

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**310 Route 137
Harwich, MA 02645-1361**

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FEBRUARY 2022**

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The Network

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church
FEBRUARY 2022**

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Email: office@StPetersCapeCod.org
Website: www.stpeterslutherancapecod.org

St. Peter's Lutheran Church



The Network

February 2022 Issue

DEADLINE

For submissions to the

March 2022 Issue

is February 15, 2022

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT

Centered in Christ and empowered by
God's Spirit, we love, grow and serve.

Our core values:

Christ centered

Open minded

Caring

Welcoming

Generous

Co-Pastors:

The Rev. Christian G. N. Holleck:matthew14_27@comcast.net**The Rev. Tiffany Nicely Holleck:**calledbyname@comcast.net

Minister of Music

Maggie Ribb:ministerofmusic@stpeterscapecod.org

Ministry Administrator

Joanie Keating:office@stpeterscapecod.org

Operations Administrator

Kathy Branton:businessoffice@stpeterscapecod.org

Custodian

Rebecca Catron

Nursery Caregiver

Position open - now hiring

2021 Financial Staff:

Russ Olson, Treasurer

churchtreasurer@stpeterscapecod.org

Don Anderson, Assist. Treasurer

Paul Bongfeldt, Fin. Secretary

Lois Thomas, Assist. Fin. Secretary

2021 Church Council:

Don Anderson

Karen Beggs

Bill Crocker

Peg Flood, Secretary

Kathy Glifort

Judy Langelier

Gary Mann, President

Marianne O'Boyle

Russ Olson

Cathryn Samples, Vice

President

Rodney Schuller

Gretchen Widegren



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Affirmation of Welcome

Welcome to new visitors and old friends.

We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation and strive to welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socioeconomic status, marital status, ability and challenge.

Welcome to believers and questioners, and to questioning believers. Welcome to all who seek Christ's love and grace.

This is a place where you are welcome to rejoice and lament, seek healing and offer service. Welcome in the name of Jesus.

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Office email:

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What's Happening In February



Our 9:30 AM Sunday in-person worship is live streamed on our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCON8nsKN_ta0bhJFr2OuMHg

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Centering Prayer

Tuesday, @ 10:00 am - Mark Classroom

Kathy Teahan from St. Mary of Magdala will be leading this. All are welcome. Contact Kathy at kathyteahan@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



St. Peter's Sojourners

Now that many of you are vaccinated, we've changed our procedures for weekly walks together. We continue to invite new walkers and ask that they [email jay.tichenor@gmail.com](mailto:jay.tichenor@gmail.com) if they wish to join the group and get updated info on where our walks will be. We will once again meet at the church parking lot for car pooling, at 8:10 am Tuesdays.



Masks are not required for the walk but must be worn if breakfast establishments require them. We always plan on going to breakfast after each walk.

For those wishing to know the meeting place for the start of each walk if it's more convenient and closer than the church, directions for the trail head will be sent each week. The Sojourners walk at different locations on the Cape each week, and we're always open to a new trail we've not tried before, perhaps it might be your favorite.

Peace, Jay Tichenor



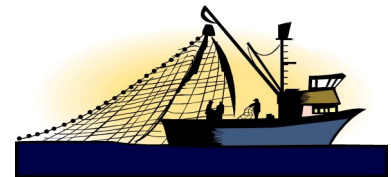
Save the Date

Congregational Meeting
is February 20 @ 10:45 am.

Those joining digitally are asked to sign into Zoom at 10:30 am; we'll start the meeting with those in person at 10:45.

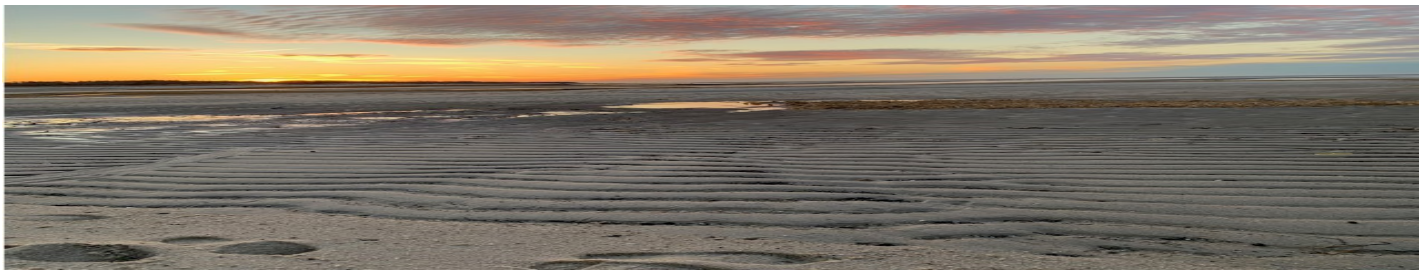
View From the Deck

Following Jesus: Breadth or depth?



Do you ever think about this?

Sometimes I think about this when I am clamming on the Brewster flats at a very low tide. There are times when I have gone out in shoulder seasons or even winter. The sand feels hard, the clams well hidden. At those times, I have to commit to a strategy: will I aim for breadth, letting my rake cover more area in hopes of hitting a good spot, or will I commit to depth, covering a small area, but really digging the prongs more deeply into the hard sand?



Even as a child, I was aware that music was something my siblings and I were committed to doing "in depth." There were private lessons, workshops and recitals, weekly theory classes, and later orchestra, district and All-State festivals, and summer camps. Committing to "depth" meant sacrificing some "breadth." I gave up soccer in 9th grade for musical and academic commitments. I had a close friend who was equally, or even more so, committed to swimming competitively. Every day. For hours. It was his life. Often this leads to excellence. Sometimes it leads to resentment. I had other friends who were involved in many activities, clubs, and hobbies of dazzling breadth.

What about you? How was it for you? How is it for you? When you travel, is your preference to see an entire country, (like when international students with J1 visas come to the Cape and then take 2-3 weeks to "see the US," visiting Boston, NY City, Niagara Falls, Washington D.C., Las Vegas, and some parts of California), or to explore a much smaller portion of it in depth? How is it with your faith or church involvement? In what ways does it reflect breadth? In what ways does it reflect depth?

What about Jesus? How would you describe his ministry? Does he show great breadth in the crowds he preaches to, in the many people he heals, debates, or eats with? Or does he show breadth, living his ministry to Israel, unlike Paul whose traveled by Roman roads or sea across Israel, Syria, Turkey, Greece and Italy.

Some Christians favor (stereotypically evangelical traditions) breadth in reading the Bible, committing to reading scripture daily, sometimes to reading through the entire Bible in one year. Immerse yourself in as much scripture as possible.

(Continued on next page)

View From the Deck, cont'd

Let it wash over you. Other Christians (stereotypically mainline denominations and including the ELCA) favoring depth, reading perhaps very few verses but meditating or praying on them. I remember Bishop Hazelwood once commenting on how meaningful it was for him to shift from trying to cover the waterfront to reading just 10 verses, and perhaps focusing on just one of them. Generally, I identify with this. However, this year, while attending a Baptist church service with part of Tiffany's family, we were invited to read through the Bible in a year, and we were given schedules to help facilitate this. The timing felt right to me. It has been a very long time since I read through the whole Bible in a year, and I am eager to again experience the breadth of the life-giving Word.

As we move through Epiphany and towards Lent, I invite you to think about discipleship. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus? Will you strive for more breadth and commit to a variety of practices, whether worship, study, or service or will you strive for more depth and commit to one particular discipline or practice?

*Peace in Christ,
Pr. Christian*

Lenten Devotions - Invitation to get Involved!

St. Peter's will be offering Lenten devotions with daily reflections written by members and friends of St. Peter's. Our overarching theme will be *Walking with Jesus*. A key verse will be Micah 6:8 "He has told you O mortal what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Each week will feature a scripture passage and hymn, with daily reflections on them or the overarching theme. If you are interested in writing one or more reflections, please contact Pastor Christian by February 7.

The Creeds of the Church

A series of three workshops facilitated by Pastor John Stendahl and Pastor Christian Holleck

To which creeds does the Lutheran Church adhere? When, how, and why did they come into being? What do they tell us about Jesus? What's missing? What authority do the creeds hold for us? What are the differences in authority among scripture, creeds, dogma and doctrine? What relevance do the creeds hold for us today?

**Sundays, March 13, (no workshop on March 20), March 27, and April 3.
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.** Fellowship Hall. Will be offered in hybrid format (in person at the church, but also simultaneously, via zoom).

"from the Organ Bench"

As I write this we are all aware that we've had to take a few steps back from the freedoms we were experiencing when the program year began, due to the uptick in Covid cases. Nevertheless we, as a church, have found a way to persevere! So much is tiring about this pandemic, but so much is hopeful.



We made a decision early on after my arrival at St. Peter's to get the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs up and running as soon as possible. I did not do this merely to promote musical performance. I did it because I sensed that those involved in music at St. Peter's had a longing to be together. In other words, it was as much about fellowship as it was about providing special music for worship. I was encouraged to move forward by a weekly church musicians' meeting I continue to sit in on via Zoom, as well as words from the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), who began a campaign in August in anticipation of the beginning of the academic year, to make singing safe. At the time they feared that music programs in schools particularly, faced cancelation.

The five points for safety set out by the ACDA were (and there has been no change as yet):

Be masked

Rehearsals should run for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour - take a break - then another $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of rehearsal

Stay distanced (at least 6 ft. apart)

Practice in a well ventilated room; either with windows open, or a ventilation system operating

Practice usual hygiene protocols as set out by the CDC, before and after rehearsal

I think the choirs feel safe in the way we meet and conduct our rehearsals using most of these. Through all these changes the Handbell Choir and Sanctuary Choir have adjusted gracefully. Both choirs continue to amaze me by their love of what they do and how beautifully they do it. *They are the true "ministers of music."*

(continued on next page)

"from the Organ Bench" continued

I wanted to share the text of a timeless hymn that has always spoken to me in times of challenge. The Sanctuary Choir will be singing a wonderful arrangement of this traditional American tune by Bradley Ellingboe in a few weeks:

*"My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real, tho' far off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"*

Before I close I wish to lift up two people who greatly enhanced our worship experiences at St. Peter's in January: MJ Pattison, for her beautiful music on the dulcimer on January 2, and Kayden Kaser, for her leadership in the very meaningful Epiphany service we celebrated on January 6. Thank you both.

Blessings and peace,
Maggie



Help needed / Ministry opportunities

Are you retired?

Are you tired of being home all day with nothing to do?

Are you looking for something small to contribute that will make a difference in the world?

Have we got an offer for you!

In order to keep the church vibrant and our ministries alive we need volunteers to assist. Three particular ministries of note this month:

Altar Guild has the quiet job of preparing the altar for communion each Sunday, and for most funerals and some special worship services. The job can be done the night before or the day of worship. This ministry allows us to offer the body and blood of Christ to those who come and meet Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Training is provided.

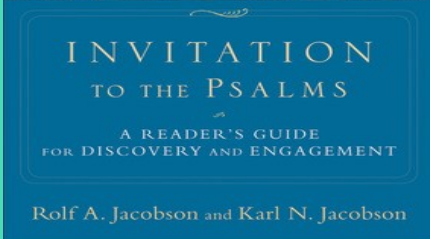
Altar flowers get delivered to church members who need a little extra love. If you can pick up the flowers after church some Sundays and deliver them with a special card the office prepares, that would be a joyful ministry that lightens someone's day.

Assistant Treasurer: this is a skill specific job for those who can read the numbers and manage the financial assets of the church. Training and staff support is provided. This is a critical ministry that is in great need at the moment. Please talk with Pastor Tiffany or Finance Committee chairperson Jim Merriam.

Training is provided. All we need is you. Please volunteer by contacting Joanie at the church office (508) 432-5172.



Christian Education



Bible Study for Women

After the Pastors' sabbatical work on the Psalms, we decided we wanted to dive in too. We are reading Invitation to the Psalms: A Reader's Guide for Discovery and Engagement by brothers Rolf and Karl Jacobson. This book will teach us about the genre of psalm and the types of Psalms and then give us personal experience in writing our own.

The group will meet hybrid (zoom and in person) at 7:00 pm on the following dates:
February 2 and 16, March 2 and 16, April 6 and 20.

Please join us!



Sunday School is starting up again.

We're grateful to Megan Kaser and Judy Langelier for answering the call and offering to teach and lead this important ministry.

If you'd like to enroll your child or grandchild, please contact Pastor Tiffany at the church office (508) 432-5172 or by email.

Christian Spiritual Formation

Engaging the Psalms. Inspired by our sabbatical last fall and by Denise Dombrowski Hopkins book *Journey Through The Psalms*, we will be offering several workshops on the psalms. These will be part bible study, discussion, and communal activity. They require participation!

Thursday, January 27 & Sunday, January 30, Workshop #1, exploring the many different kinds of psalms, including wisdom psalms, psalms of anger or lament, trust, penitential, individual thanksgiving, and communal thanksgiving.

Thursday, February 3 & Sunday, February 6, Workshop #2, exploring the ways psalms of praise such as Psalm 8, 33, 104, 135, and 146 provide a "perspective of eternity" from which we engage all of life's ups and downs.

Thursday, February 10 & Sunday, February 13, Workshop #3, exploring communal lament, looking at the intersection between the psalms and suffering and disorientation in today's world.

(February 20 is our annual congregational meeting)

Thursday, February 24 & Sunday, February 27 (Transfiguration Sunday), Workshop #4, exploring Psalm 150, "The Great Hallelujah."

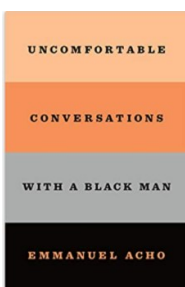
Please note that Thursday and Sunday workshops are identical.

Thursday workshops will occur during our regularly scheduled confirmation class. You are invited to join our confirmand and mentor. However, we ask that you sign up on the church bulletin board or by calling the church office, as attendance will be limited to 9.

A Reading List On Race For Allies Who Want To Do Better

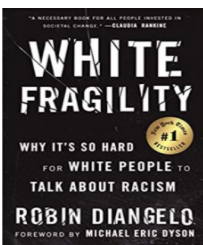
Racism and anti-racism have been subjects of recent discussions and book studies at St Peter's. We on the JustPeace team thought it would be useful to highlight some of the books our members have been reading, in case others are searching for sources. Most of these books are provocative and could lead to interesting discussions. Perhaps a book study group could be formed. If you are interested, email Juliet Bongfeldt at bongfeldtj@gmail.com.

Here's what we suggest, with short descriptions. More details can be found on Amazon.com (click book cover) or Google searches. Other titles may be added in future.

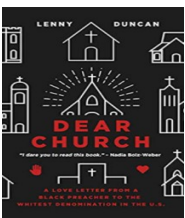


Emmanuel Acho: *Uncomfortable Conversations With a Black Man* This book is about “putting (racial) issues on the table, about engaging with tough conversations, about white people having to sit with the discomfort, because that’s how progress is made... (p.196)”

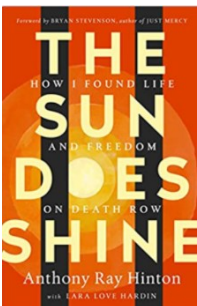
Also, a video series on the same topic: *Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man* (10 episodes so far, at Uncomfortableconvos.com)



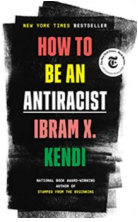
Robin Diangelo: *White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*. The *New York Times* best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.



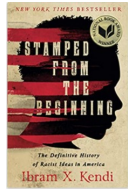
Lenny Duncan: *Dear Church. A Love Letter from a Black ELCA Preacher to the Whitest denomination in the U.S.*



Anthony Ray Hinton: *The Sun Does Shine*. The story of a wrongly convicted Black man on death row.



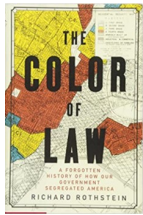
Ibram Kendi: *How to be an Antiracist*. Kendi argues that racism is not so much individual attitude but policies which we must work to change.



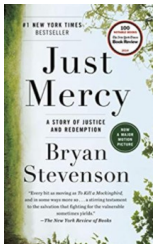
Ibram Kendi: *Stamped*. 'A sad and sometimes funny look at the history of racism in the Americas.'



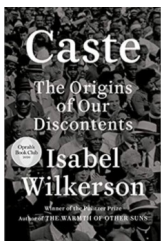
New York Times: *The 1619 Project*, A photo-essay and podcast, marking the beginning of slavery in the USA and tracing the impact of slavery on diverse aspects of American life; originally published as a Sunday supplement in December 2019.



Richard Rothstein: *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. A comprehensive study of the history of housing segregation in America at all governmental levels.



Brian Stevenson. *Just Mercy*. By Hinton's lawyer (see above) about the justice system and death penalty.



Isabel Wilkerson: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. A wide-ranging exploration of the meaning(s) of caste world-wide, with implications for our own nation.

This book list was compiled by the members of

JustPeace



JustPeace

Creation Care & Association to Preserve Cape Cod. (APCC)

As I have recently traveled west to the Grand Canyon and Monument Valley-Navajo tribal lands my mind and heart have been opened even wider to care of creation. Evolution has been unfolding for millennia and the Native Americans who preceded us on the land we call home have continued in their strong connections with nature and innate wisdom.

"To touch the earth is to have harmony with nature". Oglala Sioux

"Listen to the voice of nature, for it holds treasures for you". Huron

"Be kind to everything that lives". Omaha

Now back home my reconnect with the Cape has been with APCC. It is the region's leading nonprofit environmental organization, working toward the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect and enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life. We live on a fragile piece of land that juts out into the Atlantic Ocean. In these global times of pandemic and climate change how can we pay attention and share our voice for care here at home. How are we called to live with hope in these changing/challenging times?

I want to begin by helping you to connect with APCC (apcc.org). Take a look at their website or read articles in your local newspaper. They are a strong source for education on our local issues related to climate change and can help us to share our voices locally in ways that can make a difference.

Their 2021 report on the State of the Waters: Cape Cod is inviting us to pay attention and speak up for our ponds and lakes - there are close to 1000 on Cape. We each live near to one of these fresh water areas and our water source for daily use comes from the aquifer that lies under our homes, backyards, road ways and woodland trails.

The reports are out there on the decline in water quality - you can reference their website for information on your town - there are easy to read visual maps where you can see what is happening and perhaps read an article or two. Andrew Gottlieb, their executive director, is providing us with simple tools to use. I invite you to stay connected to APCC, read articles in your local papers, educate yourself on water issues in your town; mine is Blueberry Pond in Brewster. Then share your voice in conversations or help with a local study with some of your neighbors in your pond.

We are called to be co-creators with the One who created us.

May God bless and guide our voices and actions.

Nancy Hallberg-Emerson for JustPeace

• The quotes come from "The Soul Book of Native Proverbs" that my daughter found for us on the Navajo reservation book shop. For years I've wanted to learn more about Native Americans and their faith walk that is so deeply connected with nature and their daily lives. Thanks to Heidi for providing me with this opportunity as a Christmas gift.



SUSANNA STEPHEN BOARD

The Susanna Stephen Board is your outreach ministry here at St. Peter's for financial support of projects locally, nationally and globally. Established by action of the 2007 Congregational Meeting, its purpose is to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in striving for justice and peace, focusing on programs that feed, clothe and shelter those in need, as well as training or scholarship support that promotes peace and justice.

Members of the congregation serving on this Board include: Kim Anstey, Trish Crocker, Pr. Christian Holleck, and Janet Larson (two positions will be filled this winter.) Rodney Schuller is Council liaison.

Members of St. Peter's are encouraged to consider completing an application for some outreach ministry you would like to see supported. Applications are available in the church office.



Adult Education Opportunity

"Acting Against Racism" with Action Steps for Groups and Individuals.

This is a conversation guide produced by *The Christian Century*: "Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully." We will distribute several short articles (each about 2 pages) and offer a series of conversations around them on Mondays from 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. The sessions prompt us to think about racism, our roles and how we may want to bring about change. Articles include "Becoming less defensive about White privilege," "I believe racism is wrong. So what?," "How do we know Black lives matter to God?," and "Why are so many white Americans standing up for racial justice?"

Discussions will be offered **via zoom** on:

Monday, February 14, 4:00 -4:45 p.m.

Monday, February 21, 4:00 -4:45 p.m.

Monday, February 28, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Please contact Pr. Christian for the readings and to receive the zoom link. Some readings will also be available in the church narthex.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry is scheduled to meet on Friday, February 4th and Friday, February 18th at 1:30. To be determined whether we actually meet in person depending on the COVID situation.

It is a good time of the year to continue to work on prayer shawls, though. A nice, warm shawl feels cozy on your lap as you complete it, so we can continue to work on shawls at home.

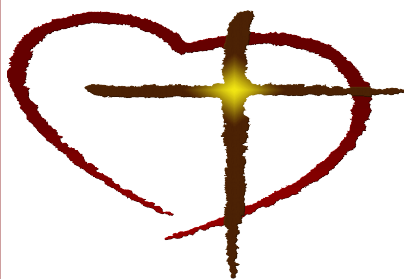
For information about Sacred Sorrow or just to have a chat please contact Marianne O'Boyle at 508-775-2757 or marianne@oboyle.net.



Esther Circle

The St. Peter's Esther Circle will not be meeting in February because of the increase in COVID cases but it is important to keep in touch so let's drop each other a note, an email or a make a phone call.

For info about Esther Circle please contact Marianne O'Boyle at 508-775-2757 or marianne@oboyle.net.



Sacred Sorrow

"Grief is neither a problem to be solved nor a difficulty to be overcome. It is a sacred expression of love; a sacred sorrow."

The Sacred Sorrow ministry is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 17th but that will be decided closer to the date depending on the COVID situation.

There are some good suggestions for coping with the pandemic as well as our grief on the Bereaved Parents of the USA website. You can access it by checking out bereavedparentsusa.org.

There is an article entitled "Grief During Wintertime" which has some helpful tips.

For information about Sacred Sorrow or just to have a chat please contact Marianne O'Boyle at 508-775-2757 or marianne@oboyle.net.

P.S.A.L.M. People Sharing and Loving More



We will not meet in February as we have no pressing business. Stay warm and well!

Our next business meeting is March 10, 2022 at 7 pm



PSALM Blessing of Gifts

This picture is of the blessing of the gifts to homeless and at-risk youth, coordinated by the PSALM Group and Esther Circle.

The PSALM Group received this letter recently:

We wanted to let you know how much we appreciate all of your kind and generous support for Orleans Elementary School students and families this season. With your generous donation of gift cards, families were able to purchase some exciting toys and clothing necessities for students. Things like the coveted LOL doll, Lego kits, and winter boots put the smiles on children faces on Christmas morning. The Stop & Shop cards helped to put a special holiday meal on the table. This helped to ease the holiday stress and financial burden for struggling families. We know you brought smiles to the children's faces with the surprises for under the Christmas tree! Thank you for all your generosity during the holiday season!

With gratitude,

Mary Ellen Reed,

NOTES AND LETTERS



To the PSALM Group,
Just wanted to let you know how much the Eddy Elementary School appreciates your support this Christmas season. The families who received your gifts were so appreciative. Thanks for partnering with the schools!
Sonja Bono and the Eddy School

Dean Elaine Davis (for the PSALM Group),
We are so grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness. After another year of struggle and sadness, everyone deserves some joy and love. Thank you for sharing your joy and love with our families.

Jill Malinowski
Chatham Elementary Guidance Counselor.



Thank you to all the members of the St Peter's Lutheran Church who contributed their time, efforts and support to our extended family as we celebrated the life of Ruth Johnson on December 3.

Special thanks to the greeter, Marianne O'Boyle to the ushers, Gretchen Widegren and Bill Vaughan, to prayer leader, Nancy Hallberg-Emerson and to Diane Stauss and her team who coordinated and served the luncheon in Fellowship hall.

Joanie Keating was so available and responsive to all our questions about what we needed to do and who to contact to assure the service went smoothly. And thank you too, to Maggie Ribb, her musical offerings were both calming and joyful.

We feel blessed to have honored our mom in her beloved St. Peter's.
May the Christmas spirit bless you all.

Thanks for everything!
Donna Johnson, David Johnson and family

NOTES AND LETTERS

Thank you notes were received from the organizations below.
Your generosity is noted and truly appreciated.



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service



I would love to let the St. Peter's community know about the solo exhibit of my art. It will run February 3-25 at the Brewster Library. It is entitled "My Favorite Places" and will include paintings and prints of familiar places from this part of the Cape, many of which people will recognize from the Cranberry Fair silent auction. I try to express a feeling of "hygge" in my art which is the Danish word for a lifestyle of contentedness with warm and happy feelings resulting from simple things and the company of family and friends. Thanks, Peg Flood

Loaves and Fish Pantry

Many of you have faithfully supported the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry here at St. Peter's but do you know where it is?

There is a large closet to the right just before the Fellowship Hall. This serves as our pantry and we are lucky to have an additional storage area across the hall. This comes in handy and allows us to have back up supplies when the Lower Cape Outreach Council is only able to arrange a delivery once a month, as was the situation these past 2 months.

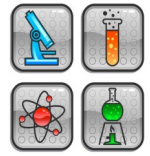
Although Aline Gilfort retired last month from managing the pantry, she and Herb can be found working there every Friday morning. We think she is going for 40 years of service! Many of you were there when they were honored for their dedication and know it is a labor of love for this community. We look forward to seeing the tree planted in their honor this Spring.



Through the Lens of Science with Doug...

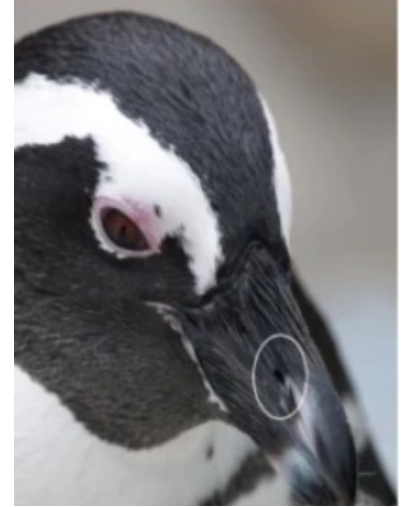
Doug Kenney is a retired science teacher who lives at Regal Care of Harwich and joyfully shares a monthly newsletter article with us. Call him at 508 430-6309.

February 2022



What do penguins drink ?

There are lifeforms on our planet that survive where there's no fresh water. Penguins and albatross have amazing stories to tell. Penguins drink salt water as there's no freshwater on Antarctica. Nature gave them de-salt glands that extract salt from the sea water they drink! The gland, in their head, drops a solution of saline (salt) into a pouch located behind their beak. Other creatures, such as the albatross, are also blessed with such glands.



Have you ever seen a penguin return to land and shake his head back-and-forth? Look closely and you'll see a saline solution shooting out of its beak! Albatrosses shake their heads too, but they do it while they're in flight. Emperor penguins migrate from the coldest parts of Antarctica to the slightly warmer South Shetland Islands, located just south of the Scotia Sea during winter months. God provides the appropriate glands that all living creatures need.

PASTOR'S RESPONSE BY CHRISTIAN HOLLECK



Praise the Lord! How delightful and amazing! Water is the stuff of life! Water is mentioned more than 700 times in the scriptures. The psalmist speaks about how God cares for the land and waters it (i.e. Ps.65). When the Israelites complained to Moses that they suffered from thirst, God instructed Moses to strike a rock, from which water then flowed forth.

When we were recently in California it was raining. It was one of the reasons our plane didn't land in Burbank but was diverted to Los Angeles. I could visibly see the joy of several family members as they beheld the rain; one was mesmerized watching it under the light of a street lamp. Another remarked with wonder: Wow, we've already had more rain than the entire previous year, and it's only January- there will be more rain before the dry season. Here, in the northeast, it's easy to take fresh water for granted. Learning about penguins, California and their droughts, and the scriptures reminds me not to take water - or any of God's gifts—for granted!

"The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life" (Jesus to the woman at the well in Samaria).

Council Corner notes

Highlights of January 18, 2022 Meeting

Treasurer's Report made by Russ Olson shows we are \$5364 in the black for 2021 against a projected deficit of \$32,374, and as a congregation we contributed over \$83,000 in benevolences for the year.



Financial Secretary's Report: 2021 had 113 pledges of more than \$265,000 but over \$282,000 was given. In 2022 there are 94 pledges for a total of \$255,519.

The 2022 budget was presented by Jim Merriam to council in preparation for the February annual meeting. He noted that the St. Peter's Synod pledge for 2021 is \$30,818 (10% of 2021 envelope giving). There are four Capital Projects being recommended for 2022 at the annual meeting.

A motion was approved to identify the balance of Stewart exterior painting contract to come from designated reserves for \$8631.91.

A motion was approved to add Jim Merriam's name to the Cape Cod Five Signature Card for St. Peter's to all for another check signer while the treasurer is out of state for 2 months this winter.

Pastors' reports: The Epiphany service was a joy. Christmas service attendance was lower than anticipated possibly due to Covid-19. Pastoral care has been challenging due to changing Covid-19 restrictions. Time is being used for technical issues rather than pastoring. Help is needed for things like A/V tech., delivering worship flowers, etc.

Update on the Gift of the Piano: Music Minister Maggie Ribb has declined the generous offer of the piano.

The search for an Assistant Treasurer continues.

Reports from ministry teams and committees

Reopening Task Force - Covid Response Team is the new team name. Team met last week and changes were made to worship procedures.

Safe Harbors Ministry - The family was impacted by Omicron but has recovered. Both the PSALM and Esther Circle groups have decided not to meet in January and February. The Esther Circle made contributions to A Baby Center, Katelynn's Closet, The Ronald McDonald House of Springfield, Ascentria, The New England Seafarers, LCOC and Calumet.

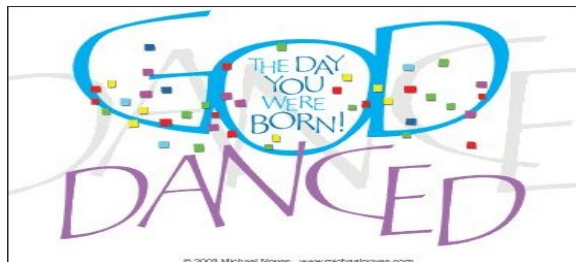
Reported by Peg Flood, Congregation Council Secretary

Financial Status - December 31, 2021

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$361,011.	\$347,656.
Expense	\$356,646.	\$380,031.
Net Income	\$ 5,365.	\$ (32,375.)



February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Ellen	Goode	February 2
Suzanne	Bassett	February 2
James	Glaser	February 4
Carol	Barina	February 7
Karen	Beggs	February 9
Chris	Crane	February 10
Ronald	Gauch	February 13
Joseph	O'Gorman	February 13
Barbara	Kamens	February 20
Betsy	Dickinson	February 21
Flora	Hall	February 23
Louis	Boucher	February 25
Jane	Silveria	February 27
Marianne	O'Boyle	February 28
Charlie	Czech	February 28
Wayne	Glifort	February 28

Lynn & Rich Archambault	2/3
Dave Gomes & Cathryn Samples	2/1
Elaine & Bob Davis	2/19

Please contact the office
office@stpeterscapecod.org
 if you would like to add or remove your
 Birthday or Anniversary
 from our Newsletter.



*Flowers are placed at
the altar to the glory
of God
and to celebrate
75th birthdays.*

If you know someone
with this special day coming up, please
let us know.



To view the most
up to date
calendar

(found on our website)

click here

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