

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Tacoma, WA  
Permit No. 40

**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 3** 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 and Community Center. This class is in person in the church multipurpose room. Lunch provided. Interested? Talk to Pastor John. **New members will be received in worship on Sunday, December 11.**

**Adult Forum on the 2023 Ministry Plan (Budget) and Charissa Carroll Call to Word & Service Ministry** Participate in a forum on **Sunday December 4 at 9:45 am** in person in the multipurpose room and by Zoom to hear more about the 2023 budget and ask questions and to learn about the process of calling Charissa Carroll to Word and Service rostered ministry (our vote at the annual meeting).

**Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 11, 9:45 am (in person & Zoom)** Agenda:

- Adoption of the 2023 Ministry Plan (Budget)
- Election of Council Officers and At-Large Council Positions
- Vote to Call Charissa Carroll to Word and Service Rostered Ministry (as Resource Navigator)
- 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 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.  
**Middle & high school:** A middle and high school youth “Change Makers” group meets Wednesdays at 7 pm by Zoom. Youth share a monthly dinner together. Questions? Please contact Jayna Detweiler.



# THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 18 ▪ Issue 4 ▪ Winter 2022



## 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 10 from 11 am – 12:30 pm**

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

### **Children’s Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 18 during 11 am worship**

Enjoy the message of hope and joy the children bring!

### **Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service**

**Wednesday, 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 hard for some of us.

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

**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!

### **Christmas Day Worship - Sunday, December 25**

**10 am only (in person & live stream)**

### **Service of Lessons & Carols - Sunday, January 1**

**10 am only (in person & live stream)**



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

**Good news!** Don't we long for good news today? Coming up on three years of a pandemic, in a world of war and conflict, in a nation of political division

Ground-breaking Blessing for the new 2 bedroom DADU for housing ministry

2

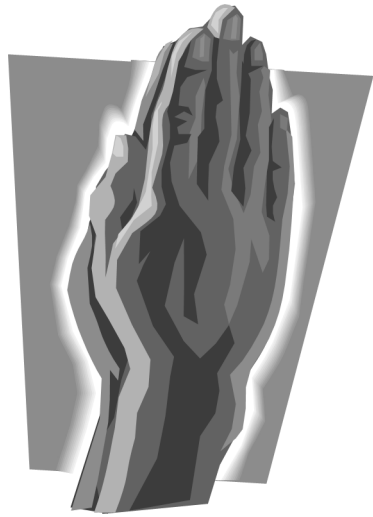
In the First Nations Translation of the New Testament, Brothers and Sisters in Christ are referred to as “Sacred Family”. I like that and so I write this article to my Sacred Family at Peace Lutheran Church. In this last article I write as Council President, I want to tell you what an honor it has been and how incredibly grateful I am to have served with such a dedicated and talented group of leaders who have served on the Peace Lutheran Church Council these past 2 years. These individuals have leaned in and stepped up to the challenges and joys of doing the ‘business’ of our church. Much of this work is behind the scenes and can be overlooked. I encourage you to let these leaders know how appreciated they are.

A hand-drawn sign on a white background. At the top, the word "ALIVE" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below it, the word "worship" is written in a cursive, black font. Underneath that, "SUNDAYS 11 AM" is written in black capital letters. In the center, there is a small yellow flower with a black outline. Below the flower, the word "PEACE" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Underneath "PEACE", the words "LUTHERAN" and "TACOMA" are written in blue capital letters, with "LUTHERAN" on the top line and "TACOMA" on the bottom line. There is another small yellow flower with a black outline between "PEACE" and "LUTHERAN". The sign is placed on a grassy area.



# Philippians 4:6

<sup>6</sup>Do 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 Hilltop families, especially in community meals, housing ministry, academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all

### Those who are hurting...

- All affected by the pandemic especially the ill and families, medical professionals, public health workers, governments and agencies working to stop this health threat, our congregation and community
- 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 Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Haiti, Iraq, the Holy Land. 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 - tutoring, mentoring, supporting Hilltop families
- 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

## In-reach, Care, and Card Ministry



**Question:** Are you helpful, affectionate, loving, understanding, patient, forgiving, etc. and much more? Then you qualify to be a part of the Care Ministry. The meaning of caring is *to display kindness and concern for others*; and the meaning of care is *the practice of looking after others*. Sometimes a little help can brighten up someone's world, and perhaps even help to carry that brightness forward. We focus on what we can bring to Peace members and their families by providing physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial support in a variety of ways... If interested contact me... Jeanie Correa 253 278-3390.

Peace and love to all. Please take care of each other, *Jeanie Correa*, In-reach Ministry

## Women's Ministry

The women's ministry monthly Thursday Bible study is no longer meeting. It has been a blessing serving and attending the Bible studies. There is an opportunity to fellowship with the Women of Peace Fellowship Group. For more information contact Charissa Carroll at [charissa@peacetacoma.org](mailto:charissa@peacetacoma.org).



Holiday Bazaar

The Holiday Bazaar returned this year with a Christmas theme and no rummage sale.

We had food and fun and raised \$900.00 for the emergency assistance program. We met some wonderful community members and were blessed to invite them to Sunday service.

Peace and blessings to each of you,  
*Teresa Jackson*, Women's Ministry



Women of Peace Fellowship breakfast

## Children's, Youth, and Intergenerational Ministries



Harvest Fest!

Hi Peace Families,

As we enter into the holiday season I'd like to look back on our fall and thank those who have put time into helping with our children's and youth ministry classes. We have had a great group of kids showing up and it is amazing to see all the adults building relationships with these kids.

A special thank you to those who donated candy and/or time to help with Harvest Fest, we had a fun afternoon of games, crafts and snacks with families that came through.

Looking forward we have lots of events that I am excited to share with you. We will be having the Christmas Brunch on **Saturday, Dec 10, from 11 am - 1:30 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 18th during 11 am** worship.

Lastly please mark your calendars for **Summer Bible Adventure 2023 August 8-10th**. Blessings,

*Jayna Detweiler*, Children's, Youth, and Intergenerational Ministries Coordinator



# Peace Community Center

Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

There has been a whirlwind of change recently at Peace Community Center, and we are thankful for the continued opportunity to serve the students and families of our community in this next season. Growth is a great word to capture where we're at right now as an organization. Since our last winter newsletter update, L. Denice Randle sunsetted from PCC at the end of her contract as Executive Director. This summer, we welcomed an Interim Executive Director, Arthur Padilla, to help guide us through this time of transition.

Now, for the big update! Our board has hired two leaders within Peace Community Center, Deb Haywood Martinez and Shamiah Bullock, to step into co-executive directorship roles focusing on different strategic areas of the organization. Deb is the Executive Director of Programs and Organizational Development, and Shamiah is the Executive Director of Advancement and Communications. This dynamic duo is well-equipped to lead PCC as we continue to grow our out-reach with after-school programs, one-on-one coaching for students, community events, and holistic family resources.



Over the last couple of months, a lot of new faces have joined our team to support each of the areas mentioned above. This is exciting because it means we can increase our impact by serving more people in the community. Looking ahead, our dream is to expand our reach in the Tacoma area and offer services to more of the communities that surround

the Hilltop. Our growing team is also exciting because it will strengthen our partnership with the church. We all love meeting members of the PLC church family, and we're eager to learn how we can continue to support each other. By the time this newsletter is released, the photo wall at the front entrance of the church should be updated to help you become familiar with our new staff!



Our calendar is staying full of fun events and activities for our Scholars. To start off the school year, we held a Back-to-School event at the center where each attendee received a backpack and school supplies. In October, the high school Hilltop Scholars enjoyed a field trip to a pumpkin patch and corn maze. And our middle school Bobcat Scholars recently completed a sidewalk mural project in front of Hilltop Heritage Middle School. The liquid they sprayed on top of their stencils might look invisible, but when it rains, the solution repels the water to reveal an inspiring message on the concrete.

Each day is different for our team members, volunteers, and Scholars. You never know what enriching experience you'll get to take part in - and that's what keeps life at Peace Community Center exciting.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions about PCC or want to get involved! Visit our website at <https://peacecommunitycenter.org/> (copy and paste into your browser) or email [keith@peacecommunitycenter.org](mailto:keith@peacecommunitycenter.org).

In Partnership,

*Keith Cantrell*, Graphic Design and Communications



# Advent Devotional Materials

## Advent Daily Devotionals

**Make your way daily through Advent using a daily devotional and Advent wreath.**

**Adults and Youth:** Use the "Living Well Through Advent" resource by Living Compass together with an Advent wreath of 5 candles. It's about practicing patience with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. We are including this as a link in regular all-church emails.

**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.

## World Hunger Advent Resources - Calendar and Weekly Devotional

Explore and engage ways to end hunger using a daily Advent calendar (contact Pastor John) and/or weekly devotional (see link in all-church emails).

## Christ in Our Home

Would you like to receive a copy of the daily devotional "Christ in Our Home" for October-December? Pick one up Sunday morning or at the church during the week.

## Resource Navigator



Greetings Peace Family,

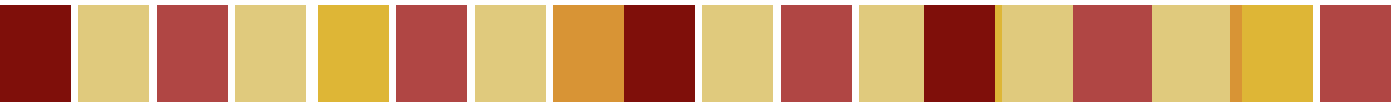
For those of you whom I haven't met, my name is Charissa Carroll. It's great to be back doing ministry with the church. I am really excited about my new position as Resource Navigator. I look forward to helping people navigate resources, building relationships and participating in creative and innovative ways to serve others. If you would like more information about this ministry or how you can help, please contact me at [charissa@peacetacoma.org](mailto:charissa@peacetacoma.org).

God's peace,

*Charissa Carroll*, Resource Navigator

## The Call to Word and Service Ministry:

Charissa Carroll has come on church staff as part-time Resource Navigator, helping the community navigate and access needed social services. She also serves our larger Southwestern Washington Synod on a climate resiliency project in community organizing. Charissa has completed her Master of Arts in Leadership and Innovation for Ministry from Luther Seminary and has been approved in the candidacy process of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). At its November meeting, the Peace Lutheran Church Council recommended that the congregation vote at our upcoming annual congregational meeting December 11 for Charissa to be called to Word and Service rostered ministry at Peace as Resource Navigator. This would recognize her as a leader not just at Peace or in our synod but in the whole ELCA. Blessings, Charissa!





# Community Engagement & Outreach

Peace Family,

As the end of the year approaches, I find myself thankful for my first year serving as the Director of Community Engagement and Outreach. Whether it has been collaborating with the Council, congregation, community, partners, or supporters, I am blessed to be in the company of such compassionate and true servant leaders.

Even more inspiring is the energy each of you continues to give in the face of so many of the nation’s current health, economic and social challenges. While the time has approached for many of us to pause and reconnect with family, friends, and most importantly... ourselves... I am encouraged at the prospects that 2023 will bring for Peace Lutheran Church and the Hilltop community. My enthusiasm is bolstered by all of the life-changing work our church does daily.



Though recent times have proven to be stressful to body, mind, and spirit with the loss of social freedoms, economic viability, and in the worst of cases... our precious loved ones, there remains hope. This hope is rooted in our deep faith and belief in our Heavenly Father. I look forward to seeing what God is going to do through Peace in the New Year. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to our housing and community resource ministry, because of you we are near completion of our new housing development and will be welcoming two new families into our homes by the end of the year.

We have come this far by faith, and let’s keep moving in that same spirit.

In service,

*Brendan Nelson*, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry



## Who’s Who on the Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: John Stroeh, ext 101, [pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org](mailto:pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org)  
Director of Community Engagement & Outreach: Brendan Nelson, ext. 103, [brendan@peacetacoma.org](mailto:brendan@peacetacoma.org)  
Coordinator of Children, Youth, & Intergenerational Ministry: Jayna Detweiler, ext 104, [jayna@peacetacoma.org](mailto:jayna@peacetacoma.org)  
Music Director: Twylla Moore, [twylla@peacetacoma.org](mailto:twylla@peacetacoma.org)  
Resource Navigator: Charissa Carroll, [charissa@peacetacoma.org](mailto:charissa@peacetacoma.org)  
Office Manager and Community Meals Contact Person: Damishe Greenwood-Walker, ext. 100, [plcadmin@peacetacoma.org](mailto:plcadmin@peacetacoma.org)  
Finance Coordinator: Jenny Haferbecker, [jenny@peacetacoma.org](mailto:jenny@peacetacoma.org)  
Nursery Care: Rebecca Valencia  
Custodian: Ana Sanchez, [ana@peacetacoma.org](mailto:ana@peacetacoma.org)



# Music Ministry

Hello Peace Family,

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.”



Music is such a vital part of the service and I want to give a special thanks to all the musicians and song leaders for sharing their gifts and talents. “Know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” Amidst all the challenges in your personal lives, you all remain consistent in performing when I have the day off which gives me the opportunity to recharge. The Oxford dictionary defines recharge as returning to a normal state of mind or strength after a period of physical or mental exertion.

Speaking of recharge, I hope spending time with family and friends during Thanksgiving and Christmas and squeezing in some down time, will allow you to recharge, reenergize, reinvigorate, and refresh.

Andrae’ Crouch wrote a song called “Through It All.” Through it all, through it all, I’ve learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God. Through it all, through it all, I’ve learned to depend upon his word. I’ve had many tears in sorrow, I’ve had questions about tomorrow there’s been times I felt so all alone, but in my lonely hour, those precious lonely hours, Jesus lets me know I am his own. I thank God for the mountains and I thank him for the valleys, I thank him for the storms he’s brought me through, If I ‘d never had a problem I wouldn’t know that he could solve them I wouldn’t know what faith in his word could do.

This past year every aspect of our lives has been challenged. Work, school, home, church, physical, mental, social, yet he’s teaching us to depend on Him “through it all.”

By recharging and continuing to trust in the Lord, the Music Department will continue in unity bringing Spirit-led worship to the congregation.

Blessings, *Twylla Moore*, Music Director



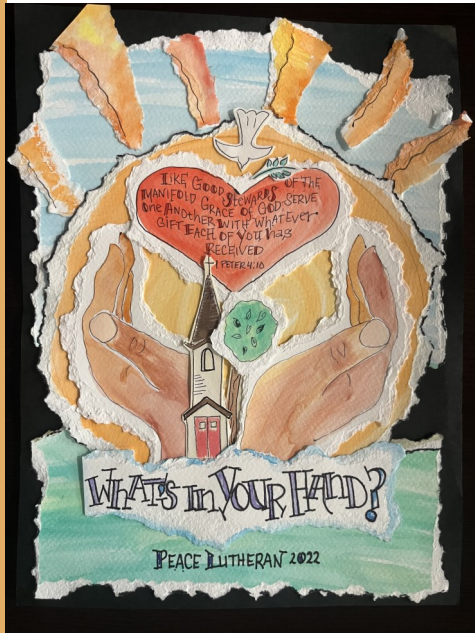
## Check out Peace Lutheran Church on Social Media!

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: The Stewardship Journey



Hello, Peace friends and family.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give a “hand” to all the faithful Peace family members who participated in this year’s stewardship journey. I know that I have been deeply blessed through the process and am sure all who joined in the trek were blessed as well.

In this season of thankfulness, may we take the time to thank God for the many blessings He has placed in our hands and the joy of using them in our communities and our families. The journey does not stop here.

My prayer is that we continue to search our hearts for revelation and direction concerning what gifts we have in our hands and how to use them. Let’s continue to shine the light on the many gifts shared in our Peace family. What a blessing, to be here in the service of the Lord!

God’s Peace & Love to All,  
*Melody Duke*, Stewardship



Myrah Ballentine shares a “What’s in Your Hand?” testimony talk

## What’s in Your Hand?

Do you know of somebody in the church who has a story to share about using what’s in their hand to serve God? Do you have something to share? Please contact Michaela Cox ([michaela.c.cox@gmail.com](mailto:michaela.c.cox@gmail.com)) to give your ideas.

## Housing Ministry

Finding our way together.....

Simply a wonder to look back at the beginning of the journey that is the Affordable Housing Ministry. So many folks have travelled with us in innumerable ways, weaving their individual purpose into our ministry. Knowing exactly what one’s purpose is in such impactful work is daunting, at least it was for me. As it turns out, God gifted me with the role of meeting the families that enter our ministry as tenants in the houses, right where they are.

Often times, He has challenged me, reminded me, encouraged me to simply just listen to need, without judgement; to regard with respect; to see the essence of the people; and to seek understanding, always. Working in this role has been the greatest honor and privilege. Hard sometimes of course, but without exception, the trials end and a new knowledge and understanding immerses.

A new appreciation for the reassurances God delivers that we are ALL finding our way together. No one walks alone, our paths in this ministry and those of the families who occupy the homes are not divergent, we are on one path. I hope that each of you reading this will wonder how you can find your purpose on this journey with Affordable Housing, we all need one another along the way.



Housing ministry work day—Peace and St. Marks Lutheran Church partnership

*Carmen Lampman*, Housing Ministry Family Support

# Opportunities to Serve

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

## Time and Talent:

- **Want to Assist Sunday Mornings for Worship?** We need greeters, readers, ushers, assisting ministers, song leaders, musicians, and tech helpers. Please contact Pastor John.
- **Community Resources Ministry** Want to support the Friday grab and go Community Meals? Provide and serve a meal for up to 60 people OR come at 5:20 pm to help prepare to-go boxes. Questions or to volunteer: contact Damishe Greenwood-Walker at [plcadmin@peacetacoma.org](mailto: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](http://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 2023?

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!