

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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March 2026

The Network

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

MARCH 2026

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Website: www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Network

March 2026 Issue

The DEADLINE
for submissions to the
APRIL 2026 Issue
is March 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
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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

On Tuesday, January 27, there was a very short letter printed in the opinion section of a major newspaper that I can't get out of my head. When I think about our call as Christians - especially during the season of Lent - I see it as an invitation to a practice that mirrors the action of Jesus and, at the end of the day, speaks to the center of what I believe the Gospel is all about. The author, David Moore from Sequim, Washington was out driving the day that Alex Pretti was killed by the ICE officer in Minnesota. He writes: *I saw a woman standing at the main intersection of a mall down on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, 30 minutes after sunset, holding a solo candle-light vigil. I slowed down my car, rolled down my window and asked, "This is for the man in Minnesota, right?" "Yes," she said. "Thank you," I said. "Thank you," she replied.*

One of the things that Jesus does over and over in his stories - especially the ones we hear in Lent (raising of Lazarus, the woman at the Well, Nicodemus' after-dark visit, the healing of the man born blind) is that he sees people. Not for who they can be or who he wants them to be. But for who they are, scars and all, as the turn of phrase goes. And we know that when Jesus sees it's God who is seeing as well. And, lest I lean too much on ableist language, this "seeing" is not just with the eyes. Jesus receives the truth of others with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his mind.

Which is exactly what he says in Matthew is the way that we, his disciples, are called to love God - and our neighbor (Matthew 22:37).

What if, like the man from Washington, **we slowed down to actually receive one another** with our whole selves? To observe, listen, and respond? To pay attention to what another is doing in their life, to hear their whole story and not just a couple of sound bites, and then speak a word into that space to build connection and relationship?

And what if we did this over and over, day after day? For our whole lives? And what if we did it before we said or thought anything else about another person? What if that was our primary spiritual practice as a people of God?

It might just make sense of something else Jesus says in Matthew. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:43-44)

If we take the time to receive one another as God-in-Christ receives us, we might just discover that we never had any enemies. They were, in the end, neighbors after all.

With Lenten blessings,
Pastor Christophor

Pastor Christophor Gilbert's Installation

On Sunday, February 8, St. Peter's Lutheran church hosted the Installation of the Rev. Christophor Gilbert as the 6th pastor to the community. The Rev. Mark Huber, Dean of the South East Conference of the New England Synod and pastor to Sanctuary Church in Marshfield, presided over the Rite of Installation and preached. Representatives from St. Peter's own cohort of retired pastors were in attendance, as well as other pastors in the Conference and ecumenical partners. New England Synod Vice President Cassandra Wilson and Associate to the Bishop Kim Bergstrand were also present. The event ended with a beautifully catered reception by Treats Catering in Dennis. Many thanks to the Council, Worship & Music Committee, and everyone who came together for a real celebration of what's next for St. Peter's!

Pastors Gilbert and Huber



JustPeace Sad News and An Invitation

We have all been saddened by the deaths of Kit and Jerry Boucher, who fell to their deaths in the ice in Eastham two weeks ago. Friends, including Tom Ryan, who knew them well, told us that they were a couple very helpful to community agencies in support of low-income and immigrant services, particularly St. Joseph House in Hyannis, which shelters homeless men and women and the Brazilian Resource Center, which provides multiple services, including free medical care, to needy residents of any background. Jerry was a guest at the **Nauset Interfaith Association** a couple of months ago, sharing information about these two agencies and supporting the work of the **Refugee Support Team**, which St Peter's also supports.

In their memory and to carry on their passion, their children have founded **Kit & Jerry's Foundation for Good**, which is in the process of becoming a registered 501c3 organization. If you wish to support the foundation checks can be made to **Kit & Jerry's Foundation for Good, c/o The Accord School, 74 Accord Park Drive, Norwell, MA 02061.**

February 2026 Update from Council

Again our meeting is after the deadline for newsletter filing. We will be welcoming a representative of the Harwich Conservation Trust to discuss parking spaces and potential changes to our parking area.

I want to provide some information that I have been told not all folks in the congregation are aware of. There is an AED unit to the left of the upstairs kitchen opening; the AED is self-explanatory and can be used by any individual in the congregation. Attached to the unit is a “stop the bleed” kit containing bandages and other items to aid in providing care to someone who might have a serious injury. There is another stop the bleed kit in the downstairs kitchen. Also available in both kitchens are clean-up kits for blood, vomit, etc.

Please see any of the members of the Pastoral Care Team if you have questions about using the AED, stop the bleed, or clean-up kits.

A summary of St. Peter’s Annual Meeting will be included in the April newsletter.
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, March 8 at 11:00 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.



PSALM

The next PSALM meeting will be on Thursday, March 26 at 2:00 pm in the Luther Room. We will begin planning for the diaper drive in May for A Baby Center. See you then!

Holy Week Schedule

- Wednesday Lunch & Learn for Lent at Noon in the Luther Room, February 25, and March 4, 11, 18, and 25
- Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 9:30 am
- Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 7 pm
- Good Friday, April 3 @ 7 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 9:30 am



Lenten Lunch & Learn

Exploring Utopian Societies

Bring your lunch and join Pastor Christophor Gilbert for the the five Wednesdays in Lent to learn about well-known utopian societies and wonder together how their ideals might be useful to us in the 21st century.

**Wednesdays, February 25 - March 25
from 12:00 - 1:30 PM in the Luther Room**



**ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
CAPE COD**

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

We have a number of pantry volunteers who will not be able to help over the next two months either due to travel plans or health issues, so we are looking for some flexible substitutes. It is a good opportunity to see what the pantry does and try out a shift or two. Our deliveries are usually on Monday or Tuesday with times varying from late morning to early afternoon. Anticipating increased numbers as we move into March, we will need stocking help during the midweek during flexible hours that the pantry is not open and coverage for a few shifts, especially Tuesdays from 3:15-5:00 pm. Each week we pick up items on Monday morning from Cumberland Farms in Harwich Port and could use someone to help with this arrangement. If you have any questions or are interested, please note my contact information below.

Our produce availability has been increasing so we are trying to figure out the best way to display, distribute and store all of it. Anne Ekstrom, our Tuesday volunteer, has come up with some great ideas that we will try before many of the seniors and seasonal workers return. We find that many of the families arrive right as we open, and we end up with a crowded lobby which leaves limited space for the carts to pass. You may notice some changes in the area outside of fellowship hall as we add more chairs to give clients a more comfortable space to wait. We feel that it will help facilitate a more efficient shopping experience. We are also going to find a space for a table where new clients can sit and register now that we are getting new clients almost daily.

We have asked in the past if anyone is able to communicate in Spanish, and now we have noticed an increase in new clients who speak French Creole. If you can help translate or help with French, please let us know.

Thanks again for all your weekly support of donations. We can use any and all non-perishable items that have not expired or been opened. The St. Peter's family takes care of their neighbors.

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

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



Every year enclosed with your offering envelopes are envelopes for special giving. For those who don't have envelopes, the green envelopes in the pews may be used indicating how your gift should be designated. The following chart indicates the remaining months that include special envelopes:

April: Camp Calumet
May: Bread for the World
June: Parsonage Fund
August: Global Refuge
September: Cape Cod Council of Churches
November: Capital Improvements

Thank you for all the gifts God has led you to contribute.

Dear Church Family,

Facing another setback at MA Eye & Ear, cold winds and icy sidewalks. These bleak winter days feel endless with spring and Florida's warmth delayed by more surgeries. The weight of this extended cold is heavy for Gayle too. Thank you for your thoughtful cards, sweets, invitations, home communion, and prayers. They truly help. I appreciate all acts of kindness received. These spontaneous acts of compassion and generosity make a difference, and I know I am blessed. These strategies help me manage the gloom and remind me that even during the coldest, toughest days, hope and warmth are still within reach. Keeping my faith helps me keep my troubles – and those of the world – in perspective and has been my source of peace and stability.

Thank you, thank you! Russ Olson

Second Sunday Service

We will have our second service with a focus on healing on **Sunday, March 1 at 11:15 am**. Please join us!

Women's Bible Study

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

Dulcimer Fellowship Group News

Come rain or snow or sleet or dark night, the intrepid dulcimer players have continued to meet this winter and only cancelled one session after church. In February, everyone was able to drive home on Sunday afternoon with no precipitation, and it was still light out!

Six of our number are planning to attend the *26th Annual Dulcimer Music Fest* in Albany, New York on **March 13 to 15**. I am so glad that some members of our group get to hear true dulcimer virtuosos and learn some different techniques and songs. It will be fun to bring back what we learn to the larger group. Because of the dulcimer festival we will meet just once in March at **3 pm on March 29**.

As always, anyone is welcome to join us, our goal is fellowship and community. We have dulcimers to loan you so there is no commitment for the dulcimer curious.

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 2026 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, March 6 and Friday, March 20** (the first day of spring!) at **1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. We always welcome new knitters or those who may not have knit anything for a while. Yarn, patterns and needles are available as well as help if needed.

ESTHER CIRCLE

After such a cold, snowy winter, we are all eagerly anticipating the arrival of spring this month! The Esther Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 10 at 12:30 pm** in the Luther Room. It's time to plan for the collection of stuffed animals for Children's Cove in April.



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, **March 19 at 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. If you or someone you know has lost a child, all grieving parents are welcome to join us. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Peter's.

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

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. March 2026

Using Carbon Dioxide to Make Fuels

It's only been a few years since the direct air capture technology has been successful. It's a fresh look at how this technology might actually work. The concept of pulling carbon out of the air to reduce global warming is an exciting one!

Gasoline should never be used because it's a fossil fuel. A modified fuel with much less carbon can be made by pulling carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) out of our atmosphere and combining it with hydrogen atoms from water resulting in a fuel called methanol, a diesel-like liquid that burns with much less pollution.

Carbon Engineering from Alberta, Canada is the company that pioneered this process that adds no additional carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. Capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere paves the way for future fuels and helps control climate change.

Researchers have converted carbon dioxide from the air into methanol at relatively low temperatures to stabilize the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. The radiant sun's energy can transform greenhouse gas into combustible forms attacking global warming from two angles: methanol is a clean-burning fuel for engines, and it's a raw material used to produce petrochemical products that can be used in fuel cells.

We know how to bubble air through an aqueous solution of pentaethylenehexamine to encourage hydrogen to latch onto carbon dioxide under pressure. The solution is then heated to convert 79% of the carbon dioxide into methanol which can easily be distilled. This process can be refined for industrial use so it can compete with the price of oil.

It won't be long until you will be able to choose the grade of fuel to burn in your car. Would like regular, premium, or carbon-neutral fuel? Within a decade, many countries will permit the use of carbon-neutral fuel only.

The main incentive is to eliminate the use of fossil fuels by the year 2030.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



- .1 Donald Belleville
- 2 Curt Douglas
- 2 John Zippo
- 3 Lynn Archambault
- 3 Bonnie Dale
- 4 Bill Kaser
- 4 Janet Larson
- 7 John Stendahl
- 8 Butch Wanko
- 13 Daniel Horgan
- 15 Sesle Olsen
- 15 Barbara Dennis
- 15 Haley Delp
- 17 John Koteles
- 20 Juliet Bongfeldt
- 21 Thea Antonucci
- 23 Barbara Gannon
- 23 Kim Anstey

20 Ron & Karen Gauch

**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.

March 2026 at St. Peter's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 930a Worship, Sanctuary 1115a Healing Service S	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 12p Lenten Bible Study & Lunch LR 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 Daylight Saving Time Starts 930a Worship, Sanctuary 10-45a Stewardship Mtg CR 11a G. Olson Talk & Lunch 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 12p Lenten Bible Study & Lunch LR 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 Dulcimer Fest Albany Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir S 330p Bell Choir LR	14 Dulcimer Fest Albany 12p Vinland Lodge of Cape Cod Classroom 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
15 Home Communion Sunday & Dulcimer Fest Albany 930a Worship, Sanctuary	16 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 4:30p SPLC @ Faith Family Kitchen 6p Men's AWOL LR	17 St. Patrick's Day 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 12p Property Team CR 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 330p Loaves & Fish FP	18 12p Lenten Bible Study & Lunch LR 1230p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 6p Council Mtg FH	19 130p Sacred Sorrow LR	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	23 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL LR	24 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 330p Loaves & Fish FP	25 12p Lenten Bible Study & Lunch LR 1230p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	26 2p PSALM Meeting LR	27 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 2p Choir S 330p Bell Choir LR	28 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
29 Palm Sunday 930a Worship Sanctuary 3p Dulcimer Fellowship Group FH	30 Church office closed 1p Loaves & Fish FP 6p Men's AWOL LR	31 840a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 330p Loaves & Fish FP	Room Guide: CR Conference Room DN Downstairs Narthex FH Fellowship Hall FP Food Pantry LR Luther Room N Narthex S Sanctuary Z Zoom			