

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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January 2026

The Network

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

JANUARY 2026

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Email: Office@StPetersCapeCod.org

Website: www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Network

January 2026 Issue

The DEADLINE
for submissions to the
FEBRUARY 2026 Issue
is January 20, 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
office@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



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

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

January brings a new year and a new season in our church year. Epiphany – that time in our lives together that we remember the “Ah ha!” moments of our God and our faith. The season of Epiphany begins with the arrival of the Gentiles from the East, all diversity and mystery. This signaled to those outside the sphere of Judaism that something was afoot in the spiritual realm.

In the greater narrative revealed in the gospels, Jesus’ specialness is next uncovered when he gets lost in the Temple as a boy (discovered as having great understanding) and at the Wedding at Cana, where he turns water into wine (Luke 2:41-52; John 2:1-11). This year, as we hear readings from the Gospel of Matthew, we’ll also learn about Jesus’ identity as God’s servant, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, and a great prophet. Together we’ll be taught again the upside-down power that is the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). Finally, in the culminating festival day of Epiphany, Jesus’ divinity is revealed at the Transfiguration.

Within the brokenness of the world, Epiphany continues to resonate as something especially poignant. In pointing as it does to the counter-cultural reign of a loving God, as exemplified in the person of Jesus, it serves as stark contrast to the events that seem to endlessly scroll on our social media and news feeds: gun violence, anti-semitism, Islamophobia, obscene wealth, and civic decision making that makes it more difficult for people to live abundant lives. In other words, there are forces that put a wedge between us and our neighbor, making it even more important for us to practice deep listening, compassion, empathy, and forgiveness – muscles we exercise on Sunday morning!

Week after week the Epiphany moments wake up our individual and collective spiritual DNA until we ourselves are transfigured to be in the world and yet not of the world. Like the disciples on the Road to Emmaus with Jesus, we can affirm that our eyes have been opened (Luke 24:31).

In this New Year, what epiphanies might you be called to, and what invitation to Transfiguration is there for you and the community of St. Peter’s?

In wonder and peace,
Pastor Christophor

Update from Council

News from Council this month includes the fact that the sale of the land on Round Cove Road occurred on December 12, 2025, and the funds were deposited in our account. The sale to the Conservation Trust of Harwich ensures the land will be maintained as conservation land and will not be built on. This was a win-win situation for St Peter's and the Town of Harwich.

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee have developed a 5-year capital budget plan which will be presented at the annual meeting for review, discussion and approval. It will be printed in the annual report so you will have it to review before the meeting.

We welcomed Pastor Gilbert to his first council meeting. He and Donald are settling into the Parsonage after their move on December 5. Pastor Gilbert began work at St. Peter's on December 1, and he led services for the first time on December 7. He and I decided to cancel the service on December 14 due to a few COVID cases in the congregation and the impending snow storm. Going forward we will review and revise the cancellation procedures.

I sincerely appreciate the support and dedication of the members of St. Peter's to all of our missions and outreach. I hope that all of you enjoyed a peaceful Christmas with family and friends! Here's to health, happiness and joy in 2026!

Peace,
Jane Wordsworth
Council President

FOOD PANTRY GIFT DONATIONS



These bags are filled with the toys from the Harwich Family Pantry. Christmas came early!





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

2025 has been a very busy year for the over 20 volunteers here at the Loaves & Fishes Pantry, but it has also been a year of many blessings. The caring community here at St. Peter's Lutheran Church showed up each and every month with donations. Thank you for every box of cereal, can of beans, and the money that has allowed us to buy the staple items we were not able to get from our Greater Boston Food Bank deliveries.

Our families were so excited to receive warm Bombas Socks that the PSALM group shared with us, along with much needed dental care and personal products. Smiles were everywhere when families got to help clear out the left over donations to the Attic Treasures from the Cranberry Fair. A deserving family even received St. Peter's "retired" Christmas tree.

The entire Cape Cod community has stepped up. This week we were able to offer fresh baked bread made and donated through the Barnstable County Sheriff's Office's Community Cooking program, "Answering the Knead." Ingredients donated by Clancy's Restaurant are used in a vocational training program for men and women in the Barnstable Corrections Facility, and the delicious bread and rolls are donated to various community programs.

In addition to the huge car load of toys and gift cards donated for the LCOC's Santa Stop by our congregation, Linda and Jim Merriam facilitated an amazing donation of gifts left over from the Harwich Family Pantry's gift give away. This was perfect timing as the week's event allowing registered LCOC families to pick out gifts for their children was just starting. Our Pantry Team signed up 73 Loaves & Fishes Families, and now their 175 children will have wonderful gifts under their Christmas tree.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! With all your support, we are ready to meet the needs of 2026!

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

Women's Bible Study

The next Women's Bible Study will meet on **Saturday, January 3 at 10:00 am** in the Luther Room.

Second Sunday Service

We will resume our second service with a focus on healing on **Sunday, January 4 at 11:15 am**. Please join us!

Dulcimer Fellowship Group

Happy New Year, Dulcimer Fellowship Group!

Now that the holidays are behind us, the dulcimer fellowship group will begin meeting twice a month. On **Sunday, January 11**, we will meet at **11:00 am**, and on **Sunday, January 25**, we will meet at **3 pm**.

We have now started meeting downstairs in the fellowship hall. Newbies are always welcome. Take up something new in 2026!

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

Submitted by MJ Pattison



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, 2025 is the ending date for recording 2025 offerings.** Any offerings received after that date will be entered as 2026 giving.

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.



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 **109** homeless and at-risk students at Christmas and also to provide support for our own Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry.

This year we received a grant in kind of several hundred pairs of socks from Bombas socks. We are most grateful for this gift. We ask that as you shop, you consider purchasing Bombas socks. Their policy is to GIVE one pair for each pair sold. In 2025 we were the recipients for our Homeless Student Program. We are blessed!

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

The P.S.A.L.M. group will meet:

January
February

NO MEETINGS – time to settle down for
a long winter's nap!

Be well, stay warm, and blessing and peace to all!



CRANBERRY FAIR

Jewelry Table Shoppers

The Silent Auction Items
in the Sanctuary:
99 ITEMS this year!!



Preparing the bags for 109 homeless and at-risk students



Ministry with a Whiff of Teargas – Craig Tocher Discusses Apartheid

Most of us know that our Minister of Music Craig Tocher was born and educated in South Africa before he moved to the United States to pursue graduate education (and eventually ended up at St Peter's, fortunately). Until 1994 South Africa suffered under the system of apartheid where citizens were divided into three classes based on their color: white, black (indigenous African people) and 'colored' (mixed race). This legally and rigidly enforced system controlled housing, education, health care, and political rights. During some of this time, Craig served as the musician at Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg, pastored by the Reverend Dr Peter Storey, a nationally prominent pastor and bishop who was active in the anti-apartheid movement, serving at one time as chaplain to the prison on Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated for several decades. Peter Storey's autobiography, I Beg to Differ, grippingly describes South Africa in ways that reflect some of what was occurring in the United States during those years.

Craig has graciously agreed to 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 at St Peter's on **Sunday, January 25**, following worship in Fellowship Hall, to hear his story and ask questions. Please join us!

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. Please save the date! 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 at: office@stpeterscapecod.org by February 3 so that the annual report can be prepared.**

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.

St. Peter's Ministries

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*

St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry will plan to meet on **Friday, January 16 at pm 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. Winter is always a good time to be working on something warm and cozy on your lap, so it's a great time to begin a new prayer shawl. Check out the yarn and needles available downstairs on the shelves near the stairs. Patterns are also available and if a knitting "refresher" is needed, we can help with that, also.

ESTHER CIRCLE

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, blessed New Year!

Thank you, Church, for your generous support of the Seafarers Project! Because of your help we were able to donate 42 bags to the New England Seafarers Mission. Pastor Stephen had inquired if we were planning to send bags this year as they were very much needed, and he was very happy to learn that we were.



Also, we are grateful to the Bombas Company for donating socks for each bag! Because of the success of the Cranberry Fair, the Esther Circle will again be able to donate to the approximately ten organizations that we help to support each year.

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, January 15 at 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. Please know that if you have had the misfortune to lose a child of any age, you are welcome to join us. We welcome all so if you know of someone who is grieving a child, even if not a member of St. Peter's, please tell them about us.

Wishing all who are missing a beloved family member comfort, healing and peace in the New Year!

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.

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 2026

Drones and UAVs

Drones are low flying unmanned mini-helicopters that can perform incredible feats. They may alter the way we live, flying at altitudes between 6,000 and 66,000 feet. The FAA has already given permission for postal services to test drone technology. Drones could deliver priority mail and medical supplies anywhere on Earth in just minutes as well as assist law enforcement and fire fighting officials. They could allow real estate agents to show instant photos to their customers, enable farmers to spray their crops, monitor drug smugglers, locate lost mountain climbers, and monitor world wide climate change.

Drones will need an airport through which goods can be transported to and from rural areas, but the FAA has ruled the location of drones be monitored at all times either by sight or by electronic devices located on towers. Rwanda has already broken ground for three such airports, it being such a rural area.

UAVs are unmanned aerial vehicles that can change the way war is waged! On May 2, 2011, a UAV was locked into a geo-stationary orbit above a residential compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. It transmitted a live video of a military raid to a computer in the U.S. White House while President Obama and National Security Advisors watched a team of Navy Seals infiltrate a walled compound and kill Osama bin Laden, its chief resident.

The May UAV was a Lockheed RQ Sentinel that had been monitoring Osama's hideout for over a month. This is a fantastic example of how pilot-free combat can thwart future invaders. UAVs are stealth aircraft piloted by robots that can not be detected by radar. The shape of them conceals engines by deflecting the flow of exhaust. UAVs have replaced the Blackbird Spy Plane that was decommissioned in 1998. America now has an impressive arsenal of stealth aircraft, a game of five-and-take as engineers choose between performance and concealment.

God has always known that human intelligence has priority over robotic endeavors.



January Birthdays



- 1 Jay Tichenor
- 8 Jaxson Rising
- 10 Scott Steber
- 10 Christopher Kamens
- 10 Alan Dickinson
- 12 Jim Wordsworth
- 13 Bill O'Boyle
- 14 Russell Peterson
- 18 Carol Schachinger
- 19 Karen Gauch
- 20 Nicole Peterson
- 20 Victoria Peterson
- 27 Julie Menges
- 30 Peter Olsen

Dear St. Peter's,

Thanks to all who expressed condolences through hugs, words, emails, FaceBook, and cards. Your support and my faith are helping to carry me through the passing of my husband Richard on November 22, 2025.

Many, many thanks to those who stepped up to help with Jewelry Junction at the Cranberry Fair. I am so grateful for you all!

Thank you,
Lynn Hatch

To the Church Council,

The beautifully decorated cake and lovely gift bags were a thoughtful and generous way to thank the retired pastors for our support during the interim ministry. We have you, Jane and Susan, to thank as well for your extra effort to keep St. Peter's moving forward in faithful, healthy ways.

When I opened my gift bag and saw the lovely handmade angel I was reminded of the "multitude" of ways our faith community is guarded and guided. Thanks be to God!

In grace, joy, and hope,
Jane

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.

January 2026 at St. Peter's

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	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day 	2 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH	3 10a Women's Bible Study LR 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
4 9:30a Worship, Sanctuary 11:15a Healing Service, Sanctuary	5 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL	6 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP	7 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	8 10a Pastoral Care Team Meeting CR & Z 1p Finance Meeting CR	9 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir Practice S 330p Bell Choir LR	10 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary	
11 9:30a Worship Sanctuary 11a Dulcimer Fell. Group FH	12 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 130p JustPeace Mtg CR 6p Men's AWOL	13 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 6p NAMI Meeting LR	14 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 4p YOH Board Mtg LR	15 1:30p Sacred Sorrow LR	16 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 1:30p Prayer Shawl LR 2p Choir Practice S 330p Bell Choir LR	17 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary	
18 Home Communion Sunday 9:30a Worship Sanctuary	19 Martin Luther King Day Church office closed 4:30p SPLC @Faith Family Kitchen 6p Men's AWOL	20 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP	21 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 6p Council Mtg FH	22	23 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir Practice S 330p Bell Choir LR	24 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary	
25 9:30a Worship Sanctuary 10:45a Craig on Apartheid FH 3p Dulcimer Fell. Group FH	26 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL	27 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP	28 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	29	30 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir Practice S 330p Bell Choir LR	31 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary	