



September 1, 2024 | Volume 2024:9

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

- Peace Church Newsletter
- A Message from the Pastor
- A Focus on a Peace Ministry
- Peace Calendar
- Peace Bulletin Board
- September Birthdays
- Thank you Notes

A Message from Pastor Gary ...



Normality and the Pressure to Fit In

We generally think about peer pressure as something that affects children and adolescents, but it affects adults too. How many times have we sat in a meeting and there was a public vote on an issue or decision? Almost always the vote is unanimous or close to it. Have you wondered if some were voting with the assumed majority because it was too uncomfortable to stand out or dare I say stand up. Have you ever been that person? Imagine being on a jury and someone's life depended on your willingness to endure the discomfort of going against everyone else.

Every now and then we need to be reminded that it's okay to be ourselves, less we fall asleep in the anonymity of the masses. It's okay to be different, original, and unique. It is necessary sometimes to resist conformity. As some of you know, there's a quote I have been enjoying lately, "work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like no one is watching." (Satchel Page, et.al.) Each one of us has something to contribute with our special gifts and ideas. Sameness can be a booby prize. Let's start off this fall with a courageous heart and mind, being who God has called us to be in the world.

Pastor Gary

A Focus on a Peace Ministry

In recent months, the newsletter has featured one or more of Peace Church's ministry groups with an in-depth description on their areas of focus and interest. This month Gary Schaeffer, Outreach Committee Chairperson, highlights this groups' focus at Peace.

The goal of Outreach is to provide opportunities for fellowship, worship and service with an effort to include persons outside the Peace congregation. Outreach attempts to increase the visibility of Peace in the community through activities and events held in the church, in the pavilion and around the area. The Outreach Team, Pastor Gary Costa, Dwight Dulsky, Mary Snyder, Cheryl Saint-Pol and Gary Schaeffer, are repeating the same events as last year; which are, Easter Egg Hunt, Craft Show & Marketplace, and Trunk or Treat. Here is a brief summary of these events.

- The Easter Egg Hunt continues to be a well-attended and much appreciated event. We distributed over a thousand candy stuffed plastic eggs to enthusiastic children from our congregation and the surrounding neighborhoods. We have great fun putting on this short but rewarding event.
- This year's Craft Show & Marketplace will be held at Peace on Saturday, September 28th from 10:00AM to 3:00PM, rain or shine. The proceeds from table rentals, donations and food sales will benefit Pennridge RamPacks. We have secured the vendors, and with additional signage for the show, we are hoping for an increase in public attendance. If you would like to help at the Craft Show & Marketplace, please contact Pastor Gary or any member of the Outreach Committee. A volunteer sign-up sheet is located in the narthex, for your convenience.
- Trunk or Treat will take place at the Peace Pavilion on Saturday, October 26th from 12:00Noon to 1:30PM. The fun at Trunk or Treat will include distributing candy and pumpkins, costume parades, trunk judging, pumpkin decorating and games. All ghouls and goblins are welcomed. More event information will be shared in the coming weeks.

All our Outreach events use the Peace Pavilion. Our pavilion is perched on the top of a hill with a view of the surrounding countryside. It is free to Peace members and available for a wide variety of functions. There is a small charge if our members need sexton services for orientation, setup, breakdown and cleaning. Members able to perform those details on their own are spared those charges. For outside events, a fee schedule can be found on our website, <https://peace-tohickon.org>.

To any Peace member reading this, you are welcome to join the Outreach Team or assist in any single event.

Important upcoming dates and information ...

September 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am-Worship 7pm-NA	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed	3	4 7:00pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 Rally Day Grandparents' Day 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:30am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7pm-NA	9	10 12pm-WELCA Meeting @Pavilion 7:00pm-Music&Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom	11 7:00pm-New Spirit Rehearsal 8:00pm-Bells Rehearsal	12 1pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	13	14
15 8:15am Worship 10:15am New Spirit Worship Service @Pavilion 9am-New Spirit Rehearsal 9am-Sunday School 7pm-NA	16	17 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	18 7:00pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm-Bells Rehearsal	19	20	21 Private Party @Pavilion
22 1st Day of Autumn 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:30am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7pm-NA	23	24 October Newsletter Deadline	25 7:00pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	26	27	28 10am-3pm-Peace Craft Show & Marketplace
29 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School 9:30am-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7pm-NA	30	 September				

Important upcoming dates and information...

Peace Bulletin Board ...

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Monday, 9/2 – Labor Day – Church Office Closed
- Wednesday, 9/4 – 7:00PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 8:00PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Sunday, 9/8 – Rally Day at Peace + Grandparents' Day + 9:30AM Peace Choir Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 9/10 – 12:00PM WELCA Meeting @ Pavilion + 7:00PM Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 9/11 – 7:00PM New Spirit Rehearsal + 8:00PM Bells Rehearsal
- Thursday, 9/12 – 1:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, 9/15 – 9:00AM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 9/17 – 7:00PM Council Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 9/18 – 7:00PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 8:00PM Bells Rehearsal
- Saturday, 9/21 – Private Party @Pavilion (all day)
- Sunday, 9/22 – 1st Day of Autumn + 9:30AM Peace Choir Rehearsal
- Tuesday, 9/24 – October Newsletter Deadline
- Wednesday, 9/25 – 7:00PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 8:00PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Saturday, 9/28 – 10:00AM to 3:00PM Peace Craft Show and Marketplace @Pavilion
- Sunday, 9/29 – 9:30AM Peace Choir Rehearsal

Friendly
Reminder



On Sunday, September 8th, Peace Church will resume the regular services schedule:

- ❖ Early Worship Service – 8:15AM with Communion
 - ❖ Sunday School – 9:00AM
 - ❖ Late Worship Service – 10:15AM with Communion
-

Important upcoming dates and information...



Update: Finance Council Policy

Our church council has updated the Peace Finance Policy that governs how the Finance Committee will oversee the finances of our church. This updated policy is available via the church office, if you are interested in seeing this document.



Adult Discussion Group Sunday, September 8th at 9AM

On Rally Day, September 8th, the Adult Discussion Group will be meeting to determine what we will be discussing next.

- Is there a topic you would like to explore?
- Is there a person from the Bible that you would like to know more about?
- Have you recently read a good book that strengthened or raised questions about your faith?

Bring your suggestions on that Sunday morning starting at 9AM. We have had many lively and interesting discussions in the past. Come join us. All are welcome. No prior knowledge is needed, just an open mind. ~ Randi Schaeffer

Important upcoming dates and information...



Peace Church's Fall Fellowship Project
Sunday, September 15th to Sunday, October 13th
Penridge CROP Hunger Walk

Our vision is a world where everyone has food, a voice, and a safe place to call home."

The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world.

Our church will be promoting a team again this year. This will be our Faith and Fellowship fundraiser from Sunday, September 15th to Sunday, October 13th.

Church members can participate by being a walker, and/or donating to sponsor a walker. Everyone can pray for the team.

To register or to donate

1. Go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/peace-tohickon-lutheran-church>
2. You will be on our church's page. Scroll down to the Team Members box. Here you can either join the team or donate to support a team member.

Contact: Melissa Yates – yatesreads@gmail.com

Important upcoming dates and information...

An article from the RamPacks News August 2024 Edition

RamPacks will begin our SIXTH year in September! Again, I cannot thank St. Paul's enough for your willingness to support us through the use of the Green Room for one of our pantries as well as the parlour/library for our Board Meetings. Our pantry here at St. Paul's serves Deibler Elementary, West Rockhill Elementary, South Middle School and Penridge High School.

We will continue with three pantries (Blooming Glen Mennonite and Souderton Brethren in Christ) this year, but we are hoping to be able to store some food in a space available at St. Agnes which will help everything run smoother.

Beginning in September we will again be happy to accept donations of snacks to include in the bags. Some examples would be individual bags of chips, Doritos, peanut butter crackers, popcorn. There will be a labeled bin in the Narthex where you can place your donations.

This year, we are making an effort to get more MONTHLY donors. We currently have 20 people (some from St Paul's!) who have made a commitment to donate monthly. This is very easy to set up from our website <http://www.rampacks.com>. Those monthly donors make the budget more secure, which we need as numbers rise. Last year we started the year serving close to 200 children and ended the year serving close to 300! ALL donations go to buying food EXCEPT when we need to replace the delivery bins and reusable backpacks.

Our Food Fest in April was a success, and we will be making it an annual function. We are already scheduled for Sunday, May 4th at Penridge High School, 12-4. Hopefully with the new location, we will be able to host more food trucks, vendors and still have the children's games, face painting, raffles and more!

Lastly, look forward to a community Food Drive in the month of February...show your LOVE to RamPacks! We will be asking churches, schools, businesses and local service organizations to partner with us asking for SPECIFIC foods from each all month.



Important upcoming dates and information...



The Sunday School classes will start their fall term on Sunday, September 8th, Rally Day, at 9:00AM. We are looking for another teacher to help team teach the middle school/high school class. All curriculum and materials are provided. This is a great way to get to know the teens of our church and help them grow in their knowledge and faith in our Lord!

Contact Dottie Ritter for more information.
Email – dmritter4@gmail.com or 215-896-3095.



Rally Sunday is September 8th. Our students will return to their 9:00AM classes and Pastor will bless backpacks during the worship services.

After the second worship service, we will have our annual covered dish church picnic at the Pavilion. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. Hope you can come and enjoy good food and fellowship as we begin our fall worship season of growing, celebrating, caring and serving within our church and community!

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the table in the narthex. We would love to see you there!

Important upcoming dates and information...



Hi Children of Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church, Ages 3 to 18 Years Old,

Hope you all have had a wonderful summer! I am writing to invite you to Sunday School, which begin Sunday, September 8, 2024. We will be meeting that day at 9:00AM in the Primary Room. We will have a short welcome, an opening with Miss Jen, and then go to your classrooms with your teachers for a lesson! Your friends are always welcome to join us too.

September 8th is also Rally Sunday! During the 10:15AM worship service, Pastor Gary will bless your school backpacks. After that worship service, Peace will have our annual church picnic beginning at 11:30AM at the pavilion. Please bring your family and friends for food, fellowship, and fun! Please call Miss Dottie, the church office or sign up on the sheet in the narthex to let us know how many people will be coming and what side salad or dessert you can bring to help us plan for the food for the picnic by Wednesday, September 4th.

Hope to see you on September 8th to begin our year of learning about how much God loves us and how we can love and care for others and God's beautiful world!

Love,
Miss Dottie and the Sunday School Teacher
Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church

Important upcoming dates and information...



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A Lunch Bunch gathering is planned for Wednesday, September 18th beginning at 12:00PM.

Lunch at:

Franconia Heritage Restaurant

508 Harleysville Pike (Rt 113), Telford, PA 18969; 215-721-4400

215-721-4400

A tour of the Asher's Chocolate Company will follow after lunch.

80 Wambold Road, Souderton, PA 18964

800-438-8882



Harvest Home – Sunday, October 6, 2024

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 6th, please bring nonperishable food items to church, and place them in the shopping cart in the narthex.



Important upcoming dates and information...



Attention Bakers!

The Peace Craft Show on September 28th will be sponsoring a bake sale. The proceeds from the bake sale will be donated to the Pennridge RamPacks, which provides meals to children with food insecurities in the Pennridge School District.

Please prepare one of your favorite baked goods; such as, an entire cake, an entire pie, individually wrapped portions of cookies or brownies, etc. Please bring your donations to the church kitchen on Friday, September 27th, between 9AM and 12PM or to the pavilion on Saturday, September 28th between 6:30AM and 9AM to help with this wonderful giving project.

You will find a sign-up sheet in the narthex, where you will be able to place your name and the type of baked good you will be donating. Thank you – The Outreach Committee



Important upcoming dates and information...



We're excited to showcase the works of Bucks County and eastern PA's talented artists, artisans, and local businesses. Bring the whole family!

- Crocheted Creations • Embroidery • Pet Gifts
- Home Decor • Jewelry • Macrame • Photography
- Pottery • Woodworking • And More!



Visit our website for more info: <https://peace-tohickon.org/craft-show/>
Scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera:



Peace Lutheran Church | 100 Old Bethlehem Road | Perkasie, PA 18944
peace-tohickon.org • 215-257-3294

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church will be holding another Craft Show & Marketplace on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 10AM to 3PM. We will have over 50 vendors in our pavilion and parking lot. Please tell your family and friends about this exciting event. The proceeds of the Craft Show will go to Pennridge RamPacks, which provides meals to children with food insecurities in the Pennridge School District.

Thank you for spreading the word. We would love to see you there.



September Birthday Calendar at Peace

Happy Birthday to you!

1	Barry Grim
2	Louis Long
5	Earl Anders
6	Ellen Buchenauer Wilder Gray
7	Paige Pawlowski
9	Keri May William Groff
10	Matt Wrigley
15	Julia Engelmann
16	Isabella Link
17	Brad Reiss
20	Chris Frasch
21	Michael Gonet
22	Tina Burkett
26	Susan French
27	Teresa Kramer



Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



Fund Development

960A Harvest Drive, Suite 100
Blue Bell, PA 19422
610-825-9360 fax 610-825-8736
fund.development@kencrest.org

July 30, 2024

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 \$75.00, received on 7/23/2024, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen Mansfield".

Ellen Mansfield
Chief Philanthropy Officer

A handwritten note in blue ink that says "Thank you!".

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear *Peace Lutheran Church,*

DATE *8-16-24*

Thank you for your contribution of \$ 400.- 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 for your continued and generous support!

Sincerely,



Leiby Hollenbach
on behalf of
RamPacks
Provided with love from the Pennridge Community

Thank You!

Peace Church Members