



The Anchor

Monthly Newsletter of St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Lift up your voice and sing!

Summer is just around the corner. The roar of motorcycles, grass trimmers, leaf blowers and lawn mowers flood the air as we transition from the busyness of shoveling snow to planting flowers and vegetables and mowing the lawn. I'm always fascinated by the change in the early spring mornings from the cold still silence of an early winter sunrise to the boisterous sound of awakening nature, as the days grow longer and God's creatures lead us in joyous song to the beginning of the new day. Get up at 4:30 am and go outside! I don't know about you, but this time of year I always feel like I'm playing catch up, perhaps because it gets harder and harder to keep up.

At church it is also very busy. It feels as if the Covid imposed period of inactivity and isolation has finely truly ended. Our church growth committee is busy energizing old and new activities that bring us together as the body of Christ. We are enjoying one another's presence and providing all kinds of outreach to the community around us. Although we are a smaller worshipping community we are busier than ever before!

We have successfully adopted to the congregation's decision to worship as one community at 9:30. Worship attendance is higher and there are new faces amongst us.

We have a very vibrant Bible Study that takes place at 8:30 prior to our worship and are introducing a new "Praise" worship service that will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

The Property Committee is busy taking care of business inside and outside as well. New coats of paint are being applied, plans are in place to enhance and upgrade the church landscaping, replacing, rearranging and adding flowering shrubs. This will hopefully greatly reduce the relentless problem with weeds! Future plans for a cell tower on church property continue to move forward but are a bit behind schedule!

We are hoping to worship outside this summer, several times as we look to form a support group for that activity that is responsible for the preparation, set up and take down for such events. If you would like to help, please speak with me!

I expect as in past years that our attendance during the summer will increase as summer residents return looking for a place to go to church. If you know of such people in your neighborhood, when you see them invite them to church!

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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

Congregational Council

Chris Chiaffitelli, President

Joan Olszewski, Vice President

Andrea Bakowski, Secretary

Diane Hanff

Sue Hohn

Nancy Melhado

Kevin Ocker

Dean Sambach

Leslie Walz

Ruth Werking

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If you have anything you would like to submit for publication in *The Anchor*, you can send it via fax or e-mail.

If you have an e-mail address and currently are not but would like to receive weekly emails from St. Peters, send us your email address.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please call (631) 477-0662 and leave a message on extension 10

How to Reach Us:

Call the church office and leave a message on ext. 10

Email us at

splcgreenport@gmail.com

Private Message us on the

St. Peter's Facebook page

The Anchor

Lift up your voice and sing! *(cont. from Page 1)*

During the summer months we start to ramp up preparation for our annual harvest festival as the phone rings with people who are anxious to drop off donations. It is also a good time for all of us to look at things that we are no longer using and donate them to the garage sale as well.

Our annual Bar-B-Que is scheduled for Sunday, June 14th after the 9:30 service! Beginning at around 11:00 am, perhaps we can serve Hamburgers Benedict! Remember the days at Orient State Park!

Worshipping under the Pavilion with games and water balloon toss for the children! Fond memories of a different time! We were just down on Hilton Head Island where we visited Lillian & Hans Dickerson. Lillian was remembering the awesome youth Car Washes we used to have.

As life re-emerges around us I'm reminded that the Springtime is a time for new life, new ideas, new possibilities. Much like the seasons in nature the life of the church also goes through seasons. As the spring season in nature brings forth new possibility and promise of new life in the months ahead, let us also see the church in such a season in our life together. Let us be busy planting seeds and see what wonderful things God has in store for us! Lift up your voice and sing!

In Christ,

Pastor Johnson

Pastor & Phyllis visiting with Hans & Lillian Dickerson.



June Wedding Anniversaries



- 11—Dan & Nancy Melhado celebrate 60 years
- 11—Richard & Lynn Cardozo celebrate 60 years
- 15—Jim & Lisa Hinsch celebrate 35 years
- 26—Charles & Dominique Hydell celebrate 10 years
- 29—Bob & Kristin Chute celebrate 13 years

June Birthdays

- 8—Fred Hammerle
- 9—Herb Schmidt
- 10—Larry Hanna
- 14—Don Cotrone
- 15—Daniel Folk
- 18—Joan Olszewski
- 22—Melody Hammerle
- 26—Jacob Boivin

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!



Gifts Given by

Ann & Roy Olsen in memory of Herman Lindeman
Katie & Cody Carlson in memory of Roy Schelin, Jr.



Doris Lezny, our sister in Christ, was recently escorted by Jesus to her place in the Church Triumphant. We pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of her family and all those who mourn this wonderful servant in Christ.

St. Peter's was blessed to be able to celebrate Doris' 100th birthday with her before her passing.

Rest eternal, grant her O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon her.

“Pupdate” on our Canine Companions

During May the Northeast Region had 5 dogs graduate in the Veteran Initiative Program, 8 dogs graduate as service dogs, 5 dogs graduate as facility dogs and 10 dogs enter their third semester of training. Ghita did not find her perfect match and will work with a senior trainer for the next few months getting ready for another team training rotation. Since Joye is her first cousin, Ghita decided to follow in the family footsteps and wait for her perfect match! This month Ghita has learned how to tug off socks and gloves and is retrieving items and delivering them to her handler. Several volunteers that have worked with Ghita have called her snuggly, happy, calm and playful. Beth can't wait to see what God has planned for sweet, affectionate and loving Ghita!

Kotti is working hard in the hearing dog program in Florida. This month he has learned to alert to an alarm, a timer and the doorbell. He has learned to sequence his alert of his handler, where his handler then gives the “what?” command, and he then leads the handler to the source of the sound. He has gone to the mall and learned how to safely ride the escalator (a hearing dog specific requirement) and is calm and confident with this skill. On a field trip to a pet store, Kotti heard someone playing with a squeaky toy and got quite distracted, but his handler was able to easily redirect him. Kotti will be rotating through team training on May 26. Sabrina will be anxiously and prayerfully awaiting a phone call on May 28 to find out if he finds his forever person in this class!

On May 11 about a dozen members of St Peters made lunch for the team training in Medford. Ruthanne and Iris brought the lunch to the training center and served it. We cannot tell you how many trainers and graduates said thank you and please come again. The next team training lunch opportunity will be August 10. More information to follow in upcoming Anchors.



On May 15, 2026 Johanna Benthall was united with her new service dog, Thomas. Pictured with Johanna are her mom, Eileen and her dad, Steve. Steve Benthall is the website designer for St. Peter's Church.

Thomas is Johanna's third service dog provided by Canine Companions. For Johanna, Thomas is more than a companion. He provides her with independence, confidence and a way for people that don't always know how to approach her.

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 11:00 am

Rain or Shine



The church will supply
barbecue items from
the grill, salads and
ice-cream for dessert.
We will take a free-will
offering.

*So we know how many to
prepare for, please let us
know you are coming.
Sign up at the church or
see page 2 of this
publication for other
ways to RSVP.*

Happy Father's Day

June is the month where we celebrate Father's Day, honoring and paying tribute to the fathers and father figures in our life.

Being a father is no easy task. The best way we can raise our children with love and respect and teach them to be the best person they can be is to turn to God's Word which is unchanging. The Bible is filled with a multitude of "*How To's*." Following are only a small handful of the Bible Verses appropriate for men who are mentoring children.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Titus 2:1-2

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Psalm 127:3

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. "The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!" Proverbs 20:7

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. Deuteronomy 4:9

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

My child, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. Proverbs 6:20-22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

June 2026

Things to Know

The Food Insecurity Collection which has been designated for both of the pantries we support will continue through June 7th. This special collection is concentrated on non-perishable food items suitable to fill food insecurity bags geared towards filling the summer gap of school-sponsored programs that feed the children. For a complete list of suggested items visit the St. Peter's website and click on Events.

Beginning on May 27th at 6:30 pm we will join together at St. Peter's for a **Wednesday Evening Praise Service**. All are welcome to attend. We are looking forward to Summer Evenings filled with Praise and Worship.

St. Peter's is going to walk in the **250th Birthday Celebration for America Parade** in Southold on Saturday, July 4th. We will march behind our banner but will not be allowed to drive the van in the parade. We have been informed that we can have a parade float or a golf cart or ATV if we want a vehicle. If you have a Golf Cart or ATV that we can decorate for you to drive (with a few other St. Peter's members) behind us in the parade OR if you are skilled in building a parade float and would like to take on the task of leading a team to build a float, please reach out to Diane Hanff as soon as possible so that we can start making plans. She can be reached at 254-230-5917 or dianehanff@yahoo.com. We will have a sign-up sheet for those who want to participate in the parade toward the end of May. The Cutchogue St. Patrick's Day Parade was a huge success and a lot of fun. We are hoping to have even more members join us for another fun-filled parade on July 4th.

Volunteers are needed! We need volunteers to help with our Worship Services. Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers and Lectors are needed. No experience is necessary. If interested, please let us know. Call the church office and leave a message on ext. 10 or email us at SPLCGreenport@gmail.com. Please consider joining us!

First-Time Grandparents!



Jim & Karen DeFrancesco welcomed grandson, Percy Henry Ryan who was born on April 23, 2026 weighing 7 pounds 7 ounces.

Bruce & Cathy Heller welcomed grandson, Chadwick Jonas who was born on May 19, 2026 weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces.



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