

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

310 Route 137

Harwich, MA 02645-1361

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
S. Yarmouth, MA 02664
Permit No. 34

Return Service Requested

May 2026

The Network

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

MAY 2026

Phone: 508-432-5172

Email: Office@StPetersCapeCod.org

Website: www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Network

May 2026 Issue

The DEADLINE
for submissions to the
JUNE 2026 Issue
is May 19, 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

Ministry Questions
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*

2026 Church Council:

Jane Wordsworth '29,
President
Chris Janson '29,
Vice President
Peg Flood '28,
Secretary
Suzanne Bassett, '28
Treasurer
Elaine Davis, *Scribe*

Keeton Arnett '27
Juliet Bongfeldt '28
Lynn Hatch '29
Paul Luciano '27
Linda Merriam '28
Gayle Olson '29
Rodney Schuller '27



TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	14
Calendar	15
Caregivers' Retreat.....	9
Council Update	6
Food Pantry Update.....	4-5
From the Pastor.....	3
Grief Support Groups.....	9
JustPeace.....	10
Latham Center Service.....	8
Lot Purchase Article	7
New England Synod Assembly.....	10
Notes & Letters.....	13-14
Prayer List.....	16
PSALM	13
Second Sunday Service.....	10
Spring Clean Up.....	8
St. Peter's Ministries.....	11
Through the Lens of Science, Final Article	12
Women's Bible Study.....	10
Women's Spring Tea.....	9



OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours will be changing:
call before you stop by.
Pastor Christophor's Office Hours:
Tues-Weds-Thurs- 9 am to 1 pm

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

This year, the month of May takes us out of the Season of Easter and into that of Pentecost. Two things first come to mind when I think about Pentecost, fire and people speaking in different languages: *“Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”* (Acts 2:3-4)

At its heart, Pentecost is the arrival of the Holy Spirit – the Advocate – that Jesus affirms will be sent to us in his place after he has ascended to the right hand of God (John 14:26). It is this Spirit that acts in his place, to continue the work he offered in his earthly life, bringing us continually to the presence of God. And it is the very breath of Jesus that comes down to us today, having grown in force through time and in community. The Episcopal priest and well-loved preacher, Barbara Brown Taylor, writes in her book *Home By Another Way*:

When Jesus let go of His last breath willingly, we believe for the love of us, that breath hovered in the air in front of Him for a moment and then it was set loose on earth. It was a pungent breath so full of passion, so full of life that it did not simply dissipate as so many breaths do. It grew, in strength and in volume, until it was a mighty wind, which God sent spinning through an upper room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. God wanted to make sure that Jesus’ friends were the inheritors of Jesus’ breath, and it worked.

The Spirit is a nurturer and guide. I love the language Martin Luther uses in *The Large Catechism* to describe what the Holy Spirit does: *“[The Holy Spirit] first leads us into the community, placing us in the church’s lap, where [the Spirit] preaches to us and brings us to Christ.”* The Spirit keeps showing us the way to God, and ensures that we are engaged in the work of God in the church and in the world. We often pray for the Holy Spirit to stir us when we meet together or begin to engage in service in our communities, and during the entire season of Pentecost, it seems appropriate to think about how the Holy Spirit calls us into action.

Now and through the summer, may the Holy Spirit kindle in you the fire of God’s love, empowering your lives for service and your tongues for praise to God!

See you in worship,
Pastor Christophor

**Dressed in their
Easter finest for
Easter Sunday.**





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 Lower Cape Outreach Council Volunteer Luncheon was held on April 14 at the beautiful Orleans Yacht Club. Our Loaves & Fishes Pantry volunteers were well represented with 14 of our 22 regular volunteers and substitutes attending. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and the food provided by Liz of Liz's Cafe and Angel Food in Provincetown was delicious. LCOC could only provide all of their free services and food for clients with the help of generous donations and thousands of volunteer hours. We will need a few more people to fill in various shifts this summer, especially since I will be cutting down on my hours due to family needs. It is a good way to come see what wonderful work St. Peter's does to feed our community.

Over forty of our families received a surprise just before Easter. A donation of gift cards to Stop & Shop was given to pass out to food pantry families. We have received \$25 cards occasionally in the past, but these generous cards were enough to provide a very special Easter meal or basic staples needed as grocery prices keep climbing. Unfortunately that week we had 70 families and just wish that we had been able to give them to everyone.

Please keep your donations coming in each week. When seasonal workers arrive, they are always in need of basic pantry supplies like condiments, flour, sugar and coffee. We often do not get these items now due to the weight limits, and the need to provide necessary protein items, so every item counts.

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

Unpacking a delivery



Our Food Pantry
Volunteers Enjoying Lunch
at the Orleans Yacht Club



May 2026 Council Update – Highlights from St. Peter’s April 16 Meeting

Pastor’s Report was discussed including the CAT results and Worship/Music survey. Treasurer and Financial Reports: Pledged offering is slightly ahead but \$916 behind in total offerings due to lower non-pledge results. Year to date: we are behind about \$21,000 in operating income. Cape Cod 5 met with the Finance Committee on April 16 to discuss investments.

Ministry Reports:

- Staff Support Team reports they are interviewing for Susan’s position. Her last day is April 30. There is a music minister interview coming up.
- Pastoral Care: The Caregivers’ Retreat will be here on May 14.
- Stewardship Team meets on April 26 to plan for the rest of the year.
- Christian Spiritual Formation: Pastor reported that his Utopia study went well. They are considering a Prayer Group or Adult Education. He is also considering a multi-generational confirmation group.
- Property: The lightning rod project is complete. Chatham Conservation Trust will do a press release about our land acquisition (excerpt on the next page).
- Esther Circle is busy with a project to collect for Children’s Cove. Rachel’s Day planning is in progress.
- PSALM projects include the diaper drive, birthday cake kits for the Food Pantry, and a school supply drive. Our Annual Women’s Tea is scheduled for May 19, and there’s a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
- Just Peace: Eight people including a family attended the first ESL session taught by MJ. Their “Offering of Letters” was on April 19. Festa will be celebrated on April 20 at Church of Holy Spirit to benefit the Brazilian Resource Center.
- Pastor Ed Larson made a presentation regarding Cape Cod Council of Churches’ fundraising event on June 13, 2026 at First Congregational Church in Falmouth. There will be food, beer and wine, music, silent auction, and the ringing of Paul Revere’s bell. Chaplains, Pastors Larson and Bassett, in 2025 visited 316 persons, visited 19 families, and made 94 consults with staff, totaling 429 persons served. Council agreed that the Pentecost Love Offering Donations will go to (1) Cape Cod Council of Churches, and (2) ELCA World Hunger.
- Parsonage chimney repair proposal: a new chimney and flu is needed, and the quote is \$19,960. Council voted to approve accepting this contract, the lowest bid.
- The next Council meeting is on May 20.

Submitted by Peg Flood
Council Secretary

Lot Purchase Featured in Harwich Conservation Trust Article

The Harwich Conservation Trust recently published an article highlighting their purchase of the lot adjacent to St. Peter's. A segment of the article is below. For the complete article, follow the link:

[Harwich Conservation Trust launches new land acquisition project, receives \\$50K Cape Cod Foundation grant – Harwich Conservation Trust](#)

“To allow Harwich Conservation Trust the time needed to raise funds for the project, the \$330,000 parcel was recently acquired by an interim buyer, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trust, Inc. (The Compact). In this buy-and-hold capacity, The Compact purchased the property from St. Peter's Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Route 137 and Round Cove Road in Harwich. Harwich Conservation Trust has until December to raise the land preservation funds.

'Blessed by this partnership'

Proceeds from the sale of the land are helping the church offset their recent purchase of a parsonage in Brewster to provide housing for their pastor and his family.

“We received several bids to purchase the land from builders,” said church member Jim Merriam. “However, the bid from the Harwich Conservation Trust aligned perfectly with our congregation's values of land preservation and public access to open space. Thus, the Church Council's unanimous vote was to sell for a conservation future and the congregation feels blessed by this partnership.”

Rev. Christophor Gilbert, Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church sees the partnership with HCT as a way to celebrate the relationship between religion and nature, a concept known as eco-theology.

“Here was evidence of an active-practical spirituality that affirmed the Christian call to love all our neighbors – including land, animal, water, sky – and not just a sales agreement,” he said. “This opportunity invites a deepened relationship to the Trust and the land, and I look forward to the fruits of this partnership.””



YOU ARE INVITED....

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, May 16, 9 AM to 12 PM Noon

[RAINDATE: Tuesday, May 19, 9 AM to 12 PM]

at

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Volunteers are very much needed to help with a variety of tasks

including:

- Weeding**
- Trimming of Shrubs**
- Window Washing**
- Pew Polishing**
- And more.**



Latham Center Worship Service Redux

The Latham School is a residential institution for children with complex disabilities and is internationally recognized for its success in supporting individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome. Its mission is to foster independence, self-worth, and happiness for people with complex disabilities.

In previous years, a small group of volunteers from St. Peter's volunteered to lead one of the monthly worship services at the Latham School in Brewster. Last year, we did not participate because we were welcoming our new pastor. However, this year we have decided to volunteer again. We are scheduled to lead worship on **Wednesday, May 20 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm** at their school in Brewster.

We welcome additional volunteers to help lead singing, read prayers, or just come along side and be part of a highly interactive storytelling worship experience. If you'd like to come or want more information, please contact MJ Pattison at: mjpattison@gmail.com.

St. Peter's Annual Caregivers' Retreat

DATE: Thursday, May 14

TIME: 9:30 am to 2 pm

Schedule:

- 9:30 am -Coffee, Prayer, Sharing and Gathering Time
10:45 - 11:30 am -Workshops include meditative walk, Bible study,
and inspirational art session
11:45 am - 2 pm -Lunch and Closing Session



RSVP by Monday, May 11:

Email the church office at: office@stpeterscapecod.org

or call the church office at 508-432-5172

Provided by St. Peter's Pastoral Care Team



Women's Spring Tea

DATE: 2:00 PM

TIME: Tuesday May 19, 2026

Sponsored by St. Peter's Lutheran Church's Anderson Fund.

Space is limited and advance reservations are required.

There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office.

Please sign up by **Wednesday, May 13.**

Indicate Non-dairy/vegan needs when signing up.

Location:

Captain's House Inn
369 Old Harbor Road
Chatham, MA 02633
Phone: (508) 945-0127



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.**

JustPeace Teaches ESL Classes

JustPeace is happy to announce that classes teaching English to our immigrant neighbors began in mid-April. Classes are held weekly, taught as a team by MJ Pattison and Carol Schachinger, with assistance as needed by members of JustPeace and any interested congregation members.

The classes have been attended by students whose first language is Spanish or French. While students have been unequal in their English skills, they are identical in their dedication and enthusiasm. A list of potential students was originally compiled with the help of St. Peter's food pantry, by means of handouts and word of mouth. Classes and supplies—texts and notebooks—are being provided at no cost to students.

Because our students' safety is of paramount importance during these uncertain and volatile times, we do not openly advertise. We do not ask personal questions but follow their lead on whatever details they wish to share during our lessons. In addition, all teachers and assistants must complete a CORI background check form.

Hope for an English class at St. Peter's was first expressed by Pastor Christian Holleck, who then went on to help found LatinX in Hyannis and teach at one of their classes. At last the goal of starting a class here has been realized. We pray that it will succeed and continue to grow to provide help and hope to our neighbors.

For further information, please contact Juliet Bongfeldt (bongfeldtj@gmail.com) or another JustPeace Member

Second Sunday Service

The Healing Service for May will be on the first Sunday of the month, on **May 3 at 11:15 am**. Please join us!

Women's Bible Study

The next Women's Bible Study will meet on **Saturday, May 2 at 10:00 am** in the Luther Room.

New England Synod Assembly

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*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We thank all the talented crafters who contributed the shawls that were blessed in April. The prayers, love and compassion wrapped in each shawl is truly appreciated! The shawl ministry plans to meet on **Friday, May 1** and **Friday, May 15 at 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. We welcome all knitters and crocheters to join us for pleasant conversation and prayerful work.

ESTHER CIRCLE

Thank you for the donations for Children's Cove! The stuffed animals (or "lovies" as a small grandson calls them) and the other items for older children help to show those served by this wonderful Cape organization that someone cares about them. On May 3, we will observe Rachels' Day which is also the last day we are collecting items. Esther Circle will meet on **Tuesday, May 12 at 12:30 pm** in the Luther Room.

After covering any business we plan to continue our discussion of Joan Chittister's book, The Gift of Years with the chapters "Tale-Telling" and "Learning."



Esther Circle

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, May 21 at 1:30 pm** in the Luther Room. If you know of someone who has suffered the loss of a child, no matter the age, please invite them to join us. They do not need to be members of St. Peter's. Those who are part of our group find it helpful to talk with others who share the difficult grief journey. "I have learned that grief is really love with no place to go... and with great loss comes great sorrow." Amy Reha, Jeremiah's Mom "we Need Not Walk Alone." Spring 2026

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. May 2026

Doug Kenney died on April 7, 2026 at the age of 91 so this is his final article in our newsletter, one he selected as his final article which coincides with our ministry administrator's final newsletter. Thanks for blessing us with your science articles through the years. When he submitted this article five years ago, he'd written: *Please save this column as my LAST story. I'm 86 this month and who know how many more years God will give me! Thanks, in advance, for all the columns you have published. God bless you!*

The Final Word - My Analysis of Life on Spaceship Earth

I've learned a lot about life through the science columns I've written, and I'd like to analyze the reason for life on our planet and across our cosmos.

How incredible it is we're traveling 25 miles per second while orbiting the Milky Way Galaxy. That's 240,000 miles per hour, and since the Earth was born, it has made two orbits of the galaxy!! Simultaneously, the Earth is rotating 1,000 miles per hour and revolving at 67,000 miles per hour around the sun. The residents of Earth have no clue about these whirlwinds of travel. It's how gravity keeps everything balanced.

With everything balanced, there lots of time and space for life and technology to evolve to advanced stages. Thousands of planets are anticipated in our cosmos some of which may have technology beyond those on Earth and some not as advanced as ours. It takes light years to seek extra terrestrial intelligence. It's just a matter of time before we know more about our cosmos. In my lifetime, I don't expect a revelation of news. It takes millions of years for life to evolve and millions more for technology to advance. It takes 200 million years for the Earth to revolve around our galaxy; we have the time.

Space is so huge the odds of finding other planets in the universe are 10,000 to 1. The day will come when life and technology everywhere will be advanced. In an earlier science column, I stated there's a limit to what man can accomplish, but Walt Disney in Florida has a rendition of what life might be like in a community of tomorrow implying there is no limit to what man can accomplish! I'd like to think our planet will be the one that ultimately becomes the most advanced. I hope to be reborn a million years from now and get a good view of Spaceship Earth!

While we're seeking extra intelligence, God is seeking our fellowship.

We thank Doug for contributing to our newsletter all these years. We are keeping his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers. Susan Kiehnau

PSALM

Hopefully this finds all of us enjoying warmer, sunny weather and May flowers. During the month of May, PSALM will again sponsor a diaper, clothing and monetary collection for "A Baby Center" in Hyannis. This valuable program is part of the Cape Cod Council of Churches.

A Baby Center provides services and items to over 650 infants and toddlers each month. In addition to diapers, the center provides clothing sized infant to 5T, wipes, formula, layettes and items such as car seats and high chairs. There are satellite offices on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. In addition to the supplies for infants, the Baby Center has a Dottie Program offering free period supplies to eligible clients and their adolescent teens who are menstruating. PSALM will have an area in the Narthex for collection of items; accepted are diapers, wipes, clothing, blankets, formula, tampons or pads, and pacifiers and cash donations are gladly received. No stuffed animals, please.



In addition to this "diaper drive," PSALM will host a "Ladies' Tea" on Tuesday, May 19 AT 2:00 pm at the Captain's House, 369 Old Harbor Road, in Chatham. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway to the offices. We are limited to 30 attendees, so don't wait to sign-up.

Enjoy this wonderful season on Cape Cod and relish each day that the Lord has made!

Submitted by Jane Wordsworth



NOTES AND LETTERS

We received a thank you not for a gift of \$33,000 to support a new congregation in the ELCA. We were given a gift from this fund to help start our church and have made this gift from the proceeds of the sale of the land to help others with their new beginning.

Suzanne Bassett
St. Peter's Treasurer

We received a thank you note from A Baby Center for a \$300 donation.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 6 Russell Olson
- 14 Amy Eberhardt
- 16 Don Albert
- 19 Zachary Bellis
- 22 Therese Gordon
- 23 Lydia Holleck
- 27 Don Anderson
- 29 Lilly Glaser

- 10 Jim & Jane Wordsworth
- 11 Charlie & Linda Czech
- 14 Russ & Gayle Olson
- 16 Chris & Claudia Bellis
- 22 Pastor Gilbert & Donald
- 28 Tom & Alison Christensen

From the Property Committee:

A big THANK YOU! goes out to Jim Wordsworth for all his efforts in putting up a new interior door in the cellar of the parsonage. It replaces the older plywood door that was there.

Jim, put in almost 4 days of measuring, demoing, and building a re-cycled door from Restore that we got for \$85 (plus extra materials like hardware etc.) that would have cost about \$1000 if new! His efforts, time and expertise, are truly appreciated.

Thanks, Jim!!!

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.

May 2026 at St. Peter's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	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 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 1:30p Prayer Shawl LR	2 10a Women's Bible Study LR 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
3 9:30a Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 am Healing Service, Sanctuary 12p Fellowship Hall Party	4 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP	5 Cinco de Mayo 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Music Search Team CR 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 4p ESL Class, Mark Classroom	6 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	7 930a Parkinsons' Group FH	8 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH	9 12p Vinland Lodge Classroom 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
10 Mother's Day 9:30a Worship, Sanctuary	11 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP 130p JustPeace LR	12 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 1230p Esther's Circle LR 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Music Search Team CR 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 4p ESL Class, Mark Classroom 6p NAMI Meeting LR	13 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 4p YOH Board Meeting LR	14 930a Parkinsons' Group FH 9:30a Caregivers' Retreat FH LR 1p Finance Com. Classroom	15 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Prayer Shawl LR	16 9a-12p Work Day @ SPLC 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
17 Home Communion Sunday 9:30a Worship Sanctuary	18 1230p Monomoy Bridge FH 1p Loaves & Fish FP 4:30p SPLC @ Faith Family Kitchen	19 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 9a Work Day Rain Date 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Music Search Team CR 2p Women's Tea @ Captain House 2p Broad Reach Grief Group LR 2p Property Meeting Classroom 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 4p ESL Class, Mark Classroom	20 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Finance Com. Mtg Mark Classroom 1p Kathy's Bridge FH 6p Council Mtg FH 6p SPLC @ Latham School	21 930a Parkinsons' Group FH 130p Sacred Sorrow LR	22 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH	23 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
24 9:30a Worship Sanctuary	25 Memorial Day 	26 8:10a Sojourners Pkg Lot 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH 130p Music Search Team CR 3:30p Loaves & Fish FP 4p ESL Class, Mark Classroom	27 12:30p Loaves & Fish FP 1p Kathy's Bridge FH	28 930a Parkinsons' Group FH 2p PSALM Meeting LR	29 Church office closed 10a Loaves & Fish FP 12:30p Monomoy Bridge FH	30 11a Don Anderson's Funeral & Collation, S FH 4p SMMC Worship, Sanctuary
31 9:30a Worship Sanctuary						