

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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February 2026

The Network

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2026

Phone: 508-432-5172
Email: Office@StPetersCapeCod.org
Website: www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Network

February 2026 Issue

The DEADLINE
for submissions to the
MARCH 2026 Issue
is February 17, 2025



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

Pastor

The Rev. Christophor Gilbert
pastor@stpeterscapecod.org

Minster of Music

Craig S. Tocher
craigtocher67@gmail.com

Ministry Administrator

Susan Madigan Kiehnau
office@stpeterscapecod.org

Operations Administrator

Ann German
businessoffice@stpeterscapecod.org

Financial Staff:

Suzanne Bassett, *Treasurer*
assistanttr@stpeterscapecod.org

Lois Thomas, *Financial Secretary*

Lynn Hatch, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

Church Council:

Jane Wordsworth,
President
Chris Janson,
Vice President
Tony Esposito,
Secretary
Suzanne Bassett,
Treasurer
Keeton Arnett
Juliet Bongfeldt
Peg Flood
Aline Glifort
Kathy Glifort
Paul Luciano
Rodney Schuller



OFFICE HOURS
8 am to 4:00 pm
Tuesdays - Thursdays



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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, color and culture, all sexual orientations and gender identities, any 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.

Website:

www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org

Office email:

Office@StPetersCapeCod.org

Church Phone: 508-432-5172

From the Pastor

*But you see through my forever lies and you are not believing
And I see in your forever eyes, that you are forever healing*

These lyrics are from a song called “Sinking” by the 90s Christian Rock band, Jars of Clay. I discovered them back in the day when the single “Flood” (from their same-titled freshman album) crossed over onto the pop charts. As one TikTok user reflected in a video I watched last month, they offered a deep and reflective experience for Christians and non-Christians alike.

I wasn’t surprised that I found that video and then began to think about the band, finally listening to their first album on my way to the church one day. God often points us in the direction we need to go. My mind had been circling on the practice of healing and our call as Christians to do our part to center this ministry in its many iterations.

When Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah in the Gospel of Luke, he is outlining not only his own ministry but ours as his hands and feet in the world today. We are, in no uncertain terms invited to “proclaim good news to the poor . . . proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18 NRSVue).

It’s clear to me that these imperatives are really about healing: our relationship with others, our bodies, our communities. And one of the primary ways we can affect healing in ourselves and the world is through prayer. As the author of James writes, “Are any among you suffering? They should pray. . . . Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. . . . [C]onfess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed” (James 5:13-14,16 NRSVue). This is healing for the soul, the body, and the whole of creation!

Every month on the first Sunday, we have a special service of healing at St. Peter’s. The structure is very similar to the regular Sunday service, with singing, scripture, and the celebration of Communion. And we pray, in different ways: call-and-response litanies, intercessions, and with the laying on of hands. Please come and add your voices to this service. We meet in the Sanctuary at 11:15 am (10:45 am in February).

Come! Look into God’s “forever eyes!” Receive God’s “forever healing.”

See you in worship!
Pastor Christophor

Update from Council

Since our January Council Meeting is after the time for submitting an update, I will tell you what we will be looking at during the meeting. The 2026 Budget will be reviewed and discussed. Our treasurer Suzanne Bassett and Operations Administrator Ann German have worked on this diligently, and it has been presented to the Finance Committee. We will also be looking at updates to St. Peter's Constitution as directed by the Synod. Tony Esposito and Paul Bongfeldt have done this review and edits. This should be available for review before the annual meeting.

Recently I signed a request that Jim Merriam delivered to the Town of Harwich to receive reimbursement for the grinder pump we purchased related to our sewer installation. Hopefully these funds will be sent to us sooner rather than later.

Hope you are all staying safe and warm during this chilly, snowy January!

In peace,
Jane Wordsworth
Council President

More Than Just Gold

St. Peter's member Gayle Olson who lives in Dennis Port will be presenting a program about her experiences as an Athletic Trainer with the United States Olympic Committee Sports Medicine Team on **Sunday, February 1 at 11:30 am** in Fellowship Hall.

Gayle has traveled with three Pan American Games teams, two Olympic Games Teams and other smaller games to a wide variety of countries throughout the world. She will have lots of mementos as well as uniforms she has obtained along the way out for display. This program is suitable for all ages.

Following the program, we will serve a lunch. So we know how many people to expect, there's a clip board in the narthex to sign up for the lunch.



Craig Tocher's Talk on Apartheid

Due to anticipated snowy weather, Craig's talk has been rescheduled to **Sunday, February 15** following worship in Fellowship Hall. He will share with us some of how apartheid affected his life and the lives of South Africans, including: their church lives, how it was resisted, and how apartheid came to an end. We will meet to hear his story and ask questions. Please join us!

ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
CAPE COD

Invites you to a

SERVICE OF

INSTALLATION
WITH HOLY COMMUNION

*Celebrating the call of our sixth
pastor to the community*

The
REV. CHRISTEPHOR
GILBERT

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 8

2:00 PM

Reception to follow

*Clergy are invited to vest and
process. Please wear your
favorite stole of any color!*



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

310 RT-137 HARWICH, MA 02645

WWW.STPETERSLUTHERANCAPECOD.ORG



Food Pantry Update

Loaves & Fishes Pantry

Monday: 1:00 - 3:00 pm **Tuesday:** 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:30 - 2:30 **Friday:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

The enlarged and newly designed pantry at the Lower Cape Outreach Council office on Brewster Cross Road in Orleans is up and running. Now volunteers are working on relocating Katy's Korner on the first floor, and plans are to open in April. Many of you have donated clothing, sheets, towels, etc. to this valuable resource for our families so we will keep you posted and let you know when they will be taking donations again.

Our Loaves & Fishes Pantry was able to get four nice metal shelving units from the former pantry, so we are planning to use these to help us with our increasing need for storage and shelf space, especially for produce. It's a wonderful problem to have, and we aren't complaining, but we move so much food each week that we need to create more storage and space for refrigerated items. The shelving units will be a big help when we figure out the best place to put them. *(See the photo below.)*

January and February tend to be a good time to catch up on the increasing amount of paperwork that is required so that the Lower Cape Outreach Council (LCOC) can write grants and get the necessary food and supplies for each of the nine pantries. We have been lucky to get a few volunteers for Tuesday who can help with our many Spanish-speaking clients, but we could really use some more help on the other days. If you speak even a limited amount of Spanish or are good at Google Translate, please consider volunteering, even if it's just for a few shifts. I am also looking for someone to help set up a computer program to help schedule our volunteers so that we can efficiently handle flexible scheduling as well as a system to help keep track of the monthly reporting.

Thanks for faithfully helping our neighbors in need, and we know all of you will help us fill our new shelves!

Ruth Brenneman, St. Peter's Food Pantry Coordinator
thomasbrenneman41@comcast.net, call or text 774-286-9025



Second Sunday Service

We will have our second service with a focus on healing on **Sunday, February 1 at 10:45 am**, since Gayle Olson will be giving a presentation at 11:30 am (page 4).

Women's Bible Study

The next Women's Bible Study will meet on **Saturday, February 7 at 10:00 am** in the Luther Room.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on February 18. Pastor Christophor will provide "drive through" ashes at the church's entrance from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Our evening service will be at 7:00 pm.



ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

St. Peter's Annual Meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 22 immediately following the morning worship service. This is a time when we, as a congregation, gather together to share what our ministries have accomplished in the past year and to look forward to what lies ahead. **Team leaders and committee chairs are reminded to submit their annual reports to Susan by February 3 so that the annual report can be prepared. Her email is: office@stpeterscapecod.org.**

Dulcimer Fellowship Group

St. Peter's Dulcimer Fellowship Group will meet on **Sunday, February 15 at 3:00 pm**. Given that its a short month with LOTS going on at church, the dulcimer fellowship group will meet once on Sunday afternoon, February 15. We are now meeting downstairs in the fellowship hall as there's plenty of parking outside fellowship hall and across the driveway on the lower level. New participants are always welcome!

For more information, please contact MJ at: mjpattison@gmail.com

Submitted by MJ Pattison



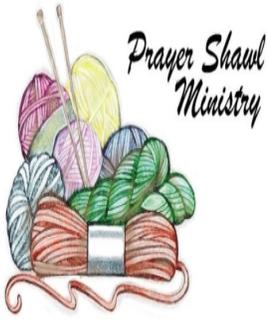
New England Synod Assembly

SAVE THE DATE!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's New England 2024 Synod Assembly will be **June 4-6, 2026** at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

St. Peter's Ministries

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry plans to meet on **Friday, February 6 and Friday, February 20 at 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. It's still knitting weather so please join us for prayerful knitting or crocheting and pleasant conversation. There are needles, yarn and patterns available if needed.

ESTHER CIRCLE

The Esther Circle will have a regular meeting on **Tuesday, February 10 at 12:30 pm** in the Luther Room.



SACRED SORROW



Sacred Sorrow

"Grief is not a problem to be solved nor a difficulty to be overcome. It is a sacred expression of love; a sacred sorrow."

St. Peter's ministry for bereaved parents will meet on **Thursday, February 19 at 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. Although none of us wanted to be "eligible" to join this group, we find it is helpful to be with others who understand and can encourage us along the grief journey.

If you know of someone who has lost a child please feel free to tell them about us. We welcome anyone who could benefit from being a part of this ministry. They don't have to be a member of St. Peter's.

For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Esther Circle, or Sacred Sorrow, please contact Marianne O'Boyle at 508-775-2757 or marianne@o Boyle.net.

Local Grief Support Groups

- Run by Broad Reach Hospice's bereavement coordinator, Rebecca Chesbro, this grief support group is open to anyone grieving the loss of a spouse. It meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 2 pm in the Luther Room at St. Peter's.
- The Northside United Methodist Church, 701 Airline Road, Brewster, has a grief support group at their church for all who are experiencing some type of grief that meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 2 pm.

Through the Lens of Science with Doug...

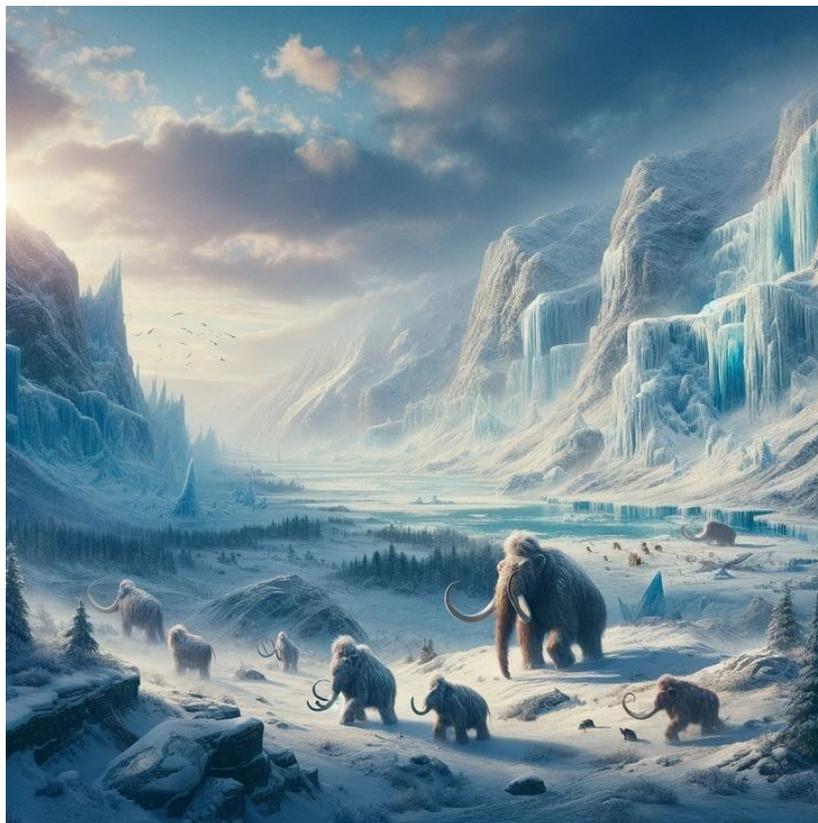
Doug Kenney is a retired science teacher who lives at Regal Care of Harwich and joyfully shares a monthly newsletter article with us. Call him at 508 430-6309. February 2026

GLOBAL WARMING versus ICE AGES

Global warming is a precursor of an ice age, always has been and always will be.

The Earth has to be warmed to pave the way for an ice age. Previous ages had far more global warming than the current one that's now waning. Scientists have a detailed history of global climate changes that have occurred over millions of years. Global warming has to precede global cooling and vice versa. The records show ice ages develop slowly but end abruptly according to evidence found on two ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

Over the past 2.4 billion years, there have been five major ice ages, and they are: Huronian, Cryogenian, Andean-Saharan, Karoo, and Holocene, the age that's currently waning. Millions of years ago, ice sheets reached as far south as Texas. The Huronian ice age was caused by the elimination of methane in our atmosphere, and the Cryogenian ice age ended when excessive carbon dioxide was produced by volcanoes.



PSALM February 2026 Update

PSALM members are still resting and staying warm after the busy Cranberry Fair and Christmas Season. Again we want to thank all who contributed time, cookies, pies, crafts, etc. to make the Cranberry Fair the success it was. We have received several thank you notes from the school staffs and gift recipients (*see page 10*).

There will not be a PSALM Meeting in February - we will meet on March 26 at 2:00 pm. We will begin planning for the diaper drive in May for A Baby Center. Till then stay safe, and warm.

Wishing all a very Happy Valentines' Day! May the day be filled with love, happiness and chocolates!

Peace,

Jane Wordsworth

Below and on the next page are some of the many thank you notes that St. Peter's PSALM group received for the 109 gift bags distributed for Christmas.

Again, thanks for your support of the Cranberry Fair which made these gifts possible!

Dear PSALM Group,

Thanks for all of your help this holiday season. People like you make sure people in our community have hope during the Christmas Season.

Happy New Year, too!

Sonja Bono & Eddy
Elementary School

Dear PSALM Group,

Thank you very much fore the gift bags to benefit families in need at Stony Brook. You have made the season brighter with your thoughtfulness. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Carolan Kasper, Principal

NOTES AND LETTERS



Dear St. Peter's Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your donation to benefit our students and families. We are incredibly lucky to have your support year after year. The need is greater now more than ever. Our families are relieved and grateful for the help.
Happy Holidays!
Sincerely,
Nauset Middle School
Guidance Department

Dear PSALM Group,

As usual, you have made some Eastham families' Christmases a little more bright. Thank you for your fantastic generosity. It is very much appreciated.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Catherine
On behalf of Eastham Elementary School

Happy Holidays!

I hope you have a very merry Christmas. Stay warm.

Thank you for the gift.

Cassie A.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



2 Ellen Goode
2 Suzanne Bassett
4 James Glaser
4 Chris Bellis
6 Charlie Czech
7 Carol Barina
9 Karen Beggs
10 Chris Crane
13 Ron Gauch
13 Brian O’Gorman
21 Betsy Dickinson
23 Flora Hall
27 Jane Silveria
28 Wayne Glifort
28 Marianne O’Boyle

2 Cathy Samples and David Gomes
7 Lynn and Rich Archambault
14 John Koteles and Mary Schaefer-Koteles
14 Bob and Elaine Davis

We received a thank you
note from Calumet
for St. Peter’s gift of
\$1,208. 34.

Update your information in St. Peter's Directory!

If you have any changes or if we don't
have your birthday or anniversary
listed, please send to:

Office@StPetersCapeCod.org

Flowers are placed at the
altar to the glory of God
on a woman's 75th birthday.



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

February 2026 at St. Peter's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 930a Worship, Sanctuary 1045a Healing Service S 1130a G. Olson Talk & Lunch FH	2 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL LR	3 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 330p Loaves & Fish FP	4 1230p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	5	6 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Prayer Shawl LR 2p Choir S 330p Bell Choir LR	7 10a Women's Bible Study LR 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
8 930a Worship, Sanctuary 2p Pastor Gilbert's Installation & Reception FH	9 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 130p JustPeace CR 6p Men's AWOL LR	10 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 12:30p Esther Circle LR 330p Loaves & Fish FP 6p NAMI Meeting LR	11 1230p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 4p YOH LR	12 10a Pastoral Care Team Mtg CR & Z 1p Finance Committee CR	13 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir S 330p Bell Choir LR	14 Valentine's Day 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary 
15 Home Communion Sunday 930a Worship, Sanctuary 1045a Craig Tochter on Apartheid FH 3p Dulcimer Fellowship Group LR	16 President's Day Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 4:30p SPLC @ Faith Family Kitchen 6p Men's AWOL LR	17 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 330p Loaves & Fish FP	18 Ash Wednesday 8-9:30a Drive Through Ashes 1230p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 4p SMMC Ash Weds. Service S 7p SPLC Ash Weds. Service S	19 130p Sacred Sorrow LR 6p Council Mtg FH	20 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Prayer Shawl LR 2p Choir S 330p Bell Choir LR	21 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
22 930a Worship Sanctuary 1030a Annual Meeting FH 	23 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL LR	24 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 12p Property Team CR 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 330p Loaves & Fish F4	25 1230p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	26	27 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir S 330p Bell Choir LR	28 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
				Room Guide: CR Conference Room DN Downstairs Narthex FH Fellowship Hall FP Food Pantry LR Luther Room LN Narthex S Sanctuary Z Zoom		