



The Anchor

Monthly Newsletter of St. Peter's Lutheran Church



"My Sheep, hear my voice" (John 10: 27)

A lot of attention can be given to the words that people speak. Popular sayings like; "someone always has something to say" or "opinions are a dime a dozen", reflect our preoccupation with expressing ourselves through words. Sayings like; "I should have quit while I was ahead" or "I never know when to stop", express the reality that we often wish we could take back things that we say!

When Jesus suggests to those around him, "My Sheep, hear my voice", Jesus is lifting up for us the importance of what we hear. We may like to distinguish between sound that simply stimulates our ear drums versus sounds that we actually listen or respond to, but this would be like being selective about what we can see with our eyes. We can close our eyes, or plug our ears but when they are open, they see or absorb all that is around.

To hear Jesus' voice amid the clattering noise of our lives can sometimes be challenging, perhaps even impossible. I remember a commercial, from not long ago that showed a busy, noisy city street with traffic and horns blaring. You couldn't hear the person next to you talking. Someone drop some coins on the sidewalk and everyone stopped to look. There are many messages in such an illustration including the idea that we can recognize familiar

sounds through the noise and respond appropriately.

Jesus tells us that his sheep, hear his voice! Amid all of the clattering sounds and noise of our lives we can hear Jesus voice and respond to it! Hearing, like seeing is not simply about the concrete. We can see with our eyes closed and we can also hear with our ears plugged. Jesus voice is discernable all around us each and every day and Jesus tells us that his sheep hear it! To distinguish Jesus voice from the rest of the noise of our lives we need to be able to recognize it. We recognize it by listening to it and hearing it over and over again. By the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit we learn to see both in the light and in the dark and hear amidst the noise and the silence.

Jesus is always there revealing himself to us. "My sheep, hear my voice." Jesus voice leads us and shows us the paths to righteousness and peace. Jesus voice reminds us others needs are as great as our own and the blessings of our lives are not just for us, but to be shared with all God's children. Listen, listen, Jesus is speaking to us; "Follow me, Follow me" In Christ,

Pastor Johnson

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

The Anchor is published by St. Peters Lutheran Church
71305 Main Rd, PO Box 242
Greenport, NY 11944
Ph: 631-477-0662
FAX: 631-477-3096

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

FOOD INSECURITY BAGS

Many local families experience a greater need for food donations during the summer months. When school is not in session free breakfasts and lunches are not available. To help with this extra need, St. Peter's is once again collecting items to prepare Food Insecurity Bags. Between May 3rd and June 7th, we are requesting donations of the following items needed.

- Jam or jelly
- Peanut butter
- Bottles, cans or individual boxes of juice
- Nuts – trail mix
- Granola – cereal bars
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta
- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Canned ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, etc.

This is a list of the most-needed items. However, you can contribute any nutritional non-perishable food item. Bulk packaging is broken down into smaller portions so don't hesitate to buy the more economical, larger sizes.

All donations received will be put into Food Insecurity Bags to be distributed to CAST and North Fork Parish Outreach for their clients to supplement the extra requirements for the feeding of families during these summer months.

THANK YOU. I was both surprised and honored to be recognized by the members of St. Peter's on Sunday, April 12th for my years of service as Financial Secretary. Your well wishes and gift were greatly appreciated. This gift enabled generous gifts to both the card ministry and to the food insecurity drive in May for the two food pantries we support---CAST and North Fork Parish Outreach. St. Peter's is blessed with a loving, caring community of believers.

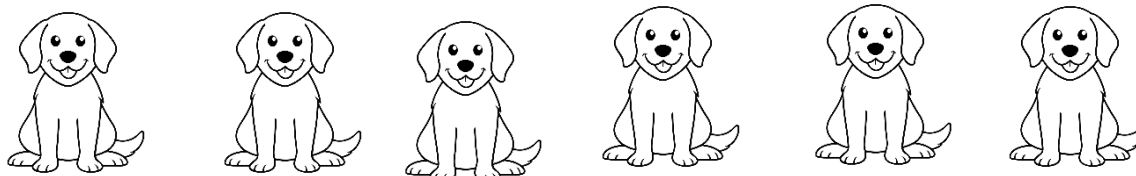
God's blessings,

Myrna Hanff

Updates on our Canine Companions

Ghita will be rotating through team training on May 4. Not all dogs will get a job. You may remember Joye did not make a match at her first team training rotation. Beth Downs was Ghita's handler. Beth will receive an update on May 6. If Ghita makes a match, graduation will be held on Friday May 15. Graduation will be held in Medford, NY and will be open to the public. It will also be live streamed. If you are following Ghita's progress and want the livestreaming information, email your request to the church at splcgreenport@gmail.com. We will email it to you when it becomes available. Beth has expressed her heartwarming gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of this valuable ministry, and she also wants to thank all those at St. Peter's for their love and support.

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, there are other opportunities such as helping to serve lunch at a Canine Companions Team Training Luncheon. Volunteers are needed to provide either lunch entrees/sides/salads or desserts for these events. If this is something you would be interested in, please call or text Beth Downs at (516) 343-9262.



May Wedding Anniversaries

25-Chris & Ann Chiaffitelli celebrate 35 years

27-Andrea & John Bakowski celebrate 3 years

May Birthdays

7-Eleanor Ulich

8-Tom Quillin

Leif Gobel

10-Cassius Hollid

12-Amy Schelin

13-Ann Olsen

16-John Wren

18-Leslie Walz

Scarlett Hydell

20-Emily Franchina Perrell

21-Peter Breuer

22-Joy Wagner

29-Ann Chiaffitelli

And our service dogs

BeBoe-May 14 – 1 year old

Ghita-May 18 – 2 years old

Mitchie-May 25 – 3 years old



Life is all about the journey. The people we meet along the way and the memories we make.



Your donations to the Easter Basket Outreach.

Seder Meal setup pictures taken by Linda Law.



Pictures below taken by Jay Webster. Visit St. Peter's Facebook page for more.





Council was installed on April 12. Everyone was in attendance. See page 2 for a list of names.



This beautiful book was given to St. Peter's by a woman who purchased a political book at our Harvest Festival. She turned it into something beautiful. You can see it on display in the Parish office window by the bathrooms.



A special thank you to Phyllis Johnson for taking these pictures of the Easter service.

God's Work...Our Hands

Dear St. Peter's Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your generous gift to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (**ELCA**). As a church, we are empowered to love and serve our neighbors as Christ first loved us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power and hope that flow from God's full, boundless love. You make God's love real.

With gratitude,

Rachel Wind

Executive for Development

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your Harvest Fest donation to **CAST**. With support from generous donors like you, we can better serve those in need. Together, we are transforming lives and making a difference in our community. Thank you for helping us help others. We appreciate your generosity and care for our neighbors in need.

With sincere gratitude,

Erica Steindl

Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Once again, we thank you for your loyal support of the **Sunshine Society**. Your very generous donation will help us continue bringing cheer and assistance to our neighbors. We are so grateful.

Sincerely,

Anne Swanson

Dear St. Peter's,

I wish I could send you the smiles, the giggles, the glee, the delight when our **North Fork Parish Outreach** volunteers handed 20 little ones their very own Easter basket! And what a basket each one was, brimming with holiday treats, golden eggs, fun things to do, all tied up with the prettiest bow! May the joy you gave these children echo in your heart today! Thank you so much for these baskets as well as for the fifteen \$50 gift cards donated for those families needing extra assistance. Our wishes for you are that the Risen Savior generously blesses you for your generosity to others!

Maria and Catherine

North Fork Parish Outreach

With Love and Heartfelt Gratitude

As we face the sadness and pain of losing someone we love, your sympathy and kindness have offered us comfort and strength. We are deeply grateful for your support during this difficult time.

To our St. Peter's Family,
Thank you for all of your love, prayers and support during this most difficult time in our lives. We love and miss you all.

Love,

Vincent & Aileen Mazzei

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,
Words can not express how grateful our family is that our parents found such a welcoming congregation. We know that they treasured the Christian faith, fellowship and community of St. Peter's. Your words of support and visits throughout the last few years were highlights for them both.

Many thanks,

Wayne, Bruce, Jill and family

May 2026

Things to Know

Join us on Sunday, May 3rd following the church service for our first ever **Cinco De Mayo Taco Brunch**. We will have a taco buffet with both breakfast and lunch tacos. The Church Growth Committee is hosting this event. We welcome you to join us for a delicious meal and some awesome fellowship. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex or the Back Hall if you would like to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help with food prep, cooking, set up or clean up, please sign up on the Bulletin Board as well. We will do food prep and set up on Saturday, May 2nd at 2:00 pm. We will cook on Sunday during the worship service and clean-up will be immediately following the meal. Many hands make light work. We look forward to a FIESTA with foods to make you shout OLE!!

Our next **Church Growth Committee** Meeting will be on Sunday, May 17th following the church service (at 10:30). Light breakfast treats and coffee will be served. Join us as we discuss upcoming events and ideas for additional community service opportunities & events.

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.

Altar Guild Volunteers are needed! We are looking for a few volunteers to join Iris in this weekly endeavor to prepare our altar each Sunday. Iris is willing to guide us through the responsibilities by having a class for novices. 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!

On Thursday, May 7, 2026, the **National Day of Prayer**, we will offer two opportunities to pray. Join us for **Prayers and Songs for our Nation** at 2:00 or 6:00 pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church located at 71305 Main Road in Greenport. All are invited. All are welcome.

If you would like an updated Church Directory, please See Page 2 for ways to let us know.



*The oldest Lutheran Church
in Suffolk County*

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
GREENPORT, NY
PERMIT NO. 3

P.O. Box 242
Greenport, NY 11944
Return Service Requested

getCONNECTED

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



Scan QR Code with your phone's camera
to view any of our weekly services online.