



January 1, 2026 | Volume 2026:1

# Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter

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## Highlights:

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

# Peace-Tohickon Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *OUR HISTORY*



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



## **A Message from Pastor Gary ...**

### **The Winter of Our Lives**

The calendar is about to roll over again. “Time like an ever-rolling stream bears all our years away.” (Isaac Watts) Time is relentless and as the years go on, we realize that we are not.

We wake up in the morning and ask the question, what am I working with today? The hip, the knee, the shoulder, and the back are all susceptible to failing. That’s just the orthopedic failures that we can experience. Even more, how many heart beats do I have left? How many breaths do I have left? Will my memory and focus fail me to the point of my demise?

I know this sounds morbid, more so to younger people than to those of us who have many decades behind us. It sounds less morbid to those of us who know that the best years of our lives are behind us.

“Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older too. The chill set in a little colder; the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.” (William Gay)

As Psalm 23 indicates, we live in the shadow of death.

But could it be possible for the believer that the best is yet to come?

Could it be possible that the shadow of death will give way to a brilliant ray of light? Christ is our light.

“Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.”

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.” (Bernadette Farrell)

Pastor Gary

# Important upcoming dates and information

January 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b>  Church Office Closed  No Confirmation Class	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				<b>4</b> 8:15am+ 10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group TBD-Music Rehearsals 7pm-NA	<b>5</b> Epiphany	<b>6</b> 1pm-WELCA Meeting @Peace
<b>11</b> 8:15am+ 10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group TBD-Music Rehearsals 7pm-NA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30pm-Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom	<b>14</b> TBD-Music Rehearsals	<b>15</b> 1pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom  7:30pm – Confirmation Classe via Zoom	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group 10:15am-New Spirit Worship TBD-Music Rehearsals 7pm-NA	<b>19</b> <b>Martin            Luther King            Jr. Day            (Federal            Holiday)</b>  1:00PM-3:00PM MLK Project @Peace	<b>20</b> 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	<b>21</b> TBD-Music Rehearsals	<b>22</b> <b>February            Newsletter            Deadline</b>  7:30pm – Confirmation Classe via Zoom	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8:15am+ 10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group TBD-Music Rehearsals 7pm-NA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> TBD-Music Rehearsals	<b>29</b> 7:30pm – Confirmation Classe via Zoom	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# Important upcoming dates and information...

## Peace Bulletin Board ... January

### Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Thursday, 1/1/2026 – New Year’s Day + Church Office Closed + No Confirmation Class
- Sunday, 1/4 – 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group
- Tuesday, 1/6 – 1:00pm WELCA Meeting @ Peace
- Sunday, 1/11 - 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group
- Tuesday, 1/13 – 7:30PM Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom
- Thursday, 1/15 – 1:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom + 7:30PM Confirmation Class via Zoom
- Sunday, 1/18 – 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group
- Monday, 1/19 – MLK Day + 1:00PM to 3:00PM MLK Project @Peace
- Tuesday, 1/20 – Church Council Meeting
- Thursday, 1/22 – 7:30PM Confirmation Class via Zoom + February Newsletter Deadline
- Sunday, 1/25 - 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group
- Thursday, 1/29 – 7:30PM Confirmation Class via Zoom



# Important upcoming dates and information...

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## 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 Elva Groff at 215-453-9005 or email her at pennridge45@yahoo.com to reserve your requests for 2026. Thank you for your continued support!

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## 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.

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## Martin Luther King Day of Service Activities Monday, January 19, 2026 – 1:00PM to 3:00PM at Peace Church

Once again, we will be collecting and packing feminine hygiene kits for the homeless, to be sent to the Welcome Church in Philadelphia.

Donations of sanitary pads, tampons [both unscented] and Wet Ones travel packs [not jumbo] are welcome and can be placed in the coatroom.

There will be a service project for confirmands.

We are still looking for additional activities for this day. Please contact Melissa Yates with suggestions.

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## Important upcoming dates and information...

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*Ladies:*  
**Save The Date!**

### *IF: One Night*

Friday, February 27, 2026

6:00-10:00pm

#### **Hosted at Lenape Valley Church**

321 W. Butler Ave., New Britain, PA

Join us for a spirit-filled night of worship, prayer, singing and teaching to inspire and deepen your faith.

We will join women from around the country as we simulcast the *IF Gathering* in Dallas, TX.

Speakers for the evening include: Jennie Allen, Francis Chan, Christine Caine, and others.

In a world divided, this is a night for women to come together, across denominational lines, to celebrate the faith we have in Jesus the Christ.

For more information **and to sign up** to attend the simulcast at Lenape Valley Church, visit the *IF* website:

<https://www.ifgathering.com>

Light refreshments will be provided.


Closed Captioning will be shown on the screens.

Questions: Contact Kathy Johnson 267-471-1455

[k.johnson.msw@outlook.com](mailto:k.johnson.msw@outlook.com)

## Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January Birthday Calendar at Peace</b> <i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>
1/2	Donna Donelon
1/3	Madelyn Gerth
1/10	Donna Lemon
1/12	Nick Emey Eric French
1/13	Dorrie Daikeler
1/16	Weston Reiss
1/17	Avery Burkett
1/18	Gary Schaeffer
1/25	Chip Kramer
1/28	Elizabeth Thomas
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>	

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

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**Lutheran  
Settlement  
House**

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

December 3, 2025

Dear Friends at Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for supporting Lutheran Settlement House and the children, adults, and families we serve. Your gift of \$376.34 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Chiles".

David Chiles  
Executive Director

*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](mailto: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](http://www.lutheransettlement.org)

*This is your 23<sup>rd</sup> S. Ft, which is amazing! Thank you for your faithful support! I hope your Christmas is full of joy.*

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

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Philanthropy Department  
960A Harvest Drive, Suite 100  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
610-825-9360  
www.kencrest.org



December 3, 2025

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 \$251.34 to KenCrest on behalf of Slozer Bequest.

This year marks KenCrest's 120th 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 THE  
SUPPORT OF THE PEACE LUTHERAN  
CONGREGATION - THANK YOU SO  
MUCH FOR LOVING THE AMAZING  
FOLKS IN THE KENCREST FAMILY!  
GOD BLESS!

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

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

December 4, 2025

*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.

*"From [Christ's] fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."*

-John 1:16

As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. Drawn together and guided by the Holy Spirit, we accomplish together what none of us could do alone, grace upon grace.

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 and education, and it advances peace and justice for all people. Through your gifts, you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,

*Daniel Rift*

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Congregational Generosity

**Gift date: 11/20/2025**

**Gifts are designated for:**

ELCA World Hunger

**\$75.00**

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

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Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

DATE 12-8-25

Thank you for your contribution of \$2222.00 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!! :)

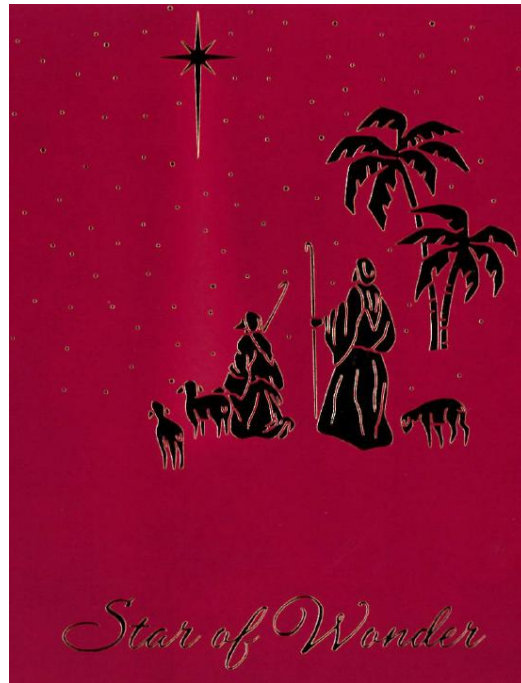
Sincerely,



Lizzy Hellenbach  
on behalf of  
**RamPacks**  
Provided with love from the Pennridge Community

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

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*Dear Peace Lutheran Congregation,*

*May God's love shine  
on you this Christmas.*

*Sincerely,  
Donna Huff,  
on behalf of the  
RamPacks Board*

*Thank you for your ongoing  
prayers and financial support.*

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

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December 9, 2025

Dottie Ritter  
Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church  
100 Old Bethlehem Road  
Perkasie, PA 18944-3716

Dear Dottie,

Thank you for your generous donation to Gemma Services this holiday season! We have received and are grateful for your **donation of (5) \$25 Giant gift cards, (1) \$25 Walmart gift card, (1) \$25 Visa gift card, (1) \$25 Amazon gift card, and (5) \$25 Target gifts cards as well as a collection of gifts including sports balls, hygiene products, art sets, games, stuffed animals, puzzles, and more (received on December 3, 2025).** Your gifts will help create holiday joy for the children and families who participate in Gemma's programs this year.


Thank you for joining with Gemma to make special holiday memories possible for youth and families in our local communities! Your friendship truly matters. With your help, we are able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families through life's challenges each year.

We would welcome you to visit one of Gemma's locations to see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. We would also be happy to explore ways that you might become more involved in our work, such as through volunteering or serving on a committee. Please let us know if you are interested in learning more!

Should you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit or explore becoming further involved in our work, please contact me at 610-825-4440 ext. 3307 or [Abryant@gemmaservices.org](mailto:Abryant@gemmaservices.org). On behalf of the youth and families we are honored to assist, thank you!

With Appreciation,

  
Amanda Bryant  
Director of Donor and  
Volunteer Engagement

*We appreciate  
all the wonderful  
elves at Peace!*  


  
Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE  
Chief Development and  
Communications Officer

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

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**EVERTRUE™**

One South Home Ave.  
Topton, PA 19562

[EverTrueLiving.org](http://EverTrueLiving.org)

December 10, 2025

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 \$251.34 to EverTrue (formerly Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries) on 12/10/2025. 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

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

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CELEBRATING  
THE BLESSING YOU ARE  
WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

(Liberty Lutheran)

*Thank you*  
*for your gift of \$ 251.34 on Nov. 24, 2025*

Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope.

Gratefully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Menzo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia Menzo, Director of Community Outreach



Lutheran  
Congregational  
Services

2354 Grove Road  
Allentown, PA 18109