

ST. PETER'S

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

HELENA, MT

Together,
we love God and our
neighbor; make disciples
for Christ.

2024 Parish Profile

www.spchelena.org



St. Peter's, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, is in search of a new Dean.

Do you feel called to lead us?



Our parish survey and listening sessions show ...

We are a congregation strongly rooted in Rite I and Rite II but also **hunger for more variety** and contemporary offerings in service, leaving a moldable palate for the next Dean.

Like many churches with predominantly older members, St. Peter's would benefit from a Dean who would lead us in **attracting new members** and help all congregants discern the gifts they can share to help us continue to carry the Cross.

A Dean who embodies **a collaborative spirit** when working through conflict would be a good fit.

We seek to **include everyone** in our church community – those who have left, those who are searching for a church home, and our faithful members.





**St. Peter's is
one body,
many members.
Together.**

Lore has it that St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral can trace its roots to a bar – perhaps in a wall tent – where interest in a bona fide Episcopal church in the rowdy gold camp of Helena was generated. The first service followed “in the old schoolhouse” where the Right Reverend Daniel S. Tuttle convened his nascent flock on August 11, 1867. That mining camp grew into Montana's capital city and, eventually, the seed sown by the Rt. Rev. Tuttle bloomed into a small cathedral with elegant stained-glass windows and prayer-soaked walls reminding us of the generations who have worshipped here. Parishioners funded the cathedral's construction during the Great Depression – a fact that speaks to the commitment of our congregants, which remains strong today. As much as we cherish our building, we are mindful that it is not the heart of our worship. As a parishioner recently said, “The building is nice, but the community makes the church.”

“The real history of St. Peter’s Cathedral is written in the lives of people who have come to know our Lord in this Christian community. Their love for Him is sacramentally present in their outward manifestation of their concern and love for others in all walks of life and in the bricks and mortar of their parish home!”

-The Very Rev. Raymond D. Brown
Dean and Rector, 1966 – 1975



Pictured: (Top) A member’s Discernment Committee. (Bottom left) Togendowagan Society community meal. (Bottom right) Children’s sermon.



Together, we worship.

Together, we gather joyfully as a community of Christ's disciples to celebrate God's gifts and partake in the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus. During the Dean search process, we switched to a unified Sunday service, which has been a wonderful way to bring the congregation closer together. Our current weekly offerings include Rite I and Rite II services, Godly Play for our youngest members, Sunday School, and Virtual Morning Prayer. The Togendowagan Society, meeting bimonthly from October to May, integrates Indigenous traditions with liturgy and the Eucharist. Additionally, we provide bimonthly Eucharist services at a senior living community in Helena. During Advent and Lent, we offer meditative Taizé services weekly, alongside special observances such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday foot washings, and the Stations of the Cross. Our lay-led ministries, such as the Lay Eucharistic Visitors, extend our worship beyond the church walls, bringing the Eucharist and companionship to those unable to attend. We will look to the new Dean to collaborate with us to shape our future service schedule and content.



We honor our cultures.

The Togendowagan Society is an inter-tribal Native American Spirit Society sponsored by The Episcopal Diocese of Montana and St. Peter's Cathedral. The Society's bi-monthly services at St. Peter's align with seasonal cycles and significant times in both Native American and Liturgical calendars. Togendowagan, Lenape for "Wakening", means a "coming-into-awareness". The Society aims to foster a sense of community and spiritual journeying together towards the Creator. By including both native and non-native traditions and individuals, a space is provided for cultural exchange and spiritual growth, blending various traditions in a respectful and inclusive manner. St. Peter's new Dean will be a Eucharistic leader in this shared spiritual journey.

We gather in fellowship.



Our worship continues whenever we come together as believers in Jesus Christ. Beyond our formal services, St. Peter's Cathedral members joyfully gather in fellowship to grow, support one another, and deepen our understanding of loving God with our whole heart, mind, and spirit—and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Wonderful Wednesdays, a cornerstone of our fellowship and formation, and led by dedicated lay members in the absence of a Dean, exemplify the strength and commitment of our congregation. We come together to share meals and learn, while other events like Episcopal Church Women game nights, Men's Tuesday morning fellowship, and the Prayer Shawl ministry, where we knit, crochet, and pray, offer additional opportunities to connect and nurture our faith community. Coffee hour and community meals further strengthen our bonds of friendship and faith.

To learn



Together, with open hearts and minds, we seek to become mature Christians. For adults this includes Sunday services and sermons, Monday morning Bible Study, daily virtual Morning Prayer, and less formal discussions during our many fellowship events. We are committed to nurturing the spiritual growth of our children and take pride in our Godly Play and Sunday School programs. We seek to welcome more young families and create a revitalized young adult ministry.

To serve



Gathering in community outreach is an integral part of St. Peter's. Members volunteer with multiple organizations including Family Promise, the YWCA, and Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, seeking to address housing challenges and offering support services for families; Florence Crittenton Family Services for pregnant and parenting teens and their children; the Friendship Center, a domestic violence safe haven; Helena Food Share, providing food assistance to anyone in need; and God's Love Homeless Shelter. The Togendowagan Society sponsors and volunteers with The Last Chance Community Pow Wow, sharing native culture and celebrating and encouraging a deeper understanding of others while raising awareness about diversity and inclusion. Additionally, we operate the Bargain Basement in our administrative building. The proceeds from this secondhand store support various initiatives, organizations, and church operations.



In this community we love

Nestled along the Continental Divide in west central Montana between Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, Helena – a.k.a “the Queen City of the Rockies” – offers an active outdoor lifestyle with nearby rivers, lakes, mountains, and forests and boasts more than 70 miles of public trails for hiking, running, and biking. Helena supports an excellent symphony orchestra and choir, theaters, a vibrant art presence, museums, historical sites, a thriving downtown Walking Mall, and a popular Saturday Farmer’s Market. As Montana’s capital, state government is Helena’s largest employer followed by St. Peter’s Health. Carroll College is a highly regarded four-year liberal arts college while Helena College offers 2-year degrees for a variety of skills and trades. Helena Public Schools provide outstanding educational experiences for grades K-12. There are also private and charter schools. Additionally, Helena’s strong and supportive clergy association fosters a collaborative spirit and offers a vital network of support within the wider church community.

For more information, visit: <https://helenamt.gov> <https://helenamt.com> <https://helenachamber.com>



In this state of splendor

Known for its big skies, Native American heritage, and Western culture, Montana offers scenic national parks, relaxing hot springs, and world-class recreational opportunities, including skiing, fishing and hunting. Its nickname as “the Treasure State” reflects its richness in mineral reserves and abundance in wildlife. While Montana may be the fourth largest state in terms of total area (147,040 square miles), its population of 1.1 million, while steadily increasing, reflects the state’s vast open spaces and largely rural composition.

For more information, visit:

<https://mt.gov>

<https://www.campmarshallmontana.org/>

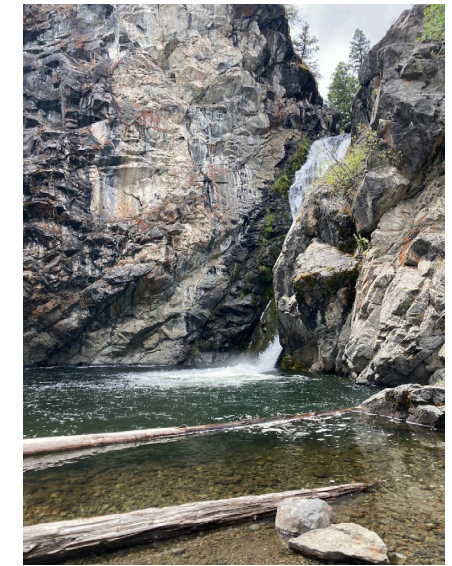
<https://diomontana.com/visiting-montana/>

<https://discoveringmontana.com>

We offer a vibrant, robust, and growing community; the opportunity to shape the future of St. Peter's Cathedral; a quality of life in a big small-town in a Western state; and abundant outdoor activities.

We are a mix of old and new; life-long residents and new arrivals; urban and rural; traditional and non-traditional in our services; a politically diverse, yet solid congregation; a town with a pioneer heritage.

We need energy and personality; biblical and spiritual depth; a guide who will nurture togetherness and growth; creative solutions for long-term financial goals; a vibrant music program; and continued outreach within our Helena community.



We pray for a Dean who...

is a **personable and compassionate leader**, genuinely invested in the spiritual welfare of our parishioners. We seek someone who **inspires and empowers** through teaching and enthusiasm, is **grounded** in biblical wisdom, and is accessible, understanding, and responsive to our needs.

Our ideal Dean is a **pastor to all people**, inclusive, welcoming, able to connect across generations, and possessing the skills to lead, organize, and delegate effectively.





Do you feel called to lead us?

St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral
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<https://spchelena.org>

To continue discerning with us, please submit your resume, cover letter, and copy of your OTM portfolio to Sandy Gumbert, Search Committee Chair, at spchsearch@gmail.com.