

# THE NET

## MARCH 2026

*“Look at the birds of the air;  
they do not sow or reap or store  
away in barns, and yet your  
heavenly Father feeds them.  
Are you not much more  
valuable than they?”*



MATTHEW 6:26, NIV



# St. Peter's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

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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

Friends,

The Lenten season causes many Christians to turn their attention to prayer, giving, and other activities for spiritual growth and reflection. Lent is a time to be thoughtful; to spend time in worship pondering the words "you are dust and to dust you shall return." We also remember the words of Psalm 51,

" Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Throughout the season, we are called to put our priorities in order and to consider what it means to embrace the invitation to examine ourselves as God's children. Are we bringing our questions to Jesus with hearts wide open to being transformed? Are we being as rigorously honest in our doings as the woman at the well? Have we truly embraced the good news as both Martha, sister of Lazarus and Mary, Mother of God did? More likely, we are somewhere between the pilgrims in Jerusalem crying, "Hosanna God save us," and the words on Good Friday which the same pilgrims cried, "Crucify him." Our words, our actions, in this day and age, in this highly charged climate of change, often leave us somewhere in between.

As we've received this version of the March **NET** we will be within days of Holy Week. We will have reached the end of our Lenten journey only to enter into the triumphal entry, the Last Supper, the cross, and then the resurrection. I believe it to be especially important that we embrace the pull and tug of this season of Lent this year and that we continue to ask questions of ourselves in reflection on the gospel texts as we hear them on Sunday mornings, not just the hopeful texts but the harsh texts as well. Listen to this invitation in the weeks ahead:

*You are warmly invited to join us as we journey together through the sacred days of Holy Week, a time to remember, reflect, and rejoice in the love of Christ. From the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday through the quiet intimacy of Maunday Thursday, the solemn beauty of Good Friday, and the expectant silence of Holy Saturday, we prepare our hearts for the joy of Resurrection morning. Each service we will share is an opportunity to walk alongside Jesus in his final days, to share in the sacrifice of his death and to celebrate the hope of his resurrection whether you come in moments of faith, doubt, or searching. You are welcome here, come as you are, and leave renewed.*

**Pastor Bettye**



## **++ST. PETER'S MINISTRY TEAMS++**

### **ALTAR GUILD**

by Maryanne Siegert

The women of the Altar Guild are very busy this month as we continue our Lenten and Easter preparations. We follow the directions of Pastor Bettye for the different services throughout this season. Watch for future requests for spring flowers for Easter celebration in the bulletin. We do all of this with joy.

We do all of this with joy.  
Maryanne Siegert

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

by Mary Lou Tietz

The Community Services Committee met in January to review our holiday programs and to plan for upcoming spring programs. We will be meeting in late February to complete that planning process so that we can arrange Easter dinners for all the families we support and provide Easter baskets filled with candy, toys, and gift cards for the children in those families. We will be putting needed items for the food and gift baskets in the bulletin so that members of the congregation can donate by bringing those items to the church or sending in financial support. Our notices in the bulletin will begin the first Sunday of March, with Easter being April 5<sup>th</sup> and the committee hoping to deliver those items the week prior.

We also discussed ways that we can be of more support to the Cold Weather Shelter, which, due to the very cold temperatures, has been open a record number of nights since opening in December. We are grateful to all who have volunteered at the shelter, and more help is needed to provide meals and register our guests if it is not possible for you to stay overnight.

The shelter will be open through March. We will hope for better weather from this point on, but not knowing what is in the forecast, we would ask for your volunteer support and/or financial support if you are able to contribute. Checks for the shelter can be written to St. Peter's, marked Shelter Program or you can get in touch with Jason Long, one of the shelter coordinators, at [acmcdcoldweathershelter@gmail.com](mailto:acmcdcoldweathershelter@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer or bring a meal.

We are very blessed to have a location to house those in need of shelter - we are asked so many times in scripture to do this for the most vulnerable in our communities, but, as we know, there is a cost in terms of both manpower and financial resources. Thank you, as always, for supporting this vital, life-supporting program.

Our feeding programs also continue, and we thank you again for your ongoing support. The Community Services Committee always welcomes new members. We will not meet in March but will meet again in April and thereafter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Please let Mary Lou Tietz know of your interest at [maryloutietz@yahoo.com](mailto:maryloutietz@yahoo.com) or by phone at 302-539-0793.

### **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

January was a quiet time for Fellowship. We had our first meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The January 31<sup>st</sup> Shooters Response was cancelled due to weather. New date is being considered.

For February, we set up a small meal for the Bible Study on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. According to interest, beginning Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have a small meal every Thursday at 5 PM and Bible Study starting at 5:30 PM.

As usual, we will continue coffee hour before Sunday church and between the services. The amount of interest has been slow compared to the past, so we'll skim back on the amount of bagels and pastries.

Jeannette Latzo

## FUND RAISING

by Linda Grahe & Susanne Howard

### Super Bowl Sunday Sub Fundraiser (Sunday, February 8, 2026)

Many thanks to those who donated their time/money to the Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser:

Open Kettle for the delicious chicken to make the chicken salad

Paul and Linda Grahe for donating \$164 for the food and supplies

Cash donations totaling \$100

Those who ordered the 48 subs.

A BIG THANK YOU to the those who spent

Saturday making all the delicious subs.

All of the above participants contributed to the success of the FIRST FUNDRAISER of 2026 by helping start the new year with a profit of **\$580!**

## RECYCLING at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

by Linda Grahe

Look for a New Update in The April Net

## RUTH CIRCLE

Women's Bible Study

by Joann Soultis

Ruth Circle Bible study will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 5 at 2:00 pm. We have just started a new study using "Psalm 91 for Mothers" by Peggy Joyce Ruth. Chapters 3 and 4 will be discussed with Joann Soultis leading (202-544-7981 or jsoultis624@gmail.com). Order your book now and join us!

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (S.A.M.)

by Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

The Senior Adult Ministry team met in January to plan and organize upcoming trips. During this meeting, the team demonstrated enthusiasm and creativity, generating a variety of interesting ideas for future activities. Their efforts resulted in a productive session focused on providing meaningful experiences for our members, friends, visitors, and neighbors in our community. Let us share a few upcoming trips.

**Thursday, March 12th**, Clear Space Theater, the musical "42nd Street" and lunch at the Cottage Cafe. The show starts at 11:00am, and lunch at 1:30pm. Cost is \$60pp.

Sign-up sheet on the SAM bulletin board. Check with Susanne or Bridget to see if any tickets are available.

**Saturday, May 2nd**, It's off to the Milton Theatre to see "Nunsense II," the hilarious spoof about the misadventures of five nuns trying to manage a fundraiser. This 2:00pm matinee will keep you laughing through the entire performance. Cost is \$41pp. Keep your eye out for the sign-up sheet on the SAM bulletin board.

**Wednesday, May 26**, "An unforgettable Experience, Treasures of the Sea," at Delaware Technical Community College. The Spanish galleon, Nuestra Senor de Atocha, and sister ship, Santa Margarita, were lost off the coast of Florida in 1622. 1,000 silver bars, 180,000 silver coins, bronze cannons, deep green emeralds, gold jewels, and religious articles, eluded everyone for 360 years. Treasure hunter, Melvin Joseph, Sr. of Delaware, believing in the search, was an investor in the recovery of over \$4,000,000 in artifacts. Our museum curator, Angela, will walk us through an hour tour, which also includes a 45-minute film. Seating and restrooms are available in the museum. Lunch will be at Fins Restaurant in Georgetown. The cost is \$41.00.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings on the following dates:

Monday, April 20; Monday, July 20; and Monday, October 19, and bring any suggestions for a S.A.M. trip for all to enjoy. Keep your eye on the S.A.M. bulletin board!

Blessings to All.

## SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER

by Paul Grahe

Wishing Paul a complete recovery...

Look for information in The April Net

## WITNESS

by Evelyn Houston

In the early days of Jesus' Ministry, his teachings were directed at the Jewish people — spreading the message that he is the expected Messiah to his people who have been waiting for him. But as his ministry progressed and as his time on earth neared an end, Jesus expanded his message to meet and welcome all people, Samaritans, pagans, Gentiles, the sick, and the poor. Jesus continually

broke down barriers during his ministry on earth to bring people together in love rather than dividing them by rules and laws.

In the four New Testament gospels, we find a group of women who were with Jesus at the crucifixion. This is clearly a significant and noteworthy event. Why is it significant and noteworthy? As most of you know, women were marginalized in that time and place in history. Women generally had no income or support of their own. But here we see women traveling with Jesus, both from Galilee and from Jerusalem. Did they understand Jesus' message? I'd like to think that Jesus' Message of Love for all resonated with women in particular. Here they demonstrate their own sacrificial love by giving time, energy, and scarce finances to support Jesus in his ministry. Importantly, they were present at Jesus' death and escorted him home to the Father. They showed up.

Where can we show up for Jesus? Just look around. Let His love show through you every day, like it did for Women at the Cross.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

by David Marzola

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

This will be a short message as we prepare to celebrate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's death and resurrection to save everyone.

I would like to thank the Congregation Members who were able to attend the Special Meeting in February to vote on the Capital Funding Campaign. This will permit us to address our needs through Audio and Visual capabilities. It will allow us to restart our streaming of both services to our shut-ins and reach out to others through electronic media.

Please continue to pray for our Call Committee team as they work through the process of inputting into the Mission Site Profile. As part of the Call Process, St. Peter's Lutheran Church is required to obtain a Financial Review of our Finances. I am happy to report on the review that was conducted the weekend of February 13-15, 2026. We received a positive outcome report that we can now submit with the Mission Site Profile. Thank you again to our Treasurer, David Wolinski for maintaining our books. Great Job, Dave!

Finally, as we move into the spring and summer seasons, we will be scheduling a church clean-up event as well as other events for Fellowship opportunities. Thank you to the Ministry Teams heading up these events. I am so happy to be a part of this congregation as we continue to move forward at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,  
David Marzola

### CALL COMMITTEE

by Veronica Bona-Committee Communications

#### Greetings from the Call Committee

We hope you had a Fabulous February! We wish to THANK EVERYONE who filled out and returned the surveys. What an awesome response, almost 50% returned, which gives us plenty of feedback to work with. We are compiling the information and using it to fill out the Ministry Profile for potential candidates. March will be an exciting month for us as we continue forward with the Call process. Don't forget SPRING is on the way, and we have ST. PATRICKS DAY!!

Blessing to all  
Veronica Bona  
Call Committee, Communications

### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY

78 (4 Weeks)

### MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

**Total Contributions as of January 29, 2026**  
**\$30,349.40 Year-to-Date Budget**  
**\$32,638.13 Year-to-Date Received**  
**\$ 2,288.73 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.

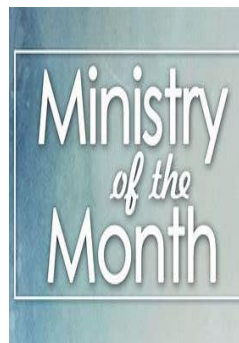
### **ALTAR FLOWERS & COMMUNION ELEMENTS**



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 March Ministry of the Month is St. Peter’s “Military Support Ministry.” Our Community Service Team works diligently to stay in contact and support folks in our congregation and/or their family members who are actively serving in the military. This is done through prayer, as well as sending cards, notes, and gift cards. We ask you to keep these folks, along with all those serving in the military, and their families, in your prayers. We have a list with these folk’s addresses and encourage you to join us in reaching out to them with a card or a note. We also ask you to prayerfully consider sending a donation into the church designated “Military Support Ministry” to help to pay for the gift cards and shipping costs.

Please contact Mary Lou Tietz if you have any questions.

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



**++NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION++**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Soultz, Joann & Bill 03/15



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

David Firor	03/03	Jeannette Latzo	03/17
Ronald Hartmans	03/04	P. J. Lyon-Patterson	03/17
Deanna Floyd	03/05	Sharey Biles	03/19
Sharon Harris	03/05	Karen Schultz	03/20
Patti Hare	03/06	Pamela Wagner	03/20
Miriam Fritz	03/08	Bettilyn Bogia	03/22
Catherine Wood	03/08	Herb Zampini	03/23
Georgia Ash	03/14	Constance Kruelle	03/25
Carol Ann Ellis	03/14	Gary Wagner	03/26
Bill Skledar	03/14	Katie Rimel	03/29

**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.



**GIFTS & MEMORIALS**



Gifts Received in January

to  
Gifts & Memorials  
from  
The Polish American Social Society

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**PATTI HOWARD**

to  
Gifts & Memorials  
from  
Dee Floyd

**RHEA WILLIAMS**

to  
Gifts & Memorials  
from  
Bethany United Methodist Church

**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.

**In the Military:** Justin Carter, Cal Cramer, Katie Cramer, Stephanie Dallochio, Matthew Dennis, Noah Kauffman, Nicolas Nalbhone, David Owens, Jarrett Patterson, Joshua Robinson, Nicholas Sorrentino, Jacob Sturgill


**Our Bishops:** Yahiel Curry & Bill Gohl

**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.

**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*

**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:** Ted & Linda, Candace Allen, Family & friends of Margaret Dennis, Bonnie Hiewsky, The Rimels, Teresa, Mary, Terry, Trish, Dan Barnhart, Susan Osteen, Brenda Golden, Fred Deily, Lynn Smith, Paul & Linda Grahe, Brittany, Rita Curry, Joanne & Frank Gum, Ellen

**Ongoing needs:** Caregivers, first responders and all on the front lines working to save lives, St. Peter's Call Committee, Hannah, Jon Gerbracht, Pr. Harry & Carol Wolpert, Stephanie George, Karen Schultz, Brenda Scheminant, Ava Cuncell, Bob Swingler, Sandy Holthe, Mary Haynes, Sue Shoop, Terri Wheatley, Ginny Hartmuller, Marjorie Hagood, Bob Coyner, Paul Tishuk, Savannah Bona, Melissa Jester, Dex Stannard, Chuck Pyle, Matt Harry, Mary Ann Holtzer, Dave Searle, Jen Anderson

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





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

## MARCH BIBLE LESSONS

<p><b>Sunday, March 1</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b></p>	<p><b>Genesis 12:1-4a</b>  <b>Psalm 121</b>  <b>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</b>  <b>John 3:1-17</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, March 8</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b></p>	<p><b>Exodus 17:1-7</b>  <b>Psalm 95</b>  <b>Romans 5:1-11</b>  <b>John 4:5-42</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, March 15</b>  <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b></p>	<p><b>1 Samuel 16:1-13</b>  <b>Psalm 23</b>  <b>Ephesians 5:8-14</b>  <b>John 9:1-41</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, March 22</b>  <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b></p>	<p><b>Ezekiel 37:1-14</b>  <b>Psalm 130</b>  <b>Romans 8:6-11</b>  <b>John 11:1-45</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday, March 29</b>  <b>Palm Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Isaiah 50:4-9a</b>  <b>Psalm 31:9-16</b>  <b>Philippians 2:5-11</b>  <b>Processional Gospel - Matthew 21:1-11</b>  <b>Gospel Narrative - Matthew 27:11-31</b></p>

