



December 1, 2023 | Volume 2023:12

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

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

A Message from Pastor Gary ...



Christmas Blessings

We live in a society where most people are doing everything they can to be happy in life. The world provides us with many things to cheer us up or change our mood. There are many forms of entertainment including sports, movies, and theater. As Christmas approaches, many will enjoy giving and receiving presents. We will decorate and cook. So much work will go into getting ready for the holiday. With it all, much remains out of our control.

We hope we will be at peace, that we will feel love, and that we will experience joy. In the world such things are conditional. They require the right combination of events and circumstances. Most of the pretense of the holidays is based in trying to manipulate our lives in such a way that we come up with the perfect formula. It doesn't always work, and even when it does to some degree, it may still lack the fulfillment we seek.

Only God can satisfy. He alone is our heart's desire.

May Christ be in your heart and your home this Christmas. May your peace be that which is beyond what the world can give. May the love you feel be complete. May your joy be in Jesus the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

Pastor Gary



Important upcoming dates ...

December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:30am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7pm-NA	4	5 1pm-WELCA Caroling @Telford Community 12:30pm-Meet @Peace to carpool	6 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:15am-Bells Rehearsal 7pm-NA	11	12 7pm- Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom	13 12Noon-Lunch Bunch & Movie @Peace 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Bells Rehearsal 8:15pm New Spirit Rehearsal	14 7pm Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	15	16 9am-Altar Guild- decorate Peace w/ poinsettias
17 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service + Christmas Play 9am-Sunday School 9am-New Spirit Rehearsal 11:15am-Peace Annual Meeting 7pm-NA	18	19 12Noon-WELCA Christmas Party @Nancy Grace's Home 7pm Church Council via Zoom	20 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Bells Rehearsal 8:15pm New Spirit Rehearsal	21 1st Day of Winter January Newsletter Deadline	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9am Worship Service 3pm+7pm- Christmas Season Services	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 9am-Lesson & Carols Worship Service 9am-Sunday School New Year's Eve						

Peace Bulletin Board ...

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Sunday, 12/3 – Nativity Scenes Displayed + Christmas Tree Giving Tree Gifts due + 9:30am Peace Choir Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 12/5 – WELCA Caroling @Telford Community
- Wednesday, 12/6 – 6:45pm New Spirit + 7:45pm Bells Rehearsals
- Sunday, 12/10 – 9:15am Bells Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 12/12 – 7pm Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 12/13 – 12Noon Lunch Bunch & Movie at Peace
- Wednesday, 12/13 – 6:45pm Peace Choir + 7:30pm Bells + 8:15pm New Spirit Rehearsals
- Thursday, 12/14 – Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
- Saturday, 12/16 – Altar Guild Decorate Peace with Poinsettias
- Sunday, 12/17 – 10:15am Christmas Pageant
- Sunday, 12/17 - 9am New Spirit Rehearsal + 11:15am Peace Annual Meeting
- Tuesday, 12/19 – 12Noon WELCA Christmas Party @Nancy Grace's Home
- Tuesday, 12/19 – 7pm Church Council Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 12/20 – 6:45pm Peace Choir + 7:30pm Bells + 8:15pm New Spirit Rehearsals
- Sunday, 12/24 – 9am Duet + 3pm All Choirs + Rich Spotts 30min prelude + 7pm All Choirs
- Monday, 12/25 – Merry Christmas – Church Office Closed
- Sunday, 12/31 – New Year's Eve



The Adult Discussion Group has been revived!

All are welcome to join the Adult Discussion Group during the Sunday School 9 o'clock hour in the Fellowship Hall. The discussion focuses on one of the daily devotionals that has sparked an interest in one or more of us. No prior knowledge or reading is required.

Please join us! It is always interesting to hear different points of view.



Date Saver . . . Lunch Bunch for December

Join the Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, December 13th, 12Noon at Peace for lunch and the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life". A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.



DATE SAVER ... The WELCA Christmas Party will be Tuesday, December 19th beginning at 12Noon. This event will be held at Nancy Grace's house. All are welcome!



Peace's Live Christmas Tree Donation

This year, as they have for the last several years, Barb & Bruce Bachman have purchased a live, 14-foot tree to place in the narthex of our church for the Christmas season. Volunteers will decorate the tree with homemade christmons (Christian symbols), as they have for many years.

At this season of giving, we are asking the congregation to make a donation to help cover the cost of this tree. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate in an envelope labeled "Christmas Tree Contribution", or given directly to Carole Brackman or the Bachman's.



Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 17th 10:15am

This year, the Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17th during the 10:15am worship service. Join us that day for a festive depiction of the story surrounding the birth of Jesus.



Christmas Giving Tree

The Sunday School classes and the Faith & Fellowship Committee will be providing Christmas gifts for the children of Gemma Services (formerly Silver Springs Martin Luther School) as their fellowship project for November. Please help us make Christmas happier for these children!

Please choose an ornament from the Christmas tree in the narthex and purchase the wish list idea found on the back or select a gift from the Gemma 2023 Gift Wish List.

This year they are also asking for gift cards to Amazon, Giant, Target, Walmart or VISA for the children's families to use for other holiday needs or wants.

Please bring your unwrapped gift or gift card to church by Sunday, December 3rd and place it under our Christmas Giving Tree. Gifts can also be dropped off during church office hours or on Sundays from 8am to 11:30am.

The Sunday School students of Peace thank you for your generosity in bringing joy and hope to Gemma.



Poinsettia Order Form

\$7.50 Each

Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please return this order form to the church office or place in the offering plate **as soon as possible**.

Sponsors are asked **not** to remove the poinsettia plants from the Sanctuary until after the late Christmas Eve Service. Thank you!

Paid: Check# _____

Quantity: _____

Paid: Cash \$ _____



We are currently working out of three pantries, St. Paul's UCC, Blooming Glen Mennonite Church and Souderton Brethren in Christ Church, serving a total of 250 children each week. Our pantry in the Green Room, serves 102 children every week! We serve West Rockhill Elementary, Deibler Elementary, South Middle School and Pennridge High School.

We have six different packing teams that rotate through a schedule filling the bags each week. We have four different delivery people who come each week and pick up the bins to deliver to the schools. Kevin gives his own time to break down all the cardboard and take out the trash every week!

We are still looking for donations of dry snacks to put in the bags such as Doritos, Potato Chips, Fritos, Pringles, etc. Those snacks are "extras" and very appreciated by our children. A typical weekend bag contains two breakfasts (such as oatmeal, a protein bar, fruit, dry cereal), two lunches (such as a can of beef ravioli, Rice-A-Roni, a can of soup, crackers, tuna or chicken salad) and two snacks (such as a granola bar, fruit, peanuts, popcorn). On a weekend that includes a day off or on a longer vacation, we supply enough food to cover all the days they are not in school.

Our food buyer works diligently to stretch our dollars. She shops with a BJs card that earns us points toward food at BJs. We buy most of our food at Sam's, Walmart, and Amazon. She has been able to keep the cost of a typical weekend bag to \$8/9. But that means we are spending around \$10,125/month.

So far, we have been totally funded by local churches, service organizations and individuals. We are beginning to seek business sponsorships and corporate sponsors for our first ever fundraising event coming to Sellersville on Sunday, April 28! Look for more details in January. In the meantime, if you work at a business or know of a business that would like to get involved, please have them email rampacks2019@gmail.com



December Birthday Calendar at Peace

Happy Birthday to you!

1	Grace Laird Forrest Ritter
4	Donald Penn, IV Cherie Vieczorek
5	Frank Stump
9	Gary Grim
10	Brandy French
14	Gary Grace Marcia Kramer Tanya Reiss
15	Carole Brackman Cheryl Saint-Pol
17	John Schoch
19	Daniel Horning
20	Debora Schoch
21	Diane Steiner
24	Thomas Smith
25	Carol Correll Doug Erney Bonnie Price
26	Cole Reiss
31	William Sparango



Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

October 31, 2023

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

Thank You

Dear Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$75.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear *Peace Lutheran Church,*

Date *11-9-23*

Thank you for your contribution of \$25.- to RamPacks in support of our mission to provide food on weekends and school holidays to children in the Penridge School District so they can come to school ready to learn. We truly appreciate your support of the children in the Penridge area.

Remember to check our website **RamPacks.com** and Facebook page to keep up with our progress toward the goal of serving all schools in the district.

Thankyou!

Sincerely



Telby Holtenbach
on behalf of

RamPacks

Provided with love from the Penridge Community



Wishing you and your family a restful,
reflective and joyful holiday and New Year.

Merry Christmas!!!

