



June 1, 2026 | Volume 2026:6

# Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter

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## Highlights:

- Peace Church Newsletter
- A Message from the Pastor
- Peace June 2026 Calendar
- Peace Bulletin Board
- June 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 ...**

### **Preparing for the Long Green Season**

We enter the Season After Pentecost, sometimes referred to as Ordinary Time, and sometimes referred to as The Long Green Season. Ordinary Time refers to the time in which the church studies the many and varied stories of Jesus. This year they will mostly come from the gospel of Matthew. The Long Green Season is a pairing of sorts that encompasses the fact that it takes place in summer and that the liturgical color is green.

Summer is the time when most people take vacations. The weather is warm. Our schedules are not as busy as they are at other times of the year. It is easy to slip into a false sense of security thinking that life will be slow and easy.

In reality, we know that Fall will come and then winter and then winter as well. This is symbolic of life itself. Our lives can be experienced as Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. We experience life as children & youth, as adults in the prime of our lives, as adults who realize our best days are behind us, and as seniors whose thoughts are dominated by the hope and promise of eternal life.

The Long Green Season goes by quickly. Summer goes by quickly. "So, teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." (Ps.90:12) Fall will come and then winter as well. "Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older too. The chill sets in a little colder; the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue. (William Gay) "Time like an ever-rolling stream bears all our years away." (Isaac Watts) Let us make the best of our days during the long green season. what may seem to be ordinary time is precious.

Pastor Gary

# Important upcoming dates and information...

June 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 6:00pm-9:00pm Girl Scout Planning Meeting (Private)	<b>2</b> 12:00pm-WELCA Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 82nd Anniversary of D-Day
<b>7</b> <b>Music Sunday</b> 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9:00am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group 9:00am-10:am Music Rehearsals 11:30am-VBS Planning Meeting 7pm-NA	<b>8</b> 6:00pm-9:00pm Girl Scout Planning Meeting (Private)	<b>9</b> 7:30pm-Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom	<b>10</b> 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 1:00pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Flag Day</b> 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9:00am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group 9:30am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 10:15am-Temple Talk on Peace Archives 7pm-NA	<b>15</b> 6:00pm-9:00pm Girl Scout Planning Meeting (Private)	<b>16</b> 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	<b>17</b> 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Summer2026</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 8:00am-New Spirit Rehearsal 9:00am-New Spirit Worship Service (Summer schedule begins) 7pm-NA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>July Newsletter</b> <b>Deadline</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>4:30PM to 9:00PM – Girl Scouts' Twilight Camp @Peace (Private Event)</b> </div>						
<b>28</b> 9:00am-Worship Service 7pm-NA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

# Important upcoming dates and information...

## Peace Bulletin Board ... June

### Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Monday, 6/1 – 6:00PM to 9:00PM – Girl Scout Planning Meeting (private)
- Tuesday, 6/2 – 12:00PM WELCA Meeting and Picnic @Peace
- Wednesday, 6/3 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:15PM Bells Rehearsal + 7:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Sunday, 6/7 – **Music Sunday** + 9:00AM Sunday School + Adult Discussion Group + Peace Education Scholarship applications are due today + 11:30AM VBS Planning Meeting +

#### Music Rehearsals:

- 9:00AM Kids Bells Rehearsal
  - 9:15AM Peace Choir and Bells Rehearsal
  - 9:30AM – New Spirit Rehearsal
- Monday 6/8 - 6:00PM to 9:00PM – Girl Scout Planning Meeting (private)
  - Tuesday, 6/9 – 7:30PM Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom
  - Wednesday, 6/10 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:00PM New Spirit Rehearsal
  - Thursday, 6/11 – 1:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
  - Sunday, 6/14 – **Flag Day** + 9:00AM Sunday School (**last class until September 6<sup>th</sup>**) + Adult Discussion Group (**last session until September 6<sup>th</sup>**) + 9:30AM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 10:15AM Temple Talk on Peace Archives + Tour of Archive Room
  - Monday, 6/15 - 6:00PM to 9:00PM – Girl Scout Planning Meeting (private)
  - Tuesday, 6/16 – 7:00PM Church Council Meeting via Zoom
  - Wednesday, 6/17 – 6:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
  - Friday, 6/19 - **Juneteenth**
  - Sunday, 6/21 – **Father's Day + 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Summer 2026** + 8:00AM New Spirit Rehearsal + Summer Worship Services begins @9:00AM. The June 21<sup>st</sup> service will be a New Spirit worship service at the Peace Pavilion.
  - Monday, 6/22 to Friday, 6/26 – 4:30PM to 9:00PM – Girl Scout Camp @Peace (private)
  - Tuesday, 6/23 – July newsletter deadline



***Wishing all the fathers a joyful, Happy Father's Day!***

# 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 Cheryl Saint-Pol at 267-664-8140 or email her at [ccsaint@verizon.net](mailto:ccsaint@verizon.net) 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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## 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, June 21	Please arrive at 7:30am
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.

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## Important upcoming dates and information...

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### **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". Please contact Cheryl Saint-Pol at [ccsaint@verizon.net](mailto:ccsaint@verizon.net), if interested.

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### **The Archives of Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church**

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church's archive files are now updated due to the diligent work of Donna Donelon, Melissa Yates, and Cheryl Saint-Pol. Donna will give a short talk before service on Sunday, June 14th to describe the work that has been completed in order to organize and preserve the archive files for our Church.

After the worship service, we welcome you to a presentation of some of the documents and photos of years past at Peace-Tohickon. There will also be a reception with refreshments to enjoy.

Please join us on June 14th to learn more about our history.

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# Important upcoming dates and information...

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## WELCA ... DATE SAVER



The Peace Women of WELCA will be holding their June meeting and annual picnic on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00PM in the Peace Pavilion. Please bring an appetizer or a salad to share. Remember to bring a wrapped item for the “White Elephant” game.

The WELCA Spring Thank Offering will be for RAM Packs. Please bring \$5.00 with you to the picnic for this donation.

Please note, WELCA does not meet in July and August.

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## Peace Education Scholarship Fund



- Peace Education Scholarship applications are available in the narthex.
- For students who are planning to attend college or a vocational school in Fall 2026.
- To qualify must be a voting, active and contributing Peace Church member.
- Applications must be submitted to the Faith & Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Mrs. Dottie Ritter, by June 1, 2026.



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## Congratulations to our 2026 Graduate

We are excited to celebrate the incredible accomplishment of Marissa Picione, daughter of Terri Infante, who has graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Through dedication, grit and perseverance, Marissa has achieved this elite milestone. We congratulate her and wish Lieutenant Picione all the best on her new chapter of service. Aim High, Marissa!

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## Important upcoming dates and information...

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### Date Savers for the Summer of 2026 ...

Summer Worship Services will be from Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00AM.

Rally Day, Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 9:00AM
- Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00AM
- Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> @9:00AM
- Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> @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 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Time: 6:00pm to 8:30pm
- Children ages 3yrs to 12yrs

Watch for additional information about registration.

VBS helpers are needed. Contact Mrs. Dottie Ritter at [dmritter4@gmail.com](mailto:dmritter4@gmail.com)



# Important upcoming dates and information...

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## Peace Fellowship Project for June

The Peace Fellowship Project for June is to help Pennridge F.I.S.H. by supplying summertime healthy friendly foods for children ages 5 to 18. Many children receive subsidized breakfast and/or lunch during the school year, but when summer rolls around, these benefits disappear. FISH attempts to fill the gap by offering extra food to these families.

They are now collecting the following items for the summer lunch bags:

- Applesauce
- Canned chicken
- Canned chili
- Canned pasta
- Canned tuna
- Cereal
- Fruit cups
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Instant oatmeal
- Jelly
- Juice (bottles or boxes)
- Macaroni & cheese packs/cups
- Mayonnaise
- Peanut butter
- Pudding and Jello cups
- Raisins
- Ramen
- Ravioli packs or canned
- Snack pack crackers
- Soups

Please place non-perishable foods and snacks in the grocery cart located in the narthex. Your generosity is appreciated.



# Important upcoming dates and information...

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## 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 13<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00PM to 8:30PM 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](mailto:dmritter4@gmail.com), 215-896-3095 or  
St. Michael's: Barb Nemecek, [banemecek@comcast.net](mailto:banemecek@comcast.net), 215-257-1075,  
for more information and/or volunteer.

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## Important upcoming dates and information...

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The Peace Garden has been planted!



Anyone interested in helping to maintain the garden or harvest produce can contact Dottie Ritter at [dmritter4@gmail.com](mailto:dmritter4@gmail.com) or 215-896-3095.

Your support through your prayers for God's blessings on our garden will also help our garden yield a good crop for Pennridge FISH.

Thank you.



## Important upcoming dates and information...

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# JERUSALEM FAMILY YARD SALE AND BAKE SALE

Saturday, June 6, 2026  
from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
733 Ridge Road  
Sellersville, PA 18960



Located near the intersection of Ridge Road and  
Lawn Avenue at the Perkasie Exit off Route 309 bypass.

Yard Sale spaces are available for free, but must be reserved  
by Sunday, May 31, 2026 (10' x 10', bring your own table)

For more information or to reserve a space, contact the Church  
Office by calling 215-257-9423 or e-mail: [jerevlu@verizon.net](mailto:jerevlu@verizon.net)

*This event is held rain or shine.*

[www.jelchurch.com](http://www.jelchurch.com)

*Proceeds to benefit Vacation Bible School.*

# A Message from Bishop Penman



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
Lutherans Together: Loving God, Loving Neighbor

## Learning, Growing and Showing Up

Dear Beloved in Christ,

If this season had a theme, it would be education. The school year is winding down, graduations are around the corner, and — I'll confess — there is very much a countdown happening in our household.

But education has been on my heart for more than personal reasons this month.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of joining faith leaders from across Philadelphia for the School District's very first Faith Leaders Summit. Superintendent Dr. Tony B. Watlington Sr. gathered us together with a clear and urgent invitation: let's partner. The district serves over 200,000 students — and right now, one of their greatest challenges is simply getting kids to show up. Across the city, roughly 40% of students are missing more than 20% of the school year. The reasons are real and complex — transportation barriers, illness, parents working two and three jobs and running on empty by morning. Research is clear that showing up matters enormously for student outcomes. And Dr. Watlington's ask to our faith communities was equally clear: adopt our schools.

I want to pass that invitation along to you. If your congregation is in or near Philadelphia and you haven't yet made a connection with your local school, I encourage you to do so. Principals are eager to partner with faith communities. We have the relationships, the volunteers, the space, and the love — and our schools need all of it.

I'm also writing this from the Muhlenberg College Spring Board meeting, where I've been hearing about how students are being formed as bridge builders — learning to communicate across difference, to find common ground where they expected none. One thing that has surprised these students again and again? How much we actually hold in common. Muhlenberg is doing this work beautifully, surrounding students with resources not just to graduate, but to go out and lead. If you have a young person considering their next step — or if you're exploring advanced degrees yourself (they just launched a new MBA program) — I commend them to you. I'll be back on campus in a few weeks to celebrate their commencement.

And speaking of commencement — I am so looking forward to celebrating with the graduating class of United Lutheran Seminary. Having our synod office on their campus means we get to watch these future leaders grow up right before our eyes. Many of you have supported that growth firsthand by hosting vicars in your congregations. Thank you. You are part of what it takes to raise up the next generation of pastors and deacons for this church.

This is, of course, deeply Lutheran territory. Luther wrote the Small and Large Catechism for one reason: he believed people deserved to understand their faith. Education has always been part of who we are. Many of our congregations run preschools and learning centers, host tutoring programs, or sponsor after-school initiatives. Many of the people in our pews are educators — teachers, counselors, nurses, support staff, transportation workers — showing up every day for young people in ways that rarely get celebrated enough.

## A Message from Bishop Penman – Continues

I often hear in my congregation visits: "We wish we had more young families." If that resonates with you, I want to point you to a wonderful new resource from [ELEA](#) (the network of ELCA schools), the [Nurturing Faith Study Series](#) — developed in collaboration with the ELCA and grounded in Barna research. It's a practical, thoughtful guide for reaching new families, and I commend it to you whether you have a nursery school or no young people at all. It's a blueprint worth exploring together over the coming year.

We are a people who believe that every child is made in the image of God — that they matter, that they are deeply loved, and that the church has a role in helping them discover that for themselves.

If you have a graduate this year, please know I am cheering for them — and for you, for walking with them on the journey.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in a few weeks, so until then, my deepest gratitude for you.

+The Rev. Bryan Penman  
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA



## United Lutheran Seminary

Office of Institutional Advancement

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a remarkable moment in the life of United Lutheran Seminary! In just a few weeks, we will gather at Commencement both to bless and send the class of 2026 into the world, and to celebrate our bicentennial, marking 200 years of forming leaders for Christ's church.

One thing has remained constant. This seminary exists for the church, and in a very real way, it belongs to you. Across Regions 7 and 8, congregations like yours are where leaders are encouraged, formed, and called. Even when the daily work of the seminary is not visible, you are part of it. Every graduate we send carries what they have learned here into their ministry.

This year, we expect to graduate 52 students prepared for ministry. Each one represents a congregation that raised them up, a community that will receive them as a leader, as part of a church that continues to do God's work in our time and place.

As part of our bicentennial year, we invite every congregation in ELCA Regions 7 and 8 to take part in a shared act of support. We invite your congregation to make a gift of \$52, just \$1 per graduating student, to celebrate and support this year's class. Together, these small gifts become a shared investment in the leaders who will serve congregations like yours in the years ahead.

This is intentionally a modest invitation. It is not about the size of the gift, but about participation. It is about joining together across our synods to say, *we see this work, we believe in it, and we are part of it.* Our goal is simple: participation from every congregation in Regions 7 and 8, and we hope to celebrate that shared commitment by Commencement this May. At some point, it is safe to say, every one of our congregations has benefited from the ministry of one of our graduates.


You may make your gift online at [uls.edu/give](https://uls.edu/give), or by returning the enclosed envelope. Participating congregations will be recognized as part of our Bicentennial Year of Giving on our website.

Thank you for your ministry, your partnership, and your role in forming leaders for the future of the Church.  
In Christ,

**THE REV. DR. GUY ERWIN**  
President  
United Lutheran Seminary

P.S. Our hope is simple. Every congregation in Regions 7 and 8 participating in some way.  
Your presence in this shared effort matters.

## Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June Birthday Calendar at Peace</b> <i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>
6/4	Harry Grim, III
6/8	Nancy Cygan
6/9	Catherine May
6/10	Bill Markland
6/13	Susan Barnes Wanda Renshaw Ralph Scholl
6/20	Randi Schaeffer
6/22	Ann Grim
6/23	Dawn Link
6/24	Bill Brackman
6/27	Kathy Mitman David Thomas
6/28	Thomas Steiner
6/29	Thomas Neary
6/30	Linda Gonet
<p><i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>	



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

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April 27, 2026

*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 \$110.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

*"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 Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters, in the immediate aftermath and far into the future. No matter the disaster, no matter the need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

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

With gratitude,

*Daniel Rift*

The Rev. Daniel Rift  
Director, Congregational Generosity

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

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Thursday, May 7, 2026

Receipt # 12559

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

Dear Donor,

Thank you for your donation of \$260.00 on 5/6/2026. Dear friends, thanks so much for sharing your Maundy Thursday collection with us! Your thoughtfulness will help in so many ways!

It is with your generous support that Penridge FISH is able to continue its outreach to almost 700 families with limited resources in the Penridge 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  
Penridge FISH Organization, Inc.