



January 1, 2024 | Volume 2024:1

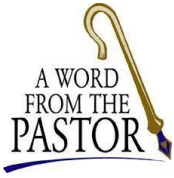
Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

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

A Message from Pastor Gary ...



What Now?

Christmas has come and gone. Whatever anxiety we may have had about it has been resolved. We gave and received gifts. We had our Christmas feast. Christmas for most of us has been an event. In fact, if we look to the gospel of Luke chapter 2, we will see Christmas portrayed as just that.

The gospel of John is different though. “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.” John 1:1. Also consider, “the word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14.

Gail O’Day indicates that these verses point out an intersection between the eternal world and the temporal world. Jesus is God and yet Jesus is human. Jesus dwells with God yet Jesus dwells with us. For John, Christmas is not an event but the reality of God with us and His impact on our world and our lives. To that end, as Brian Stoffregen has said, the real Christmas starts when the angel’s song is over, when the star is no longer seen, when the shepherds and the wise men have returned home.

What now? Now we live our lives with Emmanuel, God with us, as our guide.

Pastor Gary

Important upcoming dates . . .

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9am-Lesson & Carols Worship Service 9am-Sunday School New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 7pm-NA	8	9 1pm-WELCA Meeting 7pm-Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom	10 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	11 7pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	12	13
14 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 7pm-NA	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Federal Holiday	16 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	17 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 11:15am-Faith & Fellowship Meeting 7pm-NA	22 February Newsletter Deadline	23	24 6:45p-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 7pm-NA	29	30	31 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal			

Important upcoming dates ...

Peace Bulletin Board ...

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Sunday, 12/31/23 – 9:00am Lessons and Carols
- Monday, 1/1 – New Year's Day – Peace Office Closed
- Wednesday, 1/3 – 6:45pm Peace Choir + 7:45pm New Spirit Rehearsals
- Tuesday, 1/9 – 1pm - WELCA Meeting @Peace + 7pm – Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 1/10 – 6:45pm Peace Choir + 7:45pm Bells Rehearsals
- Thursday, 1/11 – 7pm – Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
- Monday, 1/15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Federal Holiday
- Tuesday, 1/16 – 7pm – Church Council Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 1/17 – 6:45pm New Spirit + 7:45pm Bells Rehearsals
- Sunday, 1/21 – 11:15am – Faith & Fellowship Committee Meeting @Primary Classroom
- Wednesday, 1/24 – 6:45pm Peace Choir + 7:45pm Bells Rehearsals
- Wednesday, 1/31 – 6:45pm Peace Choir + 7:45pm New Spirit Rehearsals



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. These discussions focus 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.



The 1st WELCA meeting of 2024 will be held on Tuesday, January 9th at 1:00PM in Fellowship Hall at Peace. Come and enjoy playing some fun games and singing beautiful hymns. All are welcome!

Important upcoming dates ...



ELCA 'Good Gifts' Tree

This month's Sunday School fellowship project is supporting the ELCA Good Gifts program. By contributing to this project, we share God's love with others here in our country or around the world by providing:

- farm animals
- safe drinking water
- farming equipment
- training
- seeds
- medical supplies
- food for hungry children
- soup kitchens
- supplies for growing churches
- education for children who cannot afford to go to school.

Our students will choose which Good Gifts to support with your contributions given during the month of January.

A "Good Gifts" envelope can be found in the narthex for your gifts.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our Sunday School fellowship projects!

May you be blessed with a Happy and Healthy 2024!



January Birthday Calendar at Peace

Happy Birthday to you!

1	Eli Benner
2	Donna Donelon
3	Madelyn Gerth
10	Donna Lemon
12	Nick Erney Eric French
13	Dorrie Daikeler
14	James McKenzie James Michener
18	Julie Caporaletti Gary Schaeffer
21	Jack Woehr
24	Scott Schneider
25	Chip Kramer
30	Zachary Schoch
31	Sally Greer



Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

A thank you note from Elaine Sebastian ~

Also, thanks to
WELCA for their
many cards.

Thanks again
to
all

Sincerely,
Elaine
Sebastian

Pastor Gary,

I thank you so much
for delivering the Advent
Calendars for Doris Walters
and Elaine Sebastian to
Brundy House on Tuesday.

We really appreciate
Peace - Schickel Church
people for caring.

Nancy Cygan and
Linda Horst bring us
communion, which is a
real blessing to us. They
are really special to us.

Thank You!

Peace Church Members

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

A thank you note from Lutheran World Relief ~



May the Good News of Jesus
reside in your heart this Advent.

Dear Pastor Gary,

We are so grateful for the love you share with our neighbors in need around the world. May this Advent season bring you peace and joy.

In gratitude,
Emma Wagner

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

December 5, 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 \$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:



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

December 1, 2023

Dear Friends at Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting Lutheran Settlement House and the children, adults, and families we serve. Your gift of \$120 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 for supporting those
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!

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



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

December 12, 2023

Dear Friends at Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting Lutheran Settlement House and the children, adults, and families we serve. Your gift of \$10 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.

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Sincerely,



David Chiles
Executive Director

*Thank you for continuing to
help those we serve!*

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

A thank you note from The Welcome Church of Philadelphia, God's Work. Our Hands.



November 2023

Dear Friends at Peace,

Thank you for the amazing backpacks you put together for our most vulnerable people. They have been distributed to those living on the street in Center City, but also to folks in the Kensington area of the city. As you may know, Kensington is one of the areas of most need especially due to the high volume of drug sales and addiction.

We are all truly God's hands and feet. The Welcome Church is grateful to have you be the hands and feet of our gracious God right here in Philadelphia.

With gratitude,
Pastor Violet Little

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

Date 12-11-23

Thank you for your contribution of \$ 30.- to RamPacks in support of our mission to provide food on weekends and school holidays to children in the Pennridge School District so they can come to school ready to learn. We truly appreciate your support of the children in the Pennridge 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.

Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Lebby Holkebach
on behalf of
RamPacks
Provided with love from the Pennridge Community

The collage features 12 distinct Christmas-themed displays:

- Top Left:** A small, dark wooden nativity scene with figures and sheep, set against a stained glass window with text like "SICK", "WAS IN PRISON", and "CAME TO ME".
- Top Center:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Top Right:** A dark wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Middle Left:** A large, ornate Christmas tree on a stand, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Middle Center:** A large church altar with a nativity scene, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Middle Right:** A white ceramic nativity scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Bottom Left:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Bottom Center:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Bottom Right:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Bottom Far Left:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Bottom Far Right:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".
- Bottom Far Bottom:** A wooden stable scene with figures and sheep, labeled "BRIDGE BARNHARTS 'Christmas Around the World'".