

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

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## Spotlight on Service



# THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 14 • Issue 4 • Winter 2018



## Special Christmas Events and Worship

Learn about God's love and grow in faith in Jesus this Christmas season! Christ is born!!

### **Christmas Caroling**

**Sunday, Dec. 2 at 12:30 pm** (after worship)  
Kids & adults visit and sing at People's Retirement Center.

### **Family Christmas Tree Day, Black Diamond Camp**

**Saturday, Dec. 8 from 9:30 am – 3 pm**

Cut down a tree, share lunch, do crafts, then return to Peace to decorate for Christmas.

### **Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal Party**

**Sunday, Dec. 9 at 12:30 pm** (after worship)

Children prepare for the Christmas program and share lunch and Christmas fun!

### **Blue Christmas Service**

**Sunday December 9 at 7 pm**

Come for a contemplative service of prayer in a season that sometimes brings sadness.

### **Children's Christmas Program**

**Sunday, December 16 during 11 am worship**

Enjoy the message of hope and joy the children bring!

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

**Monday, December 24**

**5:00 pm: Children's Christmas Eve Worship**

Come for a child-friendly celebration of Jesus' birth!

**7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Worship**

Come celebrate Jesus' birth with the Gospel Choir, candle-lighting, & carols!

**No Holiday Bazaar or Peace Thanksgiving Meal** Due to our facility renovation, we're cancelling the annual Holiday Bazaar and Thanksgiving Meal & Worship. If you feel called, please make a donation to Peace noted "Emergency Assistance" to help families with utility assistance (the recipient of Holiday Bazaar proceeds). In the new year, we will plan a potluck celebration to give thanks at the completion of the renovation!

**Interested in Learning More about Faith in God and Service through the Church? Want to Become a Member of Peace?** Join a Saturday class **Dec. 1, 10–2:30pm** 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. Lunch provided. Interested? See Pastor John.

**Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, Dec 9, 10 am** Agenda:

- Election of Council Officers and At-Large Council Positions
- Adoption of the 2019 Ministry Plan (Budget)

**Christmas Open House at Pastor John and Leigh's** You are invited to our Christmas Open House on **Sunday, December 16 from 4–7 pm** at our home, 922 S. Cushman!! Come for refreshments and fellowship!

**Las Posadas** is a Latin American celebration at Christmas time. Mision de Belen will be hosting Las Posadas at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 101 E 38th St, Tacoma, WA 98404, on **Sat. Dec. 22 from 5–7 pm**. You're invited!

### **Church Staff Positions Open**

- **Children's Faith Formation Coordinator** (part-time): Submit cover letter, resume, & 1 page statement of faith to [plcjobs@peacetacoma.org](mailto:plcjobs@peacetacoma.org). Contact: Brendan Nelson.
- **Finance Coordinator** (part-time): Submit cover letter & resume to [plcjobs@peacetacoma.org](mailto:plcjobs@peacetacoma.org). Priority deadline Nov. 26. Contact: Pastor John.

Find job descriptions in the office or [peacelutherantacoma.org](http://peacelutherantacoma.org).



Peace Lutheran  
Church



Peace Lutheran Church 2106 S. Cushman Avenue Tacoma, WA 98405, 253-383-1317

Many Hands Make Light Work

## Pastor John's Reflection

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so we might live through him... We love because he first loved us."

-- 1 John 4:9, 19

People of Peace,

A traditional song from Cameroon, Africa, goes like this:

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love; Hallelujah for evermore.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

He came down that we may have joy...

He came down that we may have peace...

He came down that we may have life...

We're soon entering the time of Advent, a church season of preparation for Christmas and waiting, watching, and hoping for God in Christ to come into our lives. Christmas helps us think about the mystery of the **incarnation**, God come as a human being, God with skin on, Jesus. I love how *The Message* translates John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." Jesus is God with us, God coming down from heaven to live on earth among us, here in our neighborhood, right here in the Hilltop. What good news! We don't have to figure out how to go up to God, to gain God's favor—no, God comes down in Jesus and meets us right where we are. Amen!

The Cameroonian songwriter helps us wonder, "Why did Jesus come?" What is the incarnation all about? The answer? Jesus has come among us to give us God's gifts of love, joy, peace, and life in person, now and forever.

And receiving these gifts, we're called to pass them on to others and all of God's creation. We love because God first loved us. So we become the hands and feet, eyes and ears, mouth and voice of Jesus to others. I was giving a tour and sharing about Peace Church and Center with a visitor last week, and he said to me, "This is **incarnational ministry**." I thought, well yes, it is. That's the ministry to which God has called us at Peace—to enter into the pain, hurt, struggle, as well as the joy, of the people around us, especially the Hilltop neighborhood, just as God in Jesus has entered our world, to be with us, so that our neighbors may have love, joy, peace, and fuller lives.

Where have I seen this incarnational ministry recently at Peace?

+ As we gathered for two memorial services for individuals near and dear to this faith community, George Hollis and Jean Kampen, and celebrated their lives and supported one another in grief as we leaned on God's promises of comfort and hope.

+ As we ate a hot meal every weeknight in October in a neighboring church's gym, people from all backgrounds and walks of life sharing food, fellowship, encouragement, hope, and prayer together.

+ As we respond to the needs of our community for affordable housing and lovingly make available at affordable rates two church-owned homes for two families in need, walking alongside them as they find greater stability and sustainability for their lives into the future.

+ As each Sunday we gather for worship, bringing our burdens and joys, receiving together a message of good news in Jesus that fills us, shapes us, and energizes us to live and serve God during the week as agents of God's love and justice and peace.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas. May you ponder anew the mystery of God coming down to us in Jesus and what it means for our lives and our church.

*Pastor John*

## A Word from Our Intern Pastor

"What is an intern pastor?

Since, I am the first intern pastor here at Peace Lutheran Church, you might ask; What is an intern pastor, and why is it important for congregations to have them?

An intern pastor is a person who has had some or all of their seminary training. They have studied theology and ways to apply theology in ministry. They are learning and make mistakes in the process. I have had three years of seminary training. I have been learning through reading, writing, and practical application for the last three years. The final step for me is to be involved in a congregation where I can practice the skills I have learned and learn more about what it means to be a pastor.



Pastor Louise reads a Bible story to children.

I am amazed at times how my education has prepared me for my work in the church. I was not always sure I could teach, provide pastoral care, preach, or lead a congregation spiritually, but I have found that I have learned these skills, and am capable of learning any skills I still need. By taking this ten months to practice the skills I have learned under the guidance of Pastor John has been a blessing. In the three months I have been here I have grown in confidence and in my ability to lead my own congregation. (The final goal for me is to have my own congregation.)

I have also found things that have challenged me, and that no amount of education can prepare one for. This is also a blessing of internship. It helps me to take the time to reflect on what skills I have and the skills that I still need to work on. We are all growing, and it is through practical application that we learn what needs improvement, and even how to improve on these things.

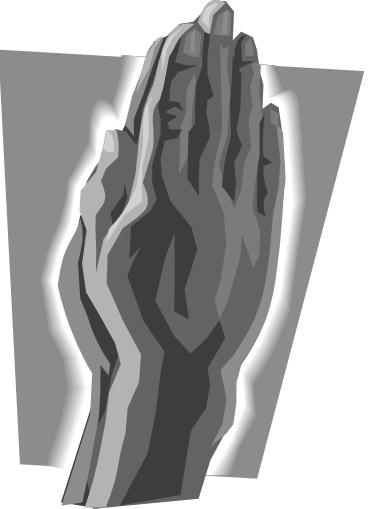
In my learning with you I have followed the practice that I used when I worked in the hospital as a chaplain intern. That is action and reflection. I make sure I take the time to reflect on the experiences that I have. I look at what I think I did well, and what I think could be improved on. Then, in conversation with Pastor John I am able to make the changes in my schedule or style that will work for me. I am also able to find the resources I need to further my education.

In the future I will plan and officiate a Blue Christmas service. This is a contemplative service that will focus on a time to be still, and reflect as the world is going a thousand miles an hour around us. It will be a time for those who are mourning or struggling with depression during the holiday season to just be still in the presence of God. I pray this will be a healing time for those who need this space during the holiday season. The service will be December 9th at 7pm.

*Pastor Louise*

# 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
- Newly baptized: Parker June Pedrick
- The Peace community as we reach out to Hilltop families, especially in community meals, affordable housing, academic support, enrichment opportunities, mentoring, & faith offerings for all

### Those who are hurting...

- All who grieve the death of loved ones, for comfort and hope in Christ, especially the families of George Hollis and Jean Kampen
- 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 Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Ukraine, Iraq, and the Holy Land. For refugees fleeing war and poverty...

### Our work...

- Our affordable housing ministry
- Our ministry of sharing Jesus' love with children, youth, and families
- Our work for justice and peace in our world, sharing conversations around race and 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, Sevigny family in Japan, Preston family & 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.



## Children's Ministry

Greetings Peace Family,

What an adventurous year we have had in 2018. It saddens my heart that we have had to say goodbye to some of our beloved members. I'm offering up prayers and sending love and peace to their families.

We are also in the midst of construction, we have seen the carpet disappear off of the walls in the Multipurpose room and had to be creative with where we have held Godly Play. All in all, God has been faithful and we have been flexible.

This year we joined a community partner and represented Peace Lutheran at a community Trunk or Treat. We decorated our table with the theme "Fall in Love with Jesus" and we gave out kids books, Christian books and lots of candy. Two of my favorite costumes were made by our very own Leigh for Luke and Joy, they were a fire truck and a pineapple. So very cute! We had at least 150 people come to our table. It was a great success and really nice to connect with some other organizations in our community.



Trunk or Treat!

We are looking forward to sharing the Christmas Story through our play, "The First Christmas" on Sunday, December 16th. We will have a rehearsal for the children with lunch provided on Sunday, December 9th at 12:30. Be prepared to sing along, laugh at all the cuteness and hear the story of Jesus' birth. If you would like to participate on either date or volunteer to help, please sign up at the little table near the Koinonia table. Please also pick up a beautifully decorated invitation designed by Carmen Lampman and hand them out to friends and family. All children are invited to participate in the play, even if they just show up on the day we will find a role for them to play. Blessings to you and may this year finish well for all of you.

*Charissa Carroll, Children's Outreach & Ministry Coordinator*

## Music Ministry



The Angel Choir sings in worship at Peace.

Greetings Family,

All praises be to God for the many blessings to music at Peace Lutheran Church. We have grown together in our joys and sorrows. George Hollis and I were just discussing ideas for the sound board and mics. And Jean Kampen and I had a few words on finances, then briefly discussing my ideas for Gospel choir songs for Christmas Eve to her excitement. Both of them, so supportive of Peace Music ministries have gone to that eternal dwelling place, as we held memorial services to celebrate their Life with all who loved them.

As we do not have Thanksgiving activities, we are readily preparing for the annual Christmas Eve Candle lighting Service. We sing traditional Hymns, hear a word from our Pastor, and present special music from the Gospel Choir. We are looking forward to sharing a contemporary arrangement titled 'Carols of the Angels' and 'O Magnum Mysterium' by Morten Lauridsen. Please join us for this worship service on Christmas Eve.

On November 4, in the afternoon, many supported the most wonderful opportunity of youth musical performance. I have 2 piano students who recently played in the most recent 'Concert Series at Peace' event. Also Peace's own Josiah Anderson played an exciting and lyrical cello piece. If you or someone known is interested in piano, vocal, or general music lessons, see or contact me when possible.

The Angel Choir is growing and it is encouraged to have our children participating in Godly Play, each Sunday morning. The beginning is shared for singing. All are welcome to join us.

Thank you to Jae Bates for sharing his musical gifts and talents, leading both worship services in my absence on Nov. 11. This day, one of joy as Tracey and I celebrated our 1st wedding anniversary. We are truly blessed in this place. As 2019 approaches, we pray for continued guidance on our path as a music ministry to Peace and this community. Blessings!

*Timothy Rogers, Music Director*



## Youth Ministry: Vision & Call 2018-2019



Vision & Call Fellow Jae Bates

In September, in partnership with Peace Community Center, Peace was proud to introduce Jae Bates as our 2018-2019 Vision and Call Fellow. Jae is a gifted individual, and will be serving at the Elementary level working to further bridge and strengthen the relationship students' share between the church and center. He will also serve as Intergenerational Outreach Coordinator.

In this position, Jae will have the opportunity to nurture ministry opportunities for all ages, bring people from diverse backgrounds together, encourage faith formation and spiritual growth in intergenerational community, reach out to Hilltop residents and families of Peace Community Center programs, build supportive relationships, and recruit caring persons to be involved in ministry.

Read a bit more about Jae... Jae was born in Suwon, South Korea and grew up in Minneapolis, MN. He moved to Tacoma, WA in 2014 to attend the University of Puget Sound and graduated this past May, 2018 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Religious Studies and Chinese Language and Culture. While at the University of Puget Sound, he discovered a passion for community building and faith-rooted justice through his experience with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He hopes to attend Luther Seminary to obtain his Masters of Divinity in 2019 or 2020. During his internship and additional role with the church, he hopes to develop strong connections to the community and also connect more young-adults to Peace. Additionally, he hopes to develop strong foundations of faith through life application and identity development in youth and young adults from marginalized backgrounds. In service,

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

## Community Meals Ministry

Did you know that Peace Lutheran Church has served free hot meals to the community for over 30 years weeknights in April and October? It's a partnership that unites Peace and New Covenant Pentecostal Church in neighborhood ministry and brings in lots of other congregations and community organizations to prepare and serve the food. New Covenant, under the leadership of Pastor Edna Travis, serves hot meals the other 10 months out of the year! This October was the first time we didn't serve meals from our 21st and S. Cushman location. Because our facility renovation made the kitchen and first floor bathrooms not usable, we partnered with another congregation, Brotherhood Church of God, to use their Christian Brotherhood Academy at 2136 S. MLK to host the meals there! All went well! What a blessing!

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful free hot supper meals I receive it truly was a blessing.  
I had pot roast or beef with potatoes and vegetables that I haven't had in years.  
Also one of my to go boxes I was able to bless someone else. I appreciate all your hard work.  
May the LORD Bless you all.  
Thank You!!!



Serving at Community Meals with a woman celebrating her 100th birthday!

## Davis Family Update



Jen, Davis and their two daughters, Tovah and Elami, are from Peace Lutheran and are serving overseas on an African island.

Check our their blog at [davisandjen.blogspot.com](http://davisandjen.blogspot.com) for more pictures and updates.

Dear Friends and Family,

Winter greetings from the southern hemisphere, where we are enjoying short days and frigid temperatures dipping into the high 70's!

It's been 4 weeks since we left California, and 4 weeks that Jen and I've been living out of suitcases! But 3 days ago that changed, and we have finally moved into a house in the Islands! Praise God! Much has happened since then and the best place to see it is on the blog – photojournalism at its best, chronicling our 4 hour adventure in Amsterdam, my 40th birthday where everyone fell asleep, giving a pep-talk to a gorilla in Uganda, and visiting the honeymooners in Madagascar.

But beyond silly pictures, the summary is that we arrived safely back in Kenya, the girls rejoined school for another six weeks; we went to Uganda to visit a future assignment; we took a week to visit friends and partners in Madagascar, and then returned to find a house, move in, and catch up on email! The journeys are both invigorating and tiring, and now we are glad to be back home in the Islands, and the girls are glad to be back with their friends in Kenya.

I'm just going to share one story... a short one:

The other day as I was parking my scooter in an empty lot I saw a woman passing some distance off. We were far from each other, not really within speaking distance. Of course strangers don't generally call out to each other in any country, even in as friendly a culture as the islands, and moreover, it would be quite forward for a woman to speak to a strange man in this religion. But as she passed on her way she sang out one bar of a song in French... "We are searching for the narrow path..." and then she left.

That is our call – to tell people of the narrow path. Difficult to find. Our hope is to point people to the door through all means possible. To prepare as many as we can to do it. Will you pray for this? This is a year that we hope more and more Kingdom people will be equipped to bear witness to the Truth.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

God Bless,



Friends in Madagascar

Again... the blog might be worth it this time: <http://davisandjen.blogspot.com/>

*Davis and Jen*

# Peace Community Center

Dear Friends of Peace,

It has been an exciting start of the school year for our Hilltop students! All of our programs from elementary to high school are off to a great start, and our students and staff are all looking forward to another year of learning, growing, and character building. We are blessed to be entering our 17th year of offering programs that focus on academic achievement, enrichment, and exposure to new fields.

You may have noticed some new faces around Peace, and that is because we have some new staff members! Since it is the start of a new academic year, we have 14 new service team members who have been working with our students. We also will be hiring a new High School Program Manager soon, along with other positions in the future. When you see new staff members around, feel free to say hello!

We want to thank you again for being so flexible with us while our shared space is still under construction for the next few months. We are now able to bring small groups upstairs for tours of the new office space. If you are interested in seeing behind the scenes of the construction, let us know. We would be happy to tell you more about our students as well!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

In Partnership,

*Miranda Martens,*

Peace Community Center  
Foundation Relations Manager



Academic Coaches Kelsey and Quadelle explore the new building with Mason and Tyson, current Hilltop Scholars.

## From the Church Council

Wow! This is my last newsletter I will write as Council President.

Two years in a row is the constitutional limit for serving as President. Two years went by quickly. I remember wondering what I was getting into, (I still do) but I got help all along the way from the experienced council members and managed to stumble through without too much damage. I hope. A huge benefit of this experience is the deep appreciation of and fondness for the

wonderful and amazing people on council and the others who do the work of Peace. Your church council is working hard to finish the year strong. We are building a budget for 2019, looking for someone to take up our finances, exploring new opportunities in Affordable Housing, working on annual reviews for our staff, and keeping our programs running.

More than a few of our number are going off council. We will miss them and need to find others to replace them. You maybe? We need people for Evangelism, Inreach, Youth, Stewardship, and Education. Please pray about serving with us. You can talk to me or other council members or members of the nominating committee chaired by Don Gillis.

We are all very sad at the loss of our sister Jean Kampen. She served so well and faithfully at Inreach, finances, and many other tasks. We feel her loss both personally and functionally. Like my friend Malcolm said, "Appreciate the people around you while you have them."

Peace has been blessed and challenged this year. Maybe challenges can be a blessing? In that case we can look forward to challenges and blessings in 2019.

Peace,

*Ben Flesher*, Peace Council President

## Mutual Ministry Teams

Did you know there are two Mutual Ministry Teams at Peace—one for the Pastor and one for the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry? The purpose of these two teams is to strengthen Peace's mission through listening, sharing, and reviewing the life and ministry of the congregation in conversation with Pastor John and Brendan Nelson. Members of the Pastor's Mutual Ministry Team are Pat Ferguson, Ben Flesher, Billie Johnstone, Karen Riede, and Dan Stoehr. Members of the Youth and Family Ministry Mutual Ministry Team are Joseph Anderson, Annie Burris, Craig Cogger, and Ziyadah Gillis. They're available to listen to joys and concerns you may have related to our mission together at Peace.

## Check out Peace Lutheran Church on Social Media!

Find us on Facebook:

Peace Lutheran Tacoma

Peace Lutheran Church Youth Ministry



## Stewardship Highlight: God's Gifts - Handle with Care

Praise God for every blessing...every gift to be handled with great care. As the pledge commitments continue to be received, we are so grateful for the generosity of our congregation.

As our care for our Hilltop neighbors and broader community continue with our various outreach ministries, we are grateful for the time devoted to lovingly work alongside others. As we witness our Youth and Family staff work so hard fostering the relationships with young folks, we are grateful for those that walk in-step in that important work.

As we learn about the growing need to preserve Affordable Housing in this precious Hilltop, we are grateful for the time, talents and treasures being directed to this ministry .... so much to be done in so many aspects of ministry.

Please continue to prayerfully consider where you can share what God has blessed you with, those gifts that we are called to "handle with care".

Joy and Blessings this Winter Season....

*Carmen Lampman*

Stewardship

## What's Been Happening at Peace?



Construction and renovation: new office addition, renovated kitchen and restrooms — to be completed by the end of



Construction and renovation: new office addition, renovated kitchen and restrooms — to be completed by the end of



Concert series at Peace



## 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?** Sign up at the Koinonia Corner to read scripture, usher, acolyte, be an assisting minister, share music, or share your gifts in some other way.
- **Kids@Peace Help** Fridays from 4-5:30 pm for grades 2-5. We need volunteers to hang out, drive the van, and bring snacks. Please contact Jae Bates.
- **Office Help** Willing to volunteer occasionally to answer phones and do office work? Please contact Damishe at 253-383-1317.
- **Sing in the Gospel Choir** Rehearsals Thursdays at 7 pm.
- **Snacks Needed After 11 am Worship** If you are able to provide a snack for refreshments and fellowship time, please sign up at the Koinonia Corner or contact Alma Crawford at 253-752-4258.
- **Paint the Newly Remodeled Facility** In the near future, we'll be seeking folks to serve in this way. And many more opportunities! Please speak with Pastor John if you want to "get in where you fit in."

### Treasure:

- **Want to Give Offering to Peace Through Auto-Deduction?** Contact Damishe in the church office.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** Are you a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans? 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 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 2019?** If you missed the opportunity or have not turned in your Commitment brochure, please put it in the offering or office. Didn't receive one? Visit the Koinonia Corner. 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.**