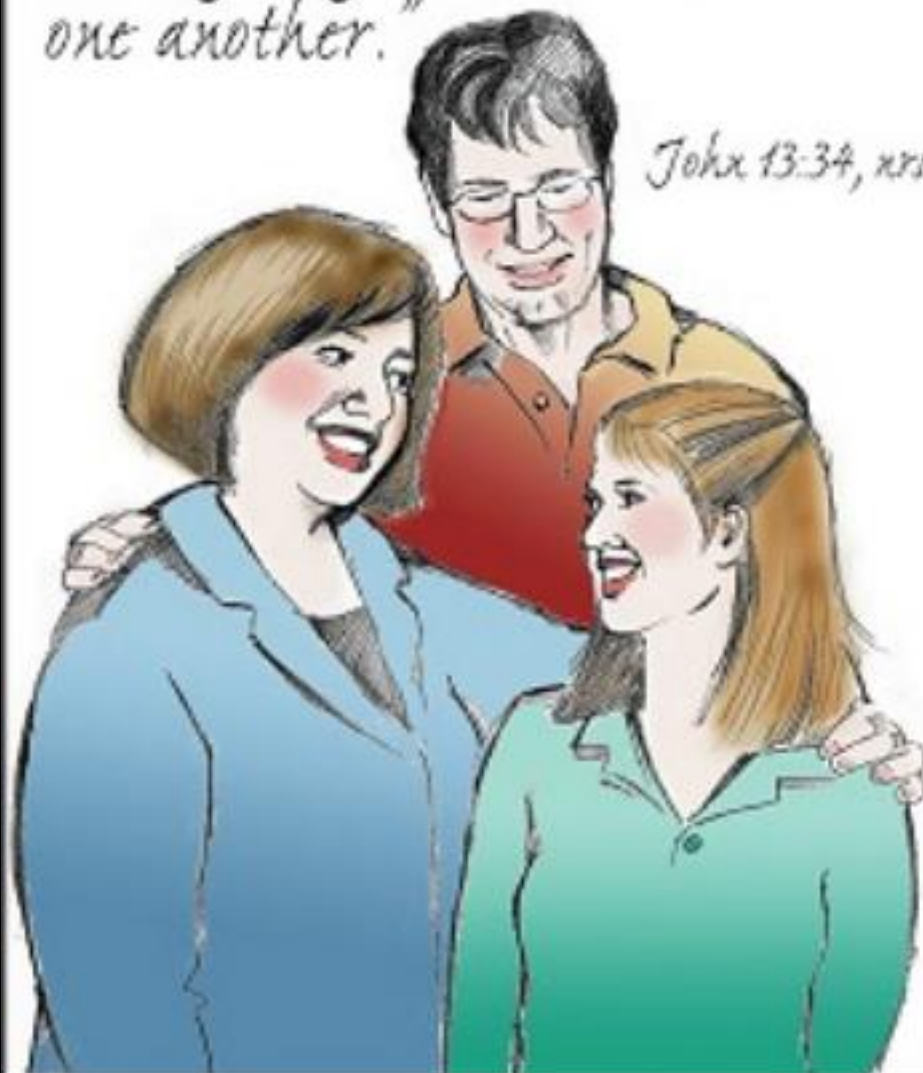


THE NET

FEBRUARY 2026

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

John 13:34, NRSV





St. Peter's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

10301 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842
Phone 410-524-7474
Fax 410-524-6009
Email: splcoc@comcast.net
Website: www.stpetersoc.com

Rev. Bettye Wolinski
Rev. Dr. Harry Wolpert, Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Elsworth Wheatley, Minister of Music
Mr. Keith Hall, Praise Team Leader
Ms. Amy Morgan, Office Manager

++Pastor's Letter to the Congregation++

by Pastor Bettye Wolinski

But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.” **Isaiah 43:1**

Thus begins our next Bible Study called, “What Does it Mean to Be Chosen?” We begin with flashbacks into the Old Testament. A deeper look at Isaiah 43 and its fulfillment in Jesus and the lives of his followers are included in our new Bible study. Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications. This Bible study also says more about the chooser than the choices. We are loved because of his love. We are saved because he is merciful. You belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation.

What does it mean to be chosen? To answer that question, we're going old school - testament that is -which leads us back to the New Testament, which always leads us directly to Jesus. We will begin our studies with season 1 of the videos entitled THE CHOSEN, the popular TV series about the life and ministry of Jesus. We will meet the disciples as Jesus met them, taught them, and healed them for ministry.

What do you need to begin this journey?

- An open heart
- A renewed interest in the life of Jesus and his ministry

Our time together will look like this:

5:30-6p light meal

6p – 7:30p interactive study with video

Schedule

2/12 Are you interested? An Introduction to the Bible study.

You may order your books at this time or on your own if you wish to continue.

This study can also be done individually.

Here is the list of topics we will cover beginning 2/26:

Lesson 1: You are Called

Lesson 2: You Rest

Lesson 3: You are Cherished

Lesson 4: You Change Course

Lesson 5: You are a Witness

Lesson 6: You are Made New

Lesson 7: You are Established

Lesson 8: You are Carried

Lesson 9 and Conclusion: You are a Vessel of Praise

All are welcome to “Come and See”

Pastor Bettye

(See Pastor Bettye's February Schedule on Page 11)

++ST. PETER'S MINISTRY TEAMS++

ALTAR GUILD

by Maryanne Siegert

A big thank you to those who helped un-decorate the church. We had enough folks that we were done in just under one hour...and that included vacuuming the altar and hallway. And Thank you to Amy for sending out the notice for help as I think that did the trick.

Believe it or not, the Christmas season has wound down, and we will be preparing for Lent which begins on or around February 18th. Lots of work for the Altar Guild is ahead as we prepare for this season.

We do all of this with joy.
Maryanne Siegert

COMMUNITY SERVICES

by Mary Lou Tietz

The Community Services Committee met on January 14th to review how all our projects went in 2025 and to discuss upcoming project plans for 2026.

We distributed dinners and gifts to 7 families over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, thanks to the generosity of our members. Each child received 3 gifts that they hoped to get, and we also gave out Food Lion cards, Royal Farms cards that can be used to purchase gas, and Walmart cards. We delivered gifts early to our families so that they had the opportunity to do some personal shopping also with the cards they received, something that we think is a special treat for them.

Our feeding program is going well; there were 4 serving weeks in December, and we served 195 people at our weekly lunch program and provided 143 bags of groceries for the month. We thank all those volunteers who come religiously every Wednesday to serve those in need, not only to feed physically but also emotionally, as our volunteers take this opportunity to visit with our guests, get to know them, and hopefully support them in a wide variety of ways.

The feeding program will be purchasing a new freezer for storage of food products and hopes to have that installed as soon as possible. We were fortunate to have the funds to do this as the equipment needs are so vital to being able to operate the feeding program in compliance with safety requirements.

The Cold Weather Shelter has been open for 32 nights already this season, with the weather reaching below freezing levels on those days, and is serving an average of 12 to 15 people per night. That figure can go above 20 on very frigid nights. Again, we are so grateful for the help we receive from so many volunteers who come from our church and a variety of area churches to minister to the homeless and give them a warm place to sleep and get off the streets on very cold nights. We are grateful to have the facility available as we are asked to provide for those in need and this is a crucial need during the winter months.

The military program got out cards to those members serving in the military who are known by our parishioners. It is our way of thanking them for their service and letting them know that we are thinking about them and praying for their safety and well-being. If you know of someone who serves in the military that you would like remembered by St Peter's, please contact Mary Lou Tietz at maryloutietz@yahoo.com so we can add them to our list.

Thank you again for all you do to support the ministries we provide at St Peter's. We will be meeting on February 11 at 2:00 pm and would love to have you be a part of our committee. If you would like to attend, please let Amy know at the church, or contact Mary Lou Tietz, and we will share more information with you about how you can help. Next month we will be looking more at the shelter program and our Easter project as well.

Yours in Christ.
Mary Lou Tietz

OPEN DOOR FREE LUNCH MINISTRY

JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 12-1:30 P.M.

We are serving a buffet lunch and giving out free groceries to anyone who joins us every Wednesday.

Thank you to Steve & Trish Kiser for leading the free lunch part of the Open Door Feeding Ministry; to Char Vanvick for leading the food pantry operations; our soup maker, Lee Creamer, and all the volunteers, supporters, and contributors who make this ministry possible.

We ask for your prayers, support, and volunteers are always welcome as we continue to grow and nurture this very important ministry.

FELLOWSHIP

Jeannette Latzo

I am blessed to be back on the Fellowship Team. Our first meeting was held on Wednesday, January 21st at 1:30 in the CLC. We will be providing soup and sandwiches for the Lenten study that begins February 12 at 5:30 pm.

As usual, Fellowship provides coffee, tea, and lots of goodies to eat before and after church services. I thank Bridget Foster and Linda Grahe for doing most of the setting up and cleaning up. We'll work on events as needed or just celebrate our joy in our changing and growing church.

FUND RAISING

by Linda Grahe & Susanne Howard

Super Bowl Subs & Chips, \$10.00 donation/sub. Choice of subs: Ham & Cheese, Turkey, Chicken Salad and Tuna Salad. Please see a member of the Fundraising Committee, in the CLC, to place your order on Sundays, after services, until the February 1st deadline or by calling Linda Grahe at Cell #443-614-3808. The subs will be made fresh on Saturday, February 7th, from 10 - 12 Noon and will be available for pick-up on Saturday from 12 - 1 PM or Sunday, 2/8 after services. Thank you for participating in our 1st Fundraiser of the year.

The next Fundraising Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, 2/15 after the 2nd service (12 Noon), in Room #5. All are welcome to join us and bring your fundraising ideas.

RECYCLING

at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

by Linda Grahe

Update: From October 5th to December 21, 2025, we collected a TOTAL of 621 empty medicine bottles (& over the counter bottles). What a GREAT JOB for just 3 months.

As of 1/11/2026, we collected 209 pill bottles. WOW what a great start for 2026.

Also, thank you for your donations of bags (brown paper & plastic) and egg cartons.

RUTH CIRCLE

Women's Bible Study
by Joann Soult

Ruth Circle Bible study will meet via Zoom on Thursday, February 5 at 2:00 pm. We'll begin a new study using "Psalm 91 for Mothers" by Peggy Joyce Ruth, studying Chapters 1 and 2 with Joann Soult leading (202-544-7981 or jsoult624@gmail.com). Order your book now and begin the New Year with us!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (S.A.M.)

by Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

The Senior Adult Ministry is pleased to announce that we will be sharing information about several exciting trips during our upcoming team meetings. All team members and friends are invited to join us at any of our upcoming meetings (posted on the S.A.M. bulletin board) at 1:00 pm in room 5, where we will present details and answer any questions regarding these opportunities. We look forward to seeing everyone there and discussing the wonderful experiences planned for our senior adults and friends.

Keep an eye out for the posting on the "Bulletin Board" for our March 12th trip to Clear Space Theater "42nd Street" and lunch at the Cottage Café.

Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER

by Paul Grahe

In February, I am planning to hold a Son & Sand Greeters' Meeting on Sunday, February 22nd after the late service at 12 noon. If you would like to learn about this ministry and serve as a Son & Sand Greeter, I am available in the CLC on Sundays or you may email me at p.grahe@comcast.net or by phone at 443-604-8068.

WITNESS

by Evelyn Houston

Both man and God. Jesus' presence in our lives can take on both meanings if we let His gift of salvation and His word alive in the gospels impact us day to day. In his ministry on earth, Jesus took pains to speak plainly so all could understand. He told

parables and gave lessons of how to live and care for each other.

Jesus was humble, not aloof to human needs and troubles. He came to do God's will as a servant. He emphasized with men and women in their journey for wholeness with their God. So, can it be surprising, that when he teaches us how to pray, it's done in a quiet and conversational way? There's nothing showy about the Lord's Prayer.

We, as Christians, believe Jesus was both God and man for a specific purpose: as a sacrifice for sin. He lived so he could die. As a demonstration of faith in this both awesome and humbling act, many of us this month on Ash Wednesday, will observe a ritual to begin Lent. We will receive the mark of ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our sinfulness and our mortality. Our only hope is in Him, both God and man.

During the 40 days of Lent, let's find a quiet place for a few moments— to pray, to reflect, to read the Bible or devotions— and remember our dependence on God and His grace. He accepts and loves us as human beings, as sinners. But he also instilled in us His spark, a hope of our conversion in the Holy Spirit as Saints. His only Son rose for us on Easter from a human being to achieve the glorious victory we are all called to share.

want you to cut into your weekly giving. Your weekly giving goes toward our annual budget and the Mission of our church. Any donation to the Capital Funding Campaign should be over and above your regular offering. If you cannot give, that is okay.

Please continue to keep praying for our Call Committee team as they work through the process of inputting into the Mission Site Profile to obtain Pastoral candidates for our permanent Pastor. Continue to pray for Pastor Bettye Wolinski as she continues to move us forward as our Intentional Interim Pastor.

Finally, I want to make you aware of the formation of a Strategic Planning Team that will be developing our six-month, one-year, 18-month and two-year plans. Mary Lou Tietz will be overseeing this team as she has an extensive background in strategic planning. The Strategic Planning Team will consist of two (2) Council members, two (2) Ministry Team Leads and one (1) to two (2) members from the congregation. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please see me or Mary Lou and let us know.

Sincerely,
David Marzola



++ ST. PETER'S NEWS ++

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

by David Marzola

God's Peace and Blessings to the Congregation of St. Peter's Lutheran Church,

I would like to take this time to thank the Church Council for voting me in as Council President for 2026. We discussed Continuity of Operations during the Call Process and the Executive Team remained in place with Mary Lou Tietz and Susanne Howard being voted in as Vice-President and Secretary. The Church Council works as one team and our goal is to look out for what is best for the congregation and St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Each Family/Member should have received or will be receiving a letter that I prepared regarding **P.A.C.T.** and the announcement of a new Capital Funding Campaign to purchase a new Audio and Visual system for the sanctuary at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. If you can donate to this campaign that is fantastic; however, I do not

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

December - 112 (4 weeks including Christmas Eve)

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

Total Contributions as of December 28, 2025

\$393,090.88 Year-to-Date Budget

\$410,947.25 Year-to-Date Received

\$ 17,856.37 Year-to-Date Difference

OUR CURRENT REALITY AT ST. PETER'S

Life at St. Peter's

Our worship schedule offers a Contemporary Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. and a Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. We are offering Holy Communion at both services, handing you the bread and pouring red wine into your cup. We also have gluten-free wafers and pre-filled cups of white grape juice for those who request/require them. Those who are not comfortable sharing in Holy Communion in

this fashion are still in full Communion through the words of promise.

You are encouraged to share the "Peace of God" in whatever way you feel comfortable.

Both Services are in the Sanctuary with coffee and refreshments available in the CLC before and after each service.

Masks are not required for anyone, but you are encouraged to wear a mask if you are more comfortable doing so. Masks are available at the Greeter's Desk.

Hand sanitizer – available throughout the building.

We are looking for someone who would be willing to help with live streaming.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions

OTHER GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND GROUPS

The church building is open for in-house meetings and choir practices.

St. Peter's Council meetings are being held in person.

Ministry Teams are meeting in whatever way they are most comfortable; either in person or via Zoom.

The building is open for outside groups. Those meetings/gatherings must make reservations coordinated through the church office.

Church office hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.- 3 p.m and Fridays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Please contact Amy via phone, text, or email **during these hours**.

We will continue to stay connected and keep you updated with concerns and changes via the Constant Contact email system, the Call Multiplier automated prayer chain, and by mail for those who are not electronically connected.

We thank you for your continued support and partnership in the mission and ministries at St. Peter's.

ALTAR FLOWERS & COMMUNION ELEMENTS



If you would like to sponsor flowers for a Sunday morning worship service *in Memory* or *in Honor* of a loved one, you may do so by calling the church office to make those arrangements. The cost for both vases is \$95.

You may also sponsor Communion Elements for a particular Sunday in the same manner. The donation for sponsoring elements is \$20. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Our February Ministry of the Month is "The Cold Weather Shelter."



Each winter we are blessed to be able to convert our Retreat Center into a Code Purple Cold Weather Shelter for our homeless sisters and brothers. This life saving community ministry is only possible through the support of individuals and businesses in our community.

The Shelter is open December 1-March 30th, based on temperatures and wind chill factors. The shelter not only offers a warm place for folks to sleep in a safe and loving environment, we also provide meals, personal hygiene items, hot showers, laundry service, fellowship, and bus passes for them to get to and from the shelter. We ask you to prayerfully consider giving a monetary donation to help defray the costs of operating the shelter. Please prayerfully consider sending a special donation to the church in February and marking it "Cold Weather Shelter."

We also ask you to prayerfully consider other ways that you might be able to safely support this ministry. First and foremost, praying for those who don't have a warm place to lay their head at night. We are also in need of folks to help with registration,

providing meals, and folks to stay overnight with the residents. If you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities, please call the church office and let us know. Safe practices training will be available and required for all volunteers. Thank you for your support of this life saving ministry. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this very important ministry.



GIFTS & MEMORIALS



Gifts Received in December

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

DAN HOLTZER

for
Christmas Gift
from
Mary Ann Holtzer

E. REESE & LOUISE WOLF

to
Gifts & Memorials
by
Sharon Harris

IN HONOR OF

SHELENE RENO

to
Open Door Feeding Ministry
by
Ken & Connie Corbett



++NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION++



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Bill & Rose Skledar	02/07
Catherine Walker & John Tiberi	02/14
Johan & Rosemary Nykvist	02/18
Ken & Connie Corbett	02/29



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Karen Boone	02/01	Carolyn Nuovo	02/16
Harry Biles	02/11	Bob Swingler	02/17
Pamela Dolle	02/12	David Wolinski	02/17
Karen Nash	02/14	Elsie Koehler	02/20
		Eric Myers	02/25

CAN YOU HELP GIVE A RIDE?



We are looking for folks who are able to give other rides to worship or

medical appointments. If you are able to help with this from time to time please call the church.

We are also looking for a contact person to help coordinate rides when the need arises. If you are willing to be that person, please call the church office.

PRAYER CHAIN AND PRAYER LIST

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
Ephesians 1:16

The “**Call Multiplier**” automated prayer chain continues to be a valuable resource and blessing. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please text or call **Pastor Bettye at 410-292-2360** to have a prayer request sent out. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, you **MUST** have his/her permission before sending out the request. We can share as much, or as little, information as you want to be shared. When you receive a prayer call, you are asked to pause and offer prayer for the need presented. You are then asked to continue to hold that person/need in prayer. The Automated Prayer Chain will be active

daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please let Pastor Bettye know if you are not receiving the prayer calls and would like to be.

St. Peter's prayer list: In order to keep our prayer list up to date, names that are on the prayer list (that are published in the newsletter and bulletins) will remain on the list for one month. If after that month, there is still a need for that person to be held in prayer, you will need to let the church office know so we can put the name back on for another month. While we want to be praying for everyone who needs our prayers, we also have to be able to keep that list current and up to date. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Permission is needed to use your full name when publishing your request for prayers in both the bulletin and newsletter. Call the office.

Current needs: Susan Preston, Hannah, Sharon Goodwin, Howard family & friends of Patti, Jon Gerbracht & family, Tina Palmer, Chris Evans, Karen Southard, Pr. Harry & Carol Wolpert, Daniel, Bob Jordan, Alex Alexis, John Poggi, Ray Priebe, Margaret Dennis, Anna Marie Mapp

Ongoing needs: Caregivers, first responders and all on the front lines working to save lives, St. Peter's Call Committee, Preston Osteen, Karen Schultz, Brenda Scheminant, Ava & Amelia Councell, Bonnie Hiewsky, Bob Swingler, Sandy Holthe, Mary Haynes, Sue Shoop, Terri Wheatley, Lynn Benach grandbaby due Jan, Ginny Hartmuller, Marjorie Hagood, Bob Coyner, Paul Tishuk, Savannah Bona, Melissa Jester, Dex Stannard, Chuck Pyle, Matt Harry, Dan Barnhart, Mary Ann Holtzer, Dave Searle, Jen Anderson

Assisted Living: Fred Deily, Mim Fritz, Violet Green, Elsie Koehler, Betty Romig

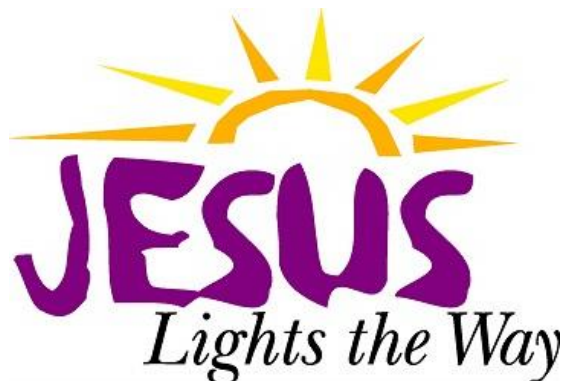
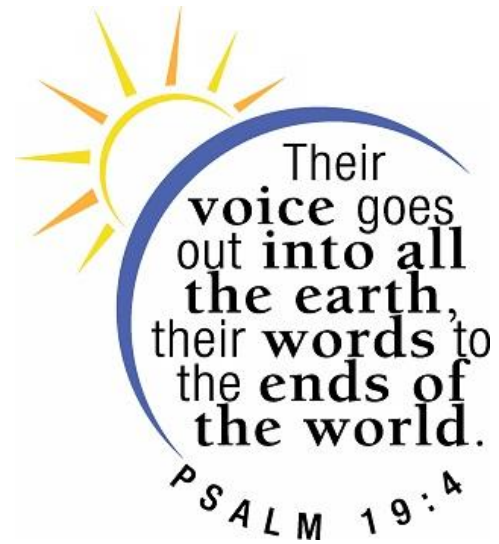
In the Military: Justin Carter, Cal Cramer, Katie Cramer, Stephanie Dalocchio, Matthew Dennis,

Noah Kauffman, Nicolas Nalbhone, David Owens, Jarrett Patterson, Joshua Robinson, Nicholas Sorrentino, Jacob Sturgill

Our Bishops: Yahiel Curry & Bill Gohl

G-4 Church Partners:

Community Lutheran Church (Frankford, DE)
Grace of God Lutheran Church (Longneck, DE)
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (Salisbury, MD)
St. Albans Episcopal Church





2026 COUNCIL

++FROM ST. PETER'S OFFICE++

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES
CONTACT
PASTOR BETTYE
For emergencies or after hours
(c) 410-292-2360**

FROM THE OFFICE
Please inform the church office of any changes in your personal information: mailing address, email address, phone numbers, marriage, divorce, or new births so we can keep our records up-to-date

OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Thursday
9:00am - 3:00pm**

**Friday
9:00am-1:00pm**

STAFF

The Rev. Bettye Wolinski,
emwolinski@msn.com
The Rev. Dr. Harry Wolpert, Pastor Emeritus
handcoc2003@yahoo.com
Mr. Elsworth Wheatley, Minister of Music
Wheatleymusic@aol.com
Mr. Keith Hall, Praise Team Leader
Soulendeavors.keith@gmail.com
Ms. Amy Morgan, Office Manager
amy.splcoc@comcast.net

Pastor Betty Wolinski
President - Dave Marzola
Vice President - Mary Lou Tietz
Secretary - Susanne Howard
Treasurer - Dave Wolinski (Non-Voting member)
Financial Secretary -
Vonnie Brown, Ken Corbett, Lee Creamer,
Marcie Ermer, Steve Kiser, Jeannette Latzo,
Tina Palmer, Theresa Pyle, Charlene Vanvick

MINISTRY TEAMS & LEADERS

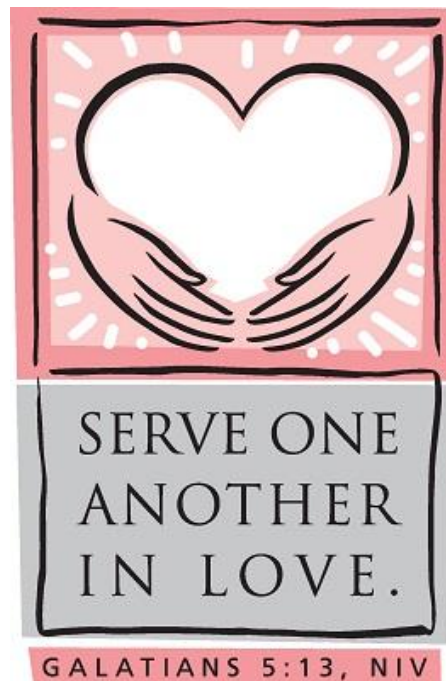
Altar Guild - Maryanne Siegert
Christian Education - Pastor Bettye Wolinski
Community Service - Mary Lou Tietz
Fellowship - Jeannette Latzo
Fundraising - Linda Grahe
Mutual Ministry -
Open Door Feeding Ministry - Char Vanvick
Personnel - Vonnie Brown
Property - Steve Germeroth
*Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.) - Bridget Foster
& Susanne Howard*
Son & Sand - Paul Grahe
Stewardship/Support - Phil Ermer
Witness - Evelyn Houston
Women of ELCA - Evelyn Houston
Worship and Music -



PSALM 72:5, NIV

FEBRUARY BIBLE LESSONS

Sunday, February 1 4th Sunday after Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12
Sunday, February 8 5th Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 112:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20
Sunday, February 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9
Sunday, February 22 1st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE FOR PASTOR BETTYE'S ACTIVITIES

Invite Us Deeper

Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.

- 2/1/26** Personnel Mtg after 10:30 service
- 2/2/26** 12n Constitution Review, 2pm Executive Mtg,
- 2/3/26** Doctor's Appointment
- 2/10/26** Council Mtg
- 2/12/26** 5:30pm Soup and Sandwich
- 6pm Bible Study "What does it Mean to Be Chosen?"
- Interactive study with book and video based on the current series of the life of Jesus, THE CHOSEN
- 2/16/26** 4:30pm Staff Mtg
- 2/18/26** ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES:
- 9AM IMPOSITION OF ASHES
- 1PM IMPOSITION OF ASHES
- 7PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION
- 2/19/26** Bible Study & Meal
- 2/23/26** 2pm Support Team Mtg
- 2/26/26** Bible Study & Meal