

# THE NET

## APRIL 2026

“He has risen  
from the dead ...”

Matthew 28:7, NIV





# 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

*"All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers."  
Francois Fenelon*

*"Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

*Jesus of Nazareth at his Resurrection*

As Pastor, I send you this message from a theologian from the 1600's when war was rampant in Europe.

As a child of God, I remind you of the words of peace.

We are all children of the Abrahamic faith, Christian, Muslim, and Jew. The words of the Messiah were not just for a few but for the many. His words were told at a time of bloodshed between warring siblings as it has been so for generations.

Having just spent 40 days in the darkness, we are now trying to find the light in the season of the resurrection. This light is found in our trust in the risen Lord's words, "Do not be afraid." The horror, hope, and beauty of our Lord's trial, crucifixion, and resurrection come to us in a new way this season as once again we find ourselves at war with our neighbors, friends, and siblings. I remember asking my parents what it was like to live at a time of World War II when families were divided due to the war, the loss of loved ones, and economic disease. Their answer to me as the next generation was simply that they trusted in God to provide. Easter was the season of hope in the world's hopeless state. The promises of the resurrected Lord guided them to put one foot in front of the other and live as a people of faith. Can we do the same?

It is hurtful to see siblings fight. Let us not add to the pain of the war by being at war with each other. Let us live as children of the King in love, children of the Resurrection, hope filled with tolerance. This is not a political statement but a Christian belief as one who prefers the words of our savior, "Do not be afraid."

He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! *Pastor Bettye*



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

### ALTAR GUILD

by Maryanne Siegert

The Altar Guild was busy during our Lenten season. We would like to thank all of the folks who purchased flowers in order to decorate our Altar for our Easter celebration. We truly appreciate it. A special thanks to Amy for working with the florist to get all of the orders accurate. And a thank you to our Pastor for her guidance around the different services needed for this season of Lent. We do all of this with joy.

Submitted by Maryanne Siegert

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

by Mary Lou Tietz

The Community Services Committee met this month and planned the Easter holiday project of delivering full Easter meals to the families we support, as well as putting together Easter buckets filled with candy and toys for the children in our families, of which there will be over 20 this year. The buckets (instead of baskets, we fill buckets for the kids so they can use them to dig in the sand after the holiday) and meals will be delivered the week of Easter and will help make it a very joyful time for everyone! Members of the congregation have always been very generous in helping us supply the hams for the Easter dinners and books, gift cards, candy, and toys for the buckets, and we really appreciate that!!

We also discussed the winter weather and how it affected the shelter program this year, with the need to be open many more days this year to help those in need of a warm bed to sleep in, a meal or two, the chance for a warm shower, and maybe a chance to wash their clothes. What a privilege it is and a blessing that we are able to reach out to those in need. After we give all the volunteers a chance to rest, we will be discussing the shelter more and how we can all be more helpful in the future. But we thank the Lord for those who serve this very important ministry religiously - it takes a

lot of energy and compassion to serve this population!

We also need to announce that our feeding programs have won an award from the Evangelical Lutheran Church for the very important work they do. We are all truly grateful for the devotion of this group of volunteers. The award will be presented to St. Peter's for its work in this area in the near future, and we will display it in the church. More information will be available in the next NET.

The Community Services Committee thanks you, as always, for your generosity. We say it all the time, but it is ever so important that you know that YOU make it work for us.

There will be no meeting in April, so our next meeting will be the second Wednesday of May at 2:00 at the church. Come join us – everybody is welcome!!

Mary Lou

### **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

March was a quiet month for Fellowship. We're still in the early stages of knowing what the congregation wants and what we can do to make joyous food get-togethers. The Bible Study light meal has been changed a couple of times. We think we have an easy system now. (Brown Bagging) We hope that everyone enjoys the light meal. Each week there will be different sandwiches, fruit, and different desserts.

We are now discussing dinners for the future.  
Jeannette Latzo

## RUTH CIRCLE

Women's Bible Study  
by Joann Soultz

Ruth Circle Bible study will meet via Zoom on Thursday, April 2 at 2:00 pm. Our current study will be using "Psalm 91 for Mothers" by Peggy Joyce Ruth, Chapters 5 and 6 with Joann Soultz leading (202-544-7981 or jsoultz624@gmail.com). Order your book now and join us!

## RECYCLING

at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

by Linda Grahe

We collected 288 medicine bottles in January and 171 in February for a Total of 459 medicine bottles so far. What a Great Start! Reminder: we are still collecting bags (plastic & paper) and egg cartons. THANKS

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

by Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

In February, the Senior Adult Ministry was able to send \$1,400 to the ELCA Good Gifts for the purchase of 2 family farms. The family farm helps a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty with eggs, milk, and meat to eat and sell and tools and training to increase harvest. This gift creates a world of opportunity for a family.

SAM always plans great events and trips.

On Thursday, March 12th we saw the musical *42nd Street* at Clear Space Theater in Rehoboth followed by lunch at Cottage Cafe. What a terrific show, and lunch was great and full of fellowship, and laughter.

On Saturday, May 2nd we'll travel to Milton Theater in Milton, DE. to see the musical *Nunsense II*, which promises to be a fun experience. The show starts at 2:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 26th a trip is planned to Delaware Tech to see the exhibit *Treasurers of the Sea*, a beautiful collection of Spanish treasures from a 17th century shipwreck, the Nuestra Señora de Atocha. The Atocha went down in a hurricane on 9/6/1622 off the coast of Florida; the shipwreck treasure was finally recovered and calculated to be worth more than \$4 million. We'll see a short film followed by a guided tour. Lunch will follow at FINS restaurant which is across the street.

Check the SAM bulletin board in the Narthex for more information about our trips.

If you would like to join our ministry, SAM meetings are on Monday, 4/20; Monday, 7/20, and Monday, 10/19 in Room 5 at 1pm

## SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER

by Paul Grahe

I am happy to report we have received 10 requests for dates this year from the following States: Maryland-3; New York-1; Pennsylvania-4; and Virginia-2. A meeting of the Son & Sand Greeters is scheduled for Sunday, April 19, 12:00 noon in Room #5. If anyone is interested in learning about the Retreat Center, you can see me in church or call me at 443-604-8068. I want to thank Amy for covering for me during my illness.

Jesus was dead; no doubt about it. The political and religious authorities had issued his death warrant; professional military executioners carried out the order, and friends, family, and foes watched the gruesome scene in fascination and horror. After three exhilarating years of proclaiming God's coming kingdom, preaching, healing, and demonstrating the depths of sacrificial Love, Jesus now hung on a cross while others picked up whatever pieces remained.

The faithful women at the cross made their way to Jesus' tomb. What awaited them completely contradicted their expectations. The now open tomb was an empty tomb. How do you explain that? Confused, they were confronted by mysterious angel like figures: "he's not here; he's not even dead any longer; he is risen."

The journey from fear to faith is seldom straightforward. One or two steps forward, one or two steps backward. Can we progress toward a vital faith that will sustain us along difficult Paths? For sure we need to be grounded in the saving events of Easter. Jesus died, really, clinically died. Then he was alive again; people met him as a band of Jesus's followers gathered to tell and retell the gist of these astonishing events. And as they broke bread and shared the cup, a new movement was born, which was led by the Holy Spirit, and turned the world upside down. This Easter, as we ponder anew these saving events, let us celebrate and proclaim the heart of Christian faith and hope. The Lord is risen; he is risen indeed ! And as God raised him from the dead, so will he raise us into his awesome presence!



**A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

by David Marzola

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

I want to take a minute to thank our Interim Pastor, Bettye Wolinski, for all that she has done and continues to do here at St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Ocean City. Pastor Bettye's guidance and spiritual leadership continue to give the congregation hope as we look toward the future. St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Ocean City continues to thrive and bring in new members as we continue moving forward. This is due to our congregation members and our pastoral leadership. I cannot thank you enough. I would also like to take time to welcome our new members to the church. Welcome to our family, and we look forward to worshipping together.

Your Church Council continues to meet monthly and tackle issues and concerns that may arise. We are in the middle of our Capital Funding Campaign to purchase our new Audio and Visual equipment for the Sanctuary. We are approaching the \$5,000 mark on our way to raising the \$59,000 needed. Thank you for all who have provided to the Campaign and those who will give in the near future. During the month of April, the Council will be addressing fundraising within the church. In particular, we are looking at ways to address fundraising so that we meet St. Peter's Mission Statement. More to come on this topic. The Council asks for your continued prayers for our Call Committee as they work through the process of inputting into the Ministry Site Profile. The Call Committee will be meeting with Council in the near future to review the Ministry Site Profile.

I leave you this month with scripture from Matthew 28, verses 5 through 7: "The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead

and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you.” This is the powerful message that we need to share with everyone as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are reminded of the hope and new life that Easter brings. CHRIST HAS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Sincerely,  
David Marzola

### **CALL COMMITTEE**

by Veronica Bona-Committee Communications

#### **Greetings from the Call Committee**

The Call Committee has received confirmation of the completion of the audit from the council. We will now continue to work on the Mission Profile and submit it to the Council for approval. Once it is approved, it will be sent to the Synod to begin the search.

Continued prayers for the Call Committee are appreciated. Have a Happy Easter.

Blessings to you all.

Veronica Bona

Call Committee Communications

### **AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR FEBRUARY**

**73 (4 Weeks + Ash Wed)**

### **MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS**

#### **Total Contributions as of February 22, 2026**

**\$60,698.80 Year-to-Date Budget**

**\$59,633.08 Year-to-Date Received**

**\$(- 1,065.72) 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.

time you sit down for a meal and pray God's blessing on that meal, please remember those who don't have enough to eat or someone to share it with.

**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.

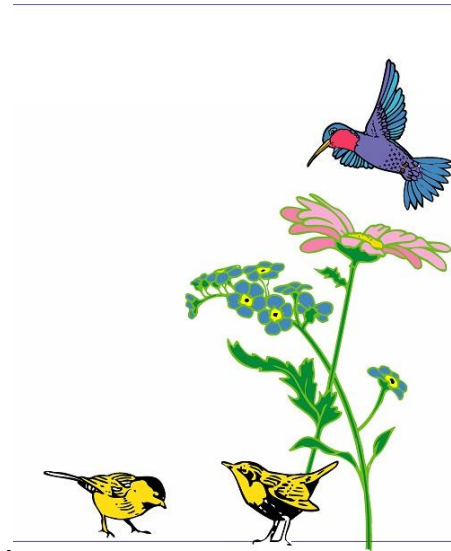
**MINISTRY OF THE MONTH**

**April Ministry of the Month is "World Hunger."**



Our April Ministry of the Month is "World Hunger." Adequate, nutritious food continues to be a very real challenge for many of our sisters and brothers around the world as they struggle to feed themselves and their families. We ask that you prayerfully consider how God is calling you to share your

blessings to help feed our neighbors around the world who don't have enough to eat. If you feel called to do so, please give a special donation/offering this month and designate your check or online giving to "World Hunger." Each



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



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Barnhardt, Daniel 04/01  
 Vanvick, Ted & Charlene 04/01



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Sally Seibold	04/01	Hannah Snyder	04/18
Rita Miller	04/03	Betty Bellarin	04/21
Charles Bell	04/04	Elizabeth Wolinski	04/21
Jennifer Anderson	04/08	Randolf Dove	04/22
Stephen Germeroth	04/08	Beverly Jester	04/22
Mary Ann Holtzer	04/09	Herla Lobo	04/25
Carole Chamberlain	04/11	Catherine Walker	04/28

### 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.

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

**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.



### GIFTS & MEMORIALS

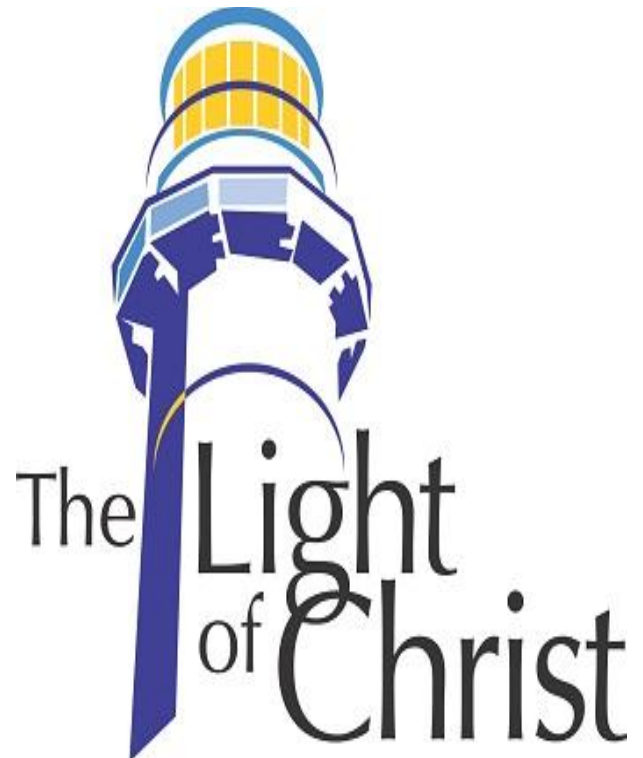


No Gifts Received in February

### 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.



## 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:** Kelsey moms & babies due soon, Roger Hornberger, Eric Rimel, Jennifer Foley, Lee, Andrew, Russell & Rebecca, Tom Hughes, Ellen DiGreggio, Betty Bellarin, Dan Barnhart & family, Jack, Lee Deal & family, Ted & Linda, Candace Allen

**Ongoing needs:** Caregivers & First Responders, St. Peter's Call Committee, Paul Grahe, Hannah, Jon Gerbracht, Pr. Harry & Carol Wolpert, Stephanie George, Karen Schultz, Brenda Scheminant, Ava Councell, 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:** Mim Fritz, Violet Green, Bonnie Hiewsky, Elsie Koehler

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

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

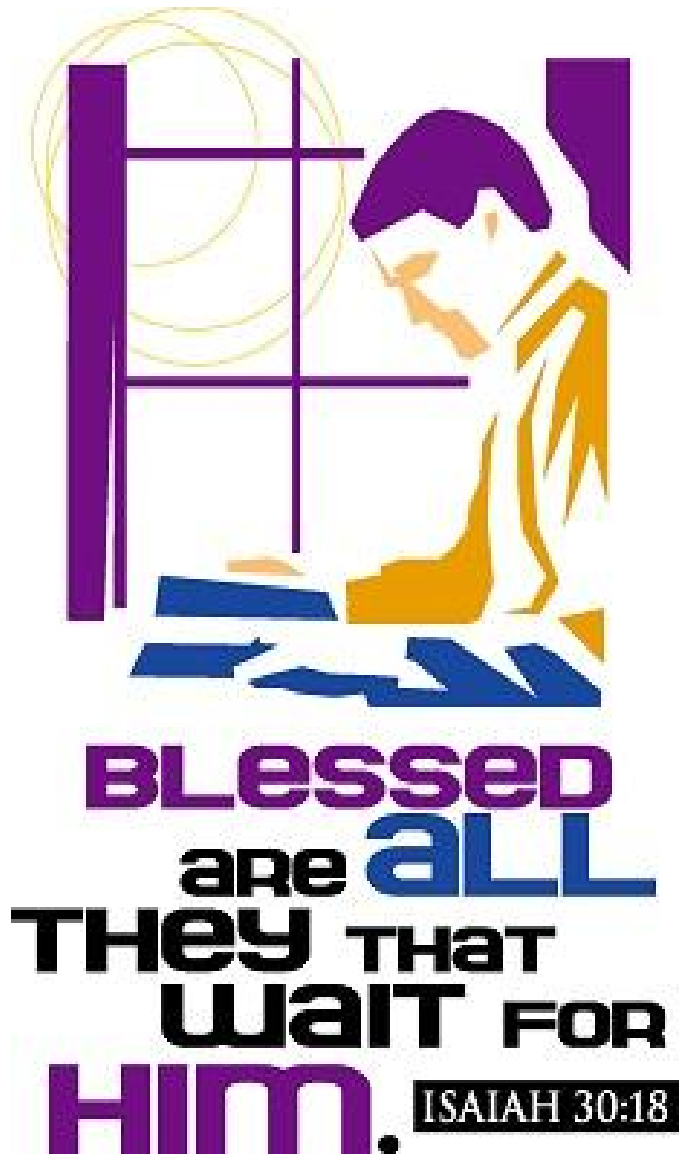
**G-4 Church Partners:**

*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](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**

## **APRIL BIBLE LESSONS**

<b>Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</b>
<b>Friday, April 3 Good Friday</b>	<b>Isaiah 52:13-52:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 Matthew 27:32-66</b>
<b>Sunday, April 5 Resurrection Sunday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10</b>
<b>Sunday, April 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31</b>
<b>Sunday, April 19 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35</b>
<b>Sunday, April 26 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10</b>