



December 1, 2024 | Volume 2024:12

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

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

A Message from Pastor Gary ...



First Things First, Slow Down

It seems these days the joy of Christmas must penetrate our busy schedules and our hectic planning if it is going to find us at all.

We are a doing society; so much so, that we think something is wrong if we are not doing something.

We could do well by slowing down though and remembering what is most important.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you.” (Matt.6:33)

Wouldn't it be great if the joy of Christmas finds us first? At that point, our busyness would not be a burden at all. We would “whistle while we work.”

However, this may not be the sequence of things for you or me this year. So, amid it all we can take a moment, slow down and remember why we are doing what we are doing.

Jesus is the reason for the season. We do what we do to the glory of God and in celebration the love and joy that the Savior brings.

Amen

Pastor Gary



A Focus on a Peace Ministry

The Worship and Music Committee

By Melissa Yates and Jen Bara

The Worship and Music committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. via zoom.

The purpose of this group is to coordinate and facilitate the mechanics behind each worship service. The desired result is to provide a smooth-running and meaningful worship experience for each participant.

Groups under this umbrella include Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, the Altar Guild, all music groups, and the Live Stream team.

Assistants for worship

Assisting Ministers take part in reading the liturgy and assisting the pastor with the distribution of Communion.

Lectors reads the lessons of the day and lead the responsive reading of the Psalm.

Our Ushers greet each person, provide bulletins, and assist in seating as needed. They also record statistical information related to attendance, collect the offering, and guide the congregation to the communion rail. The ushers have eyes on the congregation, and can quickly provide a first aid kit, AED, or wheelchair if needed.

Greeters provide a warm welcome to each person entering the church.

Acolytes light and extinguish the candles and receive the offering plate from the usher. The acolyte will sometimes also act as a crucifer, processing and recessing with the cross.

The Altar Guild works behind the scenes and carries the responsibility for the placement of the paraments on the altar and pulpit, the setting up of the communion elements, and much of the beautification of the church.

The live stream team is responsible for recording the service for broadcasting through the church website and Facebook page, as well as monitoring the sound in the sanctuary.

Music

Jen Bara is our music director. She oversees the program, which includes

Senior Choir

New Spirit Ensemble

Bell Choir

Sunday School Choir

Special musical offerings such as vocal and instrumental solos and duets.

Jen also coordinates with the supply organist and works in tandem with the pastor in the selection and execution of the music for each service.

This committee covers a lot of ground. New committee members and volunteers for any of the categories are always welcome. Many hands really do make light work, and participation in the service can be very meaningful.

Contact Melissa Yates, Jen Bara, or any member of the Worship and Music Committee for more information or to volunteer.



These are just some of the many ministries that are part of Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church.

- WELCA
- Garden
- Greeters and Ushers
- Peace Council
- Outreach and Pavilion
- Faith & Fellowship
- Stewardship
- Music & Worship

If you are interested in learning more about any of these groups or would like information on other ways to get involved or serve, contact Pastor Gary Costa or the church office.

Important upcoming dates and information ...

December 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:30am-Solo TBD Rehearsal 7pm-NA	2	3 1:00PM-WELCA & Gary Schaeffer Caroling @Telford Community	4 7:00pm-New Spirit Rehearsal 8:00pm-Bells Rehearsal	5 7:00pm- Confirmation Class via Zoom	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:15am Bells Rehearsal 11:15am-Blood Pressure Check 7pm-NA	9	10 7:00pm-Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom	11 Lunch Bunch- Christmas in Philly 7:00pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	12 1:00pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom 7:00pm- Confirmation Class via Zoom	13	14
15 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service + Christmas Play 9am-Sunday School 9:00am-New Spirit Rehearsal 7pm-NA	16	17 12:00PM-WELCA Xmas Party @Nancy Grace's House 7:00pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	18 6:45pm-9:00pm All Choirs Rehearsals (specific times TBD)	19 7:00pm- Confirmation Class via Zoom	20 January Newsletter Deadline	21 1st Day of Winter 9:00am-Altar Guild-decorate Peace w/poinsettias
22 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:30am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 11:15am-Peace Annual Meeting 7pm-NA	23	24 Christmas Eve 3pm+7pm- Christmas Season Services-All Choirs at both services	25 Christmas Day 	26 Churh Office Closed No Confirmation Class	27	28
29 8:30am-Solo Rehearsal 9am Lessons & Carols Worship Service 9:00am-Sunday School 7:00pm-NA	30	31 New Year's Eve 				

Important upcoming dates and information...

Peace Bulletin Board ...

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Sunday, 12/1 – 9:30AM Music Solo Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 12/3 – 1:00PM WELCA and Gary Schaeffer Caroling @Telford Community
- Wednesday, 12/4 – 7:00PM New Spirit Rehearsal + 8:00AM Bells Rehearsal
- Thursday, 12/5 – 7:00PM Confirmation Class via Zoom
- Saturday, 12/7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Sunday, 12/8 – 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group + 9:15AM Bells Rehearsal + 11:15AM Blood Pressure Check
- Tuesday, 12/10 - 7:00PM Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 12/11 – Lunch Bunch Christmas in Philly + 7:00PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 8:00PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Thursday, 12/12 – 1:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom + 7:00PM Confirmation Class via Zoom
- Sunday, 12/15 – 10:15AM Christmas Pageant
- Tuesday, 12/17 – 12:00PM WELCA Christmas Party @Nancy Grace's Home + 7:00PM Church Council Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 12/18 – 6:45PM to 9:00PM – All Choirs Rehearsals (specific times TBD)
- Thursday, 12/19 – 7:00PM Confirmation Class via Zoom
- Friday, 12/20 – January 2025 Newsletter Deadline
- Saturday, 12/21 – 1st Day of Winter 2024-2025 + 9:00AM Altar Guild decorates Peace Church with poinsettias
- Sunday, 12/22 – 9:30AM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 11:15AM Peace Congregational Budget Meeting
- Tuesday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve
- Wednesday, 12/25 – Merry Christmas
- Thursday, 12/26 – Church Office Closed
- Sunday, 12/29 – 8:30AM Music Solo Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 12/31 – New Year's Eve

Important upcoming dates and information...



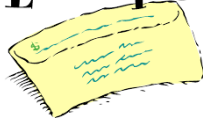
Adult Discussion Group

Join this Sunday's Adult Discussion Group at 9AM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be investigating the many names and titles of God and how they reflect His relationship with His people.

We have had many lively and interesting discussions in the past. Come join us. All are welcome. No prior knowledge or reading is needed, just an open mind. ~ Randi Schaeffer

Offering Envelopes



Special Designated Giving Envelopes

In the coming weeks, our special envelopes are designated for the following organizations:

- Advent Envelope – A Woman's Place
 - Christmas Envelope – Lutheran Disaster Relief
-



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

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

Important upcoming dates and information...



Blood Pressure Check Sunday, December 8th – 11:15AM

The Faith and Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a free blood pressure check at Peace Church. The checks will be held on the second Sunday of the month in the Library, after the 10:15AM worship service.

The December blood pressure check is scheduled for Sunday, December 8th. Marcia Hunter will be on duty to take members' blood pressures.

Please take advantage of this valuable screening.



Lunch Bunch ... Date Saver

A special Lunch Bunch event, Christmas in Philly, will take place on Wednesday, December 11th. Travel to Philadelphia via train from Lansdale (9:38AM) to Jefferson Station. Mike and Nancy Cygan will meet you at the station. Enjoy the unique sights and sounds of Christmas in Philadelphia; such as,

- Reading Terminal Market
- Macy's Christmas Light Show in The Grand Court
- Macy's Dickens Village (optional and need to pre-register -- <https://www.macys.com/s/holiday-celebrations/philadelphia>)
- Philly's iconic Christmas Village
- Mike & Nancy Cygan will host light snacks and beverages before your train return

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Questions: Contact Mike & Nancy Cygan.

Important upcoming dates and information...



DATE SAVER ... The WELCA Christmas Party will be Tuesday, December 17th beginning at 12Noon. This event will be held at Nancy Grace's house.

- Bring an appetizer or a dessert
- Bring a dozen cookies to be used during the Left, Right Game
- Bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange
- Bring a \$5 donation for the Lutheran Disaster Hurricane Response

All are welcome.



Altar Flower Sponsorships

The 2025 Altar Flower Chart is up and ready for your requests! The new flower chart for 2025 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 Elva Groff at 215-453-9005 or email her at pennridge45@yahoo.com to reserve your requests for 2025. Thank you for your continued support!

Important upcoming dates and information...



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 2024 Gift Wish List.

This year they are also asking for \$25 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 1st 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.



Martin Luther King Day of Service Fellowship Project

In preparation for Peace's first Martin Luther King Day of Service activity, our December/January fellowship project is to collect women's feminine hygiene products and toiletries. Please place your donations in the box in the narthex from December 15th through January 19th. Watch for more information in the weekly Sunday bulletins and the January newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of our charitable fellowship projects and achieving Peace's mission of caring for and serving others!



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
14	Gary Grace Marcia Kramer Tanya Reiss
15	Carole Brackman Cheryl Saint-Pol
17	John Schoch
20	Debora Schoch
21	Diane Steiner
24	Thomas Smith
25	Carol Correll Doug Erney Bonnie Price
26	Cole Reiss
31	Luke Erney



Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



Sunday, October 20, 2024

Receipt # 10696

Peace Lutheran Church
100 Old Bethlehem Rd.
Perkasie, PA 18944

Dear Donor,

Thank you for your donation of \$245.00 on 10/19/2024.

It is with your generous support that FISH is able to continue its outreach to those in need in the Pennridge community.

The entire amount of your gift represents a charitable donation: no goods or services were provided to you in return for your donation.

Sincerely,

Lori Rousche Zimmerman, MD, President
Pennridge FISH Organization, Inc.

Thank You!

Peace Church Members

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



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

November 19, 2024

Dear Friends at Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting Lutheran Settlement House and the children, adults, and families we serve. Your gift of \$90 spreads hope and joy, and helps our clients find safety, compassion, and healing. Your commitment makes a difference in people's lives, people like Devon.

Devon came to Lutheran Settlement House after leaving an abusive relationship. She was new to the city and looking for a community to help her heal from the abuse and chart a new course for her future. "I knew I needed to get my mental health in order to catapult forward." And catapult forward, she did. With support from her counselor and case manager, within a few months, Devon repaired her credit, created a resume, and found safe housing.

After Devon had a place to call home, she was able to focus on other goals, including her career. "I found that the people who helped me throughout my journey were the people I really wanted to be like. Because who I am today, I'm very, very proud of."

Today, Devon is a children's health case manager and member of Lutheran Settlement House's Survivor's Network where she uses her experience to educate healthcare providers, researchers, and students about domestic violence.

Helping people define their future is at the heart of our work. As a donor, you remind our clients that in the most vulnerable moments of their lives, they are not alone. Thank you for being there for Lutheran Settlement House; we are honored to have you as part of our family.

Sincerely,


David Chiles
Executive Director

Thank you! This is your 21st gift over 8 years. We're so grateful for your faithful commitment to the people we serve.

For Tax Purposes: No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Lutheran Settlement House is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN 23-1352365.

PS: Want to learn more about our work? Write to me at dchiles@lshphilly.org to schedule a tour or invite us to speak at your business, place of worship, school, or community group!

**Community.
Compassion.
Change.**

1340 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19125

215.426.8610
www.lutheransettlement.org



Wishing you and your family all the joy,
peace and love this time of year brings.

Merry Christmas