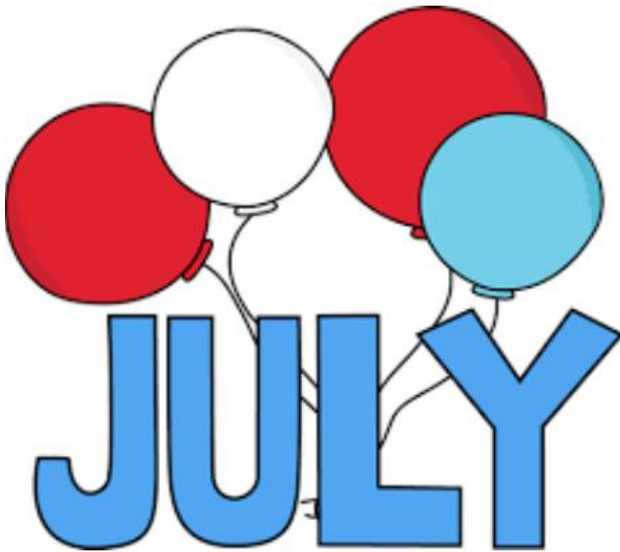




July 1, 2023 | Volume 2023:7

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

- Peace Church Newsletter
- A Message from the Pastor
- Council Corner
- Peace Calendar
- Peace Bulletin Board
- July Birthdays
- Thank You Notes

A Message from Pastor Gary ...



Miracles and Miracle Busters

One way that we can witness or be part of God's miraculous work is to be connected to that work, directly or indirectly participating in it. God's work can almost always be categorized as creating, saving, healing, or restoring. In our minds it seems to qualify as a miracle because the event is thought to be impossible, or its occurrence has such a low probability that it borders on the impossible.

For example, let's suppose you have an acquaintance that you haven't thought about or spoken to in several years. You wake up one morning and realize that you owe this person an apology. You go to the airport to pick someone up and you run into this person. Such a thing is not impossible, but the probability of your thoughts and this chance encounter happening on the same day is so low, that it borders on the impossible. It's a miracle.

However, beware of miracle busters. Miracle busters are events that attempt to rob you of a healing or restoring opportunity. Continuing with our example, just before you get a chance to speak with this person, someone bumps into you and is very rude and inappropriate. You're now upset. Or right after you speak to this person and experience fulfillment and wellbeing, you begin to think that maybe the issue was their fault and they should have apologized to you.

"The thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) If we are to participate in God's miraculous work, there will be miracle busters. Notice how in one scenario it happens right before and in the other scenario it happens right after. Also notice that neither of the miracle busters have any real substance in and of themselves. They can simply be dismissed by the mind and they will disappear. Here's why, they only happened either to break your spirit so you wouldn't do God's work, or to challenge you from believing that you had just done God's work. They are miracle busters or in Biblical terms, persecution. If we are going to be agents of God in the world, doing His work, then we are going to have to get use to this. With some practice we can learn to dismiss these things even while they are happening. Beware though; the devil knows how to get your attention. Miracle busters will seem fiery as long as you entertain them. The busters often come in the form of hurt feelings. Let these things go and focus on the mission of God's creative, redemptive, restorative work in the world.

Pastor Gary

Council Corner ...



Council Corner – June 2023

If someone asked me to describe June’s Council meeting, I’d say it was productive, upbeat and focused! Early in the meeting, we had a chance to discuss some of our community and volunteer efforts including the Peace Garden, Ram Packs and of course, the recent Craft Fair. It is heartening to see how engaged we are and it’s even better to know that all of these things benefit others. I’d like to take a moment to thank everyone who contributes – in big or small ways – to these efforts.

We are getting ready for our summer season including a new worship schedule, the return of outdoor services and VBS. Some of our groups are on summer break, like Sunday School and WELCA, and even Council gets a bit of a reprieve. We will not have a Council meeting in July but will continue with our normal, monthly cadence in August.



That’s it for now! You’ll hear from me again in August. Until then, enjoy the summer.

Best,
Heidi Gerth
Council President

Important upcoming dates ...

July 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	3	4 Independence Day 	5	6	7	8
9 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	10	11	12 7pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 9am- New Spirit Worship @Pavilion 7pm-NA	17 6:00pm to 8:15pm Vacation Bible School @Peace	18 6:00pm to 8:15pm Vacation Bible School @Peace	19 6:00pm to 8:15pm Vacation Bible School @Peace	20 6:00pm to 8:15pm Vacation Bible School @Peace	21	22
23 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	24	25	26	27 August Newsletter Deadline	28	29 12pm-5pm Private Party @Pavilion
30 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	31					

Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements

<p>Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 - Summer Worship Services begins @9:00am • Tuesday, July 4th – Independence Day (Church office closed) • Wednesday, July 12th – New Spirit Rehearsal • Sunday, July 16th @9:00am – New Spirit Service in the Peace Pavilion • Monday, July 17th to Thursday, July 20th, 6:00 to 8:15pm, Vacation Bible School • Thursday, July 20th @6:00pm – VBS Dinner and Closing Program – All Invited • Thursday, July 27th – August Newsletter Deadline • Saturday, July 29th, 12pm to 5pm – Pavilion Rental 	
	<p>The Peace Garden Update!</p> <p>The current amount of produce given to Pennridge FISH is 21.8 pounds.</p> <p>If you have extra tomato cages, the garden needs 8 more cages. Please drop them off at the garden. Thank you for your help.</p>
	<p>Faith and Fellowship News</p> <p>The Faith and Fellowship community support project for July and August is to collect monetary gifts to support RamPacks. RamPacks' mission is to supply students in the Pennridge School District, who face food insecurities with breakfasts, lunches, and snacks on weekends during the school year. Approximately 1 in 4 students in elementary through high school receive free or reduced rate breakfasts and lunches during the week, but who are at risk to have little to eat over the weekends and holidays. Your gifts go directly to RamPacks to purchase foods for weekly distribution to the children throughout the school year.</p> <p>Special RamPacks envelopes are available in the Narthex for your kind and much appreciated donations to this community outreach!</p>

Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements



PEACE &
ST. MICHAEL'S

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates: Mon, July 17 – Thur, July 20
Time: 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm
Ages: Children 3yrs to 12yrs

COKESBURY'S VBS
**HERO
CENTRAL**
Discover Your Strength in God!

peace-tohickon.org



CALLING ALL YOUNG HEROES

Join us for an exciting adventure at
Peace Tohickon Lutheran Church
Hero Central!



Prepare for an unforgettable week filled with heroic fun, amazing stories, and faith-building experiences.

We will be taking kids on an awesome adventure alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discovering the qualities that make all of us truly heroic in God's eyes. Whether your child is a long-time churchgoer or new to faith, our VBS is designed to create a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can learn and grow!

Contact

Peace: Dottie Ritter, dmritter4@gmail.com, 215-896-3095

St. Michael's: Barb Nemecek, banemecek@comcast.net, 215-257-1075

Hosts: Peace Tohickon & St. Michael's

Location: 100 Old Bethlehem Road,
Perkasie, PA 18944

A simple dinner will be served for the young heroes from 6-6:15 and then onto Bible stories & activities, crafts, games, and music.



SCAN
QR CODE
or visit
peace-tohickon.org

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

Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements



July Birthday Calendar at Peace

3	Jackie Balogh
4	John Caporaletti Jensen Vieczorek
5	Chelsea Wrigley
6	Elaine Miller Molly Putnick
7	Lilli Benner
8	Bonnie Beck
9	Garry Engelmann Laura Sipes
10	Courtney Heverly
12	Kelly Marascio
13	Rev. Gary Costa Elizabeth Anders William Scheetz
14	Michele Pester
15	Grace Lloyd Alexis Shanley
16	Flint Engelmann Graham Vieczorek
18	Gale Bryde Samantha Pollick
19	Lauren Hockel Trish Scheetz
20	Julie Londino
21	Melissa Yates
24	Tina Schlosser
25	Elva Groff Nate Ritter
26	Blake Eisenhart
27	Gordon Benner
28	Lori Harris Sophia Hughes
31	Jennifer Engelmann Jennifer Flodin Sandra Horning
<i>Have a fabulous birthday!</i>	

We apologize for any names that may have been missed.
Please notify the church office for any additions or corrections.

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

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters to Us:



Fund Development
960A Harvest Drive, Suite 100
Blue Bell, PA 19422
p: 610-825-9360 f: 610-825-8736
fund.development@kencrest.org
KenCrest.org

May 30, 2023

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

Dear Pastor Costa,

Thank you for being a hero in the KenCrest community. Your donation of \$90.00, received on 5/18/2023, supports KenCrest's mission of exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources, and empowering dreams.

With programs for children and adults serving over 12,500 individuals and families across Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut, there's no shortage of opportunities for the KenCrest family to reach higher. **Your investment in KenCrest ensures that we are able to include, engage, and enrich every life we touch.** You are helping to turn dreams into reality, hopes into happiness, and innovation into excellence.

We are grateful to have supporters like you who will help us care and boldly advocate for everyone in our community. **Thank you for your generosity, and for embracing KenCrest's mission as your own.**

With appreciation,

Russ Stewart
Director of Development

THANK YOU TO THE ENTIRE
PEACE LUTHERAN FOR YOUR SUPPORT
AND FOR HELPING TO BUILD
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES!

Official tax receipt. No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.

