



## Peace Lutheran Church

2106 South Cushman Ave., Tacoma, Washington 98405



John Stroeh, Pastor

[pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org](mailto:pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org)

Church Office (253)383-1317

"The Church that Welcomes and Serves"

[www.peacelutherantacoma.org](http://www.peacelutherantacoma.org)

Where Every One Is a Minister

Instagram: @peacelutheranchurch

Facebook: Peace Lutheran Tacoma

Board of Directors

[directors@peacecommunitycenter.org](mailto:directors@peacecommunitycenter.org)

Peace Community Center (253)383-1317

"Touching Lives, Extending Peace"

## December 14, 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

Our MISSION: Compelled by the love of God and our faith in Jesus Christ, Peace Lutheran Church, a diverse people of faith, in partnership with Peace Community Center, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

God's VISION: We believe God's vision for Peace is to be a diverse community of faith in the Hilltop where all are welcome - a community that is Spirit-filled, compassionate, healthy, reconciled, and just.

### Today at Peace Lutheran Church

**God bless you! Welcome to worship!** We worship in person Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am and live stream worship online at 11 am. See our website [peacelutherantacoma.org](http://peacelutherantacoma.org), Facebook page (Facebook Peace Lutheran Tacoma), or YouTube channel for worship videos and faith resources.

It is a blessing to worship in person. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, please stay home and worship online.

It is the **Third Sunday of Advent**. Advent means "coming," and in these weeks prior to Christmas we prepare for the celebration of God's coming into the world in baby Jesus. We look forward to Christ's promised future coming and ponder how he comes to us every day. Advent is a season of hope! In our scripture readings, we're invited to keep our eyes open to signs of God's reign that reveal God bringing renewal through Jesus – the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. Brendan Nelson shares the sermon message.

We **welcome New Members** to Peace Lutheran Church (at 11 am worship), and we share a **sending blessing for the Carroll family** whose last day of worship will be December 28.

You're invited to **purchase Fair Trade coffee, tea, or chocolate** today and the Sundays in Advent between worship services. It's an act of justice!

**Prayer ministers** are available to pray one on one with individuals during Holy Communion and after worship.

**Families with children:** During 11 am worship, we offer a children's worship time in the basement classroom.

**Interested in learning more about Peace?** Please contact Pastor John, Brendan Nelson, or Deacon Charissa Carroll or stop by the Welcome Table at the church entrance.

May you know God's peace this week!

### Prayer & Praise List

*To submit a prayer tell the pastor or call the church office. Names will appear on the list for 3 weeks unless requested to remain longer. Please remember these people and situations in prayer. If you feel moved to reach out to someone, write them a caring note to let them know you are thinking about them and praying for them. Contact the church office for their contact info.*

- Our church gathering for our annual meeting
- All affected by flooding in western Washington
- Our nation in challenging political times
- For future directions of Peace Church, that we might lean into our foundational commitment to anti-racism
- For the Peace housing ministry
- For Peace Community Center in this time of transition
- For peace and change in our culture of gun violence
- For deep reflection and acknowledgment of prejudices in

ourselves and racism in our systems and institutions, and for wisdom to intentionally act to call out and dismantle racism in all its forms and work for God's justice in our nation's laws, policies, & practices

- For all experiencing brokenness in family relationships (marriage, parent-child, sibling), for healing and hope
- In our world of global warming, for climate justice
- Our calling to be agents of hope, healing, and justice
- For peace and justice: all living midst violence or unrest; in Gaza & Holy Land, Ukraine, Haiti, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, eastern Congo, Sudan, Central African Republic, Yemen
- For hope: all experiencing housing insecurity & homelessness, the unemployed & underemployed, all hurting & feeling weighed down, lonely & lost, hungry & suffering, depressed & mentally ill, the incarcerated, all experiencing sexual harassment or abuse, and all struggling with addictions
- The grieving: Deacon Charissa at her grandma's death
- For healing: Keri Anderson, Matthew Lyle, Brendan Nelson's dad, Chuck Teas
- Ongoing health concerns: Keri Anderson, Myrah Ballentine, Annie Burris, Ed Castro, Cleo Clay, Dori Greenaway, Ted & Billie Johnstone, Jerry Pittmon, Carol Plaehn, Sandra Puckett, Katrina Sortor, Shawna Teclemariam, Spenser Thomas, Antonio Yune
- College & advanced training students: Martin Anderson, Jasmine Ballentine, Lillie Brooks-Walker, Jamison & Kamari Carroll, Talina Hall, Bea Kelzenberg, Elyse & Sigourney McWilson, Julia Seigny, Laney & Ziah Sneva
- Military away: Juwan Banks, Alijah Garvin-Williams, Micah Lyle, Taylor McCarthy
- Special need: Jackie Ray, Sunshine Timmons, Dezmynt Trent
- For our partners in mission all over the world: Jane Kagochi & Solid Faith Church in Kenya; the Namibian Lutheran Church (companion synod); Seignys in Japan

### Small Group Gatherings

- **Children's Choir:** Michael Green: 360-350-2445, usually 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays after 11 am worship, sing 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays at 11 am
- **College Care Package Team:** Pat Ferguson: 627-1349
- **Community Bible Study:** Pastor John: ext. 101, Thurs, 1 pm
- **Gospel Choir:** Michael Green: 360-350-2445, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 6 pm; sing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11 am
- **For a Time Such as This:** Lynn Longfield [lynn\\_longfield@hotmail.com](mailto:lynn_longfield@hotmail.com), 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays after 11 am worship
- **Men's Bible Study:** Malcolm Carroll: 253-282-0218, Fridays, 7-8:30 am, Red Elm Café, 1114 MLK Jr. Way

- **Papers of Peace (card-making):** Nancy Heavey: 752-8450
- **Prayer Chain:** Sandra Puckett: 348-8999, for prayer requests email: [puckettsandra67@gmail.com](mailto:puckettsandra67@gmail.com)
- **Women's Bible Studies:** Deacon Charissa Carroll: ext. 104

## Opportunities to Serve

**Regular Offering to Peace** Thank you for your generous and ongoing financial support to Peace Lutheran Church! Please share your offering in the Offering box at the sanctuary entrance or send by mail or donate through the church website. To set up regular online giving, contact the church office (253) 383-1317.

**Join the Gospel Choir for Christmas** We rehearse **Thursdays in December at 6 pm** to sing for 7 pm worship on Christmas Eve. Questions? Ask Choir Director Michael Green.

**Give to Help Families for the Holidays** Want to help a family in need this season? Give a donation to Peace Lutheran Church noted "Holiday Help" or bring a gift card for Fred Meyer or WinCo to the office. Questions? Ask Pastor John.

**Retreat Home Giving Wreath** Please consider supporting families through Retreat Home, a network of people and homes offering hospitality to those in need of temporary housing. The giving wreath is located near the Welcome Table and the collection box is in the church office.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars** Are you a member of Thrivent? Do you have Choice Dollars to direct to a charitable organization? Please consider directing them to Peace Lutheran Church by logging into your account on the Thrivent website.

**Poinsettias** If you would like to donate a poinsettia to beautify the altar for Christmas, please bring one to church on **Sunday Dec. 21** or drop it off at the office that week. If you would like your poinsettia to honor someone, please fill out a poinsettia form or email Pastor John with the name of the honoree.

**Van Drivers Needed** Willing to serve as a van driver helping folks get to worship on Sundays? Please contact Pastor John. We need at least one more van driver, especially on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. This is an important ministry of care and connection.

**Feeling Overwhelmed Living in Our Nation and Want to Respond?** Find helpful suggestions for taking positive action in our regular all-church emails. See lists of 7 micro-actions.

## Peace Lutheran Church Information

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

- **8:30 am: Worship**
- **9:30 am: Breakfast & Fellowship**
- **9:45 am: Faith Education Hour**
- **11 am: Worship (also livestream), with Refreshments after**

### **Sunday Faith Education Offerings (9:45-10:45 am)**

- Godly Play for children ages 4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Explorers class for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Feet to Faith confirmation class for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders
- Adult and Older Youth: **No class today—annual meeting**

**Advent Devotionals** Make your way daily through the Advent season using a daily or weekly devotional and Advent wreath of 5 candles. See all-church email for devotional links. **Families with Children:** On Sundays pick up Advent bags with Jesse Tree and God With Us devotional materials and pick up a separate bag with Advent candles to light at home.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting TODAY at 9:45 am (in person and online via Microsoft Teams)** Agenda:

- Election of Council Officers & At-Large Council Members
- Adoption of the 2026 Ministry Plan (Budget)
- Peace Community Center Update
- Gratitude and Blessing for Deacon Charissa Carroll

### **Children's Christmas Program Sunday Dec. 21 during 11 am worship.** Kids of Peace tell the Christmas story! **Come at 9:45 am and be involved in the program! Rehearsals:**

- Children ages 3 to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade come to Godly Play class today at 9:45 am. Come and be involved!
- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders come to Explorers today at 9:45 am to help or join in the play!
- 7<sup>th</sup> graders through high school come to Explorers class today at 9:45 am to help with the play!

**Youth Progressive Dessert Walk: Service, Stories, and Sweetness Friday, December 19, 5–8:30 pm.** Youth are invited to take a journey in the Hilltop that begins with service and ends in celebration. We start at Peace at 5 pm to help serve the Community Meal, and at 6:30 pm we go on a progressive dessert walk to different homes in our Hilltop community, sharing dessert and hearing stories of Christmas traditions at each stop. Come with an empty stomach and an open heart!

### **Christmas Eve Worship - Wednesday, December 24**

**5 pm: Children's Christmas Eve Worship for Families (also live stream):** Join a child-friendly celebration of Jesus' birth!

**7 pm: Christmas Eve Worship (also live stream):** Celebrate Jesus' birth with candles, carols, & message of God's deep love!

### **Service of Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 28**

**10 am only (in person & live stream)** - no 8:30 or 11 am worship; **9:30 am Christmas goodies and fellowship time**

### **New Children's Minister Coming to Peace**

Good news! We are hiring a new part-time Children's Minister, Annabell Davis-Bloom, who starts at Peace in January!

**Anti-Racism Book Resource Library** Check out the book cart in the multipurpose room with anti-racism books to borrow for your personal growth and deeper understanding.

## Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- **Pastor:** John Stroeh, ext 101, [pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org](mailto:pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org)
- **Director of Community Engagement & Outreach:** Brendan Nelson, ext 102, [brendan@peacetacoma.org](mailto:brendan@peacetacoma.org)
- **Deacon of Congregational Care & Community Resources:** Charissa Carroll, ext 104, [charissa@peacetacoma.org](mailto:charissa@peacetacoma.org)
- **Youth Minister:** Manis Pierre, ext 103, [manis@peacetacoma.org](mailto:manis@peacetacoma.org)
- **Music Director:** Twylla Moore, [twylla@peacetacoma.org](mailto:twylla@peacetacoma.org)
- **Gospel Choir Director:** Michael Green, [thegreenlife@hotmail.com](mailto:thegreenlife@hotmail.com)
- **Nursery Attendant:** Brianna Miller, [briannamiller182@gmail.com](mailto:briannamiller182@gmail.com)
- **Operations Manager:** Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext 100, [plcadmin@peacetacoma.org](mailto:plcadmin@peacetacoma.org)
- **Finance Coordinator:** Jenny Haferbecker, [jenny@peacetacoma.org](mailto:jenny@peacetacoma.org)

## Assisting Today

**Altar Guild:** Melody Duke

**Tech:** Brad Wills

**Van Driver:** Andrew Wright

**Breakfast:** Peggy Hurd, Cherry Ford

**Snack:** Lisa Flesher

**8:30 am**  
**Assisting Minister:** Bill Hanawalt  
**Readers:** Dean Sawhill  
**Usher:** Viviane Sawhill  
**Prayer Minister:** Tim Chalberg  
**Musician:** Twylla Moore

**11 am**  
**Pam Asadi**  
**Eric Lee**  
**Ben Flesher**  
**Malcolm Carroll**  
**Twylla Moore**