



The Anchor

Monthly Newsletter of St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Let it snow!!

The record snowfall amount recorded at Brookhaven national laboratory is 90.75 inches. So far at LI McArthur airport this year the measurement is 60 inches. I suppose we should be praying that we don't set a record this year. As we begin the season of Lent, looking down the road to Easter, which is on April 5th this year, I'm reminded that on Easter, March 23, 2008, we had 3 inches of snow.

It has been an unusual winter as the weather has affected our Sunday worship and the scheduling of our annual Congregational meeting. As hard as we try to meet the "recommended" constitutional requirements for the scheduling of this meeting we are keenly aware that the constitution makes no provisions for scheduling that meeting in the winter when weather can challenge that guidance. An earlier version of the Model ELCA Congregational Constitution called for the meeting to take place by the last week of January, which is no longer the case. We should consider moving the meeting to a different season!

Although challenged by Mother Nature, our Lenten season began on schedule with Ash Wednesday services. No snow that day!

Wednesday, February 25th we will join with our GEM partners at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Greenport as we begin our annual Lenten series, visiting our brothers and sisters' houses of worship and sharing Soup & Bread meals together. This is a wonderful annual tradition envied by many of my colleagues when I share with them what the faith community in the North Fork shares. We are hosts on Wednesday, March 11th. Peter will need lots of help in the kitchen with soup preparation on Monday and Tuesday of that week.

Recently we have alternated the activities of our Holy Thursday evening worship service between being in church for the traditional service or having a Seder with a full Lamb dinner. This year we should have the Seder and Lamb dinner. Stay tuned!

It appears that our recent change to one service at 9:30 is working out for most. If you know someone we haven't seen, reach out to them and let them know that they are missed!

continued on Page 2

Parish Directory

Pastor—The Rev. Garret
Johnson

Synodical Deacons—Iris
Hippner & Austin Stack

Cong. Deacon—Sabrina Dobbs

Secretary—Catherine Heller

Organist—Phyllis Johnson

Treasurer—Marc

Johnson

Acolyte Coordinator—Grace West

Christian Education—

Pr. Johnson & Iris Hippner

Congregational Council

Sabrina Dobbs, President

Joan Olszewski, Vice President

Myrna Hanff

Sue Hohn

Dan Melhado

Leslie Walz

Chris Chiaffitelli

Andrea Bakowski

Kevin Ocker

Dean Sambach

Ruth Werking

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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

Let it snow!! *(continued from Page 1)*

At our annual congregational meeting I am presenting a list of activities and things that I do here at St. Peters that I am hoping that others will take responsibility for. Some of them you can live without but others are quite important. Many of them I took over during Covid, others are things I created and simply assumed responsibility for because it was easier, sometime more convenient for me to do them myself. I hope you will look at the list and consider what you can do! I would be happy to discuss any of them with you!

One of the weather forecasters during the Blizzard said that in a month we would be looking at Daffodils and Carnations, you heard that as well. I know we will be waiting for the Daffodils, I don't think they will be earlier this year as they have been recently!

Whatever the Month of March holds, the season of Lent is a time for us to reflect upon the fullness of the Grace of God that looks past all of our imperfections and focuses on God's relationship with us and our relationships with each other. Enjoy the Winter! Easter is coming!

Pr. Johnson

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Kathy Ocker by Ruth Werking

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Herman Lindeman, our dear sweet brother in Christ, was recently escorted by Jesus to his place in the Church Triumphant. We pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his family and all those who mourn this wonderful servant in Christ. *Rest eternal, grant him O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

St. Peter's Financial View

Thank you to everyone who faithfully supports the financial needs of our ministry together. We are happy to share with you our financial status for January 2026.

Envelope Giving

Budgeted for January 2026	11,250.
Received for January 2026	5,274.
Deficit	-5,976.

Plate Giving

Budgeted for January 2026	667.
Received for January 2026	174.
Deficit	-493.
Total Deficit for January 2026	-6,469.



Click on the QR code with your phone's camera or visit www.stpetersgreenport.org and click on the 'Donate' button located at the top right side of the page.

March Wedding Anniversaries

15-Bruce & Cathy Heller celebrate 40 years
 20-Donna & Joe St. Pierre celebrate 60 years
 23-Norma & Fred Hammerle celebrate 28 years

March Birthdays

1-Joan Tyrer
 7-Sabrina Dobbs
 11-Ron McGreevy

19-Sharon Rava
 24-Phyllis Johnson
 28-Don Hohn

29-Lillian Schelin
 30-Jeanine Monsell
 31-Chris Yousik



To my St. Peter's Family,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your kindness, love and various expressions of sympathy on the passing of my dad.

Cathy Heller

St. Peter's Journey from Lent to Easter...

Lulu, the **Lenten Lamb** will be in the Narthex throughout Lent. Priscilla the pig will be out by the Parish mailboxes throughout Lent. Stop by the next time you're at Church and fatten them up with your monetary donations. All money collected will be sent to the ELCA Good Gifts program to purchase farm animals for families throughout the world. You can also donate online.

Lenten Cross Habit Trackers are available in the Narthex for those who are interested. This is a simple way to track your Lenten journey by coloring a cross. Directions are included with the Cross.

GEM Community Lenten Service & Luncheon will be hosted at St. Peter's on Wednesday, March 11th. Please sign up in the Narthex or by the rear entrance foyer. *Please be sure to indicate whether you will bring bread or dessert.* Volunteers are also needed to set up, clean up and/or help prep & make soup. Please sign up in the Narthex or by the rear entrance foyer.

The book to order **Easter Flowers** for the Altar will be in the Narthex until March 15th. Sign up to order 6" foil wrapped potted Lilies or Hydrangeas in pink or blue; \$15 each. Please be sure to sign up in the correct spot in the book. The first section is for Lilies only; the second section is for hydrangeas.

Phyllis Johnson is planning on having a **Choir for Easter Sunday**, April 5th. Rehearsals will be at the church on Thursdays at 4:00 pm beginning on March 12th. If you're interested, please speak to Phyllis or call her at 631-765-5958.

Easter Coloring Cards are available in the Narthex. Feel free to take some home to color. They must be returned to the basket in the Narthex or to Diane Hanff's mailbox in the back hallway no later than Sunday, March 22nd. The cards will be distributed during the Easter Party at San Simeon, and the remainder of the cards will be mailed out to our homebound members and some of our members who have moved away. Thank you for sharing your talents and letting your light shine! Your work is much appreciated.

We are, once again, looking to fill **Easter Baskets** to donate to CAST and NOFO Parish Outreach. We are looking for things like individually wrapped Easter Candy, Plastic Eggs, Easter Grass/Basket Filler, Small Toys, Bubbles, Small stuffed animals, Crayons, Markers, Watercolors, Books, etc. to fill the baskets. We do not need baskets...we will purchase these. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead of bringing items, please mark your donation for EASTER BASKET OUTREACH. All donations need to be received by Sunday, March 29th. After service on March 29th, we will gather a group to fill the baskets. If you would like to join us, let us know! Please leave donations in the Easter bins located in the Narthex or by the parish mailboxes. If you have questions, you can reach out to Diane Hanff (254-230-5917).

See back of calendar insert for a full schedule of midweek Lenten services.

Things to Know

We will begin our next Alpha session at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, March 14th. The Alpha Program, an introductory course designed for everyone, explores the foundations of the Christian faith in a friendly and non-judgmental environment. It includes sessions that begin with food and connection, followed by talks and open discussions. It aims to answer common questions about faith, the Bible and the significance of Jesus' life and teachings. This is a 12-week program which will run on Saturdays from 9 am until noon in the Church Fellowship Hall. Each session begins with breakfast and coffee. Please sign up in the narthex or back hall if you would like to join us for this faith-affirming program. For more information on the Alpha program, you can visit the Alpha USA website (<https://alphausa.org>) or speak with Austin Stack.

St. Peter's is planning to participate in the Cutchogue St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14th. If you would like to participate but cannot walk the parade route, we will be driving the Church van which will accommodate 7 people. We will meet at St. Peter's at 12 Noon to load up the van/carpool to Cutchogue where we will meet up to get in line for the parade. More details about where we will meet in Cutchogue will be available soon. Please sign up in the Narthex or in the rear entrance foyer if you would like to participate. We are also looking for a volunteer to drive the van. We are looking forward to shining our lights for all to see as we help celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our local community.

On Thursdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm the Sanctuary will be open to members of the church as well as the community for private prayer and meditation. If you would like to be a greeter for one of these Thursdays, please sign up on the greeter sign-up sheet by the side entrance door or contact Myrna Hanff (631-477-2014, text 574-855-7493, e-mail mlhanff2@optonline.net). We work in pairs, so you will have a partner to "keep you company."

2026 Church Activity Calendars are available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one so that you can keep up with the events scheduled at St. Peter's in 2026.

Updates on our Canine Companions

Ghita continues to get good reports. Her trainer tells us that on a recent field trip to the library she had appropriate interaction with adults and children. Ghita even tried to make friends with the library's guinea pigs but was redirected with support! She is doing well with pushing closed a drawer and is working on her formal retrieval skills.

We got a call that Kotti will be leaving the Northeast campus the beginning of March as he is being transferred to the Southeast campus in Florida. Kotti was tested and accepted into the hearing dog program so he will have to know all his commands in both English and American Sign Language. This is specialized training so the training for these dogs is only done in Florida and California. He could be matched with a person anywhere in the United States that is hearing impaired. This also means that he will not be eligible for graduation in May as he needs to be bilingual and will have more skills to learn before he can become someone's ears.

My Heart is With the Lord!

It has taken many years to come to this simple fact. I tend to avoid roller coasters at the amusement park, but my life has been a ride filled with ups and downs and an occasional derailment.

I became a baptized child of God at 34 days old. Since I was old enough to understand what that means I have felt Him in heart. I have, at times, tried to ignore him, push Him aside, and outright disobey Him, but He never left me.

When I decided to get married and start a family, they were who I worked to provide for. I raised them in the church and supported the church with my time, talents and offerings. God kept us comfortable throughout this time and I was content. Looking back, I can see my faith became stagnant.

Born and raised a Missouri-Synod Lutheran my beliefs were **strictly** aligned with their teachings. Grace was preached from the pulpit but for me they fell short of teaching us the practical applications of that grace in our lives and our treatment of others. This could be because my own education was lacking or my interpretations flawed.

When God blessed me with an early retirement and a move to my beloved Orient my life began to change. Small town life put me in contact with people from all walks of life, with many different lifestyles, and beliefs. I felt like I had been living under a bubble, where everyone believed and acted the same, and that bubble has now burst.

I now had more time on my hands and wanted to be of service to my neighbors in a way that was pleasing to God. I came across many situations that I was not equipped to respond to. God led me to Grand Canyon University to get a degree in Christian Studies, and my eyes, my mind and my heart are finding the solid ground to understanding the mission of God and my part in it.

Do you have to go back to school, like I did, to come to this understanding? Absolutely not! Open your heart, look around you and let God lead you to your place in His mission. God will meet you where you are.

Our churches today are also guilty of building treasures on earth. I am reminded of the scene in *Les Miserable* when the bishop buys the soul of John Val Jean by not turning him into the authorities and then gives him additional silver to start his life over. Silver candlesticks gathering dust on the mantle not only changed his life but rippled throughout the others he touched along the way.

Treasures in heaven need to be placed there by us. Our earthly treasures cannot be taken with us.

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord and my heart is open to His direction, going where He leads.

In His service,

Lorelei Gobel

God's Work...Our Hands

The North Fork Parish Outreach partners with you to fulfill Christ's mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves, by transforming your donations into real solutions for those in crisis, into feeding the hungry, into easing the daily struggles of those whose lives are burdened by different hardships. In 2025, with the support of St. Peter's combined with that of other caring individuals and groups, we:

- Distributed 4,126 full bags of groceries from our Pantry to 3,625 children, adults, and seniors in 1008 households
- Gave 233 individuals in 54 families Thanksgiving baskets, and delivered 6 holiday meals to the homeless
- Supplied 78 students with all the necessities needed to start school successfully
- Provided 153 children in 73 families with multiple Christmas gifts and gift cards
- Financially assisted 28 people with rent, utilities, and fuel
- Helped 9 people find employment
- Provided 283 new jackets, hats, gloves, socks, or pjs, to children in need

These are just some of the ways that the 5,435 people whom we served in Christ's Name last year found relief and compassion through our ministry. On behalf of those who appreciate as well as rely on your generosity, thank you and may you be greatly blessed for your compassion.

Dear St. Peter's,

There are some of our North Fork neighbors for whom fasting and abstinence are year round due to economic hardship rather than Lenten reverence. Your parish's generous recent donation will help us provide the food and basic living necessities that will ease their daily suffering. May you be blessed for the sacrifices you make so that others may have the basics they need. Thank you for your compassionate thoughtfulness in supporting our reaching out to others.

Maria and Catherine

North Fork Parish Outreach

Dear St. Peter's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of **United Lutheran Seminary**. We are deeply grateful for your gifts and faithful partnership as we prepare ULS students to witness to and participate in God's work in the world through spiritual leadership, public advocacy, meaningful worship, and care of neighbor rooted in God's grace and love. Your continued generosity and prayers strengthen theological education and provide our students with a solid foundation for leadership in a changing church.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. *Conor Brooks*, CFRE

Vice President for Institutional
Advancement



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With St. Peter's Lutheran Church

We worship Sunday mornings 9:30 am. We offer many ways to connect with us from any location at any time of day or night. We livestream our weekly Worship Service on our Facebook page. Follow us at [www.Facebook/SPLCGreenport](https://www.facebook.com/SPLCGreenport). Visit St. Peter's website at www.stpetersgreenport.org. Email us at SPLCGreenport@gmail.com



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