

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

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Peace Thanksgiving Dinner & Worship Saturday November 23 at 5:30 pm. Come to this community celebration in the multipurpose room, an opportunity to thank God for all God's good gifts! You're invited to bring a potluck item (sign up at the Koinonia Corner!) and invite friends, family, and neighbors. All are welcome! Questions? Call Teresa Jackson (253-240-5447).

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. 7, 10 am–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. Lunch provided. Interested? See Pastor John.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, Dec 8, 10 am Agenda:

- Community Center Board Member Presentation and Update
- Election of Council Officers and At-Large Council Positions
- Adoption of the 2020 Ministry Plan (Budget)

Christmas Open House at Pastor John and Leigh's You are invited to our Christmas Open House on **Sunday, December 15 from 4–7 pm** at our home, 922 S. Cushman!! Come for refreshments and fellowship!

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolate Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate are available for purchase between worship services **every second Sunday of the month and during Advent**. This is your opportunity to buy for yourself or for a gift. Your purchase will not benefit a grocery chain, middle man, or a barista, but profits go to the grower whose work along with God's blessing produced the product. It's an out-reach for sharing ministry with others far away. Come...buy...share...

Kids at Peace Each Friday from 4-5:30 pm. All kids 2nd-5th grades are welcome! Learn about God and the Bible through skits, songs, stories, activities, and games.



Spotlight on Service

THE CALL TO PEACE

Volume 15 ▪ Issue 3 ▪ Winter 2019



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. 8 at 12:30 pm (after worship)
Kids & adults visit and sing at
Peoples Retirement Center.

Intergenerational Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 14 from 11 am – 12:30 pm

Christmas crafts, games, food, and the story of Jesus' birth. All are welcome!

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22 during 11 am worship

Enjoy the message of hope and joy the children bring!

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24

5 pm: Children's Christmas Eve Worship

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

7 pm: Christmas Eve Worship

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



Peace Lutheran
Church



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

Pastor John’s Reflection



Pastor John plays the part of Martin Luther on

“So the shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary **treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.**”
— Luke 2:16-19

People of Peace,

We are soon entering a busy holiday season. The time between Thanksgiving and New Year’s can be full and meaningful, with opportunities to celebrate with family and friends, eat good food, give and receive gifts, and share good times. It can also be hectic and stressful and especially difficult for those who are lonely, grieving, and experiencing depression. As we approach Advent and Christmas, this year I’m drawn to one verse in the Christmas story, Luke 2:19. It seems to me, whatever your experience of the season we’re entering, it’s wise to take Mary’s lead, who “treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” After Jesus’ birth and the shepherds’ visit, his mother Mary holds these things dear, reflecting on them in her heart.

Advent is 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 to us in person, as a human being, Jesus.

Will you take some time in the midst of the busy-ness to reflect this Advent and Christmas? What words will you treasure? What will you hold dear? What will you ponder in your heart?

I invite you to ponder **scripture**. In Luke 2:10-11, the angel tells the shepherds in the field that night, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”
+ What are your fears? What does it mean for you to hear, “Do not be afraid”?
+ How is the birth of Jesus good news for you and our world? How does it bring joy?
+ What does it mean to hear that Jesus is born “to you”?
+ What is holding you/us captive? From what do you/we need to be saved? What does it mean for you/us to embrace Jesus as Savior and Lord?

I invite you to ponder in your heart some words of **Christmas carols**.
+ *Go Tell It on the Mountain*: “Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.”
+ *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*: “Jesus, Jesus, oh what a wonderful Child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild. New life, new hope to all he brings...”
+ *Joy to the World*: “Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!” “No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.”
+ *O Come O Come Emmanuel*: “O come, desire of nations, bind... in one the hearts of all mankind. Bid Thou our sad divisions cease and be Thyself our King of peace.”
+ *He Came Down*: “He came down that we may have love, joy, peace, life...”

May God bless you this Advent and Christmas, and may you find moments, with Mary, to treasure these words and ponder them in your heart...

Pastor John

From the Church Council

Dear People of Peace,

Thanksgiving is a special time to give thanks you for all you do for the ministry of Peace – your love of God and our family of faith, and your prayers for the work of Council. I am so very thankful for all God has done at Peace this year, and for these Spirit-filled people who graciously use their gifts to serve:



2019 Church Council

- Affordable Housing** – Carmen Lampman, Chris Ferguson, and Michael Duggan made it possible for Peace to own a third house to offer another affordable place for a family to live.
- Care Ministry** – Jeanie Correa guides caring ministers within our congregation, and advocates for care of our world through growing a greener Peace.
- Community Center** – Denice Randle, Terry Edwards, and Morgan Zantua are making a concerted effort to help strengthen the relationship between the Church and the Community Center.
- Community Resources** – Teri Jelinek and Carmen Lampman provide access to the support people need through the Friday night meals ministry.
- Council Positions** – Irene Manley and Teresa Jackson answered the call and stepped up to serve when busy schedules caused Major Whitten and Victoria Frimpong to step down.
- Finance** – Ben Flesher and Jenny Haferbecker carefully see to it that we make best use of our gifts and treasures for ministry.
- Men’s Ministry** – Malcolm Carroll and Hans Brockhoff strengthen this spiritual, service-minded group.
- Sabbatical** – Brendan Nelson and Damishe Greenwood-Walker gave leadership and consistency, Louise Buckles filled in as our pastor, Kellie Campbell made sure adult education carried out the mixed plate theme, Malcolm Carroll led the team that made videos of the mixed plate sermons.
- Staff Benefits** – Matt Klump and Victoria Frimpong worked diligently to develop sick leave and vacation policies.
- Van** – Hans Brockhoff, Matt Klump, Bill Hanawalt, and Alan Kies thoroughly researched to find just the right vehicle for our van ministry
- Youth** – Karena Gillis and Kamari Carroll blessed us with a meaningful sermon. They and other youth gave their energy and caring on the mission trip.

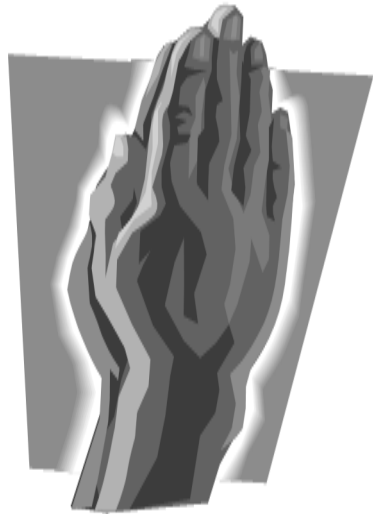
Thanks be to God for each and every person, and the gifts, blessings, and love of Peace.

Kit Thompson, Church Council President

Your 2019 Church Council: President – Kit Thompson; Vice President – Teresa Jackson; Treasurer – Ben Flesher; Secretary – Ziyadah Gillis; Community Resources – Carmen Lampman; Education – Kellie Campbell; Evangelism/Outreach – Hans Brockhoff; Inreach – Jeanie Correa; Stewardship – Matt Klump; Worship – Irene Manley; Youth – Karena Gillis

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: Keh'Lani Jade Brim and Kaylanie Denise-Amirah Keller
- 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 Dona Miller and family at the death of Jack Miller and the family of Eleanor Burgett at her death
- 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, 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.

Children's Ministry

Dear Peace Family,

The Godly Play team tells stories to the children through the use of story sets that illustrate and bring to life the concepts and events that were set down in the Bible. Often this involves felt for ground, road, and water, and wooden figures for the people, towns, and sometimes other objects. When we tell parables of Jesus, we often have a large piece of blue felt we lay on the floor, and before the story, we say, "This is the Sea of Galilee, and so many important things happened there that we need a piece of it right here in the room with us." We told many of these stories through the spring and summer.

The Desert Box is much like that; it is a flat box of sand, set on wheels and with a lid, that we bring in the center of the circle to tell a lot of stories from the Old Testament. When we bring it out, it immediately captures their attention. "This is the desert. It is a wild and dangerous place. There's no water for people to drink, no food for people to eat. It's so hot during the day that the people have to wear special clothing to protect themselves from the sun, and when the wind blows, the sand flies into the air and stings their skin. Nobody goes there unless they have to. So many of the stories of God's People happened here, that we have a piece of the desert here with us," we say, before we tell a story such as the one of Sarah and Abraham, the Exodus, or the Ark and the Temple.

Now we are moving into the season of Advent, a time of hope and contemplation, as we await the birth of the Christ Child. The children are learning new Christmas hymns, and the play is set for December 22nd at 11am service. The Advent stories build one on the next every week, helping them to follow the journey that leads to a darkened stable and a midnight miracle attended by angels and shepherds, a harbinger of a life that would be both humble and divine.

It has been an honor to serve as the Children's Sunday Morning Coordinator this year, overseeing the Godly Play program, and a blessing to meet and hear the voices of our littlest ones. What joy they bring into our lives! Thank you for sharing their light with us. As I transition away from Peace and into a new life in Finland, I will keep this year in my heart as a cherished time, and all of you in my prayers.

Annika Maxwell, Children's Sunday Morning Coordinator



Godly Play reflection time

Living Stones Prison Ministry



Living Stones is a congregation of men serving time within the walls of the Washington State Correctional Center in Shelton. It is a ministry of our Southwestern Washington Synod of the ELCA. Our church contributes budgeted dollars, personal donations, board members to the Living Stones board and space within our church for outreach offered by Living Stones.

Recently, Living Stones has birthed an additional ministry called Stepping Stones, which ministers to men coming out of prison, families of men and women presently incarcerated and individuals choosing to support our ministry. Starting in January here at Peace, will be a new worship time and time to visit with one another. It is the hope that people will choose to come worship with people impacted by incarceration and show them God's grace.

Contributions to our ministries are welcome and can be left in our office or at the Koinonia Table. Information about Living Stones is available at the Koinonia Table as well.

In God's love,

Teresa Jackson, Living Stones Board Chair

Intergenerational Ministry

Dear People of Peace,

2019 was an awesome year and I am excited to highlight a few pieces for you all. Our October Harvest Festival was a big success and it was wonderful to see so many kids, families, and community members. The day immediately following, our 5/6th grade Sunday School got a chance to bond in a big way. We all went out to Defy Tacoma trampoline park and bounced around for an hour. This really gave our youth a wonderful and fun opportunity to get to know each other better and make lasting memories. As a staff member, it was amazing watching the youth support each other at the park, encourage each other, and care for each other in moments of potential/minor injury. Our class continues to grow and our youth continue to grow in faith and express more interest in building community together.

We are now looking forward to the busy holiday season and I am preparing for the Christmas Brunch and hope to see you there December 14th at 11am. Immediately following that, we will decorate the sanctuary with youth from 1-3pm.

God's Blessings,

Jae Bates, Intergenerational Outreach Coordinator

Youth Ministry

People of Peace,

In October, in partnership with Peace Community Center, Peace was proud to introduce Felicia Mittan as our new Vision and Call Fellow. She will be serving at the Elementary level working to further bridge and strengthen the relationship students share between the church and center. Felicia will be imbedded in the community center's service team outreaching and serving students at McCarver Elementary and the broader Hilltop community. *Read a bit about Felicia below.*

God's Peace,

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



My name is Felicia Mittan. I am the new Vision and Call Fellow for the church and center. My passion is for children/youth and family ministry. My Education background includes, ECE in early learning, Master in Theology and will receive my doctorate in ministry this coming year. My experience includes 20 plus years as a childcare provider as a daycare owner, Children's Director, and Children/Youth and Family Pastor. During my fellowship here I pray that God will continue to lead and direct my path. And I will gain the knowledge and understanding needed to become a pastor. Thank each of you for your support.

In Christ,

Felicia Mittan, Vision and Call Fellow



Davis Family Update



Jen, Davis and their two daughters, Tovah and Elami, are from Peace Lutheran and are serving overseas in Uganda, Africa.

Check out their blog at davisandjen.blogspot.com for more pictures and updates.

Hi Friends and Family!

I'll open with a picture. Jen and I now live in a modern house and walk a paved road to work every day... but we still regularly see monkeys and snakes!!! I figure it was time to get you an update as to explain what we are doing... Then I realized that was not an easy task.

When Jen and I first came to Africa in 2006, it was pretty easy to explain what we did: I taught primary school in a rural Kenyan orphanage while Jen worked a shift in a local clinic. It was pretty straight-forward, we showed up every day and did whatever they told us to do. In 2009, we moved to Congo and things got a little more complex. I ran a school for a community in a slum; Jen ran a feeding program for malnourished kids. At this point we were coordinating for outside organizations who needed our skills on the ground. In 2011, we changed organizations and moved to the Islands to lead a team of 10 other adults in training them for cross-cultural work as we taught English to village classes. In 2013, I moved into a role overseeing 3 teams across the Islands engaged in English-teaching, health and translation and running the NGO on the ground. Perhaps you see the trend...

When Jen and I moved to Uganda in July, we came to direct AIM's "Central Region." This means that we live in Kampala, and work in an office that serves the needs of about 100 missionaries in 6 African countries. It means we are involved in aspects of the ministry from recruitment to retirement and everything in between. That means supporting from the office as well as visits to the sites themselves. Our office of a dozen people runs the finance, the immigration, the supply, and the communication for the operation – but I also end up in the strategy and vision and application – and that means extensive travel. In the last 90 days serving I have been travelling on 26 of them – Chad, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya and Northern Uganda. That doesn't count the 8 days I did in South Sudan, or Jen's current trip to Northern Uganda, or the next 17 days of travel that I go on to visit the US and Kenya for meetings. In November we also plan to visit DR Congo and Central African Republic...

Whew! I got tired just typing that. Do pray! Pray for my work to be effective in encouraging people, in ever-improving our efforts, and that God would be honored because more and more people are blessed to know His love and grace for them! Praise God that we have been healthy for the task, that our girls are well cared for at the school they attend in Kenya, and that we have good people around us to work with!

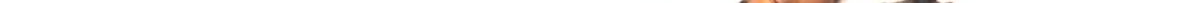
That's the news.... I'll close with a picture of our family in Uganda (so you can remember what we look like) and if you are not too busy to read more, I will throw in a more complete description of the ministry we are serving below, full of links so that you can see more pictures, factsheets, and videos. I would highly recommend viewing the **Voice of the Martyrs video of trucks** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Duk8TsyIUNE>) delivering aid to displaced people in Central African Republic.

Thanks for your prayers and support!

Go Bless,
Davis and Jen

Follow the journey@: <http://davisandjen.blogspot.com/>





5

Stewardship Highlight: Stewards of God’s Garden

“And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there God put the human being whom God had formed. The Lord God took the human being and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” - Genesis 2:8, 15

The image we’re using to guide our thinking and imagining this fall has been God’s garden. God’s gifts and provisions are abundant for us in God’s garden, and all of us have been placed in God’s garden to live and serve. The Stewardship Team decided on this theme—“Stewards of God’s Garden”—to help us think about how God has given us so many gifts, including God’s Son Jesus—and invites us to be good stewards, managers, of all that is entrusted to our care in God’s garden.



We’ve looked at **four types of gifts**: Time, Relationships, Talents and Service (home, work, neighborhood, community), and Money.

We’ve asked **four questions**:

- How have we learned to **Acknowledge** our gifts?
- How do we cultivate (**Tend & Keep**) our gifts?
- How are we **Bearing Fruit**?
- How are we **Sharing** our harvest?

Please continue to prayerfully consider these questions.

How and where can you share the gifts God has blessed you with this winter?



What’s Been Happening at Peace?



Peace Community Center staff speak at an adult forum



Tailgate Sunday!! Tug-o-war and church staff get pies in the face!



Baptisms of two little girls on All Saints Sunday November 3 - Keh'Lani Brim & Kaylanie Keller!



Grit City Sax Quartet concert at Peace



First grader Caylic Warr wrote this at school the next day about the baptisms:

“A Peaceful Day at Church: On Sunday I went to church and Pastor John [baptized] two little babies named Kaylany. He put water onto their heads and we prayed for them to have a good life and have the best life that they could and have more

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 Brendan Nelson.
- **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 before 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays at 6:30 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.
- **Community Resources Ministry** Want to help coordinate and make connections for the Friday Community Meal with Community Resources (connect with meal providers and social service advocates)? Contact Teri Jelinek (tljelinek50@gmail.com).

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 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.
- **Support Community Resources Ministry** 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. So far, 7 Peace families support Community Resources Ministry this way.
- **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 2020? 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.**