

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tacoma
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THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 22 ▪ Issue 3 ▪ Fall 2026

Peace Lutheran Church Worship

We resume our regular worship schedule Sunday September 13. We worship Sundays at 8:30 & 11 am. If you are experiencing symptoms of illness, please stay home and worship online. Join live stream Sunday worship at 11 am on the church Facebook page (worship video also available later on the YouTube channel).



Summer Bible Adventure!

Rally Sunday Is September 13!

Get ready! Get ready! Get ready!! Game on! Come celebrate the return of the fall Sunday morning worship schedule and faith formation offerings. Wear your favorite sports gear. Come ready to cheer on and join in. We'll have a great breakfast at 9:30 am and Rally time together at 9:45 am in the multipurpose room, and we'll share a Back-to-School Bake-off with goodies and fellowship after 11 am worship. Make a commitment at the beginning of the school year for your family to grow deeper in relationship with God! We are offering opportunities for children, youth, and adults. **Starting Sunday September 20, on Sunday mornings 9:45 - 10:45 am**, there will be an adult class, a youth Life and Culture conversation for 7th-12th graders, the Explorers class for 4th-6th graders, and a Godly Play Bible story time for children ages 4 through 3rd grade. Questions? Ask Pastor John.

Commitment Sunday Is October 25!

Don't miss **Sunday October 25 at Peace**, the culmination of our stewardship series "**Generosity and Gratitude in All Seasons**," when we invite everyone to make a commitment to share your time, talent, and treasure for God's work through Peace Lutheran Church in 2027. In the series (Sundays October 11, 18, and 25) leading to Commitment Sunday we will explore how, as good stewards of God's generous gifts, we practice generosity and gratitude in all seasons of our lives.

Peace Devotional Book Have you picked up a copy of the second Peace Devotional Book? Our dearly departed Shari Shelton and the Writing Group pulled together the reflections and writings in this very large book (over 500 pages) that was published last year. Thanks to all who contributed! Cost is a donation of \$20 or more (actual cost per book was \$50). If you would like a book and the cost is a hardship, please contact Pastor John. We have a few of the first Peace Devotional Books available for purchase also for \$20. Contact the church office to purchase a book.

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.

Christ in Our Home Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional "Christ in Our Home"? Pick one up from the table outside the sanctuary, or contact Damishe in the office.



Peace Lutheran
Church



Pastor’s Reflection



Confirmation Sunday

“O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures... These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.” – Psalm 104:24, 27-28

People of Peace,

I recently returned from a two-week camping vacation with my family in Glacier National Park in Montana and Banff National Park in Canada. An opportunity to live closer to the land for awhile. 11 overnights in a tent, meals cooked on a camp stove, lots of hiking in the mountains (including up to glaciers), swimming in cold mountain lakes, waterfalls, wildflowers, and many animal sightings—bear, moose, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, deer,

alpine ground squirrels! The beauty of God’s creation on full display! God’s manifold, magnificent works!

I’ve been reflecting on Psalm 104 this summer. Psalm 104 shares a picture of God’s ongoing creativity and abundant care for God’s earth and God’s creatures. I’m helped by wisdom from Native American tradition. Our first night at a campground in Glacier National Park, we were blessed to attend a campfire presentation from Vernon Finley, a Kootenai tribal elder, part of a “Native America Speaks” series. I will carry many of his stories and insights with me into the future. In particular, he shared the Kootenai creation story and the indigenous perspective that human beings are the little brother (or little sibling) to the larger created world. We often behave as if we are the older sibling, taking charge over and making our own decisions with the earth. But we are little sibling to the earth, plants, and animals which were around before we were. We can’t survive without plants and animals, though they can survive without us.

I’ve been reading the book *Reading the Bible on Turtle Island: An Invitation to North American Indigenous Interpretation* by T. Christopher Hoklotubbe and H. Daniel Zacharias. The book offers a fresh reading of scripture that celebrates the gifts, blessings, and insights of indigenous interpretation that enriches all of God’s people. The phrase “all my relations” expresses the indigenous belief in the interconnectedness, interrelatedness, and interdependence of all things. Human beings are not seen as the pinnacle of creation separate from nature but as part of it, created for relationship with our Creator God and with all of creation. Plants and animals are called “more than human kin,” recognizing their fundamental role in earth relationships. People are called to respect, care for, and protect the earth and everything in it. The message is there in scripture, especially Genesis 1 and 2, but it is often overlooked or misrepresented.

Spending time outside in the beauty of the Pacific Northwest can help us value and appreciate God’s creation in all its variety and not take its gifts for granted. As we see the effects of global warming in our world in increased wildfires, glaciers retreating and collapsing, extreme weather events, mudslides and flooding, it’s even more important that we take seriously and with humility our interdependent role in the web of God’s creation. Creation cares for us, and God calls us to care for creation.



We speak a land acknowledgment at the start of each Sunday worship service. Thanks be to God for the wisdom and gifts shared by our indigenous siblings who have stewarded this land for millennia and continue to steward it and teach us today.

God’s peace and blessings this fall,

Pastor John



Peace Fall Calendar

September

Sunday Sept. 13: Rally Sunday! Celebrate the return of fall Sunday worship schedule and faith formation offerings
Sunday Sept. 20: Faith education 9:45 - 10:45 am begins again on Sundays: adult class, youth 7th-12th grade class, 4th-6th grade Explorers class, ages 4-3rd grade Godly Play; **Bishop Keith Marshall preaches and teaches**

October

Sunday Oct. 11: Stewardship series “Generosity and Gratitude in All Seasons” kicks off!
Saturday Oct. 24, 2-3 pm: Harvest Fest for children and families
Sunday Oct. 25: Commitment Sunday: All are invited to make a pledge of our time, talent, and treasure to God through Peace Lutheran Church for 2027. Please bring your commitment brochure to worship or send it to the office.

November

Sunday Nov. 1: All Saints Sunday
Saturday Nov. 7, 9 am - 5 pm: Holiday Bazaar
Saturday Nov. 21, 5:30 pm: Thanksgiving Meal and Worship

December

Thursday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve — We celebrate the birth of Jesus!
5 pm Children’s Christmas Celebration / 7 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Opportunities to Serve

Regular Offering to Peace Thank you for your ongoing financial support of God’s ministry through Peace Lutheran Church. You may bring your offering in person to put in the Offering Box at the sanctuary entrance or send your offering by mail or donate on the church website. If you would like to get set up for regular online giving, please contact Damishe in the church office at 253-383-1317.

Note to Credit Card Givers If you regularly give to Peace Lutheran Church via credit card, please consider setting up direct bank withdrawals instead (to save the church a significant amount of credit card fees and allow your offering to go fully toward the church’s mission). Please contact Damishe in the office.

Worship Helpers Needed We need readers, ushers, altar guild servers, and tech people to serve and help lead worship. Please contact Pastor John.

Van Driver Needed Feel called to occasionally drive the van to transport folks to worship? Please contact Pastor John.

Breakfast Providers Needed Able to provide a Sunday breakfast at Peace? Sign up at the Welcome Table. Questions? Ask Teresa Jackson (253-318-4420).

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.

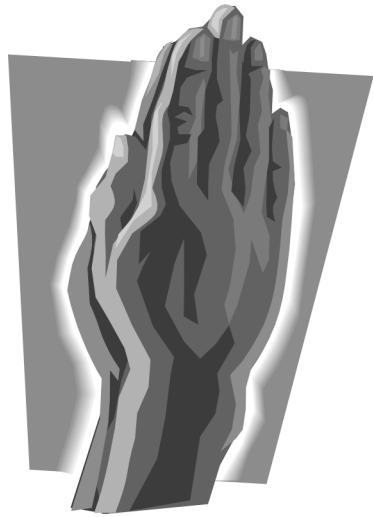
October is Hunger Response Month at Peace!

- **Give A Financial Gift to Fight Hunger.** Write a check to Peace Lutheran Church earmarked “Emergency Food Network” for local food banks. Or write a check to Peace earmarked “ELCA World Hunger Appeal” for global hunger relief, development, education, and advocacy.
- **Friday Peace Café and Community Meals.** Help out as needed. Meal is 5:30 – 6:30 pm.



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...

- Our community grateful for summer ministries including special youth events, Peace at the Park, Summer Bible Adventure, Outdoor Worship/BBQ & Games, and Friday Community Meals
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families this fall, especially with community resources, physical and emotional and social support, spiritual care ministry, & 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, who are ill, facing surgery, recovering from hospitalization
- All who struggle financially, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, for hope
- All suffering from the effects of wildfires and turbulent weather
- All who live midst violence, war, or unrest, especially the people of Iran, Ukraine, Gaza and the Holy Land, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Haiti, Central African Republic, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Iraq

Our work...

- For future directions of Peace Lutheran Church, as we live into our foundational commitment to anti-racism
- Our ministries in community development, especially in 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 our strategic planning process and hiring of a new Executive Director
- Our global partners: Jane Kagochi & Solid Faith Church in Kenya; the Namibian Lutheran Church (our companion synod); Seigny family in Japan
- One Parish, One Prisoner prison reentry ministry
- Living Stones prison congregation in Shelton
- Faith Action Network leading in advocacy for justice for all, and for political leaders

For the complete list, see Sunday's announcements.

Peace Community Center

Peace Lutheran Church Community,

We are excited to bring you this update and appreciate your continued investment and care for our work and mission.

Initial Strategic Plan Implementation

Our focus as a Board over the last two months has been preparing the process of hiring and onboarding our next Executive Director. We are now sharing the [position profile](#) with a priority application deadline of September 24 with the goal of having a new Executive Director in place this fall. Please join us in sharing this opportunity with as many people and communities as possible. In addition, we have been in conversation with Church staff and Council to strengthen our partnership and create better documentation of what our shared work looks like in its implementation. This is particularly important to have in place for the hiring process so Executive Director applicants have a clear picture of the community they will be joining and the work ahead.

Strategic Plan Overview

The Board of Directors adopted the Center's new Strategic Plan in early 2026. The plan itself is rooted in listening to our community and grounded in the Center's foundational purpose of loving, serving, and being part of the Hilltop community. The plan shares our new mission: *Peace Community Center, a faith-rooted, community-led organization, works alongside Hilltop youth and families to build pathways to stability, opportunity and housing security, along with new values of Faith-Rooted Justice, Community Led Listening and Learning, Belonging and Place, and Collective Action and Partnership.*

Grounded in our new mission, values, and strategic direction, Peace Community Center will walk and engage with neighbors and partners to do three things:

1. strengthen and develop new partnerships to serve the Hilltop community,
2. develop new programs and services,
3. build organizational capacity to strong and stable growth.

While we recognize these three goals do not say exactly what our programs and partnerships will be, we believe that their development will be strongest with a new Executive Director in place who is engaging and listening to community members and partners. Please take a moment to read the [Strategic Plan](#), which gives a strong overview (5-10 minutes of reading).

Continuing to Seek New Board Members

This is an exciting time to be on the Board of Directors. We continue to look for new individuals to join us so that we can govern and steward Peace Community Center effectively. The Board needs diverse perspectives, experiences, and expertise to successfully lead. Please reach out to us if you are interested in joining the board or if you know someone you think we should consider.

As always, if you have any questions or need an update on the work of the Center, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Board of Directors at directors@peacecommunitycenter.org. With gratitude,

Board of Directors, Peace Community Center

Kerri Pedrick, President

Gerdon Jones, Member

Joanne McWilson, Vice President

Malando Redeemer, Member

Sarah Detweiler, Treasurer

Pastor John Stroeh, Ex Officio

Upcoming Church Events and Opportunities

Holiday Bazaar: The Holiday Bazaar is **Saturday November 7 from 9 am - 5 pm**. It will be an opportunity to purchase low-cost holiday-related items, including toys. Questions? Ask Teresa Jackson (253-318-4420).

Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Worship: **Saturday, Nov. 21 at 5:30 pm**. Come to this community celebration in the multipurpose room, an opportunity to thank God for all God's good gifts! It's a potluck Thanksgiving meal with neighbors! Questions? Call Teresa Jackson (253-318-4420).



Future Directions & Community Engagement at Peace

Peace Family,

Over the past year, we have continued to make progress with our Affordable Housing Ministry at Peace. For us, this work has always been about more than houses and buildings. It is about creating safe and stable homes where families can grow, thrive, and remain connected to the Hilltop community.

Over the last several months, we have continued caring for our four existing homes while also looking ahead to what may be possible in the future. Two of our homes recently became available, which gave us an opportunity to complete some needed cleaning, landscaping, and repairs before welcoming new families. We are grateful to everyone who has helped us care for these homes and prepare them for their next chapter.

We have also been working through the next steps for the home that was damaged by fire earlier this year. After looking closely at the condition of the house and considering our larger vision, the decision was made to take the home down instead of rebuilding it. While this was not an easy decision, it will allow us to clear the property and prepare the way for what could come next.

Through our partnership with Liminal Land Consultants and other housing professionals, we have been able to take a deeper look at how our properties could be used to create more affordable housing. The early plans include a mix of two- and three-bedroom homes. These larger units are especially important because it is becoming harder for families with children to find affordable housing in Tacoma.

We are still in the early feasibility and planning stages, so no final decisions have been made. Right now, we are trying to understand what is possible, what it will take financially, and how we can move forward in a way that is faithful to our mission and responsive to the needs of our community.

One of the most important parts of this next phase will be hearing from people. We will begin by bringing the congregation up to date and creating space for members to ask questions, share ideas, and help shape the vision. From there, we will continue engaging our neighbors and community partners. We want this process to be rooted in the voices and experiences of the people who are most impacted by the housing challenges facing our community.

We are grateful for many partners who continue to believe in this ministry. Support from Enterprise Community Partners, Wells Fargo, LISC, the NEEB Family Foundation, ELCA World Hunger, and others has helped us continue planning, feasibility, and community engagement work. Their support is helping us imagine what it could look like for Peace to provide more permanently affordable homes in Hilltop.

There is still a lot of work ahead of us, but we are excited about the progress being made. This is about more than putting up new buildings. It is about helping families stay in their community, responding to displacement, and using what God has placed in our hands to serve others.

As we enter the fall season, we ask that you continue to pray for wisdom, clarity, and unity throughout this process. We also invite you to stay connected as more opportunities to learn, ask questions, and participate are announced. Together, we can help create a future where more families have a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

Brendan Nelson

Director of Community Engagement and Outreach



Outdoor Worship BBQ Cookout!



Peace Cafe



Partner church serving community meal

Children's Ministry

Dear People of Peace,

This summer, Children, Youth, and Families were invited to join us for Summer Bible Adventure: Rainbow of Promise! Over 30 children and their families participated as we explored the story of Noah.

Together, we learned what it means to listen to God, as Noah was asked to build a giant ark and fill it with two of every animal. We learned about having faith in God during the long days and nights on the ark, and we were reminded that God keeps His promises. Through the rainbow in the sky, God promised that He would never again flood the whole earth.

We are grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make this a meaningful summer experience!

Interested in volunteering with the Children's Ministry? Please contact me at annabell@peacetacoma.org to learn more.

God's peace,

Annabell Davis-Bloom, Children's Minister



Youth Ministry

Hi All,

August has been an incredibly blessed and active month for our youth and families!



First, I want to share what a wonderful time we had at our Youth Beach Day on Tuesday, August 11. Our prayers for good weather were certainly answered with beautiful, sunny blue skies! The youth arrived just in time to take full advantage of the 11:00 a.m. low tide. We spent the morning walking far out onto the tide flats, discovering all sorts of shoreline treasures. A major highlight of the day was the epic, collaborative sandcastles the group built—some complete with a moat and beautifully decorated with shells, bright green seaweed, crabs, and even a large starfish. After a well-deserved lunch, we enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of boating, water games, and outdoor adventure before heading home.



Our youth also gathered in July for fellowship over a wonderful meal. A heartfelt thank you to Bill and Kathy Hanawalt for graciously hosting our July youth dinner. Your ongoing hospitality and support of our youth ministry means so much to our community!

Finally, looking back on our youth and children's events earlier this summer, Rachel and I want to share how much joy we had participating in the Summer Bible Adventure. It was such a blessing for me and Rachel to step into character and participate as Noah and his wife, helping to bring Bible stories to life for everyone.

Blessings and Peace,

Manis Pierre, Youth Minister



Music Ministry ~ Gospel Choir

Dear Peace Congregation,

As summer inches its way to an end, the Peace Gospel Choir is wrapping up a "vacation". We have ministered once a month rather than twice a month recently, and have hopefully been a blessing to the early risers that don't hear us at 8:30am but have been attending Sunday single services at 10:00am. The choir went big for its ministry in August, singing many songs as part of the return of the Peace Outdoor service on the 9th.



We do look forward to getting back to weekly fellowship in rehearsal on Thursdays and twice-a-month singing on Sundays beginning in September. And as always, you are welcome to offer YOUR voice (or other musical gifts) to the choir. Be blessed,

Michael Green, Gospel Choir Director/Interim Music Minister

Women’s Ministry

Women of Peace

2026-2027 EVENTS

Sep-May

Date: Sept. 2026 through June 2027
Where: Peace Lutheran Church
Sign up for one of four women's ministry small group Bible study opportunities with four incredible women! Reach out to Leigh Wong at leighawong@gmail.com for more info.

Sept

Date: Sept. 19, 2026 | Time: 9-11 AM
Where: People's Community Center - Multipurpose Room
Come join the women's ministry at our kickoff breakfast. We will share in fellowship and talk about the year ahead. Please bring a breakfast dish to share.

Dec

Date: Dec. 4, 2026 | Time: 7-9 PM
Where: Peace Lutheran Church - New Classroom
Celebrate the Christmas season at our annual white elephant gift exchange! Bring a dish to share and one small (worth \$10 or less) gift to exchange.

Feb

Date: Feb. 27, 2027 | Time: 10 AM-1 PM
Where: Peace Lutheran Church - Multipurpose Room
Come to our Spring Maker's Market! This is a fundraiser to support the women's ministry retreat scholarship fund. Email Lenora Sneva at lenora.sneva@gmail.com to learn more.

Apr-May

Date: Apr. 30-May 2, 2027 | Women's Retreat Weekend
Where: Seabeck Retreat Center
SAVE THE DATE for our bi-annual women's retreat weekend! We are back in beautiful Seabeck. Please keep an eye out for registration coming up in the Fall.

Jun

Date: June 5, 2027 | Time: 9:30-11 AM
Where: Peace Lutheran Church - New Classroom
Let's reflect on and celebrate a beautiful and incredible year of women's ministry with an end-of-the-season party. Bring a dish and ideas for next year to share.

Jun

Date: June 20, 2027 | Time: 9:30-11 AM
Where: Peace Lutheran Church - Multipurpose Room
Join the ladies of Peace in honoring the dads and father figures of our church community! A sign-up for breakfast dishes and volunteers will be sent out closer to June 2027.

Men’s Ministry

Friday Morning Men’s Fellowship
7:00 – 8:30 am every Friday at the classroom across the alley from Peace Lutheran Church. All men are welcome. Bible study, fellowship, and mutual prayer support. Contact Malcolm Carroll with questions (253-282-0218) or just show up.

Women of Peace Leadership Team,
Leigh Wong, Julia Kagochi, & Lenora Sneva

Peace Garden

Last fall we renovated the garden beds, applying lime and compost and growing cover crops. We added potassium fertilizer and more lime when we turned the cover crops under in the spring, and the results have been positive, with the most productive garden we have had since we started.



We prepared three lettuce salads and one spinach salad for the community meals in May and June and cooked up garden kale for another community meal. Summer has brought snap peas, tomatoes, zucchinis, snap beans, and onions for the community meals and distribution to folks at Peace. Carrot harvest will start soon, with sweet peppers, more kale, winter squash and collards to come later.

Thanks to all who helped prepare and plant the garden beds last fall and this spring. Check out the garden when you have time. We'll have more work days in late September and early October to prepare the garden for next year.

If you would like to help weed or harvest this summer or partake in the fall work days, please contact me.

Craig Cogger, Peace Garden Ministry

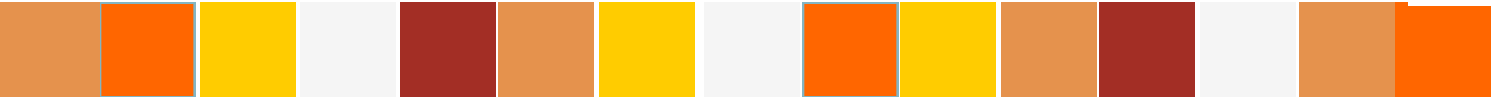
Small Group Opportunities to Grow and Serve This Fall

Here Are the Ongoing Small Groups for Growing in Faith and Fellowship

- Children’s Choir: Michael Green: 360-350-2445, usually 3rd & 4th Sundays after 11 am worship, sing 1st Sundays at 11 am
- College Care Package Team: Pat Ferguson: 627-1349
- Community Bible Study: Pastor John: 383-1317 ext 101, Thursdays, 1-2 pm, starts October 1
- For a Time Such as This: Lynn Longfield: lynn_longfield@hotmail.com, 2nd Sundays after 11 am worship
- Gospel Choir: Michael Green: 360-350-2445, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Thurs, 6 pm; sing 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11 am
- Men’s Bible Study: Malcolm Carroll: 282-0218, Fridays, 7-8:30 am
- Papers of Peace (card-making): Nancy Heavey: 752-8450
- Prayer Chain: Gail Storrs: 222-5246, for prayer requests email: gailstorrs@gmail.com
- Women’s Bible Study: Leigh Wong: 302-7641
- Writing Group: Gail Storrs: 222-5246, 2nd Mondays, 6 pm

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 102, brendan@peacetacoma.org
- **Youth Minister:** Manis Pierre, ext 103, manis@peacetaoma.org
- **Children’s Minister:** Annabell Davis-Bloom, ext 104, annabell@peacetacoma.org
- **Interim Music Director:** Michael Green, michael@peacetacoma.org
- **Gospel Choir Director:** Michael Green, michael@peacetacoma.org
- **Musician:** Twylla Moore
- **Nursery Attendant:** Brianna Miller, briannamiller182@gmail.com
- **Finance Coordinator:** Jenny Haferbecker, jenny@peacetacoma.org
- **Operations Manager:** Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext 100, plcadmin@peacetacoma.org



Opportunities for Adults to Grow in Faith

Upcoming Adult & Older Youth Education Sundays from 9:45 - 10:45 am

- **Sept. 20:** What is the SWWA Synod? Synod Vision and Directions, led by Bishop Keith Marshall
- **Sept. 27 & Oct. 4:** The Gifts God’s Given You, led by Brendan Nelson & Shelley Maebori
- **Oct. 11, 18, & 25:** Generosity and Gratitude in All Seasons, a series from the Stewardship Team
- **Nov. 1 & 8:** Housing Ministry, led by the Housing Vision team

Community Bible Study: Starting **October 1**, Pastor John facilitates a Community Bible Study in the church Conference Room and online on Teams (your choice) **Thursdays 1-2 pm** on the scripture readings for worship the following Sunday. We read scripture, share conversation, and pray as we listen for God to speak to us and through us. Email Pastor John for Teams link.

For Such a Time As This Searching for a place to listen to God and share with others about how to live as a faithful follower of Jesus now, in America, during such a time as this? Come to a group that generally meets on **second Sundays after 11 am worship**. Next meeting, though, is **Sunday Sept 20 after 11 am worship**. Contact Lynn (lynn_longfield@hotmail.com).

Stay Connected with Peace Lutheran Church!

Find worship services and faith resources, see ministry pictures, get updates, and stay on top of what’s going on! Call the church office to get on the email list!

Facebook Peace Lutheran Church Tacoma:
<https://www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranChurchTacoma/>

Peace’s website: <http://www.peacelutherantacoma.org/>

Peace’s YouTube channel with worship services and faith videos [here](#).

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.**

Foundational Commitment to Anti-Racism

As followers of Jesus, we believe that God created all people in God’s image (Genesis 1:27), Jesus breaks down all dividing walls (Ephesians 2:14), and the Holy Spirit connects and unites all people. The whole church looks forward to God’s future when people will be gathered from all cultures and peoples in the reign of God (Revelation 7). This church names racism (individual and systemic) as sin. We affirm that the diversity of cultures is a God-given gift, and we seek to extend God’s love to all our neighbors. We believe Jesus calls us to understand, address, and dismantle racism in individuals, communities, systems, and structures, joining God in bringing about justice for the oppressed and transformation of all society (Luke 4).

From the Church Council

Dear Peace Family,

If you’ve been praying for the work of the council, thank you! If you’d like to start, please pray for us to be guided by the mission, vision, and values of Peace in all that we do. Together with our Secretary Allison Kies we are grieving the death of her husband Alan. Across the church we feel his loss in different ways and we’re grateful for his gifts of time and care that extend beyond his life. When you look up and see the new roof over the church and look even higher to our repaired steeple, say a prayer of gratitude to God for Alan who took the lead in getting this big project underway. The roof is just one example of how Alan’s attention to maintenance continues to shelter us.

In recent months we’ve been devoting more time at our council meetings to hear from Brendan Nelson, our Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, about our housing ministry. We’re learning more about the immediate, day-to-day work of our housing program and the possibilities emerging through the housing feasibility study. We’ll be continuing this learning and this work in coming months as we hear more from the Housing Feasibility/Visioning Team and as we work toward creating a part-time internship position to support the health and sustainability of the housing program.

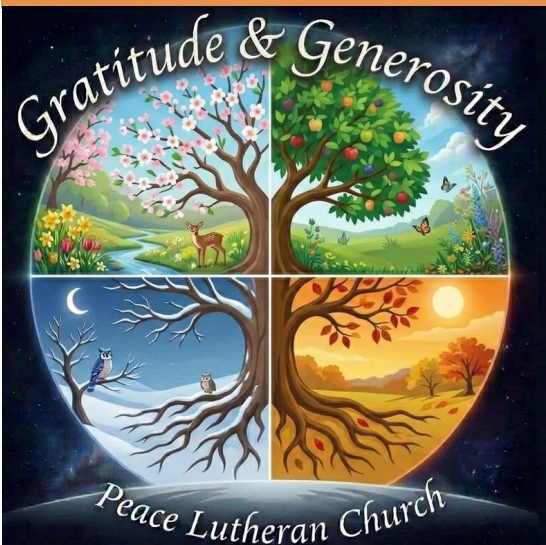
Staff reviews and evaluations are another focus of the council, specifically of our Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). We’ve participated in a 6 month review for our Youth Minister and for our Children's Minister. With a goal to bring our annual staff evaluation process into better alignment with our foundational commitment to Anti-Racism, and our vision to be healthy, reconciled, and just, we’re also working to create a new staff evaluation process with the leadership of Vice President Lenora Sneva.

Council is grateful for the work, warmth, and dedication of Operations Manager Damishe Greenwood-Walker and we’re excited for her to take a one-month sabbatical this October. Interested in supporting her sabbatical (or her work year round!) by doing some volunteering in the office? Let Damishe or Pastor John know you’d like to help!

As we proceed this fall council will be looking for ways to strengthen ties with Peace Community Center. We’ll also be working on the 2027 budget and focusing on stewardship within the church as a whole. Don’t forget, your council is here to hear your concerns, pray for you, care for ministries at Peace, and to provide encouragement too. Reach out when you need us!

Gretchen Duggan, Council President

Stewardship Highlight - Generosity and Gratitude in All Seasons



In challenging and uncertain times, God invites us to see and experience God’s boundless generosity, give thanks for the gifts God gives us, and then reflect that generosity through our own lives. We are excited to announce our upcoming stewardship focus at Peace Lutheran Church for the weeks of October 11, 18, and 25.

The theme is “**Generosity and Gratitude in All Seasons.**” We’ll journey with this theme in worship and in Sunday adult faith education at 9:45 am, through Bible study, reflection, and personal stories. We’ll explore how, as good stewards of God’s generous gifts, we practice generosity and gratitude in all seasons of our lives. We look forward to a time of celebration and growth!

Peace Stewardship Team

