



September 1, 2025 | Volume 2025:9

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church Newsletter



Highlights:

- Peace Church Newsletter
- A Message from the Pastor
- Peace September 2025 Calendar
- Peace Bulletin Board
- September 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 ...

God's Restorative Goodness

In the Bible we see instances of God restoring what the enemy of holy abundance has taken. But the word restoration is somewhat of a misnomer because God doesn't just give back what was lost, He gives more than what was lost.

Joseph in Genesis is sold into slavery and winds up a prisoner in Egypt, but God delivers him from his suffering, and Joseph becomes the governor of Egypt. He is pushed back and held back for a thirteen-year period. However, when God delivers him, he is propelled further than he would have likely gone in life, had things moved along in a normal and gradual trajectory. God did not simply restore him to being the beloved son of Jacob, but He elevated him to the savior of a nation. You have heard that what doesn't kill us makes us stronger. Here we find Biblical evidence to support this cliché.

Where restoration is concerned, the goodness of God surpasses our wildest dreams. Consider this Bible verse, "the Israelites will return to the Lord in fear/awe of His goodness." (Hosea 3:5) Is it possible for someone to be so good that they are feared? Could this be the reason Jesus is crucified? Could this be why extremely righteous people are sometimes hated by the masses? When confronted with the goodness of God we find that it is absolute purity, that it is of holy origin, that it is the source of creation. We are humbled with fear because we could perish under the glory of it, were it not for His mercy and grace.

Knowledge of God's restorative goodness, that always gives us more, changes the way we think. The believer should come to expect more out of life. Yet and still, we want to maintain an attitude of gratitude for the life we have.

This creates an interesting tension. We need to maintain an attitude of gratitude for the life we have; and yet, anticipate even more. This is the tension the believer lives in. If we are exclusively focused on what more God has for us, we lack contentment, and if we are completely content with our lives as they are, we can fail to meet our destiny.

I don't mean to present this as a problem. It is really quite the opposite. It is a wonderful life, a glorious state. We get to have the best of both worlds. We simultaneously get to live in both contentment and in the atmosphere of promised hope.

Alleluia,
Pastor Gary

Important upcoming dates and information

September 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Church Office Closed	2	3 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal	4 9am-4pm Steven Gratias Visitation, Funeral and Luncheon @Peace	5	6 4:00pm-9:00pm Rental of Pavilion-Private Party
7 Rally Day Grandparents' Day 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School Peace Choir Rehearsal 11:15am-Rally Day Picnic 7pm-NA	8	9 Finance Meeting 12:00pm-WELCA Meeting @Peace 7:30pm-Music & Worship Meeting via Zoom	10 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	11 1pm-Exec Council Meeting via Zoom	12	13
14 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School Peace Choir Rehearsal 7pm-NA	15 Crop Walk Fellowship Project Begins	16 7pm-Church Council Meeting via Zoom	17 6:45pm-New Spirit Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 8:15am Worship Service New Spirit Rehearsal 10:15am-New Spirit Worship+Blessing of the Animals 9am-Sunday School 7pm-NA	22 1st Day of Autumn	23 October Newsletter Deadline	24 6:45pm-Peace Choir Rehearsal 7:45pm-Bells Rehearsal	25	26 9pm-12noon-- Bake Sale Drop-Off @Peace	27 6:30am-10:00am-Bake Sale Drop-Off and Craft Show Setups 10:00am-3:00pm-Craft Show & Marketplace
28 8:15am+10:15am Worship Service 9am-Sunday School Bells Rehearsal 11:30am Faith&Fellowship Meeting @Primary Room 7pm-NA	29	30				

Important upcoming dates and information...

Peace Bulletin Board ... August

Upcoming Meeting/Events @ a Glance

- Monday, 9/1 – Labor Day – Church Office Closed
- Wednesday, 9/3 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal
- Thursday, 9/4 – 10:30AM Funeral Service for Steven D. Gratias @Peace
- Saturday, 9/6 – 4:00PM-9:00PM Pavilion Rental by Private Party
- Sunday, 9/7 – Rally Day 2025 and Grandparents' Day + Peace Choir Rehearsal + 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group + 11:15AM Rally Day Picnic
- Tuesday, 9/9 – TBD Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom + 12:00PM WELCA Meeting @Peace + 7:30PM Music & Worship Committee Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 9/10 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:45PM Bells Rehearsal
- Thursday, 9/11 – 1:00PM Exec Council Meeting via Zoom
- Sunday, 9/14 – 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group + Peace Choir Rehearsal
- Monday, 9/15 – Crop Walk Fellowship Project Begins
- Tuesday, 9/16 – 7:00PM Church Council Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, 9/17 – 6:45PM New Spirit Rehearsal + 7:45PM Bells Rehearsal
- Sunday, 9/21 – New Spirit Rehearsal + 10:15AM Blessing of the Animals
- Monday, 9/22 – First Day of Autumn 2025
- Tuesday, 9/23 – October Newsletter Deadline
- Wednesday, 9/24 – 6:45PM Peace Choir Rehearsal + 7:45PM Bells Rehearsal
- Friday, 9/26 – 9:00AM to 12:00Noon Bake Sale Drop-Off @Peace
- Saturday, 9/27 – 6:30AM to 10:00AM Bake Sale Drop-Off @Peace and Craft Show Setups + 10:00AM to 3:00PM Peace Craft Show & Marketplace
- Sunday, 9/28 – 9:00AM Sunday School + 9:00AM Adult Discussion Group + Bells Rehearsal + 11:30AM Faith & Fellowship Committee Meeting in Primary Room



Important upcoming dates and information...

Friendly
Reminder



On Sunday, September 7th, Peace Church will resume the regular services schedule:

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



Altar Flower Sponsorships

The 2025 Altar Flower Chart is up and ready for your requests! The new flower chart for 2025 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 Elva Groff at 215-453-9005 or email her at pennridge45@yahoo.com to reserve your requests for 2025. Thank you for your continued support!



Adult Discussion Group Sunday, September 7th at 9AM

On Rally Day, September 7th, 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 curiosity and a desire to grow in our faith. ~ Randi Schaeffer

Important upcoming dates and information...



Thank you to Rich Spotts

We are delighted to have Kathleen as our new organist, but we do not want to forget to thank Rich Spotts for his years of playing the organ for us. The Worship Committee would like to invite you to show your appreciation by putting monetary donations into the offering, marked with Rich's name. We will collect for him from now to the 14th of September, then send him a thank you card and a check.



DATE SAVER ... WELCA invites the ladies of Peace to the 1st meeting of the season at Peace on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 12:00PM.

The ladies will enjoy a pizza lunch and make plans for their 2025-2026 activity year.

Please come and join the fun!



Important upcoming dates and information...

Faith and Fellowship News:

Church Picnic on Rally Day

Rally Day will be celebrated on Sunday, September 7, 2025. After the second service, the congregation and their friends are invited to Peace's Annual Church Potluck Picnic. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages are provided with our attendees bringing their favorite picnic food to share. Good food, fellowship, music and children's games will celebrate the beginning of this fall season of celebrating, growing, caring and serving here at Peace.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Please join us at the 10:15AM worship service on Sunday, September 7th for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. As we begin the new school year and fall season, bring your school backpacks, your work briefcases, sports bags or satchels to be blessed.

Bibles

During the 10:15AM worship service on Sunday, September 7th, Pastor Gary will be presenting to our 3rd Graders, a bible from their Peace Lutheran family.

Any 3rd Grader or older youth who has not received a bible, please call the church office at 215-257-3294 to arrange to receive a bible at this service.



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 begins Sunday, September 7, 2025. 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 7th 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 3th.

Hope to see you on September 7th 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 Teachers

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church

Important upcoming dates and information...



Volunteer Opportunities: Make Our Craft Show & Marketplace Shine!

The Outreach Team is looking for your assistance at the Peace Craft Show & Marketplace on September 27th. We are assembling an Italian Gift Basket to raffle off at the event. We will be giving out a raffle ticket to each attendee who gives us their e-mail address, which we will use to send them notices of upcoming events at Peace Lutheran Church. We are asking for monetary donations towards the contents of the gift basket (pasta, sauce, breadsticks, etc.).

You can put your donations in the container marked “Craft Show Gift Basket Donations”, which will be on the table at the entrance to our church.

Thank you for your assistance.
The Outreach Team

Baked Goods Needed for the Craft Show & Marketplace

The Peace Craft Show will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025.
The donations from Peace’s bake sale will be donated to RamPacks.

Please prepare one of your favorite baked goods; such as, an entire cake, an entire pie, breads, individually wrapped portions of cookies or brownies, etc.

Bring your donations to the church kitchen on Friday, September 26th between 9AM and 12Noon or to the pavilion on Saturday, September 27th between 6:30AM and 10AM 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 choice of baked good you will be donating.

Thank you,
The Outreach Committee

Important upcoming dates and information...

Upcoming Date Saver ... Peace Craft Show & Marketplace



PEACE
Craft Show & Marketplace

*Proceeds to Benefit
Pennridge RamPacks*

Saturday, Sept 27th
10 AM to 3 PM
Rain or Shine!

**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

Important upcoming dates and information...

Peace Church's Fall Fellowship Project September 15, 2025 to October 10, 2025

Penridge Crop Hunger Walk 2025

The Crop Hunger Walk is a community-based fundraising event for Church World Services that brings together people of all ages to raise money and awareness to end hunger and poverty in local communities and around the world.

Date: Sunday October 12, 2025
Location: St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 20 Dill Avenue, Perkasie, Pa.
Registration: 12:30PM
Walk start time: 1:00PM

Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church has a CROP walk team. Here is how you can get involved:

1. Become a team member. You can walk the five-mile course, walk the one-mile Golden Mile, or participate in the CROP Rock, in a rocking chair.
To join the team and register, go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/peace-tohickon-lutheran-church>
2. Donate to support our team. You can make an online donation at the link above or give a check [Made out to CWS-CROP] or cash donation to any team member.
3. Pray for the team members, and for those who struggle with hunger and poverty.

25% of the money raised by walkers goes to Penridge FISH. The remaining money is used to combat droughts globally, provide food and shelter for refugees, support survivors of natural disasters, and stock shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States.

Contact: Melissa Yates – yatesreads@gmail.com

CROP HUNGER WALK **MAKE A LIFE DIFFERENCE**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

MY CROP HUNGER WALK IMPACTS: HUNGER

- \$18** provides a CWS garden starter kit for a community in Nicaragua to grow their own food
- \$22** provides 500 baby fish for a community fishery in Honduras
- \$75** provides a welcome home meal for a refugee family on their first night in the United States
- \$280** provides 2 acres of sweet potato vines in Kenya

EACH STEP YOU TAKE MAKES A LIFE DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU FOR WALKING!

25% of proceeds will benefit Local Hunger Fighting Agencies | **CWS** | 75% of proceeds will benefit Church World Service

*special thanks to the Cumberland County (NC) CROP Hunger Walk for developing this resource

Peace Bulletin Board ... Announcements

	<p>September Birthday Calendar at Peace <i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>
1	Barry Grim
2	Louis Long
5	Earl Anders
6	Ellen Buchenauer
9	William Groff Keri May
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
<p><i>Happy Birthday to you!</i></p>	

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear Dottie and the Peace Lutheran Church Family,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the wonderful Peace volunteers who helped make this year's Camp Firelight a success. I love how dedicated you are to helping children learn more about God & making VBS fun. Extra special thanks to Dottie who is so sweet in writing personal thank you notes to everyone & giving thoughtful theme related gifts to the volunteers! Kudos to the teams who set up & took down the decorations. You did an awesome job!

We gratefully acknowledge your generosity in paying for the VBS curriculum! You are an excellent host church partner! I look forward to our future joint VBS possibilities!



Trusting God to Lead the Way!

Barbara Nemecek AKA Lu

Barbara Nemecek

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

Philanthropy Department
960A Harvest Drive, Suite 100
Blue Bell, PA 19422
610-825-9360
www.kencrest.org



July 23, 2025

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

Dear Pastor Costa,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$80.00 to KenCrest.

This year marks KenCrest's 120th anniversary, and you are part of the incredible community of supporters who have helped make our work possible over the years. Your generosity builds on the legacy of our founders to make the world a better place for every person we serve.

Each of KenCrest's programs and services for individuals from birth through adulthood are designed to improve quality of life based on their personal desires, preferences and goals. Your gift helps ensure that every person can reach the highest level of independence and success possible.

Thank you again for your support and the part you play in the Kencrest community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ellen J. Mansfield'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thank you!'.

Ellen J. Mansfield, MBA, CFRE
Chief Philanthropy Officer

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

DATE 8-5-25

Thank you for your contribution of \$701. - to RamPacks in support of our mission to provide food on weekends and school holidays to children in the Penridge School District so they can come to school ready to learn. We truly appreciate your support of the children in the Penridge 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 this generous donation!

Sincerely,



*Lebby Hollenback
on behalf of*

RamPacks

Provided with love from the Penridge Community



Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



July 28, 2025

The Reverend Gary Costa
Peace Tohickon Lutheran Church
100 Old Bethlehem Road
Perkasie, PA 18944

Dear Pastor Costa,

We are very grateful for Peace Tohickon Lutheran Church's ongoing friendship and generosity! Thank you for the **donation of \$50 (check dated July 15, 2025)**. As directed, this gift will support our campership fund and assist Gemma in providing summer camp and recreational experiences for youth participating in our Family Foster Care program. Your support truly matters!

With the help of partners like our friends at Peace Tohickon, Gemma is able to accompany more than 3,000 youth and families each year as they face life's challenges, heal from traumas, manage mental health challenges, learn new skills, and work toward their goals. We would be happy to welcome any member of the congregation to visit Gemma and see firsthand the programs you are helping us to provide. Should you or the congregation be interested in exploring volunteer opportunities; please let us know. You can also learn more about all of Gemma's programs, latest happenings, and current support needs by visiting www.gemmaservices.org.

Thank you for being a part of the Gemma community! Together, we are working to create a world where every person knows they matter. Should you have any questions, wish to schedule a visit, or explore volunteering, please contact Lynn at 610-825-4440 ext. 3206 or Lunipan@gemmaservices.org. On behalf of all of us at Gemma, thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Unipan".

Lynn Unipan, MSW, CFRE
Chief Development & Communications Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Bryant".

Amanda Bryant
Director of Donor & Volunteer Engagement

*Thank you for helping
make fun summer memories
possible for kids in foster
care!*

Peace Bulletin Board ... Recent Thank You Letters:



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT IN 2024.
Your support made a powerful impact on lives across our communities!

We've proudly recognized all 2024 donors online at: diakon.org/giving/donors



A parent from our YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM shared:
"If it wouldn't have been for the staff at Diakon Wilderness Center, our son would have been lost and left behind. This year, not only did he graduate—he made honors. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

And a KINSHIP CAREGIVER told us:
"When we took in our grandchildren unexpectedly, we didn't have much. The supplies you provided and the support you offered meant more than you can imagine. It gave us stability during chaos."

These are just two of the many stories from across our programs, stories of resilience, healing, and hope made possible by you.

With gratitude,
The Diakon Team

We thank God for your partnership! Blessings!

DIAKON
1 South Home Avenue
Topton, PA 19562



Peace Lutheran Church, Perkasio
100 Old Bethlehem Rd
Perkasio PA 18944-3715

Thank You!
Peace Church Members