October 1, 2026 | Volume 2026:10

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter

Highlights:

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

Peace's Rally Day Picnic
Sunday, September 6, 2026

A Message from Pastor Gary …

Colors

One of my favorite things in nature is the beauty of the Fall foliage. I have sought out places like Mount Carol in New Hampshire or the Catskills of New York to observe this spectacle. Of course, you can find its beauty in any number of places. There are places and patches of brilliant colors that catch us by surprise.

This year my attention is drawn to the fact that the leaves on the trees are most brilliant just shortly before they die and fall to the ground. This seems odd. It is contrary to the way we think about life. We generally think of youthfulness as containing the most beauty.

Could it be possible that there is beauty contained in our senior years? A wise woman once told me that aging is not a punishment, but where do we find the beauty in our aging? We have gained wisdom over the years. It is clothed in a bad news good news proposition.

Graham Cook, an itinerate preacher, says that we arrive at a point in life when our best years are behind us. That can evoke sadness, but there is still purpose. We can take the wisdom of our years and pour it into the lives of others. We transition from what we do for ourselves to what we have to offer others. It is a surprising place, and it is indeed very colorful and brilliant in its own right.

Pastor Gary

Important upcoming dates and information…

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9am-Altar Guild Decorates church for Harvest Home
4 **Harvest Home** 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion Group 9:30am-Bells Rehearsal 11:30am-F&F Meeting 7pm-NA	5	6 1:00pm-WELCA Meeting @Peace	7 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion 9:30am-Music Rehearsal 12:30pm-Pennridge Hunger Crop Walk 7pm-NA	12 Columbus Day (federal holiday)	13 7:30pm-Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom	14 Finance Committee Meeting 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	15 7:00pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	16	17 9am-12:00pm-Faith & Life Event @Peace
18 8:15am Worship Service 9:00am- Sunday School +Adult Discussion + New Spirit Rehearsal + 10:15am-New Spirit Worship 7pm-NA	19	20 7:00pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	21 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	22 7:30pm-Confirmation Classes for 2026-2027 Resume via Zoom	23 **November Newsletter Deadline**	24 12:00pm-Setup for Trunk or Treat 2:00pm-4:00pm-Trunk or Treat @Peace
25 **Reformation Sunday** 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School+Adult Discussion 9:15am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7pm-NA	26	27	28 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	29	30	31 Halloween

Important upcoming dates and information…

Peace Bulletin Board … October

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Saturday, 10/3 – 9:00AM Altar Guild Decorates for Harvest Home
- Sunday, 10/4 – Harvest Home @Peace + 9:00AM Sunday School + Adult Discussion Group + 9:30AM Bells Rehearsal + 11:30AM Faith & Fellowship Committee Meeting @Primary Room
- Tuesday, 10/6 – 1:00PM WELCA Meeting @Peace
- Wednesday, 10/7 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Sunday, 10/11 – 9:00AM Sunday School + Adult Discussion Group + 9:30AM Music Rehearsal + 12:30PM Pennridge Hunger Crop Walk @St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Monday, 10/12 – Columbus Day
- Tuesday, 10/13 – 7:30PM Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 10/14 – Finance Committee Meeting + 6:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal + 7:45PM Bells Rehearsal
- Thursday, 10/15 – 7:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
- Saturday, 10/17 – 9:00AM to 12:00PM Faith & Life Event @Peace
- Sunday, 10/18 - 9:00AM Sunday School + Adult Discussion Group + 9:00AM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 10/20 – 7:00PM Church Council Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 10/21 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:45PM Bells Rehearsal
- Thursday, 10/22 – 7:30PM Confirmation Class via Zoom
- Friday, 10/23 – November Newsletter Deadline
- Saturday, 10/24 – 12:00PM Setup for Trunk or Treat + 2:00PM Trunk or Treat
- Sunday, 10/25 – Reformation Sunday – 9:00AM Sunday School + Adult Discussion Group + 9:15AM Peace Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday, 10/28 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Saturday, 10/31 – Happy Halloween

Important upcoming dates and information…

Altar Flower Sponsorships for 2026

The 2026 Altar Flower Chart is up and ready for your requests! The 2026 flower chart 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 to reserve your requests.

We have several open dates in October for altar flower dedications!
They are:

- October 4th and 25th

Thank you for helping beautify the Peace sanctuary and 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.

Special Designated Giving Envelopes

In the coming weeks, our special envelopes are designated for the following organizations:

- Harvest Home Envelope – Pennridge FISH – Sunday, October 4, 2026
- Thanksgiving Envelope – RAM Pack
- Advent Envelope – KenCrest
- Christmas Envelope – Lutheran World Relief

Important upcoming dates and information…

Adult Discussion Group
Sundays at 9:00AM in Fellowship Hall

The group's discussion will take a closer look at the Beatitudes and what they mean for us in our daily lives. No prior knowledge or reading is necessary, but just an open mind and heart.
We look forward to seeing you in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00AM. ~ Randi Schaeffer

---

Confirmation Classes for 2026-2027

Confirmation classes will begin on Thursday, October 22nd at 7:30PM via Zoom.
The Confirmands are scheduled to be confirmed in the Spring of 2027.

Women of the ELCA

DATE SAVER … WELCA invites all ladies of Peace to their meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 1:00PM.

This month's theme is: Celebrating the Stories of Your Life
Stories are often passed down by word of mouth. Sometimes these stories get lost. This workshop will provide a starting place for organizing your memories and writing them down in manageable chunks. Based on Shirley Brosius's "Five Steps to Turn Memories into One-Page Memoirs."
All materials will be supplied.

Join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship and interesting stories!

Important upcoming dates and information…

Harvest Home – Sunday, October 4, 2026

At this time of year, we traditionally decorate our narthex and sanctuary to recognize the bounty of God's blessings. Please thank the Altar Guild for the seasonal decorations.

Recognizing that not all in our neighbors are food secure, we will be donating nonperishable food items to Pennridge FISH for our area's needy. Between now and Sunday, October 4th, please bring nonperishable food items to church, and place them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Needed items are:

100% fruit and vegetable juice	Flour and sugar
Bath soaps and shampoos	Gluten free and diabetic foods
Cake mix and frosting	Gravy, broth
Canned chili and stew	Laundry detergent and cleaning products
Canned fish and tuna	Pancake mix
Canned fruits and vegetables	Pancake syrup
Canned meat, beans	Paper towels, toilet paper, tissues
Coffee, tea, hot chocolate	Pasta sides
Cold and hot cereals	Peanut butter and jelly
Condiments, spices, cooking oil	Rice and rice mix
Diaper wipes	Snacks
Diapers: sizes 5, 6; "Pull-ups": all sizes	Soups, all kinds
Dried fruit	Spaghetti and other pasta
Dry potatoes	Spaghetti sauce
Feminine products, toiletries, shaving items, deodorant, toothpaste	

Important upcoming dates and information…

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our Hands.

Please help us gather these items for our "God's Work. Our Hands" project. We will be making backpack care packages to be delivered to the Welcome Church. Please join us at 9:15am on Sunday, November 1, 2026, to put the backpacks together. Thank you!

The care packs will contain: (Refer to the poster in the narthex for more details.)

White tube sock	Soft/Chewy Granola bars
Small Lotion	New or gently used T-Shirts
Chapstick	Small pack Wet Wipes
Backpacks	Small tissue packs
Cracker Packs	

Important upcoming dates and information…

Peace Church's Fall Fellowship Project
Pennridge Crop Hunger Walk 2026
September 13th through October 11th

Join the Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church team for the 43rd annual Pennridge CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 11, 2026. We are walking to end hunger and poverty both globally and right here in our own community.

When: Sunday, October 11, 2026. Registration opens at 12:30 PM (rain or shine);
the walk starts at 1:00 PM.

Where: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (20 Dill Avenue, Perkasie, PA).

Your Choices: Walk the 5-mile course, the 1-mile "Golden Walk" (which features a stop at the Pennridge FISH Pantry), or bring a rocking chair to St. Stephen's UCC (110 N Sixth Street, Perkasie, PA) for the CROP Rock-a-thon!

Local Impact: 25% of all funds raised go directly to the Pennridge FISH Pantry. Please bring canned food donations to registration!

How to get involved:

1. Walk with us: Register online to join our team at https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/peace-tohickon-lutheran-church

2. Donate: Support our walkers online at the link above, or via cash/check (made out to CWS-CROP) to any team member.

3. Pray: Keep our team and those struggling with food insecurity in your prayers.

For questions, contact our team captain, Melissa Yates, at yatesreads@gmail.com, if you need help registering online as a Peace team member.

Important upcoming dates and information…

A Note of Thanks from Herta Altner

I would like to thank everyone for the shower of birthday cards, the wonderful phone calls and the beautiful plant that helped me celebrate my August 31st birthday. Your kindness made my special day so meaningful!

God's blessing to all of you.
Love, Herta

Important upcoming dates and information…

Faith & Life Event
A Community Conversation for People of Faith
Saturday, October 17, 2026 `~ 9:00AM to 12:00PM
at Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church invites people of faith from all denominations to join us for a Faith & Life Event on Saturday, October 17th. This free event is an opportunity to come together for conversation about issues, questions, and concerns that matter to us.

Discussion guidelines will help create a respectful environment where people with different opinions can share their perspectives, listen to others and engage in thoughtful conversation.

Depending on the interests of those who attend, the discussion may cover topics; such as:

- Our country and the world
- Politics and social issues
- Faith and life
- Questions or concerns participants would like to discuss

This is a forum for discussion, listening, and sharing perspectives.
Registration is encouraged to help us plan. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex for your convenience.

Important upcoming dates and information…

DATE SAVER … Trunk or Treat – Saturday, October 24, 2026

2:00PM to 4:00PM

Put on your best costume and come to Peace.

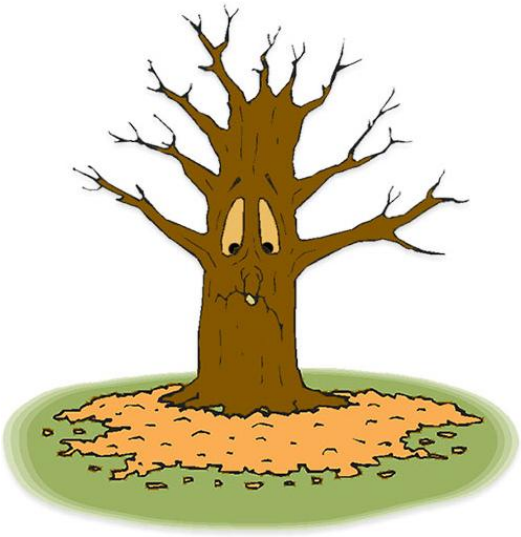
Come and enjoy treats, activities, games and snacks!

This is a FREE event. Everyone is welcome!

We will be collecting canned goods for Pennridge F.I.S.H. food bank that assists those with food insecurities in our area.

Peace Helpers will assemble at 12:00PM to decorate the pavilion, assist trunk designers, and work with other members in preparing for the event.

Contact Gary Schaeffer, Outreach Chair, 267-45-1941 for more information.



Important upcoming dates and information…

ELCA

Hello, congregational leaders!

I am so excited to share a special version of this fall's "Leadership Circle Newsletter" with you. Your congregation generously supports the mission of the ELCA beyond your regular Mission Support. **Thank you for partnering with us in our shared mission!** I've selected the stories in this resource just for you and included some more information about events that will inspire you and your congregation.

With deep gratitude for your partnership in mission,

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Important upcoming dates and information…

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Fall 2026

CIRCLE Leadership FOR CONGREGATIONS

TOGETHER WE HAVE ALL WE NEED

Davin and the Mississippi Urban League offer community partners Mental, Emotional, and Spiritual Support (MESS) training in Jackson.

Recent disasters and crises have provided a stark lesson to Lutherans around the country: they need local, well-connected leaders equipped to jump into action. Synods and organizations have worked with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), funded by your generous gifts, to bring back a specialized, localized role: disaster response coordinator.

Maryn Olson, director of LDR, says, "These positions look very different because every disaster response starts and ends locally. We work with our partners to name what and who they need, then we figure out how to make it possible."

LDR works with synods to ensure that these roles are sustainable, and the Southeastern Synod now funds its director of disaster ministry role completely out of its own budget. Davin Henrik serves in that role and reflects, "My job is to help people understand that when a disaster happens, that is still a ministry. No single person or church has everything they need, but **together we have all we need**. I just want us to see ourselves as neighbors rather than adversaries."

A powerful example of this plays out regularly at the synod's shower trailer. "With every disaster response, people come together and find themselves needing the same things," Davin says. "So we have Baptists and Amish and Mennonites and Lutherans sharing the shower trailer and then sharing a table. **In that moment, we're all just neighbors.**"

When asked what the support of Leadership Circle members means to LDR, Maryn replied, "When responding to a disaster, the worst thing you can do is nothing. But the second worst thing you can do is not dream big enough. Thanks to our donors, we dream big – and so do countless communities around the world."

"We make room for grief and hope to live alongside each other. Because that's what happens when you experience loss — you have conflicting emotions. There's joy for all the memories and grief for what's no longer there. It's a privilege to hold that space."

—Victoria Villa, disaster response coordinator for the Southwest California Synod

Important upcoming dates and information…

DESIGNED TO BELONG

Participants and ELCA churchwide organization staff gather at the Lutheran center for Design for Belonging.

Last October, the Lutheran Center played host to Design for Belonging, a first-of-its-kind intergenerational event where 60 young adults representing ELCA synods joined 40 innovators from congregations across the ELCA to learn about new methods for ministry and engaging communities. Staff from the Innovation and Young Adult Communities teams of the churchwide organization joined together to equip young leaders to create their own Young Adult Network, inspiring and training lay leaders to try something new in their congregations to meet community needs.

Because the event was intergenerational, it allowed for organic opportunities for Lutherans from all around the ELCA to dream about the church together. Leaders discussed their challenges and their hopes with each other, sharing in struggles as well as joys. Participants left feeling not only inspired but less alone in their work. Now they have partners – and friends – for collaboration, resource-sharing and support.

Through your gifts to the churchwide organization, the Innovation and Young Adult Ministries teams can provide programming such as Design for Belonging that support ELCA congregations just like yours. Together we are forging new paths forward while still rooted in our shared Lutheran identity.

A DROP IN THE BUCKET

The Rev. Katie Rode, pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, thinks her call story is also about the generosity of the many people who confirmed her calling – and made it possible. She began her seminary journey at Wartburg Seminary in a special program that allowed her to serve at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Comfort, Texas, while taking classes part-time. A Fund for Leaders scholarship covered Pastor Katie's tuition, and church members stepped up in creative, loving ways to support her however they could.

Her experience taught her the importance of building a real community where members share gifts, talents and resources to accomplish more together than they ever could alone: "A donor that has the ability to give generously but has no time might look at someone like me and think, 'She has the time, gifts and ability. I can support her, and we can accomplish great things as a team.'"

Pastor Katie believes that our theology is a gift to the world: "I don't give to spread our theology, I give to *exemplify* it. It's about who we are. My identity and my mission align with my church by giving to it." Because of this alignment, Pastor Katie has planned future giving to make sure that our theology can be exemplified for years to come.

Pastor Katie talks about her own giving modestly, but she is filled with joy when she speaks about what her gifts can do when combined with those of other Leadership Circle members. **"My giving is just a drop in the bucket," she says. "But the bucket doesn't get filled without drops."**

For more resources and longer version of these stories, check out the new ELCA.org/LeadershipCircle!

Peace Bulletin Board … Announcements

	October Birthday Calendar at Peace *Happy Birthday to you!*
10/1	Ed Bara Gary Schott
10/3	Susan Groff
10/8	Joseph O'Donnell
10/10	CJ Thomas
10/11	Stephanie Krause
10/14	Derek Scholl
10/18	Tilghman Lick
10/19	Grace Grim
10/20	Agnes Allebach
10/21	Nancy Grace
10/22	Gabriella Powell
10/25	Erin Scholl
10/29	Cindy Miller John Shelly
Happy Birthday to you!	

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

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

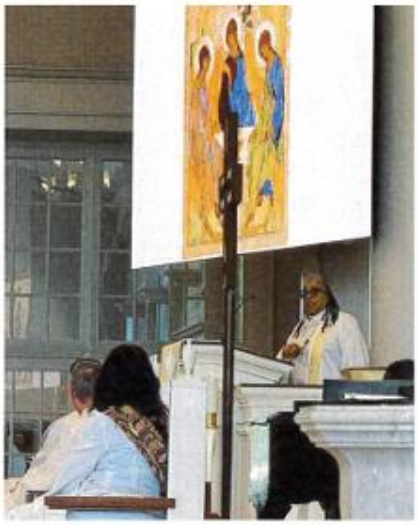
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

Dear Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, thank you for your faithful partnership in the gospel. Through your generous gifts of $5,907.00 as of July 31, 2026 to Mission Support, you are helping to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, strengthen congregations, equip leaders, and serve our neighbors throughout southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

In May, we gathered as a synod under the theme Imago Dei—the belief that every person is created in the image of God and worthy of dignity, belonging, and love. Our Synod Assembly was a powerful reminder that the church is strongest when we recognize God's image reflected in one another. Through worship, conversation, discernment, and shared ministry, we celebrated the many ways God is at work among us and recommitted ourselves to living as Christ's body in the world.



The spirit of Imago Dei continues to shape our ministry together. It calls us to see Christ in our neighbors, to listen deeply across differences, and to embrace the diverse gifts God has entrusted to the church. It reminds us that every congregation, every baptized child of God, and every act of service participates in God's ongoing work of renewal and reconciliation.

Your Mission Support makes this possible.

Because of your generosity, leaders are being formed, congregations are being strengthened, young people are being nurtured in faith, and communities are being served with compassion and hope. Together, we are investing in ministries that no congregation could accomplish alone. Your gifts sustain the shared work of our synod, our churchwide ministries, and our collective witness to God's love in a world longing for connection, purpose, and grace.

At a time when many people are searching for meaning and belonging, your partnership demonstrates the enduring power of the church's mission. Through your faithfulness, lives are being touched, communities are being transformed, and the gospel continues to be proclaimed with courage and joy.

Peace Bulletin Board … Recent Thank You Letters:

Join in this work of seeing as God sees! Read MinistryLink for additional ways that your congregation can participate. Reach out to synod staff or your conference dean if you are looking for specific resources provided through our mission support dollars so that you can continue to be the hands, voice, feet, and heart of God in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Pray for our work together. Thank you for giving generously and *investing* in this witness.

Thanks again and may God bless your ministry and our partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,

+ Bryan J. Penman

The Rev. Bryan J. Penman
Bishop, SEPA Synod

Ms. Janet H. Neff
Treasurer

Peace-Tohickon Evangelical Lutheran Church

OUR HISTORY

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