



The Anchor

Monthly Newsletter of St. Peter's Lutheran Church



2026

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

Luke 12:34

As we look to the future, it is always helpful to be reminded of where we come from. The following was written for July 2007

The warm summer weather has arrived, and we are all thinking about the wonderful opportunities the summertime offers for recreation and relaxation. Many have plans to travel, while others will be content to simply stay close to home and enjoy the natural richness of the east end of Long Island.

The summertime is also a time of preparation here at St. Peter's. A dedicated, faithful group of volunteers work hard to provide a wonderful Vacation Bible School experience for the young people of our community. I encourage all of our Sunday School children to participate in the Vacation Bible School program.

During the summer months the sanctuary floors will be refinished, resurfaced and new carpeting installed. As a result, one Sunday we will worship in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who was able to help through the “Refurbishing God's House” fundraiser and in advance to all who will work removing, cleaning and replacing the pews.

By the time September comes around, we are also hopeful that our new playground will be completed and available for use by our children, young and old. It is wonderful to see these plans unfolding and St. Peter's renewing itself and finding ways to continue to reach out to all the people of our community and enhancing a family friendly image.

Some other activities you should know about include meetings of several committees -- Stewardship, Evangelism and the Harvest Festival. In this month's anchor there is a new insert called “Stewardship” sharing wonderful stories focused on what Stewardship is about. There is a wonderful statement in one of the stories; “Stewardship is not people's plan for making money, but God's plan for making people.” The Evangelism committee is discussing ways to reach out to our guests and visitors as well as the unchurched.

The Harvest Festival Committee is busy building on the success of last year's festival and is planning new features for this year's fair.

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Parish Directory

Pastor—*The Rev. Garret Johnson*

Synodical Deacons—*Iris Hippner & Austin Stack*

Cong. Deacon—*Sabrina Dobbs*

Secretary—*Catherine Heller*

Organist—*Phyllis Johnson*

Acting Treasurer—*Marc Johnston*

Acolyte Coordinator—*Grace West*

Christian Education—

Pr. Johnson & Iris Hippner

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Joan Olszewski, Vice President
Andrea Bakowski, Secretary
Diane Hanff
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Nancy Melhado
Kevin Ocker
Dean Sambach
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How to Reach Us:

Call the church office and leave a message on ext. 10
Email us at spcgreenport@gmail.com
Private Message us on the St. Peter's Facebook page

July Wedding Anniversaries

11—Jim & Karen DeFrancesco celebrate 39 years

29—Leif & Lorelei Gobel celebrate 37 years

31—Don & Louise Cotrone celebrate 43 years

July Birthdays

2—Dean Sambach

6—Evelyn Lucas

8—PJ Corazzini

8—Jane Sueiro

9—Andrea Bakowski

9—Roy Schelin III

10—Amy Folk

14—Martha Carter

15—Alicia MacDonald

19—Chris Lappe

25—Hilde Peters

28—Austin Stack

29—Susan Boivin

30—Artemis (David) Folk

30—Rebecca Hammerle

31—Payge Pagano



*Special Honor to
Bee Lalli who
Will be 100 years old
On July 21, 2026*

We are planning a birthday party for Bee after service on July 26th. To honor Bee's 100th birthday wish, we are accepting donations for a Christmas Tree to be planted in front of the church and decorated each year at Christmas. If you would like to contribute to this beautiful gift for Bee (which will undoubtedly be a part of her legacy here at St. Peter's), please place your donation in the wrapped Christmas Box marked "Donations for Bee's Tree" in the Narthex or in the rear entrance foyer by the year-round Christmas Tree. If you write a check, please place a memo on the check that says "Bee's Tree."

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Another committee met recently to plan a congregational progressive dinner for early Fall. There is also a new group meeting on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm to discuss the upcoming Sunday’s bible lessons. July 1st brings the first meeting of a new group for our widows and widowers.

I’m looking for volunteers to help plan the congregational picnic in the fall and it would be wonderful to form a family life committee.

I’m busy looking toward the Fall and a new year of Sunday School, confirmation and a full fellowship schedule. In addition to the congregational trips to see “The Creation Story” and the Nutcracker Ballet we are working on putting together an adult retreat for the fall. The Alpha Program will also return. It would also be wonderful to get a men’s fellowship group going!

We continue to send groups to help build houses with Habitat for Humanity and are always looking for new opportunities to serve our local community.

The Fall will also bring with it two additional times for worship during the week. One will most likely use a Morning Prayer format and the other an Evening Prayer format. These will be non-communion services and may also be led by lay leadership or our deacons. There will also be a prayer group forming for the purpose of praying for our ministries, the homebound and for the sick.

There is plenty to do around St. Peter’s, and God continues to bless all we do in his name.

I value your partnership in the work of proclaiming the Gospel. We are only limited by our own time and energy!! For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also!

See you in church!

Pastor Johnson

Did you know?

	2024	2025	2026
Env Giving	\$40,996	\$44,259	\$40,519
Budgeted	\$56,250	\$56,250	\$56,250
Tot Exp.	\$129,685	\$140,858	\$153,225

Budgeted giving through May of 2026 was anticipated to be \$56,250. This means we are \$15,731 behind in anticipated envelope receipts for 2026.

Did you know?

Envelope Giving through May 2007 was \$72,161. Budgeted giving through May of 2007 was anticipated to be \$83,333. We were \$8,362 behind in anticipated envelope receipts for 2007.

*“For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also”*



Local Missions

Food Insecurity Drive Update—Thank you to all who contributed to the food insecurity drive for North Fork Parish Outreach and C.A.S.T. We collected 134 boxes of mac and cheese, 39 jars of peanut butter, 30 jars of jam, 54 ramen noodles, 54 cans of spaghetti, ravioli, etc., 7 containers of oatmeal, 32 boxes of cereal, 31 boxes of granola/cereal bars, 22 bottles of juice and 59 individual juice boxes, 28 fruit cups, 26 various types of snacks plus about 4 bags of various items such as mixes, regular pasta, canned vegetables, salad dressing, etc. All of these items were bagged and delivered to North Fork Parish Outreach and C.A.S.T. this past week and were welcomed additions to their pantry. The need for these two pantries is ongoing and your continued support is much appreciated. July collections will go to North Fork Parish Outreach. Emphasis is on the first Sunday of the month but you can bring your items any time during the month and place them in one of the wagons at the front and back of the church. Monetary donations are used to buy additional items (we will shop for you)—just mark your donation “food pantry”.

School Supply Drive—Once again we will begin our school supply drive for C.A.S.T. mid-July. We will be collecting school supplies to help students get a good start for the 2026-27 school year. Look for ads in your local stores for sales. Staples, Target, Walmart and other stores usually start their sales in July and you can get great supplies at really great prices. A list of suggested supplies will be announced at the beginning of the drive.

Things to Know

St. Peter's Congregational

Directory – thank you to all those who have returned your information cards. If you have not yet returned your card, you need to do so by July 31st to be included in the new directory.

The San Simeon 4th of July Party – will be Tuesday, June 30th at 2:00 pm at the San Simeon Nursing Home. Volunteers are needed to help the residents play bingo and to serve cookies and ice cream to the residents. Sign up in the narthex or in the back hallway.

Southold Fourth of July Parade – St. Peter's will be participating in the 250th Birthday Parade in Southold on Saturday, July 4th. We will have the van and our banner, so you can walk or ride in the parade! If you wish to participate, please sign up in the rear entrance foyer. We have two seats still available in the van and plenty of room for anyone who wants to walk behind the banner. If you would like to help **decorate the van**, we will get together on Friday, July 3rd at 6:00 pm. You can sign up in the Narthex or the rear entrance foyer.

New Coloring Cards – are available in the narthex. If you would like to color some cards to be used in our card ministry or if you would simply like to take some cards to color for personal use, please do so. If you want to give them to the card ministry, please leave your colored cards in Diane Hanff's parish mailbox.

Harvest Festival News

We are accepting donations of yard sale items such as *toys, crafts, small appliances, dishes, furniture, gently used books, etc.*

WE **CANNOT** ACCEPT MATTRESSES, CRIBS, CAR SEATS, CLOTHING, UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, OR LIQUIDS OF ANY TYPE. PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY LARGE ITEMS BEFORE CALLING FIRST TO MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN WHERE TO PUT THEM. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH IF NO ONE IS HERE TO ACCEPT THEM.

We are requesting donations of **new** items for the basket auction such as *Restaurant Gift Cards, Baby Items, Pet Items, Specialty Food Items (popular when paired with wine or a gift card to a cheese or kitchen apparel shop), Gift cards to Splish Splash or any family agricultural tour or entertainment venue, Gift cards to any local supermarket or specialty food store, etc.* WE **DO NOT** ACCEPT GLASSWARE OR TEACUPS.

Scholarship Program

St. Peter's has been granting scholarships to two seniors from each of our neighboring school districts -Greenport, Southold and Mattituck for many years. This is made possible only by the Congregation's hard work in holding our Annual Harvest Festival. The proceeds of this festival is where the scholarship money is taken from.

Each recipient receives \$1,000. Eligible candidates must be pursuing an education in Religion, Teaching or Music and/or be active in their church during their High School years. The names of the two winners are provided by the District Guidance Counselor.

The 2025/2026 scholarships were given to the following students:

Greenport—Leidy Lopez & Jocelyn Hubbard
Southold—Jaden Smith & Connie Benson
Mattituck—Melody Hammerle, Michael Buckley & Sarah Amiaga

Please call the Church prior to dropping off any donations



Join us on Sunday, July 12th following the church service for a Graduation Reception honoring the Scholarship Recipients. We will serve coffee and cake and will present our Scholarship Recipients with a token gift. This is your opportunity to meet and greet our Scholarship Recipients and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. If you would like to help set up or serve for this event, please sign up in the Narthex or rear entrance foyer.

God's Work With Kottier's Paws

Written & Narrated by Ruthanne Corazzini

The evening of June 4th Sabrina and I arrived at the airport in Islip with excitement and fear. We were heading to Orlando to meet Lisa, the Breeder & Caretaker of Kottier (Kotti). Kottier was named to honor Lisa's husband, John Cottier, for all the support he gave Anna's puppies. Kotti holds a very special place in Lisa's heart. So many things needed to fall into place. Lisa was traveling from Sacramento and we from Long Island. As the evening progressed, we had perfect timing. Should we be surprised? God had big plans for this puppy. The Puppy Chaplain, Ty, dedicates all of Anna's puppies to God before they leave Lisa's house. Lisa gives all the puppies back to God for His purpose. Ty says the journey of Kotti is a perfect illustration of how God uses these puppies for His Glory. From the very beginning, God provided for all of Kotti's needs. Just like Jesus tells us that God provides for the sparrow: Kotti arrived on Long Island without a home, and God sent Sabrina to provide a loving home. Sabrina needed some help during the day when she was at work and Ruthanne provided doggie daycare. Kotti needed to learn to interact with the general public and God sent the St. Peter's Congregation to socialize him.

The next morning, we drove to the southeast campus of **Canine Companions** where we got to meet the Puppy Chaplain in person rather than by Zoom! So many questions: Would Kotti remember us, would his new handler be open to staying in touch with us? Once again God was looking over us. At 9:00 am they gave us an hour to visit with

Kotti and as Dean said when he saw the reunion video, Kotti didn't wag his tail and kiss all three of us, he wagged his entire tushy. Lisa says the whole body wiggle is from his grandmother Destiny and his mother Anna! Kotti had not seen Lisa since he was 8 weeks old, almost 2 years ago and it was almost 7 months since we said goodbye in Medford. These dogs NEVER forget. We took pictures and went to the playground where Kotti was happy to fetch and run.

Then it was time to meet Andrew and his family. Another miracle! Hearing dogs can be placed anywhere in the USA. Kotti is coming back to NY and will be living on Staten Island. Andrew has been deaf his entire life but has great family support. He lives independently, but Andrew's mother is always concerned that if the fire alarm went off at night or someone tried to break in, he would not know. Now Kotti is his ears and will alert him to sounds he cannot hear, especially at night when his cochlear implants are recharging. Kotti has already learned to sit behind Andrew while driving in the car and taps him on the shoulder when an emergency vehicle is sounding an alarm. Andrew works as a medical physicist in NYC where he calibrates high tech medical equipment such as radiation and x ray machines. Kotti is very lucky as he will have one day a week off duty. Andrew's job requires him to work on machines in an operating room once a week, so Kotti will spend the day with Andrew's mother where we are sure he will be spoiled! This family is very spiritual and was happy to know that

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God's Work With Kottier's Paws

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Kotti will be comfortable attending mass with Andrew. We warned them that Kotti has been known to sleep through the sermon.

The time for graduation arrived and we took our places. Diane Hanff set up the live stream on the TV in Fellowship Hall so several people could have a watch party back at St. Peter's. Sabrina led the three of us to Andrew and handed Kotti's leash to Andrew. When Andrew went back to the area where the graduates were sitting, Kotti laid down in front of Andrew, put his head on Andrew's foot, and was laser focused on him. It gave us comfort to see how Kotti was happy with his important job and how God had created Kotti to be Andrew's ears! Kotti truly was the answer to someone's prayers, and we are honored that the Lord used us to be a part of this ministry. As Sabrina put it--It was God's work using our hands!

See back of calendar insert for pictures of Kotti



Kotti celebrates a birthday on July 6!

A Short Note on Ghita

written by Beth Downs

Ghita is still in professional training, with a possible graduation on August 14. Comments continue to be very positive, she is well-liked and seems to enjoy learning new skills. Thank you, friends and family at St. Peter's, so very much, for all of the love and prayers for her, as she makes her way on this journey!



1776 – 2026

The United States of America

...one Nation under God,

indivisible,

with liberty and justice for all.



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in Suffolk County*

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With St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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