

Peace Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Tacoma
2106 South Cushman Ave
Tacoma, WA 98405

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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Interested in Learning More about Faith in God and Service through Peace Church? Want to Become a Member of Peace? Join a Saturday class on **December 2** from **10 – 2:30 pm** called “Foundations of Faith and Peace” exploring marks of being a follower of Jesus and what it means to serve him in and through Peace Lutheran Church. This class meets in the church multipurpose room. Lunch provided. Interested? Talk to Pastor John. **New members will be received in worship on Sunday, December 10.**

Adult Forum on the 2024 Ministry Plan (Budget)

Participate in a forum on **Sunday December 3 at 9:45 am** in person in the multipurpose room to hear more about the 2024 budget and ask questions.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 10, 9:45 am (in person & online by Teams) Agenda:

- Adoption of the 2024 Ministry Plan (Budget)
- Election of Council Officers and At-Large Council Positions
- Community Center Board Member Presentation and Update

Faith Opportunities on Sundays 9:45-10:45 am (in person)

- **Godly Play for children ages 4–3rd grade** (basement classroom)
- **Explorers for 4th-6th graders** (multipurpose room classroom)
- **Feet to Faith confirmation for 7th-8th graders** (Conference room)
- **Adult & Older Youth Education class** (multipurpose room).



Children: During 11 am worship, we offer a children’s worship time in the basement classroom. Each week we post Godly Play Bible story videos with wondering questions on our YouTube channel for families to use at home.

Men’s Ministry: Saturday men’s breakfasts are on pause while a team plans for the future. Stay tuned for more information...

THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 19 ▪ Issue 4 ▪ Winter 2023



Special Christmas Events and Worship

Celebrate God’s love and grow in faith in Jesus
this Christmas! Christ is born!!

Intergenerational Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 9 from 11 am – 12:30 pm

Christmas crafts, food, and the story of Jesus’ birth.

Stay afterward (12:30 pm) to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

Children’s Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17 during 11 am worship

Enjoy the message of hope and joy the children bring!

Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm (in person and live stream)

On the longest night of the year, join a contemplative service of lament and healing during a time of year that is difficult for many of us, connecting to our grief and loss.

Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday, December 24

10 am only (in person & live stream) - no 8:30 or 11 am worship

5 pm: Children’s Christmas Eve Worship for Families (in person & live stream)

Join a child-friendly celebration of Jesus’ birth!

7 pm: Christmas Eve Worship (in person & live stream)

Celebrate Jesus’ birth with candles, carols, and the message of God’s incarnate love!

Service of Lessons & Carols - Sunday, December 31

10 am only (in person & live stream) - no 8:30 or 11 am worship



Peace Lutheran
Church



Peace Lutheran Church 2106 S. Cushman Avenue Tacoma, WA 98405, 253-383-1317
www.peacelutherantacoma.org — Find us on Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church Tacoma

Pastor John's Reflection



Thanksgiving for Baptism and Blessing the New Baptismal Font

“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6

In my sermon on All Saints Sunday this year, I remembered Vertisel Isaac, long-time member of Peace Lutheran Church who died this year. As soon as Vertisel saw me walking toward his house, he'd yell out his trademark phrase: “Who ya wit?” Vertisel lived half a block from the church. His mom, a neighborhood matriarch, and Vertisel attended worship at Peace together until she died. Throughout Vertisel's memorial service, cries of “Who ya wit?” echoed in the sanctuary. Life is all about that question, isn't it? Who ya wit? Who are you with? Who is your family, who are your friends, who are your neighbors, who are you relating to? Advent helps us prepare to receive the most profound answer to “Who ya wit?” Jesus, God with us, always.

Vertisel was a person of peace. His version of peace was gathering folks in his yard, eating a fish fry, telling jokes, sharing life. In a neighborhood of way more than its share of drug trade, gun violence, police brutality, and displacement of long-time residents (due to gentrification), Vertisel's way of peace broke down barriers, brought people together, and created community. Dorothy Day said, “Peace begins when the hungry are fed.” Vertisel knew peace begins when the hungry are fed, and he put his own spin on that. He knew peace is about much more than food; it's about companionship, joy, justice, and faith in God. It's about celebrating God's presence by being present with and for one another. The prophet Isaiah speaks of the birth of a child named the Prince of Peace (9:6) and Immanuel (7:14), meaning “God with us.” This Advent I'm grateful for Vertisel for helping me see the connection in Jesus between peace and presence (God's).

Who in your life has helped you make the connection between peace and God's presence, and how will you join Jesus in feeding God's people with peace?

God of shalom, thank you for coming in person in Jesus to forever answer for us the question, “Who ya wit?” In this holy season of longing and hoping, in a world of violence and fear and uncertainty, we yearn for your peace. Help us see the connection between your presence and peace, and inspire us to join Jesus in feeding your people with peace. Amen.

God's peace to you this Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor John



Presentation and Conversation led by the Anti-Racism Work Group

From the Church Council

To the Congregation from the Church Council,

As we head into the fall the Council is actively planning for the future. We are motivated and excited to share with the congregation new offerings. We are moving into our Future Directions and there are many ways for all of us to be a part of our church and community.

Thanks for all who have signed up to participate on committees, your willingness to share your gifts and talents helps to strengthen our church community. Participating on the Church Council has been a great blessing and joy for me this year and I look forward to continuing the work of the Council.

Advent message:

Please bless our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.

Pam Asadi, Church Council President

Your 2023 Church Council:

President – Pam Asadi; Vice President – Joseph Anderson; Treasurer – Erik Tou; Secretary – Gail Storrs; Community Resources – Craig Cogger; Education – Michaela Cox; Evangelism/Outreach – Neoma Clay; Inreach – Rick Trombley; Stewardship – Melody Duke; Worship – Antonio Yune; Youth – Lillie Brooks-Walker; Ex-Officio – Pastor John

Notes about Worship and Faith Resources at Peace



Worship in Person:

We worship Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am. Masks are welcome and encouraged but not required. We require masks the first Sunday of each month for 8:30 am worship so those who need to take additional precautions can participate. We encourage folks to get flu shots and COVID boosters. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, please stay home and worship online.

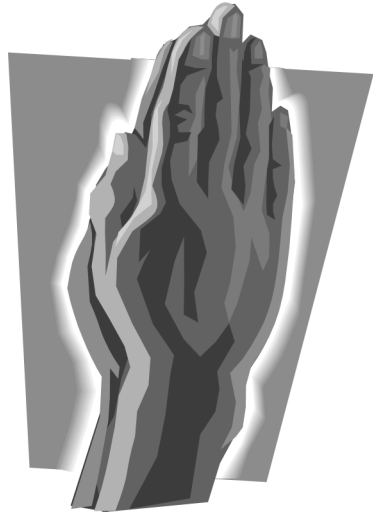
Worship Online: See 11 am live stream worship each Sunday on the church Facebook page; worship video posted later on the church Facebook page and YouTube channel. Find links on our homepage.

Please check the church website www.peacelutherantacoma.org, Facebook page (Facebook Peace Lutheran Tacoma), or YouTube channel for worship and faith resources.



Philippians 4:6

⁶Do not worry **about anything**,
but in everything
by prayer
and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made
known to God.



Remember in Prayer

Those who celebrate...

- All God's children giving thanks this Christmas for God coming in Jesus to know us, love us, & save us
- The Peace community as we reach out to folks in the Hilltop, especially in community meals, resource navigation, housing ministry, and faith offerings for all

Those who are hurting...

- All who suffer racial injustice
- The hungry, all suffering economic poverty, the incarcerated, those without homes, all without hope...
- All who grieve the death of loved ones, for comfort and hope in Christ
- All who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization, for healing
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope
- All who are living in crisis
- All who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of the Holy Land, Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Central African Republic, Haiti, Iraq. For refugees fleeing war and poverty...

Our work...

- Our housing ministry
- Our ministry of sharing Jesus' love with children, youth, and families
- Our work for justice and peace in our world, building bridges among people

Partners in mission & service...

- Peace Community Center in this time of transition
- Our global partners: Davis family in Africa, Rev. Jane Kagochi in Kenya, our companion synod in Namibia, the church in South Sudan, Seigny family in Japan, the church in China, House of Prayer Navajo Lutheran Church in AZ
- Living Stones prison congregation
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

For the complete list, see Sunday's bulletin.

In-reach Ministry

Beloved,

There are many opportunities to serve each other at Peace Lutheran Church. You may have time and resources to help other members to do errands, get to appointments, or get something fixed at home. You may be able to bring Communion to a member who is unable to get to church. You may enjoy coming alongside those who have been making cards to bring encouragement and celebration to one another. You may be able to provide Sunday breakfast between services or the refreshments after the second service. You may be able to join in praying for each other. So the Body of Christ may grow in love. Blessings,

Rick Trombley, In-reach Ministry

Children's, Youth, and Intergenerational Ministries



Harvest Fest!

Hi Peace Families,

This Fall has been busy, and we've seen lots of families joining us at Peace each week. We've revamped Children's ministry a bit this year with painting and decorating the basement classroom. It brings me so much joy to be in there now.

Looking forward we have lots of events that I am excited to share with you.

We will be having the Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 9 from 11 am - 12:30 pm. If you are interested in helping with set up, food, or clean up please reach out to me.

The children will be doing a special Christmas program Sunday, December 17th during 11 am worship. The youth have been busy helping with community dinners for the last few months, and we had a special trip to the Spooner Farms Corn Maze. I pray each and every one of you find community and joy this holiday season.

Blessings,

Jayna Detweiler,

Children's, Youth, and Intergenerational Ministries Coordinator

Advent at Peace

- 11.19 Christmas program songs sent out
- 12.3 Advent - Jesse Tree Devotional starts
- 12.9 11:00-12:30 Christmas Brunch, story & crafts
- 12:30 Decorate sanctuary
- 12.10 Christmas Program Practice during 11 AM Children's Worship Time
- 12.17 Christmas Program 11 AM Worship
- 12.24 *10 AM Worship ONLY 1 SERVICE*
- 12.24 5 PM Christmas Eve Children's Celebration
- 7 PM Christmas Eve Candle Light service

Peace Community Center

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

We are grateful for your continued care and support for Hilltop youth!

In this time of transition, the Peace Community Center remains committed to the children, youth, and families of our Hilltop neighborhood. We, the Board of Directors of Peace Community Center want to share an update with you and our community. In an effort to stabilize our financial foundation and discern paths forward for the Center’s future and sustainability, we have paused academic programming for this school year. While we pause programming, here are our current four areas of focus:



- **Reset:** We are currently addressing immediate finance and administrative needs to stabilize the organization.
- **Build Trust:** We acknowledge that this has been a challenging transition, and some confidence has been lost in our community, and with the young people and families we are committed to serving. Soon we will communicate with community members and partners to listen to feedback and share next steps so that we are able to move forward together.
- **Renew:** We intend to undergo a community needs assessment and strategic planning so we may more effectively serve our mission in our Hilltop neighborhood.
- **Rebuild:** We will tackle Board and organizational development so we can build back stronger and fulfill our commitments to our community.

In the meantime, please know that Peace Community Center continues to actively partner with Peace Lutheran Church to serve the Hilltop in many ways:

- Supports regular free community meals on site with community resource navigation, a clothing closet, and hygiene supplies,
- Serves as an affordable space for community gatherings (e.g., around housing, youth concerns, and police/community safety), events hosted by local social service organizations, and community groups,
- Provides care and support for youth and families of the Hilltop neighborhood.

We are grateful for your partnership and welcome your ongoing support as we reassess, revision, and rebuild.

If you have questions or would like to share your support, please email directors@peacecommunitycenter.org or reach out to any of the Peace Community Center Board Members.

In community,

Peace Community Center Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Arthur Jones-President | Trina Kagochi-Board Member |
| Kerri Pedrick-Vice President/Treasurer | Joanne Few McWilson-Board Member |
| Sarah Detweiler-Secretary | Stephen Olson-Board Member |



Advent Devotional Materials

Advent Daily and Weekly Devotionals

Make your way through Advent using a daily or weekly devotional together with an Advent wreath of 5 candles. We are including the devotionals below as a link in regular all-church emails. If you would like a printed version, please contact Pastor John.

Adults and Youth:

- Use the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger weekly Advent Study “Where and When Do You Encounter God?”
- Use the “Living Well Through Advent” daily resource by Living Compass about practicing wonder with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.

Families with Children:

- Use the Jesse Tree daily devotional booklet with daily ornament symbols together with an Advent wreath to help the Advent journey come alive by hearing stories and learning about people in Jesus’ family tree in the Bible. If you are interested in Jesse Tree materials and Advent candles to use at home, please contact Pastor John.
- Use the weekly illustrated Advent devotional “God With Us.”

World Hunger Advent Calendar

Explore and engage ways to end hunger using a daily Advent calendar (contact Pastor John).

Christ in Our Home

Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional “Christ in Our Home”? Pick one up Sunday morning or at the church during the week.

Music Ministry

Hello Peace Family,

The Music Department is blossoming into a beautiful collage. Webster’s definition states a collage is “an artistic composition made of various materials.” We are being intentional about including new song leaders, musicians and the Choir to our artistic composition. Also incorporating special selections, and impromptu moments such as Lawrence sharing his gift in song, that accentuate the flow of the service. We encourage folks to “get in where they fit in” to release their gifts and talents for the Lord’s service. There is no musical talent too small to fit into our musical collage and we welcome the diversity. I am always willing to rehearse with anyone interested in song leading or practicing with an instrument and welcome praise dance and poetry as an added layer to the service.



A special thanks to all the musicians, song leaders and sound technicians that continue to support the Music Department. Your dedication and commitment provide support and continuity to the services. I Corinthians 15:58 says “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” I look forward to the continued growth of the Music Department.



Blessings,

Twylla Moore, Music Director

Community Engagement & Outreach

Hello Peace family,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you all for the warm welcome back. I enjoyed my sabbatical and greatly appreciated all the love my family received. I feel a sense of renewed energy and look forward to continuing in ministry. There have been some great things happening in the ministry and I wanted to highlight a few for you.

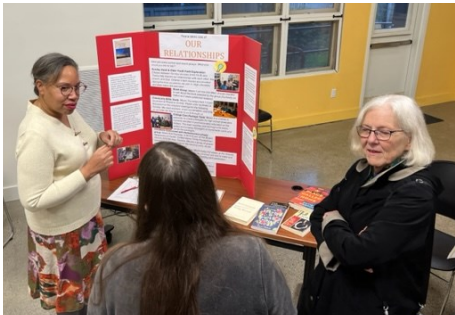
- We received a grant for \$50,000 from Tacoma Public Utilities to aid in installing solar panels on our 3 existing properties. The first installation will begin in early 2024.
- St. Mark's Lutheran by the Narrows and Peace have teamed up together to listen to our neighbors and to work together for justice and compassion. "Shalom" is the Hebrew word, not simply for "peace" but for a shared wholeness in all facets of life. Together we seek concrete ways to work for economic, social, and racial wholeness, with a special focus on climate justice. In partnership with the Tacoma Tree Foundation, we are planning a major tree-planting endeavor for the Hilltop neighborhood.
- We have received a grant for \$5,000 from Virginia Mason Franciscan Health to support our community resource ministry. We are also seeking additional funding opportunities to strengthen the ministry's capacity.

I ask for your continued prayers and words of encouragement. If you would like to volunteer in any area, please reach out to me. We are always grateful for the additional hands of support.

Peace and Blessings, *Brendan Nelson*, Director of Community Engagement and Outreach



Ministry Fair at Peace - All Hands on Deck!



Who's Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

- Pastor: John Stroeh, ext 101, pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org
Director of Community Engagement & Outreach: Brendan Nelson, ext. 103, brendan@peacetacoma.org
Coordinator of Children, Youth, & Intergenerational Ministry: Jayna Detweiler, ext 100 (leave a message), jayna@peacetacoma.org
Music Director: Twylla Moore, twylla@peacetacoma.org
Resource Navigator: Charissa Carroll, charissa@peacetacoma.org, ext 100 (leave a message)
Office Manager: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext. 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org
Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
Nursery Care: Brianna Miller

Women's Ministry

Greetings, Peace family.

It has been a full year, and I am very thankful for the wonderful opportunities we have had to learn, grow and worship with you all. The women of Peace have been busy this year as well. We met monthly for Saturday morning breakfast and fellowship time. We hosted a wonderful High Tea & Plant sale with a great turnout, great food and so much fun. In October, we gathered for a time of retreat and Holy Spirit talk, led by Sarah ButlerWills at beautiful Lake Retreat in Ravensdale, WA. We have created new memories, laughed, danced, prayed and grown in friendship this year. I thank God for all the beautiful people here at Peace and look forward to the new year and new faces.



We are so grateful for the strong and balanced leadership team we have had; we will miss Sarah as she transitions off the team, and we send her off with gratitude and blessings as she continues to lead in other ways. Thank you, Sarah! The baton will be passed to Julia Kagochi, who will bring her wisdom, joy and passion as she joins Leigh and Charissa as they in partnership lead women's ministry at Peace.

If you have signed up to partner with the women's ministry, we will be reaching out to you soon. Please be on the look out for upcoming Breakfast dates and activities in the new year. We look forward to growing in faith & friendship with the women of Peace. If you haven't come to an event, please come. All women are welcome!

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. — Proverbs 31:26

With Gratitude,

Charissa Carroll, Deacon/Resource Navigator



Check out Peace Lutheran Church on Social Media!

Check out the website: [Peace Lutheran Church](https://www.peacelutheranchurch.org)

Find us on Facebook:

[Peace Lutheran Tacoma](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranTacoma)

[Peace Lutheran Church Youth Ministry](https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranChurchYouthMinistry)

Instagram: [@peacelutheranchurch](https://www.instagram.com/peacelutheranchurch)

Want to catch up on what you've been missing?

Check our YouTube page: [Peace Videos](https://www.youtube.com/PeaceVideos)

Stewardship Highlight: All Hands on Deck!

A big thank you to all the crew of the Peace Lutheran Church community for your willingness to join and actively participate in our annual stewardship journey of celebration and renewal of commitment.

As always, there are big plans afoot for the coming year, and the achievement of these goals and dreams is only possible through the work of our community. We learned much this past month through adult education, temple talks and the Ministry Fair.

Thanks to all who signed up during the fair and faithfully submitted pledge information. We have a better idea of how and where to use the many talented hands in our Peace family. We can look forward to the Ministry Plan in the near future and to a year filled with the blessings of fellowship in service.



As Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3: “We always thank God for all of you, making mention of you constantly in our prayers. We recall, in the presence of our God and Father, your work produced by faith, your labor motivated by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

God’s Peace & Love to All,

Melody Duke, Stewardship



“All Hands on Deck!”

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry

Peace Family,
Being part of this ministry has truly been pleasant and rewarding. As part of the Community Meals ministry, I have enjoyed cooking and serving the people of God as well as greet them as they come in the doors. While I'm on this journey for God, I will do my very best to serve and greet everyone.

Matthew 25:35-
“I was hungry and you fed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was in prison you visited me.”
Psalms 84:10-
“I would rather be a door keeper in the house of my God...”

Peace,
Neoma Clay, Evangelism and Outreach



Community Meal ministry

Opportunities to Serve

Below are some opportunities for you to serve and be blessed through the Peace community.

Time and Talent:

- **Want to Serve in the Many Ministry Opportunities at Peace?** Please contact Brendan Nelson.
- **Community Resources Ministry** Want to support the Friday grab and go Community Meals? Provide a meal OR come and help serve at the meal. Questions or to volunteer: contact Damishe Greenwood-Walker at plcadmin@peacetacoma.org.

Treasure:

- **Want to Give Offering to Peace Through Auto-Deduction?** Contact Damishe in the office.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? Do you have Choice Dollars to direct to a charitable organization? Please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Peace Lutheran Church or Peace Community Center by logging into your account on the Thrivent website.
- **Give to the Community Resources Ministry** Make a donation to help. If you have a Fred Meyer rewards card please link it to Peace. Go to www.fredmeyer.com, community rewards, and enter Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church or key in Fk117.
- **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 Walmart to the Church office. Questions? Ask Pastor John.

Have you pledged your time, talent, & treasure to God for the work of the Church in 2024?
If you missed the opportunity or have not turned in your Commitment brochure, please put it in the Offering Box at the Welcome Table or send or email it to the church office. Didn’t receive one? Please contact Pastor John who will email or send you a copy. Thank you for generously sharing God’s gifts!

Mission Statement

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.

Core Values...

Serve with **COURAGE**
Embrace **DIVERSITY**
Cultivate **COMMUNITY**
Seek **JUSTICE**

Vision Statement

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**.

Welcome Statement

All are welcome at Peace! We are a diverse community of welcome for people of all ethnic and cultural heritages, ages and generations, educational and financial backgrounds, gender identities and sexual orientations, spiritual and religious preferences, gifts and abilities! Centered in Jesus and his love, we believe that every human being is created in the image of God, whose Spirit gathers us into one community of faith in our Hilltop neighborhood. You are a blessing to Peace! We welcome your presence, your gifts, your voice, your service, your leadership, and our shared life together in community!