

THE NET

DECEMBER 2023





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. Frank Harpster, Senior Pastor
Rev. Harry Biles, Assistant Pastor
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 Message++

by Pastor Frank Harpster

“The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light” *Isaiah 9:1*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, Peace, and Mercy, be to you in the name of the one whose birth we soon celebrate, and whose advent draws near, Jesus the Christ. Amen

As the darkness of the sinful and broken world surrounds us, the Light of Christ shines brightly in our lives, and in our world. It is time for us to once again journey towards Bethlehem, where the light of Christ vibrantly shines, as a baby, born in a manger, because there was no room for him in the Inn.

By the grace of God, this journey will include various worship and fellowship opportunities, as well as (hopefully) times of sharing and celebrating with family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. In all of our celebrations, we must continue to be mindful that Covid has not gone away, with new variants surfacing, and we must continue to do what we can to be safe and healthy, as well as keep others safe and healthy, as we allow that light of Christ to fill our gatherings.

The readings, music, prayers, and images for our Advent and Christmas seasons proclaim the same mystery. That is the Incarnation of our Lord, God's love personified. God is not only the author and giver of all life, God also sustains all life and chooses to become one with us.

Regardless of the circumstances in your life right now, be it joy or grief, success or struggle, faith or fear, love or brokenness, Jesus has lived it himself and desires to live it with you. May we allow Christ's light to break into all aspects of your lives and allow the miracle of the Christ child to illuminate our journey.

We must also be mindful of those who may be struggling this holiday season. While we are singing “Joy to the World” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” let us remember in our thoughts, prayers, and deeds those, who for various reasons, may not be feeling much joy or merriment this year.

As we gather around food and fellowship in celebration with those we love, let us remember in thought, word, and deed those who don't have enough to eat, a warm place to gather, or someone to share it with. Let us do what we can to be that light of Christ in whatever ways our Lord is empowering us to do so.

It is my prayer for you this day, and always, that your homes are filled with the rich blessings of the Peace, Joy, and Love, found in the Christ Child, and that you are able to find new and powerful ways to be that very Peace, Joy, and Love for others.

“For unto YOU, is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

Go tell it on the Mountain, share the good news, illuminate the light of Christ in all that you say and do.

I wish you a Blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a Blessed and Happy New Year!

May your very best day in 2023 be your worst day in 2024!

Pastor Frank



++ST. PETER'S MINISTRY TEAMS++

ALTAR GUILD

by Mary Haynes

The Altar Guild provided decorations for our Thanksgiving Services.

We will be busy with the upcoming Advent Season. With the help of volunteers from the congregation, we will decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas on Thursday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. Please come and help if you can.

The poinsettias for Christmas are ordered by the Altar Guild. A form has been in the bulletin each Sunday. Thank you for your support and for helping to beautify our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

Any donation given above the price of the poinsettia will go to the Altar Guild Fund. This fund is used for special purchases the Altar Guild makes that are not included in the yearly budget.

Our wishes to all for a blessed and meaningful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours In Christ
Mary Haynes

COMMUNITY SERVICES

by Mary Lou Tietz

The Community Services Committee wants to wish everyone of you a very Merry and Joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year! The generosity of the St Peter's Congregation makes it possible to reach out to those in need in our community by feeding the hungry and being able to clothe and give a hand-up to those who struggle. By fulfilling St. Peter's mission to be in our community, we let those in need know that there is someone out there who cares about their life!!

We will meet after the new year in January, the second Wednesday of the month at 2, following our feeding programs. We would love to have you join us. Call Mary Lou Tietz at 302-539-0793 if you want a bit more info about becoming a member.

OPEN DOOR FREE LUNCH MINISTRY

Pastor Frank

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

We are offering a sit down meal, served to folks at their tables. For the safety and well-being of everyone involved, we are not serving meals buffet style at this time.

Thank you to Bob and Dianna Detwiler and Steve and Trish Kiser for leading free the lunch part of the Open Door Feeding Ministry; Doug and Linda Harry 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

Susanne Howard & Linda Grahe

As we work our way into the last month of 2023, we have two events that the Fellowship Team will host.

Advent Soup suppers will begin Wednesdays, December 6th and will continue on the next two Wednesdays, 13th, & 20th in the CLC at 5:30 pm followed by services at 6:30 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to donate a soup or dessert. Our ladies and gentleman have been known to make some delicious soups and desserts.

On Sunday, December 10, 2023 our Annual Meeting and luncheon will be held in the CLC promptly after the 10:30 am service. Pastor Frank will be hosting the sandwiches, and anyone willing to bring a side dish or dessert would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, a huge "thank you" to all who worked tirelessly during the year to make all the events a wonderful success with your time, talent, donation of baked goods, soups, and most of all your unwavering smiles and fellowship throughout all 2023 events.

Blessings always,
Susanne Howard

FUND RAISING

By Linda Grahe

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS - I am happy to report that we raised \$225.00 for St. Peter's Church Mortgage Fund. I want to thank everyone who purchased the Boscov's Discount Shopping Pass and hope you enjoyed shopping on Wednesday, October 18th.

OCEAN'S CITY CHRISTMAS PARADE - Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 11:00 AM. Please feel free to wear

your favorite Christmas outfits to get into the Christmas Spirit. Remember to bring your lawn chairs to get a front row seat for the parade. I would like to thank all the volunteers who baked the Christmas Goodies, those volunteers who worked inside and outside the church at our stand, and to those who provided donations of hot chocolate, small marshmallows, coffee (regular & decaf), bottled water, cups, napkins, and plastic spoons. Monies raised will go toward St. Peter's Church Mortgage Fund. Merry Christmas to you!

BAKE SALE - Sunday, December 3, 2023 after the early & late services. Many thanks to those who provided the Christmas Goodies. Monies raised are to go to our Mortgage Fund.

CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA - Saturday, December 16, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm. A donation of \$25.00 per person. We need volunteers to set up the hall for the event on Friday, December 15, 2023, starting at 11:00 AM (putting on table cloths, tea cups, tea pots, table decorations, Silent Auction items, etc.) Also, we need volunteers to work the day of the event. Sign up sheets are located in the CLC on Sundays to volunteer or to attend the event. You may contact Linda at 443-604-8068 to answer any questions. A Blessed Christmas Season to you!

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

by Paul Grahe

We will meet on Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Room #5. We will meet with the ladies to have a delicious breakfast prepared by our Chef, Pastor Frank. We will go to our designated areas to do our studies.

Pastor Frank will lead a discussion on the Christian Virtue: US. Remember to bring your Bible with you. If you plan to attend, please let me know so the proper amount of food can be prepared. You can see me in the CLC after church services on Sundays or call me at 443-604-8068. Christmas Blessings to You!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (S.A.M.)

by Pastor Harry

Our combined special event for November / December was our annual trip to Clear Space Live Theater in Rehoboth, DE. This year's play was "Estella Scrooge," a takeoff on the Charles Dickens Christmas story. As usual, we followed up with a fantastic lunch at the Boardwalk Plaza Hotel's Victoria Restaurant where we enjoyed great fellowship and good food in a wonderfully Christmas decorated room all to ourselves. Good food, good fun, good fellowship made for a really great event!

For what more could you ask? There were 54 paid attendees!

This year as our annual stewardship event we will again be sponsoring donations to ELCA Good Gifts ministry. We invite all members of SPLC to contribute to our ELCA GOOD GIFTS drive. This ministry provides many opportunities to give help to Third World countries and others in the form of farm animals, fishing supplies, drinking water wells, etc. The goal is to provide items that will help sustain life and livelihood. So, as the saying goes, 'rather than give someone a fish to eat, teach them how to fish and they have the ability to sustain themselves.' Last year through your generous giving we were able to provide two whole farms at a cost of \$715 each. We are well on our way to repeating that again this year. If you wish more information just log into ELCA.org GOOD GIFTS. From the WEB site this information: *Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad.*

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 10 – 12:30 pm, SAM Planning meeting. All are invited.

January 18 – 1:30 pm, movie in Son & Sand Retreat Center: "We Are Marshal." Enjoy this true story along with root beer floats and popcorn.

February 8 – Valentine's Day theme luncheon at Fager's Island. We will be in a room to ourselves and order from the menu. Look forward to good food and great fellowship!

Also, as always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Blessings,

Pr. Harry Biles
443.944.4779
harrybiles@aol.com

SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER

by Paul Grahe

At our recent Son & Sand Greeter Meeting, we discussed changes for the Son & Sand Retreat Center. Once we receive approval from the Church Council, I will send out a mailing to past and current Visiting Churches/Groups who have come on retreats.

Beginning in December, the retreat center is used to house our Cold Weather Shelter based on temperature, wind chill, and weather conditions.

In order to provide the Son & Sand Retreat Center, I need volunteers to become Son & Sand Greeters. If you would like to become part of this ministry, kindly see me in the CLC on Sundays or you may call me at 443-604-8068. Christmas Blessings to You!

SPIRITUAL READINGS

by Deacon, Sharey Biles



The Spiritual Readings Group will meet on Monday, December 11, at 2:30 pm via zoom.

At this meeting, we will have our final discussion of One Month to Live by Kerry and Chris Shook. We will also choose the January date for beginning our next book discussion. *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown has been selected. There is a lot of info online for this "narrative nonfiction." More information will be coming soon.

~~~~~  
An Advent activity for everyone could be reading *The Gospel According to Mark* from the New Testament. This discipline might help you to prepare for year B of the Church Year. Starting on the First Sunday of Advent, portions of this book will be the primary lesson for the Sunday readings.

Happy Reading!  
Blessings,  
Sharey Biles

### **ST. PETER'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

by Debbie Ryan

#### Women's Circle Bible Studies

The DE-MD Synodical Women's Organization met on Nov. 11th at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Baltimore. There was discussion about joining the Virginia and D. C. Women's Retreat next year on November 7-9. I'll keep you posted about this.

Our yearly Women's Conference will be held in May. More details will follow as I receive them.

Our Zoom Ruth's Circle Bible study is held on the first Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM. This month we will meet on 12/7. We will be starting chapter 6 in "It's All Under Control Bible Study", by Jennifer Duke Lee.

All women are invited, so please let me know if you want to join us and I'll make sure you get a book and the Zoom link.

For our in-person Women's Bible study at church, with breakfast provided, we will be continuing our study of "Encouraging One Another", by Nicole Johnson on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am for breakfast and 10:00 am study. This month we will meet on 12/16. We will be starting chapter 5. As above, all women are invited, so please let me know if you want to join us and I'll make sure you get a book.

My contact information is: 410-430-4743 and [Debryan57@gmail.com](mailto:Debryan57@gmail.com).

Blessings,  
Debbie Ryan

### **WITNESS**

By Evelyn Houston

The perception of Christmas as a religious holiday is waning in the United States, but the holiday's cultural traditions such as exchanging gifts, family gatherings, and Santa are as important as ever to Americans according to Pew Research and Gallup. The role of religion in Christmas celebrations appears to be declining. Today 46% of Americans say they celebrate Christmas primarily as a religious holiday (rather than a cultural holiday) down from 51% who said this a decade ago in 2013. A majority of adults say religious aspects of Christmas are emphasized less in American society today than in the past, though relatively few are bothered by this trend.

That is a lot to take in. But we can approach those in need of a Savior by using a few simple steps. For those willing to listen explain that Jesus IS the gift. Take the opportunity to tell them that Jesus is God's gift to us, and without that gift, we would not have a reason to celebrate. Describe what this gift means to you. When you share your personal testimony of what God has done for you, you make the gift of Jesus valid and credible. And finally, explain that this gift lasts forever because the gift God gives is eternal life.

As we enter the days before Christmas, let us re-focus our attention on Jesus and the gifts that he brings to us. Commercial Christmas will come and go, but we will keep Christmas all year when we keep Jesus in our lives and in our hearts.



## ++ST. PETER'S NEWS++

### COUNCIL NEWS

by Susanne Howard, Council Secretary

#### From October 10, 2023 meeting

**President, Dan Holtzer-** reviewing the "Liquid Assets Projection" from Treasurer, David Wolinski, reminding us that we are still in a deficit situation, but our losses have slowed extending our depletion of liquid assets out to April of 2025.

**Dan Holtzer-** has sent a request to Dave Wolinski to transfer cash from the following accounts to the General Fund:

1. \$10,000 from the Son & Sand account
2. \$1,000 from the Open-Door account
3. \$955.53 from the Fellowship account (Oktoberfest)

**Dan Holtzer/Open Door-** informed the council that the Open-Door committee will donate \$50.00 per month to the cost of cleaning the kitchen floor, as 90% of the cooking in the kitchen is done by their committee.

#### Ministry Team Reports

##### Pastor's Report:

##### AS A FOLLOW-UP

**November 26th-December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Pastor Frank will be on a family vacation.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>- Advent Mid-Week Soup Suppers-** 5:30 pm soup will be served in the CLC followed by Worship Services at 6:30pm. (this **will not** be offered on November 29<sup>th</sup>). Donations of soups and desserts will be appreciated.

**December 10, 2023-Annual Congregation Meeting-** there will only be one Worship Service at 10:30am. Immediately following the service, there will be a luncheon and meeting. All members are asked to attend.

**Pastor Harry-** will be covering pastoral emergencies during Pastor Frank's absence and will lead worship services on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pastor Harry continues to offer, on a volunteer basis, preaching and presiding at worship services, leading the Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.), and other areas of ministry as needed.

#### Upcoming Events:

##### Senior Adult Ministry- (S.A.M.)- Pastor Harry

Upcoming event:

**December- ELCA Good Gifts-** looking to purchase as many animals as possible to help feed a family and break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Please see the Sunday worship bulletin for further information.

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** - Movie in the retreat Center (to be announced)

**February 8<sup>th</sup>-** Valentine Luncheon (looking into Fager's restaurant)

**President, Dan Holtzer/Dee Floyd- 2024 New Council Members-** are actively collaborating with members of St. Peter's to find volunteers to fill three open positions on the council for 2024.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>- Annual Congregation Meeting & Luncheon (CLC) Dan Holtzer-** the congregation will be voting on approval of the 2024 budget and new council members for 2024.

### AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

October, 84 per week

### MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

#### Total Contributions as of October 29, 2023

**\$348,343.00 Year-to-Date Budget**

**\$289,296.52 Year-to-Date Received**

**\$(-59,046.48) 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 yet 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 Pastries available in the CLC before and after each service.

**Masks are no longer required for anyone,** but you are encouraged to wear a mask if you are more comfortable doing so.

Hand sanitizer – available throughout the building.

Water fountain is available to be used.

We are live streaming the 10:30 Worship Service. This service is then uploaded to our website to be viewed later. The live stream is available through our website and YouTube page.

**We are still looking for a couple folks who would be willing to help with live streaming from time to time.**

Please join us only if you feel safe and comfortable doing so.  
 If you are not feeling well or test positive for Covid 19, please stay home.

Please contact Pastor Frank or Council President, Dan Holtzer 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.

Amy is in the office Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Please contact her via phone, text, or email. Pastor Frank has office hours Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesdays 1-3 p.m. and other times by appointment. Pastor Frank is always available by phone, text, or email.

Pastor Frank is leading bible study in person (room 5) and online (see info on the Bible Study section) on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

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 \$80.

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.

**ADVENT MID-WEEK GATHERINGS**



**ADVENT MID-WEEK GATHERINGS**  
 We will be sharing in soup suppers in the CLC at 5:30 p.m.  
 And Advent Mid-Week Worship Services in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20



*There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who would like to provide some soup or a dessert for any of these days.*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**



**WILL BE HELD AFTER THE 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**

We will have a "Pot Blessed" luncheon after the service and hold our Annual Congregational Meeting in the CLC during the luncheon. Pastor Frank will be providing the Protein, and Fellowship will be providing the drinks, and tableware. You are invited to bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share (but not necessary). We will also be taking a love offering to help support Fellowship's ministry.

**There will be only one worship service this day at 10:30 a.m.**

**"BLUE HOLIDAY" SERVICE**



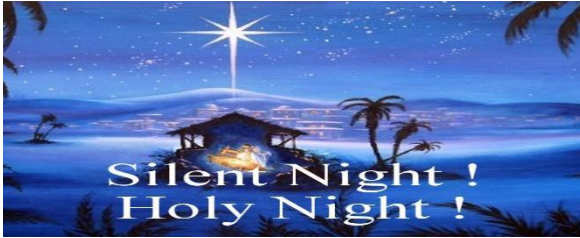
For many, the holidays are a time of great joy and celebration! Others will be navigating through the holidays dealing with various kinds of grief and loss. Please hold in prayer all those who are not able to experience "Joy to the World" in the same way they have during previous holidays.

We would like to invite all who would find it helpful to our Community Interfaith "Blue Holiday" Service on December 17th at 4:00 p.m. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** Please see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24, 2023 we will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent at our 10:30 Traditional Service.

**There will be NO 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service this day.**



We will celebrate Christmas Eve on December 24, 2023 with Worship Services at 4pm & 8pm

On December 31, 2023, we will have a service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 a.m.

**There will be NO 9 a.m. Contemporary Service this day.**

*Please see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.*

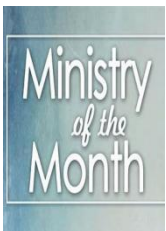
## HOLY COMMUNION



**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO JOIN US FOR WORSHIP, PASTOR FRANK WILL COME TO YOU!**

If you are not able to join us for in person worship and would like Pastor Frank to bring Holy Communion to you (doing what he can to keep you safe and comfortable). please call the church office and we will arrange for that to happen.

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



Our December 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 donation to the church 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 Pastor Frank if you have any questions.

## TIME AND TALENT



On November 12, we gave each person in worship a new Time and Talent Sheet. We also emailed, (and sent

through the postal service for those who don't do email) an additional copy to everyone. You were asked to pray over these Time and Talent Sheets for 2 weeks and then prayerfully fill it out and return it to St. Peter's by the first week in December. The reality is that God's blessings are only true blessings when we share them.

As I shared in worship on November 12<sup>th</sup>, we don't have enough folks actively participating in our various ministries to sustain them, much less help them grow. We are also reminded that it is up to each of us, and all of us, to actively support the mission and ministries to which we are called. If you have not done so, please prayerfully fill out your Time and Talent sheet and either bring it or mail it into the church. Please see Pastor Frank if you have any questions and thank you for your partnership.

## THANK YOU



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SHARED IN OUR OCTOBERFEST CELEBRATION. WE EXTEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM, OUR GUEST CHEF, AND ALL WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS CELEBRATION POSSIBLE.

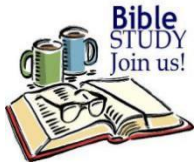
It was a time of great food and fellowship And we made \$955.33 to help support the mission and ministries at St. Peter's.



## WEDNESDAY INTERACTIVE & HYBRID

### BIBLE STUDY

#### JOIN US FOR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY



The bible studies are Interactive and Hybrid. This means that you can join us in person at St. Peter's Room 5 or you can join us via zoom by following the directions below.

Everyone is encouraged to join us either way, on whatever Wednesdays you are available!

The Bible Studies will be looking at the Scripture Readings for that Sunday's Worship Service. (the readings are emailed prior to the bible study).

To join in the study via zoom, type or cut and paste the following URL in your web browser:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89266262232>

Or you can:

1. Type [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) into your web browser
2. Click on "Join Meeting"
3. Type in Meeting ID Number:  
892 6626 2232

Please contact Pastor Frank if you have any questions.

**THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 & 27.**

### NEW YEAR'S EVE



Are you looking for something to do New Year's Eve, but not wanting to go to the club or the bar?

Join us at St. Peter's for a Covered Dish Dinner and Game Night!

Bring your favorite New Year's Eve dish

and your favorite card/board game, and join us for some fun and fellowship.

Your are also welcome to bring wine or beer to drink, but no hard alcohol is allowed on the church property.

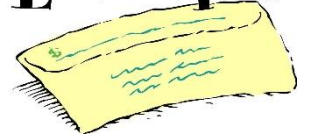
We will gather at 6:00 p.m., and everyone is invited to join us!

Please see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.

## BEGINNING JANUARY 2024

### BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2024 WE WILL HAVE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

### Offering Envelopes



In late December, your 2024 offering envelopes with your name on them will be available to be picked up in the Narthex at St. Peter's. In an effort to be better stewards of our resources, and to cut unnecessary expenses, **we will no longer be mailing out quarterly envelopes to your home.**

The box that you pick up for 2024 will contain an envelope for each week in 2024. If you need an envelope for a special offering or something additional, there are envelopes in the pews, as well as in the Narthex and at the greeters desk.

This new envelope system may also cause a change in your giving number. Your new number will be printed on your envelopes. If you give electronically and don't use the envelopes, this will not effect you. We ask that each person put an extra \$5 in your offering envelope on one of the weeks in January and designate it to help pay for the cost of the envelopes. Thank you for your faithful giving to the mission and ministries here at St. Peter's! Please see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.



### ++G4 MINISTRIES++

**G4 Ministries...** The G4 group continues to find ways for the four Lutheran Churches on the Southern Eastern Shore to support one another.

Please continue to pray for Faith Lutheran Church, St. Albins Episcopal Church, and their pastor, Pr. Margaret Brack, as they continue to support one another in shared ministries. We ask that you also pray for Pastor Brack's husband, Jim who has been dealing with a series of health issues.

We also ask for continued prayers for Pastor Karis Graham & Community Lutheran, and for Pastor Bettye Wolinski (who is serving as Vice Pastor) and Grace of God Lutheran Church.



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



**GIFTS & MEMORIALS**



Gifts & Memorials received in October  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

**Dolores & Francis Dolan**

to  
Columbarium fro Christmas Wreath  
by their daughter  
Shelley Arnold

**Dave Johnstone**

to  
Open Door Feeding  
by  
Dennis & Mary Hasson

**PRAYER CHAIN AND PRAYER LIST**

by Pastor Frank

***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 Pr. Frank at 814-279-5732 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 Frank 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 see Pr. Frank if you have any questions.



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Richard & Amy Gutowski   | 12/01 |
| Beverly & Gill Jester    | 12/04 |
| Thomas & Kathy Shafer    | 12/04 |
| Fred & Mary Lou Kauffman | 12/27 |
| Gary & Pamela Wagner     | 12/31 |



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

|                 |       |                    |       |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Karen Jones     | 12/04 | Frederick Kauffman | 12/20 |
| Patricia Searle | 12/05 | James Starck       | 12/21 |
| Carol Zimmerman | 12/10 | Karin Sobczak      | 12/24 |
| Lindsay Myers   | 12/12 | Voncelia Brown     | 12/27 |
| Carol Lee Bell  | 12/19 | Evan McDermott     | 12/29 |
| Dianna Detwiler | 12/20 | Ted Vanvick        | 12/30 |
|                 |       | Patti McDermott    | 12/31 |

**CAN YOU HELP GIVE A RIDE?**

Pastor Frank



**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 office and let us know. **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.



## 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.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

**Current needs:** Ralph Gilgenast, Fred Kauffman, Patti McDermott, Raymond Family, Susie Conroy, David Groves, Alan & Lucille Bentley, Lucia & Serafina, Danny, Nancy McClelland, John Riley, Jennifer McElvy.

**Ongoing needs:** Caregivers, first responders and all on the front lines working to save lives, Pat Johnstone, Carol Stano, Lee Creamer, Bonnie Hiewsky, Ron & Barb Albright, Michael Parker, Phillip Delaney, Chuck Pyle, Sharon Harris, Paul Grahe, Pat Pfannenstiel, Kim Councell, Vinnie Grauso, Byron Anthony, Jack Hardy, Teresa, Pauline Schilling, James, Ryan M., Rosalie & Ted Frick, Sherie Detty, Jodi Wolinski, Lindsey George, Rick Latchaw, Amelia Councell, Noreen Emerson, Eric Pierce, Viola Collins, Denise Smith, Dennard Quillen, Fred Ryon, Stuart Glassman, Dan Barnhart, Tobey Soper, Pastor Rick, Elizabeth Hammond, Doug & Sarah, Elsworth & Terri Wheatley, Mary Lou Kauffman, Jessica Harpster, Susan Meyer, Patty M., Bob & Eileen, Larry Mullis, Ada May Shipley, Mike Miller, Chris, Jack Sherman, Bob, Barbara, Patti, Jacob & Nicole Wamsley, Seth Patterson, Phil Ermer, Joe Ellingworth, Inga, James, Linda & husband, Jen Engers, Gracie Patton, Richard Goodman, Raymond, Kathryn & Tom Hughes, Richard, Stan Gibson, Lynn & Ted Wiseburg, Fran, Ellie, Vicki, Darlene Harner, Danielle Hawkins, Aubrey Coin, Traci Swingler, Sherry DeFelice, Luke Skledar, Mandy Brown, Phil Brown, Addison, Troy, Lora Smolenski, Larry, Charlene Lewis, Sue Shoop, Treva Smith, Sharon, Steve, Jim, Marilyn Gay, Debbie, Dave Searle, Erin Ryan, Conrad, Melissa Nuovo, Children of Jeffrey Nuovo, Linda Rhine, Pastor Harry Wolpert, Rose Skledar, Steve Lepone, Richard Smith, Beverly, Jo Rohr, Tim & Kim Raymond, Nicole Lewis, Mary W., Marty & Janet Schroeder, Carolyn Nuovo, Jim Gardone, Dorothy & Stephanie, Savannah Bona, Jenine Baldus, Samara Loss, Sonja, Brenda Robbins, Bernie Hartline, Steve Ellis, Janet Ellis, Jen Anderson

**Assisted Living:** Lisa C., Claire Deickman, Mim Fritz, Violet Green, Elsie Koehler, Mary Grahe, Betty Romig

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

**Our Bishops:** Elizabeth Eaton & 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*



## ++FROM ST. PETER'S OFFICE++

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES**  
**CONTACT PASTOR HARPSTER**  
**For emergencies or after hours**  
**(c) 814-279-5732**

### 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 8:00am - 4:00pm**  
**Friday - 8:00am-1:00pm**

## PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

### PASTOR HARPSTER

Tuesdays - 11:00 am-1:00 pm  
Wednesdays - 1:00 pm-3:00 pm  
Other times by appointment

## STAFF

The Rev. Frank Harpster, Senior Pastor  
[fehiiif@aol.com](mailto:fehiiif@aol.com)  
The Rev. Harry Biles, Assistant Pastor  
[HarryBiles@aol.com](mailto:HarryBiles@aol.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)

**2023 COUNCIL**

Pastor Harpster  
 Pastor Biles  
 Dan Holtzer - President  
 Dee Floyd - Vice President  
 Susanne Howard - Secretary  
 Dave Wolinski - Treasurer  
 Dan Holtzer - Financial Secretary  
 Jim Cloud, Fred Deily, Bridget Foster, Linda Harry, Fred  
 Kauffman, Evan McDermott, Teresa Pyle, Mike Siegert,  
 Dex Stannard

*Fellowship* - Susanne Howard and Linda Grahe  
*Mutual Ministry* - Dee Floyd  
*Open Door Feeding Ministry* - Linda Harry  
*Personnel* - Billy Haynes  
*Property - Green/Sustainable Living* - Jim Cloud  
*Senior Adult Ministry (S.A.M.)* - Pr. Harry Biles  
*Son & Sand* - Paul Grahe  
*Stewardship* – Dan Holtzer  
*Support* - Dan Holtzer  
*Witness* -  
*Women of the ELCA* - Debbie Ryan

**MINISTRY TEAMS & LEADERS**

*Altar Guild* -  
*Christian Education* -  
**Pastor Frank, Pastor Biles**  
*Community Service* - Mary Lou Tietz  
*Creation Care* -

| <b>DECEMBER BIBLE LESSONS</b>                                   |                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, December 3<br/>First Sunday of Advent</b>            | <b>Isaiah 64: 1-9<br/>Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19<br/>1 Corinthians 1:3-9<br/>Mark 13:24-37</b>    |
| <b>Sunday, December 10<br/>Second Sunday of Advent</b>          | <b>Isaiah 40:1-11<br/>Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13<br/>2 Peter 3:8-15a<br/>Mark 1:1-8</b>            |
| <b>Sunday, December 17<br/>Third Sunday of Advent</b>           | <b>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11<br/>Psalm 126<br/>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24<br/>John 1:6-8, 19-28</b> |
| <b>Sunday, December 24<br/>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>          | <b>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16<br/>Luke 1:46b-55<br/>Romans 16:25-27<br/>Luke 1:26-38</b>          |
| <b>Sunday, December<br/>Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve</b> | <b>Isaiah 9:2-7<br/>Psalm 96<br/>Titus 2:11-14<br/>Luke 2:1-20</b>                         |
| <b>Sunday, December 31<br/>First Sunday of Christmas</b>        | <b>Isaiah 61;10-62:3<br/>Psalm 148<br/>Galatians 4:4-7<br/>Luke 2:22-40</b>                |