



July 1, 2026 | Volume 2026:7

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

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



Confirmation Celebration at Peace Church

Sunday, May 31, 2026



Heartfelt congratulations to Luke Erney, C.J. Thomas and Weston Ritter on their Confirmation! The entire church community celebrates your commitment to your faith.



A Message from Pastor Gary ...

Keep Going

Recently I came across a story that really got my attention. It's called "The Famous Fog Story." Florence Chadwick, the legendary open water long distance swimmer (1918-1995), was attempting to swim from Catalina Island to the California mainland coast. She swam sixteen hours through freezing cold water and dense fog. Blinded by the fog and unable to see the coastline she gave up and got into the support boat. She quickly learned that she was less than a half mile from the shore. Her quote became famous. "I'm not excusing myself, but if I could have seen the land, I might have made it."

There are times in life when we realize that if we had just kept at it a little longer, we would have achieved our goal. It is discouraging and heart breaking to have given up right before our breakthrough. We couldn't see it though. The fog was too thick. We were too tired, wearied by the struggle. Through it all, we learn to keep going by faith not sight. It's a tough lesson to learn.

Two months after Chadwick's failed attempt, she got back in the water under the same conditions. Although she couldn't see the shoreline she made it. In fact, she made the swim in thirteen hours and forty-seven minutes, shaving over two hours off the existing men's record!

Pastor Gary

Important upcoming dates and information...

July 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day 
			5 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	6	7	8
12 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	13	14	15 8:15pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	16	17	18
<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px;"> Vacation Bible School ~ Snowball Mountain Challenge Monday, July 13th to Thursday, July 16th ~ 6:00PM to 8:15PM </div>						
19 8am-New Spirit Rehearsal 9am-New Spirit Worship @Pavilion 10am-Altar Guild Meeting @Library 7pm-NA	20	21	22	23	24 August Newsletter Deadline	25
26 9am-Worship 10am-Faith&Fellowship Meeting @Primary Room 7pm-NA	27	28	29 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	30	31	

Important upcoming dates and information...

Peace Bulletin Board ... July

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Wednesday, 7/1 – 6:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Friday, 7/3 – Church Office Closed
- Saturday, 7/4 – Independence Day – 250 Years
- Monday, 7/13 to Thursday, 7/16 – 6:00PM to 8:15PM – Vacation Bible School @Peace
- Wednesday, 7/15 – 8:15PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Sunday, 7/19 – 8:00AM New Spirit Rehearsal + 10:00AM Altar Guild Meeting @Library
- Friday, 7/24 – **August Newsletter Deadline**
- Sunday, 7/26 – 10:00AM Faith & Fellowship Meeting @Primary Room
- Wednesday, 7/29 – 6:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal



Important upcoming dates and information...



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 Cheryl Saint-Pol at 267-664-8140 or email her at ccsaint@verizon.net reserve your requests for 2026.

Thank you for your continued support!



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.



Outdoor Service: Can you lend a hand?

During the warm months our church has an outdoor service in the pavilion on the third Sunday of the month. We all enjoy this service. However, setting up the equipment, chairs, tables, and altar requires some work.

We are looking for a volunteer or two who are willing to arrive early on an outdoor service Sunday, to help with the setup.

We will need volunteers on:

Sunday, July 19	Please arrive at 7:30am
Sunday, August 16	Please arrive at 7:30am
Sunday, September 20	Please arrive at 8:30am

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please sign up, if you are willing to help on any of these three dates. Thank you.

Important upcoming dates and information...



Altar Guild Seeking Volunteers

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers. The responsibilities include:

- setting up communion for 10:15AM worship service, two separate months per year
- helping with decorating the Church for holidays such as Easter, Christmas, etc.

No experience is necessary. We will provide "on the job training".

An Altar Guild meeting is planned for Sunday, July 19th @10AM in the Library.
All are welcome to attend.

Please contact Cheryl Saint-Pol at cssaint@verizon.net, if interested.



The Peace Garden

The Peace Garden has been planted and has already produced weekly harvest and crops for Pennridge FISH; such as, lettuce, radishes, onions and broccoli. Our Peace Garden helpers are always ready to work the garden.

Please feel free to check out the Peace Garden.

Important upcoming dates and information...

Date Savers for the Summer of 2026 ...

Summer Worship Services will be from Sunday, June 21st to Sunday, September 6th starting at 9:00AM.

Rally Day, Sunday, September 13th, will resume the regular worship services times (8:15AM and 10:15AM).

Peace Outdoor New Spirit Services will be held in the Peace Pavilion on the following dates:

- Sunday, July 19th @ 9:00AM
- Sunday, August 16th @9:00AM
- Sunday, September 20th @10:15AM (Blessing of the Animals)

Chairs will be provided; however, if you have your own chair (i.e., camper chair), please feel free to bring it with you on these days.

Vacation Bible School – Peace and St Michael’s will be hosting VBS at Peace this summer.

- Program theme – Snowball Mountain Challenge
- Dates: Monday, July 13th to Thursday, July 16th
- Time: 6:00pm to 8:15pm
- Children ages 3yrs to 12yrs

Watch for additional information about registration.

VBS helpers are needed. Contact Mrs. Dottie Ritter at dmritter4@gmail.com



Important upcoming dates and information...

Peace Fellowship Project for July



The Peace Fellowship Project for July is to collect school supplies for Pennridge FISH. In early August, Pennridge FISH fills backpacks with the necessary school supplies that will be needed by the students in the Pennridge School District.

Items that will be needed are:

Binders	Headphones
Black Sharpie markers	Highlighters
Blue, black, red pens	Index cards
College-ruled composition book	Pencil sharpeners
College-ruled notebook paper	Pencil top erasers
Crayola colored pencils	Plastic folders with clasp
Crayola Markers broad and thin	Plastic folders without clasp
Dividers	Pointed scissors (secondary)
Dry erase markers (non-toxic)	Post-It notes
Earbuds	Primary composition books
Flash drive	School bags with laptop sleeves
Glue sticks	Stylus
Hands sanitizers (alcohol-free)	Wedge erasers

If you wish to purchase these items via Amazon, here is an Amazon wish list weblink to use for ordering.
<https://a.co/6Xa52Yx>

The deadline for bringing these supplies to Peace Church is July 26th.

Thank you for your help in giving these students a great start to their new school year.



Important upcoming dates and information...

DATE SAVER

Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 13th to Thursday, July 16th
6:00PM to 8:15PM



Vacation Bible School will be held at Peace again this year with Saint Michael's Lutheran Church during the evenings of Monday, July 13th through Thursday, July 16th, from 6:00PM to 8:15PM for children ages 3 to 12 years old.


Our program is entitled Snowball Mountain Challenge, with a winter challenge theme. Through Bible stories of courage and hope, lively music, fun crafts and challenging games, our students will learn to draw strength from their faith in God, illustrated by our theme verse, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me". Philippians 4:13

Invite the children of your family, neighborhood and community to attend our VBS and watch them find their strength in God!

Volunteers are needed to help the children of our community have a fun faith-building VBS experience.

Call Peace: Dottie Ritter, dmritter4@gmail.com, 215-896-3095 or
St. Michael's: Barb Nemecek, banemecek@comcast.net, 215-257-1075,
for more information and/or volunteer.

Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements

	<p style="text-align: center;">July Birthday Calendar at Peace <i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>
7/4	Jensen Vieczorek
7/5	Chelsea Wrigley
7/6	Elaine Miller
7/9	Garry Engelmann
7/10	Courtney James
7/13	Elizabeth Anders Rev. Gary Costa William Scheetz
7/15	Grace Lloyd
7/16	Graham Vieczorek
7/18	Gale Bryde
7/19	Trish Scheetz
7/21	Melissa Yates
7/25	Elva Groff Nate Ritter
7/26	Blake Eisenhart
<p><i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>	



Peace-Tohickon Evangelical Lutheran Church

OUR HISTORY



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