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift to EverTrue. We received your gift of $25.00, Check #4459745900, to EverTrue East-Greatest Need on 6/22/2026. Your generosity helps to improve the lives of the older adults who rely on us for care, comfort, and dignity.

Your commitment helps ensure that we can meet the growing needs of older adults and support them in living as independently and joyfully as possible.

Every day, we witness the impact of your generosity through the smiles, the improved well-being, and the brighter futures of those we serve. The difference you are making is immeasurable, and we are so grateful to count you as part of our family of supporters.

Thank you for your devotion to our Christian mission – Older Adults Living Life to the Fullest.

Blessings,

Stacy Klann
Executive Director of Development
717-440-9855

P.S. If inclined, please visit https://etliving.org/story to share what EverTrue means to you and your motivation for supporting older adults. For questions, call Development Services at (314)262.8232.

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

gemma SERVICES | because you matter

June 22, 2026

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

Dear Pastor Costa,

We are very grateful for Peace Tohickon Lutheran Church's ongoing friendship and generosity! Thank you for the **donation of $350 (check dated June 8, 2026).** As directed, this gift will support our campership fund and assist Gemma in providing summer camp and recreational experiences for youth participating in our Family Foster Care program. Your support truly matters!

With the help of partners like our friends at Peace Tohickon, Gemma is able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they face life's challenges, heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, learn new skills, and work toward their goals. We would be happy to welcome any member of the congregation to visit Gemma and see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. Should you or the congregation be interested in exploring volunteer opportunities; please let us know. You can also learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting www.gemmaservices.org.

Thank you for being a part of the Gemma community! Together, we are working to create a world where every person knows they matter. Should you have any questions, wish to schedule a visit, or explore volunteering, please contact Lynn at 610-825-4440 ext. 3206 or Lunipan@gemmaservices.org. On behalf of all of us at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE
Chief Development & Communications Officer

Amanda Bryant
Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

KenCrest
Your Dreams. Our Mission.

June 26, 2026

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

Dear Pastor Costa,

Thank you for your generous gift of $85.00 (Check #4542676003) received on June 17, 2026.

This year marks KenCrest's 121st anniversary, and you are part of the incredible community of supporters who have helped make our work possible over the years. Your generosity builds on the legacy of our founders to make the world a better place for every person we serve.

Each of KenCrest's programs and services for individuals from birth through adulthood are designed to improve quality of life based on their personal desires, preferences and goals. Your gift helps ensure that every person can reach the highest level of independence and success possible.

Thank you again for your support and the part you play in the KenCrest community.

Sincerely,

Russ Stewart
Director of Community Philanthropy

We are so grateful for all that the Peace Tohickon family does to support KenCrest's communities! God Bless!

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

PENNRIDGE FISH
FELLOWSHIP IN SERVING HUMANITY
FOOD ♦ CLOTHING ♦ RESOURCES

July 6, 2026

C/o Randi Schaffer
Peace Lutheran Church
100 OLD BETHLEHEM ROAD
Perkasie, PA 18944

Dear Friends of FISH

Thank you for your generous gift of $100.00 received on June 29, 2026. Your support directly contributes to our ongoing efforts in the community.

Because of donors like you, we are able to continue our mission and create lasting impact in the Pennridge community by assisting close to 700 financially insecure families. Your generosity makes a real difference, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to our cause.

This letter serves as your official acknowledgement that no goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. Please keep this for your tax records.

Thank you again for your support.

Lori Zimmerman, president Pennridge FISH org

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear Dottie and the Peace Lutheran Church Family,

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the wonderful Peace church family who helped make this year's Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS very successful. I truly appreciate how dedicated everyone is to making VBS fun and a great learning experience for the children. Extra special thanks again to Dottie who is so kind in writing personal thank you notes to everyone & giving thoughtful theme related gifts to the volunteers! Kudos to the teams who set up & took down the decorations. You did an amazing job making my crazy vision come to life!

We gratefully acknowledge your generosity in paying for the VBS curriculum! Wow! My mind was blown away that $654 was raised for the Code Blue Shelter in Quakertown. You are an excellent host church partner! I look forward to our future joint VBS possibilities!

We can do all things through Jesus!
Barbara Nemecek
Barbara Nemecek AKA Ollie

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear Mrs. D. Ritter and the Finance Commitee/Faith & Fellowship,

Thank you so very much for the Generous Scholarship for the 2026/2027 School year. With how things have gone this past year this will be a massive help for my Junior year at Grove City College. I appreciate you generocity and thoughtfulness, and wish to Assure you that your contribution will lead to a beautiful outcome which will bring glory to God through my talents and education. I appreciate everything you have helped me achieve these past two years and pray for two more great years. Thank you again, you make a real difference.

- Nick Bonnett

Peace-Tohickon Evangelical Lutheran Church

OUR HISTORY

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