

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
310 Route 137  
Harwich, MA 02645-1361

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Permit No. 34

Return Service Requested  
October 2026

# The Network



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

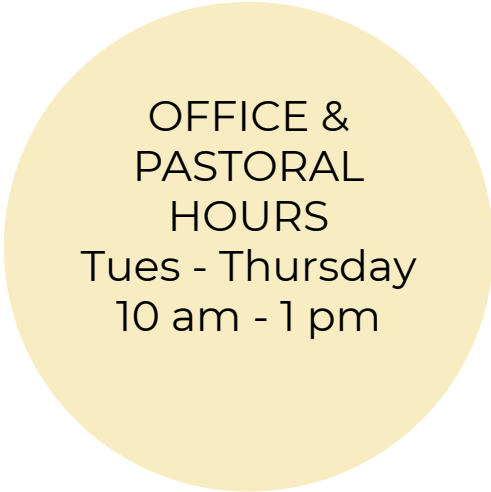
**October  
2026**

Phone: 508-432-5172  
Email: [Office@StPetersCapeCod.org](mailto:Office@StPetersCapeCod.org)  
Website: [www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org](http://www.StPetersLutheranCapeCod.org)

## OUR MISSION & VALUES

Centered in Christ and empowered by God's Spirit, we love, grow and serve.

Our core values:  
Christ-centered  
Open-minded  
Caring  
Welcoming  
Generous



OFFICE &  
PASTORAL  
HOURS  
Tues - Thursday  
10 am - 1 pm

## OUR LEADERSHIP

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

### ***At Large***

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

## OUR 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.

## OUR STAFF

### ***Pastor***

The Rev. Christophor Gilbert  
pastor@stpeterscapecod.org

### ***Ministry Administrator***

Tiff DeBarros  
office@stpeterscapecod.org

### ***Operations Administrator***

Ann German  
businessoffice@stpeterscapecod.org

### ***Financial Staff***

Suzanne Bassett, Treasurer  
assistanttr@stpeterscapecod.org

Lois Thomas, Financial Secretary

Lynn Hatch, Asst. Financial Secretary

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# From the Pastor

I recently watched a YouTube video by the scholar Andrew Root. He is a professor at Luther Seminary, and his research focuses on pastoral theology, youth ministry, and practical theology. In this video, he talks about youth and youth ministry (a topic he has written extensively on) and how old paradigms of youth ministry aren't really working in the 21st century because of the prevalence of digital engagement, especially on social media.

The challenge is that young people - and I would argue, almost everyone - are over-focused on



innerspace: an endless cycle of negative self-reflection that promotes competition with others (who appear more together on things like Instagram) and extreme loneliness. Instead, Root argues that we might attend to interspace - which is a place outside of ourselves where we can be in real, physical relationship with one another (which is the building block of community). Interspace is most easily created through engagement with poetry, art, and nature: all things I regularly touch on in my preaching, teaching, and theological reflection.

It makes me wonder: in what ways are we - in Christian community - already attending to interspace, and how might we tell the story of our interspace engagement in a way that draws others in to participate? Or - with a nod to Reformation Sunday at the end of the month - how are we called to make strides to change what we do? To be, as Jesus affirms, in the world but not of the world because we do not belong to the world (John 15:19)?

*Christophor*

**The Rev. Christophor Gilbert**  
Pastor

# Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

**Monday** 1-3 pm

**Tuesday** 3:30 - 5 pm

**Wednesday** 12:30 - 2:30 pm

**Friday** 10 am - 12 pm

The Loaves and Fishes Pantry has been very busy this September. We have transitioned to a new pantry manager as Ruth Brenneman has stepped down after 5 years as manager and several years as a volunteer. Her enthusiasm and dedication will be missed and we hope she'll enjoy all her new-found free time. When you see Ruth, be sure to thank her for her service.

Shawn Krum has also retired from her role as a pantry volunteer after 5 years. She only missed two shifts in that time and we thank her for her commitment.

We will celebrate the growth of the Loaves and Fishes Pantry and thank Ruth and Shawn for their service at a Coffee Hour on October 25th.

The logo for the Lower Cape Outreach Council is a red square with a white border. Inside the square, the words "Lower Cape" are in a smaller white font, "Outreach" is in a larger white font, and "Council" is in a medium white font, all stacked vertically.

**Lower Cape  
Outreach  
Council**

I have taken over the reins as manager and am learning the ropes from Ruth and the Lower Cape Outreach Council team. I am happy that Kathy Glifort will continue to stock our shelves and will also pick up the Cumberland Farms donations each week. Gayle Olson is lending her creative talents and computer skills to publicize client information in the three languages our clients speak. I am grateful for our dedicated delivery team and the volunteers who interact with our clients when the pantry is open. Without all of you, our pantry would not exist.

Client visits have increased now due to the summer season ending and a corresponding lessening of available hours at work. We have had as many as 28 shoppers on a single day. We have been able to keep our shelves stocked with fresh produce, canned goods, and refrigerated items thanks to the generosity of all of you and the commitment of the Lower Cape Outreach Council.

We are so excited that our new refrigerator has been delivered. It will keep produce, cheese, yogurt, and eggs fresh without the need to run the air conditioning. Hopefully it will last as long as it's 1990's predecessor did!

We are signing up clients for free winter coats through a partnership with Project Warm and look forward to sign-ups for Thanksgiving meals and Santa Stop vouchers.

We need a couple of volunteers to help distribute the Thanksgiving meal kits on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Clients drive up in the parking lot and we load their meal. It only takes a couple of hours.

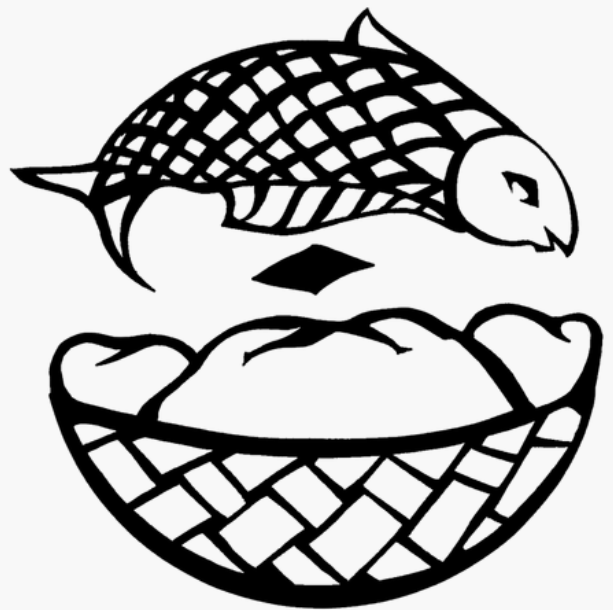
If you'd like to join us in any part of this ministry, please let me know. We can always use some additional helping hands.

Thanks for your caring and support!

*Claudia*

Claudia Bellis

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35



## Sacred Sorrow

The St. Peter's ministry for bereaved parents will meet on **Thursday, October 15, at 1:30** in the Conference Room.

All parents who have had the misfortune to lose a child are welcome to join this group, and it is not necessary to be a member of St. Peter's. Those who attend our meetings find it helpful to be with others who truly understand.

In the beatitudes, Jesus said, "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Please contact Marianne O'Boyle for questions about 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."**

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## Esther Circle

Esther Circle plans to meet on **Tuesday, October 13**, at 1:30 in the Conference Room.

As we are preparing for the Cranberry Fair, jewelry is being accepted to be sorted and priced. We welcome help with this, and dates and times will be posted in the TWASP and on the bulletin board.

Knitted or crocheted items, especially hats, mittens, and children's items, are needed for the knitting table, also.

For questions concerning jewelry, please contact Lynn Hatch, and contact Marianne O'Boyle for questions concerning knitted items.



## **PSALM People Sharing and Loving More**

The PSALM [ladies] Group meets next on Thursday, October 22nd at 2 p.m. Please join us, all are welcome.



The PSALM members have begun preparation for our annual Cranberry Fair on November 21st. As always, we desperately need homemade cookies, pies and other baked goods. Bakers- Thanks in advance for your help.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

**Next PSALM Meetings:**  
**October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 pm**  
**November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**

**The Cranberry Fair**  
**November 21st**

Crafts, knitted items, gift items, homemade jams, jellies, pickles and your attic treasures are always in demand. Your donations will be most appreciated.

Please contact Karen Beggs, Claudia Bellis, Elaine Davis, Lois Thomas or Jane Wordsworth with any questions. Proceeds benefit local homeless students.

## **We are women . . . hear us R O A R!!!**

Our Mission: Outreach to women and children in need.

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### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry will not be meeting in October. We encourage you to knit or crochet your prayer shawls at home this month.



# Cranberry Fair

**Saturday, November 21st**

We will be offering cookies, pies, baked goods, specialty foods, gift items, knitted items, Jewelry Junction, Attic Treasures, Silent Auction, and our popular Cranberry Café for lunch.

Please donate baked goods and homemade soups as well as your treasures to benefit this worthy cause. Tell your neighbors and friends so this year's fair will be the most successful yet!

All proceeds benefit homeless and at-risk children right here in our neighborhoods.



The deadline for submissions for the next Network issue is always the **15th of the month before**.

We love stories from the congregation and updates to what's ahead. Pictures are always welcomed!!

Please email your content to [claudiabellis07@gmail.com](mailto:claudiabellis07@gmail.com) and [office@stpeterscapecod.org](mailto:office@stpeterscapecod.org)

# Worship and Music

Our committee has been and will continue to be responsible for securing substitute Organists for our weekly worship services. We have welcomed numerous musicians and it has been a delight to experience such a variety of styles.

As the search committee continues their due diligence in interviewing candidates, we will continue to seek qualified musicians to lead the congregation in sacred song. It is very rewarding to hear many of the substitutes comment on the welcoming warmth of our congregation that loves to sing!

At our August meeting we also began plans for our first committee retreat. Thanks to Pastor Christophor for offering to provide an appropriate topic to explore during the October 13 time together.

Pastor is now in the process of reviewing the completed surveys regarding the weekly August "Come to the Table" services. We are also delighted with the more structured and higher level of participation that Pastor has encouraged with our youth members. They are responding with such enthusiasm and commitment!

*Lynn A.*

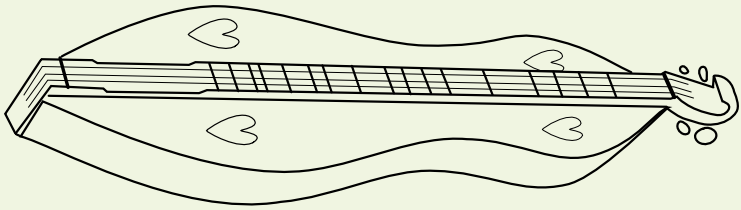


## Soup & Service

Join us on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 12:00 noon in the Luther Room for a soup lunch, followed by a Service of the Word.

These services will be held every other month through April, 2027.

# Dulcimer Fellowship



The dulcimer fellowship group will have two opportunities to play this month. First, on October 15th at 7:15 p.m., we will have a virtual practice session. While this is not like getting together to play, it is an opportunity to practice what we're working on, to ask questions, and to engage in two-part harmony (everyone keeps their sound off, but they can hear me play and play along).

The link will be sent out a few days before October 15th. If you are not already on the dulcimer fellowship email list and would like to come and "lurk," please email [mjpattison@gmail.com](mailto:mjpattison@gmail.com) and MJ will put you on the list.

We will follow this up with our regular in-person dulcimer fellowship meeting on October 25th at 3 p.m. We now meet downstairs in the Luke Room. We have dulcimers to loan out to new players if you want to see what this is all about without making a commitment.

Please join us for either gathering.



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## Thrivent Food Pantry Drive

Thrivent Financial is promoting a food collection challenge again this year. As you may recall, last year Paul Bongfeldt spearheaded this drive at St. Peter's, and we collected hundreds of non-perishable food items to benefit our Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. We also won the additional \$500 grant based on our amazing collection. St. Peter's will participate in this challenge again this year. All items donated in the month of October will be counted towards this challenge. Let's honor Paul's memory and initiative by topping last year's collection and winning the \$500 grant again. Please donate to this worthy cause as you are able. See Claudia Bellis with any questions.



## Financial Corner

*Treasurer Suzanne Bassett shares this update on the finances of the congregation.*

At the Annual Meeting, the Congregation approved a Spending Plan with a projected shortfall of \$53,336.94. Here is the status to date.

Shortfall

August \$8,582.23

YTD \$31,881.56



## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets every first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am in the Luther Room. The next meeting is on October 3. We often discuss the Gospel selection for the following Sunday and our conversations can become "spirited". At times we have an invited guest to lead discussion. All women are welcome, members and friends alike.

# St. Peter's Sojourners

We continue to invite new walkers to join us weekly on Tuesday mornings.



The Sojourners walk at a different location on the Cape each week, and we are always open to a new trail we have not tried before, perhaps it might be your favorite. All details are provided in the weekly email, sent a day or two in advance with info on where the walks will be.

We meet at the church parking lot at 8:10 a.m. for carpooling, or at the trailhead at 8:30 a.m. Directions to the start of the walk are always included.

After the walk, we go for breakfast (optional) at a local restaurant. We try to walk year-round. In the winter months we start 30 minutes later.

Email, text or call Lynn Hatch to join.  
Lchatch1@comcast.net or 732-236-8114



## Calling all Veterans!

Save the date: **Wednesday, November 11, 2026**. The Pastoral Care Team will sponsor a brunch to honor our veterans and their guests. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex with additional details.

# Fellowship Team

Our small team is eager to find ways for our congregation to enjoy conversation and refreshments following Sunday worship. At the beginning of September, we initiated a celebration of Birthdays and Anniversaries on the first Sunday of each month. On the second Sunday of the month, our team will provide the basic "coffee hour" goodies. We are now asking the various church committees and any "non-committee" members to sign up in advance for the third, fourth (and occasional fifth) Sunday each month to provide beverages and treats on a regular basis.

We are pleased to see a large number of people standing and conversing around the refreshment table. And we have noticed that there are several worshipers who find it easier to sit while simultaneously holding a beverage, a paper plate, using a fork, and conversing for an

**Lynn Archambault**  
**Karen Beggs**  
**Gayla Bergstrom**  
**Elaine Davis**  
**Jetty Sousa Lampson**

extended time. There will now be a few card tables and chairs to provide more ease and comfort while socializing. We will also attempt to offer sugar-free, dairy-free, and gluten-free items to accommodate dietary needs.

NOTE: We encourage all contributors to save receipts for purchased items and complete the "Reimbursement" forms located on the cabinet door in the kitchen.





But alas, one small group of women and some very devoted committee members cannot be expected to provide all this on a weekly basis. We emphasize the word "small" because on a weekly basis, this aspect of congregational life needs "many hands to make light the work!" Hence, we have also come up with ways to lighten the weekly burden even more to allow others to contribute during Fellowship time:

## 1 Beverages

Coffee, pre-measured for 30 servings, is bagged and stored in the refrigerator drawer, with instructions and a liquid measuring cup easily accessible on the kitchen counter near the sink. Containers of half-and-half, iced tea, cider, and juice will be stocked in the refrigerator.

## 3 Set-up/Clean-up

With so much done in advance (see above) there is not much left for a team of 2 or 3 MEN and/or WOMEN to undertake on a Sunday morning.

## 2 Food Items

Volunteer bakers are invited to provide breads, muffins, cookies, etc., well wrapped, labeled, and stored in the freezer, ready for use each week. Others of you might decide to purchase chips, dips, nuts, crackers & cheese, or various prepackaged items to be labeled COFFEE HOUR and left in the upstairs kitchen.

Please check the "Sign-up" sheet or speak to one of us regarding your desire to commit periodically and participate in the warmth, joy, and fulfillment that community in fellowship can provide!

## College Student Care Package

Do you have a college-age child or grandchild?

Since the fall of 2022, the Pastoral Care Team of St. Peter's Lutheran Church has been sending "Care Packages" to undergrad college students connected to our congregation. These students are the children and grandchildren of our parishioners. This ministry is one way we can remind these students, several times during the school year, that they are still an important part of our church family—even when they are away at school. These packages can also help ease homesickness and encourage students in their faith during stressful times such as midterm and final exams.



To date, we have reached out to 20 college students, offering practical comfort, expressions of love, and the reassurance that their home church—and their church family—is praying for them. There is something special about opening a box filled with thoughtful and fun items from home. It provides a reminder that their church cares about them, is thinking of them, and that God's love is with them wherever they are.

Help Us Continue this ministry by providing the following information to the church office or to Jetty Lampson (239-280-6196):

Student's name

College or university

Mailing address

Year of college (freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior)

# Staff Updates

Our sexton Tom, has resigned effective 9-11-26, and we are in the process of interviewing and hiring one or more people and/or companies to handle the regular cleaning and room setup duties. In the meantime, we are asking that Coffee Hour Hosts take out the garbage and may be putting out the call for help moving tables and chairs around for various events and meetings. Let the office know if you're able to be on call for moving duties.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### October

|    |                        |    |                 |
|----|------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Nicole Gordon          | 26 | Melissa Clayton |
| 3  | Carolyn Overton        | 29 | Lois Thomas     |
| 4  | Kyle Bellis            | 31 | Ann Miller      |
| 8  | Ed Larson              |    |                 |
| 8  | Sue Ogburn             |    |                 |
| 9  | Christina Delp         |    |                 |
| 11 | Peter Delp             |    |                 |
| 12 | Tom Shields            |    |                 |
| 19 | Christina & Peter Delp |    |                 |
| 19 | Amy Peterson           |    |                 |
| 24 | Tony Esposito          |    |                 |

