

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 Route 137

Harwich, MA 02645-1361

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January 2024

The Network

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
JANUARY 2024

Phone: 508-432-5172

Email: Office@StPetersCapeCod.org

Website: www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org

The church office is closed Monday, January 1 in celebration of New Year's Day.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Network
JANUARY 2024 Issue

DEADLINE

For submissions to the *FEBRUARY 2024 Issue* is January 15, 2024

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

Interim Minister
Pastor Roger Dennis
Pastor@stpeterscapecod.org

Minster of Music
Craig S. Tocher
Ministerofmusic@stpererscapecod.org

Ministry Administrator
Susan Madigan Kiehna
office@stpeterscapecod.org

Operations Administrator
Ann German
businessoffice@stpeterscapecod.org

2023 Financial Staff:
Russ Olson, *Treasurer*
churchtreasurer@stpeterscapecod.org

Suzanne Bassett, *Assistant Treasurer*
assistanttr@stpeterscapecod.org

Lois Thomas, *Financial Secretary*

Lynn Hatch, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

2023 Church Council:

Juliet Bongfeldt,
President
Cathy Samples,
Vice President
Tony Esposito
Secretary
Russ Olson,
Treasurer
Kathy Glifort
Chris Janson
Brenda Niemi
Rodney Schuller
Jane Wordsworth



OFFICE HOURS
9 am to 3:30 pm
Mondays - 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 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.

Website:

www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org

Office email:

Office@StPetersCapeCod.org
Church Phone: 508-432-5172

St. Peter's Annual Meeting

St Peter's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2024, in fellowship hall 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 as we move through our pastoral transition. The Zoom format will allow members who cannot be present to attend virtually and to vote. Team leaders and committee chairs are reminded to submit their annual reports to Susan by January 29 so that the annual report can be prepared. Any proposed resolutions need to be submitted to Council by their January 16 meeting.

Second Service to Continue Once a Month

Our second service meets on the first Sunday of the month at 11:15 am. This service has a focus on healing. We'll have this service on January 7 and February 4. Please join us!

Pastoral Perceptions

St. Peter's Season is already underway! January is traditionally marked with festivities, New Year's resolutions, and relatively empty calendars not yet filled with commitments, special events, or school notations. A number of people still make New Year's resolutions although not as many compared to years in distant past. Several behavioral scientists sometimes suggest a new location, new job, or even a new year are the better times to make changes and increase the possibilities of a successful outcome.

However, for the faithful who follow the "church year," the year is already underway. The season of Advent calls upon us to be "awake" and to "prepare" for a new chapter.....the reality of Christ in our midst. The angels' message to the frightened shepherds further affirms the "new reality" of the "Emmanuel" (God is with us).

Thus, for us of the faith, our season is already underway. As always, we are called upon to share the good news. We need not "prove" the existence of God, but to share what we know, what we experience, and what we hear and see around us. We are called upon to invite others to join us in both worship and to learn of God's grace toward humanity. Amen.

Pastor Roger Dennis
Interim Pastor

Transition Happenings

The Transition Phase is well underway. The CAT (Congregation Assessment Tool) survey closed on December 19. Final numbers are not yet available, but over 100 people provided their input. Thank you to all who participated!

The next step is for our CAT to be reviewed by Holy Cow Consulting and the results presented to the St. Peter's Transition Team in January. Afterwards a meeting with the congregation will be scheduled where a summary of the survey will be presented. Additional transition events including "The History of St. Peter's" will be planned for the near future.

Please contact any member of the Transition Team with any questions as we continue our journey together. Transition Team Members: Claudia Bellis, Elaine Davis, Kathy Glifort, Jim Merriam, Ken Thomas, and Jane Wordsworth

Submitted by Claudia Bellis

PROTECT YOURSELF!

I will NEVER email or text anyone for gift cards, discreet favors, or personal financial information, such as bank or credit card numbers. To ensure an email from anyone is authentic, always be sure to examine the sender's email address carefully before responding, and never give out sensitive financial or personal information via email. Finally, if you are unsure if an email claiming to be from "Pastor Roger or Pastor Dennis" is authentic, call the church office or (better yet!) speak to me, the very real Pastor Roger or Pastor Dennis, before responding.

Pastor Roger Dennis

We love to hear from you!

Send your updates to: ...
office@StPetersCapeCod.org or
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
310 Route 137
Harwich, MA 02645-1361
(508) 432-5172

Master Calendar

If your committee or ministry team would like to meet at the church, please let Ministry Administrator Susan know. She'll get you on the master calendar and reserve a space for you.

Request to Help Finding Housing



Pastor Dennis has rented a “home away from home” to eliminate commuting from Agawam. However, his rental agreement ends April 15. He would appreciate any assistance people may provide to identify a rental after that date. If you know someone in need of a “house sitter” or someone who has something available for rent within a reasonable driving distance and price (advertised publicly or not), please let him know by speaking with him or emailing him at pastor@stpeterscapecod.org.

HELP HELP HELP!!



Since we no longer have a custodian, we are looking for able bodied persons, men and women, to be available for setting up and taking down of tables and chairs for functions in Fellowship Hall and other areas as needed. This is an occasional commitment and should only take a couple of hours each time. If you can help out, please, contact either Jane Wordsworth (jbwords47@gmail.com) or Karen Beggs (kmbeggs@comcast.net).

New England Synod Assembly SAVE THE DATE!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s New England 2024 Synod Assembly will be June 6-8, 2024 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA. At this 3-day assembly, we will elect a new bishop of the synod. Check the church’s kiosk where more information about the Assembly is posted.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Stewardship Thanks

Thank you to everyone for your generous offerings to-date to St. Peter's. As you continue with your giving, please note that **December 31, 2023** is the ending date for recording 2023 offerings. Any offerings received after that date will be entered as 2024 giving.

The Dulcimer Fellowship Group 2024

The Dulcimer Fellowship group is continuing to meet twice a month on FIRST WEDNESDAYS at 4:00 pm and THIRD SUNDAYS at 11:00 am. We always welcome anyone curious to watch or try playing. We always start with the basics both to review and to include new people. You don't need to know anything about music or even what an Appalachian mountain dulcimer is! Come and see! Between monthly gatherings, we have three "loaner" dulcimers that we share so that you can take one home and try playing on your own. I can also suggest beginning dulcimer YouTube lessons that you can watch.

The week day session is for anyone who wants to play more than once a month but it's also to have a time during the month that members of the community might want to join us. If you would like to come with a friend, please join us on First Wednesdays at 4:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact MJ Pattison at :

mjpattison@gmail.com

Organ Update

The Planning and Construction Team (PACT) is reviewing details and posing additional questions to the two general contractors with viable bids. In addition, the PACT has begun to receive proposals from audiovisual (AV) vendors which will also require scrutiny by both the PACT and the AV Team. The PACT hopes to make a recommendation regarding a general contractor and an AV vendor to Council shortly after the New Year.

Submitted by Tony Esposito

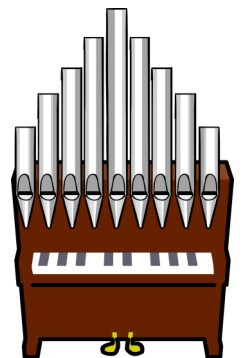
Pipes for Praise, the fundraising group for the organ, is preparing for a fundraiser to be held HERE at St. Peter's on Sunday, January 14 at 2:00 pm. The Chatham Chorale will be performing a concert featuring works of Schubert and Handel. Tickets are \$25 and will be sold at St. Peter's and also on our website, go to StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org.

SAVE THE DATE!!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 at 2:00 pm

TICKETS: \$25

OUR GOAL IS TO SELL OUT THIS CONCERT!



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.

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

P.S.A.L.M.

[People Sharing and Loving More]

*May you enjoy a New Year filled with peace,
joy, blessings and good health!*

With much gratitude, we report that the PSALM Group had the most successful Cranberry Fair EVER!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who shared their time and talent to assist with the Cranberry Fair. Your dedication and support allowed us to care for 99 homeless and at-risk students at Christmas and also to provide support to the Cape Cod Council of Churches, Hands of Hope, Nurturing Foster Families, the Covenant to Care Program, and our own Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

A special Thank You to the St. Peter's men for manning the Cranberry Café and for your work and dedication with cleanup.

The P.S.A.L.M. group will not meet in January & February: It's time to settle down for a long winter's nap!





Food Pantry Update

Loaves and Fish 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

Food Insecurity on Cape Cod, and throughout the United States, is well documented, and pantries everywhere are seeing the needs increase monthly. This is true for our Loaves and Fishes Pantry with double the number of visits in November compared to last year at this time. The 148 client visits in November helped feed 499 of our neighbors and probably more if any families shared their Turkey dinners with extended family or friends. Your generosity got us through these past few months with the cuts in the amount of food we were able to get from the Greater Boston Food Bank. Our families appreciate every can of kidney beans or box of pasta that is left in our donation barrel, or an extra check that is donated to the pantry. What is amazing is that this is only one of many outreach programs that our church was involved in over these past weeks including the Seafarers bags, and diapers for the Baby Center, to the many gift bags filled by the funds raised at the Cranberry Fair. We have now passed out almost 100 new coats, and you helped provided bags of gifts and gift cards for 90 children whose families use our pantry. St. Peter's takes to heart the second commandment to "Love your neighbor as yourself." We know that we can count on our congregation and friends to meet whatever needs 2024 brings.

Our pantry team is down a few valuable members. Karen Beggs is taking some time off after years of faithfully filling carts and carts of groceries, and we know she will be missed. Carol Vrlik is making good progress rehabbing and plans to return as soon as possible. Luckily we have added Carol Schachinger and Kim Anstey to our crew, and we are thrilled to have them. If you're interested in volunteering, please let me know.

Your brown grocery bags, coupons, and egg cartons, especially the cardboard ones, have been a big help. Although we include a wish list of our current needs, all non-perishable items are always helpful and welcome. Happy New Year!

Ruth Brenneman
St. Peter's Food Pantry Coordinator
Email: Ruth Brenneman at thomasbrenneman41@comcast.net

St. Peter's Ministries

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Friday, January 5 and Friday, January 19 at 1:30 pm.

During the colder months, having a shawl in progress on the lap is a welcome comfort. Plan to join us for prayerful work and pleasant conversation!

ESTHER CIRCLE

May your year be filled with blessings and good health!
The Esther Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 12:30 pm.

At the January meeting we typically distribute Cranberry Fair funds to the organizations that we support.

We will also continue to discuss the book by Joan Chittister, The Gift of Years.



SACRED SORROW



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 St. Peter's ministry for bereaved parents will meet on Thursday, January 18 at 1:30 pm in the Luther Room.

If you have had the misfortune to suffer the death of a child, please join us. It doesn't matter the age of your child or how long ago your loss occurred, it helps to be with others who understand your journey.

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.



Our 9:30 am Sunday in-person worship
is live streamed on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StPetersLutheranChurchHarwich>

NOTES AND LETTERS

A BIG THANK YOU

Whew! I thank all of you that contributed your time and effort to the worship and ministries of St. Peter's. Without your efforts, what we have done together to serve our Lord would not have been possible. Advent, Christmas, and all the efforts at the end of the calendar year make it one of the most active times in the life of the local congregation.

Learning names is easier because of the frequency of seeing you at the church either worshipping or volunteering. I celebrate, too, because there have been so many faces rather than a handful. I suspect your previous pastors conveyed their appreciation to all of you prior to their departure. "Well done good and faithful servants."

In this time of transition, much will be asked. If the last two months are any indication, I anticipate a good harvest. May you be blessed as you have been a blessings to so many.

Pastor Roger Dennis
Interim Pastor

Dear St. Peter's Family,

A heartfelt thank you for the beautiful altar flowers. The calls, texts and emails were most appreciated during my illness. We are truly blessed to be a part of St. Peter's amazing family. May God Bless you all!

*In appreciation,
Elaine Davis.*

Dear Friends at St. Peter's,

Please accept this note as a small measure of my gratitude for your prayers and cards during my recent open-heart surgery and subsequent recovery period. I have no doubts that your prayers guided the fine physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and support staff at Beth Israel Boston to save my life.

Please know that I am forever thankful and indebted to you for your compassion, faith, and well-wishes.

With kind regards,
Michael Kiehnau

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. January 2024

Rotations and Revolutions

One day on a planet is the time it takes to complete a 360 degree rotation beginning at midnight. Mars does it in 24.6 hours and the Earth in 23.9 hours. One year is the time it takes a planet to complete a revolution around the sun. We can sense a daily rotation, but not annual revolutions as the Earth's velocity exceeds 60 thousand mph! It varies between 65,000 and 68,000 mph depending on the Earth's distance from the sun. Its maximum velocity occurs on January 4 when the Earth is farthest from the sun. The Earth travels over 500 million miles around an erratic elliptical orbit per year! Remember: the sun doesn't rise; it's the Earth that sets, and the sun doesn't set; it's the Earth that rises! Planets rotate and revolve from west to east depending upon locations from which they are viewed.

As the orbital velocity of the Earth slows down, Earth residents gain a bonus of living time between June and August. Residents of Cape Cod have an extra long summer while the residents of Australia experience an extra long winter although their winters are warmer than ours. This means the northern hemisphere gets more sunlight than the southern hemisphere. We add an extra day to eight of our months to adjust our calendar for this extra living.

The Earth rotates every 23.9 hours, not a convenient 24 hours, so a leap day is added in February every four years to compensate for the loss of 24 hours, and leap seconds can be added as often as needed to keep our calendar exact. At some point in time, the Earth's rotation will slow to exactly 24.0 hours meaning leap periods will not be required.

Have you heard about the "precession of the equinoxes"? As rotation slows down, there's a tiny wobble like a spinning top does when it slows down. It takes about 26,000 years for the Earth to make just one 360 degree wobble meaning 13,000 years from now, our winter would begin in June and summer in December. Scientist will, no doubt, adjust our calendar to the way it's meant to be.

The most incredible revolution is the solar system's velocity of 25 miles per second as it traverses clockwise around the Milky Way galaxy. It takes about two billion years for one 'cosmic' orbit to occur around this massive galaxy, 200,000 light years in diameter! One light year is slightly less than six trillion miles.



Pastor Dennis' Commentary: As the ancients before us, the earth and sea speak to the beauty and power of the created world. Gazing into the cosmos brings awe and wonder. The words of the Psalmist (92:5, 40:5, 104:24 and others) demonstrate humanity's feeble attempts to place into words that which the eye observes.

January Birthdays

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS




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

- 7 Kelly Mercer
- 8 Jaxson Rising
- 10 Scott Steber
- 10 Christopher Kamens
- 10 Alan Dickinson
- 11 Jim Wordsworth
- 12 Bill O'Boyle
- 13 Russell Peterson
- 18 Carol Schachinger
- 19 Karen Gauch
- 20 Nicole Peterson
- 20 Victoria Peterson
- 25 Rebecca Catron
- 30 Peter Olsen
- 31 Marybeth Christensen




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.

January 2024 at St. Peter's

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Room Guide: CR Conference Room DN Downstairs Narthex FH Fellowship Hall FP Food Pantry LR Luther Room N Narthex S Sanctuary Z Zoom	1 Church office closed 1p CLOSED Loaves & Fish FP 	2 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 9:30a Staff Mtg CR 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 2p Bell Choir S 3p Choir S 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP	3 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 4p Dulcimer Fell. Group LR	4 10a Staff Support Meeting LR 7p Girl Scouts FH	5 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Prayer Shawl LR	6 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
7 9:30a Worship Sanctuary 11:15a Healing Service Sanctuary	8 9a Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL LR 7p Girl Scouts FH	9 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 9:30a Staff Mtg CR 10a Centering Prayer S 12:30p Esther Circle, LR 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Bell Choir S 3p Choir S 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 6p N.A.M.I. Meeting LR	10 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 4p Y.O.H. Board Mtg LR 7p Girl Scouts Leaders Mtg FH	11 10:30a Pastoral Care Team Meeting LR & Z	12 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1p Monomoy Bridge FH	13 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
14 9:30a Worship Sanctuary 11a Dulcimer Fellowship Group LR 2p Chatham Chorale Concert, Sanctuary	15 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 9a Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP 5p Girl Scouts FH 6p Men's AWOL LR 7p Girl Scouts FH	16 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 9:30a Staff Mtg CR 12:30p Esther Circle LR 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 1:30p Finance Mtg CR 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 2p Bell Choir S 3p Choir S 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Council Meeting LR	17 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	18 1:30p Sacred Sorrow LR 7p Girl Scouts FH	19 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 1:30p Prayer Shawl LR	20 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
21 Home Communion Sunday 9:30a Worship Sanctuary 11a Dulcimer Fell. Group LR	22 9a Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP 5p Girl Scouts FH 6p Men's AWOL LR 7p Girl Scouts FH	23 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 9:30a Staff Mtg CR 10a Centering Prayer S 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Bell Choir S 3p Choir S 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP	24 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	25	26 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1p Monomoy Bridge FH	27 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
28 9:30a Worship, Sanctuary	29 9a Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL LR 7p Girl Scouts FH	30 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 9:30a Staff Mtg CR 1p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Bell Choir S 3p Choir S 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP	31 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH			