

THE NET

JANUARY 2024



Restore us,
O God Almighty;
make your face shine
upon us, that we
may be saved.

Psalm 80:7, NIV



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American

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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

Shout to the LORD, all the earth; break out in praise and sing for Joy!

~Psalm 98:4

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, Peace, and Mercy, be to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Happy New Year! For many, New Year's is a big deal. It has been a time of gathering with family and friends to celebrate the birth of the Christ child and to ring in the new year. Many have their favorite foods to make and share during this time; some have rituals and traditions that are anticipated for the entire year; and for some it is a time of reflection, discernment, and looking at opportunities and making plans for the new year.

As my kids were growing up, New Year's Eve was the evening (while on our family retreat here in Ocean City) that we would take the train ride along the bay to see the Winterfest of Lights, followed by a nice dinner out, and then back to our condo to play board games, share memories and blessings of the year, and watch the "ball drop" in Time Square for the new year. As we rang in the new year, there were fireworks over the ocean, shouts of joy, and lots of hugging, followed by various phone calls and text messages of New Year's greeting to extended family and friends.

There are times in our lives that need to be heralded with joy because Jesus is so very gracious to us. New Year's offers us a fresh beginning filled with new adventures and great possibilities. It is a time to celebrate, and to give thanks for all the obstacles we have overcome last year; a time to reflect on the joy and healing that our Lord brought into our hearts, our families, and into our lives in 2023; it is a time to acknowledge and discern God's faithfulness and the bounty of God's provisions for us and our families. We cherish those people God put in our lives this past year, and the ways God has blessed our relationships. We celebrate those mountaintop experiences, and offer thanksgiving for the valleys that our Lord carried us through. We celebrate the goodness of being alive and being loved.

We look ahead to 2024 in awe and wonder of what is in store for us in the new year. It is an untarnished year, like that of a field covered with freshly fallen snow: pure and glistening, free of footprints or tracks, full of paths yet untrodden (yes my Pennsylvania roots are shining through). We have the promise that God will be with us each step of the way, in every second of every day in the new year. While none of us knows what the new year will bring to our lives, we have so many reasons to bring in the new year with shouts of praise and thanksgiving. I invite you to join me in ending each day with prayer of thanksgiving for all the ways God has blessed you, and for all the ways God has empowered you to be a blessing for others that day.

May your journey through 2024 be filled with new opportunities to live in and live out the life giving love of Jesus Christ with each person God puts in your life, and may your best day in 2023 be your worst day in 2024.

May God Bless You, as You ARE a Blessing to Others!

Pastor Frank



++ST. PETER'S MINISTRY TEAMS++

ALTAR GUILD

by Maryanne Siegert

The Altar Guild was busy during the Christmas season. Paraments were changed, the Christmas decorations were adorning the church, and the Advent candles were filled each week as we waited for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world.

We will be undecorating the church in January for anyone who would like to help. A date for that event will be forthcoming. The women of the Altar Guild hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and will have a safe New Year!

Maryanne Siegert

COMMUNITY SERVICES

by Mary Lou Tietz

On Thursday, December 21, the Community Services committee members distributed gifts and a full dinner to the 6 families with 28 children who we supported this holiday season. They received all the gifts that were requested on the Angel tree, and because of the generosity of the members of the church, we were able to give an extra \$50 Food Lion card to each family.

Also, the Cold Weather Shelter is now open and, knowing that there is bound to be some very cold temperatures in the future, we hope that members of St. Peter's congregation will not only support this project financially but volunteer to prepare meals, register clients, and perhaps stay overnight. Training is ongoing for this program, so if you are new to the program, please be assured that you will be well-trained to do one of the volunteer jobs.

To find out more about the shelter and the needs we have, please contact either Pastor Frank or Amy. They will be able to fill you in on how you can get involved. Contributions to the shelter ministry are being collected as special offerings in January.

Thank you again for all that you do for those in need in our community. We are always grateful for your support!!
Mary Lou

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; to 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

Update from Fellowship as we close-out December 2023-

Our Advent Soup Supper on December 6th, was canceled due to Pastor Frank testing positive for Covid.

On Wednesday, December 13th, our Advent Soup Supper was held at 5:30 p.m. in the CLC, serving 6 delicious kinds of homemade soups to all with a variety of yummy desserts. A service followed at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship sold leftover soup for \$3.00 a pint, netting \$28.00.

On Wednesday, December 20, we hosted a final Advent Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6:30 p.m. service.

The Fellowship Team greatly appreciates anyone that can donate time or their talent to make these delicious soups and desserts.

On Sunday, December 10, 2023, our Annual Meeting and luncheon was held in the CLC directly after the 10:30 a.m. service. A quorum was met with 58 members attending. Pulled-pork, chicken salad, and shrimp salad sandwiches were served along with a number of homemade salads and great tasting desserts. Everyone enjoyed fellowship, laughter, and stories of Christmas past and Christmas to come in 2023.

As Fellowship looks back over the year of luncheons, special anniversaries, holiday events, etc., I truly want you to know, without the dedication **of ALL** that have and have continued to step up and help set-up, cook, serve, clean-up, and most important share your talent, smiles, laughter and friendship with all of St. Peter's family, our Fellowship Ministry would not be what it is today.

Take a bow, **you All** deserve it.

If you feel that you can share some of your time and talent to serve our congregation, community and friends, and keep these events a success, please reach out to the Fellowship Team, and as always, we will continue to provide coffee, tea, and pastries before and after each Sunday Services.

Many blessings for a safe and joyous Christmas and a Happy blessed New Year.

FUND RAISING

By Linda Grahe

Ocean City Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 2, 2023, 11 AM. Our Bake & refreshment stand raised \$339.00.

Church Bake Sale, Sunday, December 3, 2023, after services, raised \$171.00. These 2 Bake Sale events raised a total of \$510.00. A big THANK YOU to our bakers, volunteers, donors, and buyers. This could not have been possible without your support.

The Christmas High Tea scheduled for December 16, 2023, 1 PM was cancelled due to the busy Holiday Season. This will be rescheduled in the summer (maybe Christmas High Tea in July).

We would like to start our 2024 Fundraising events with a Super Bowl Sub Sale on Sunday, February 11, 2024 - \$10.00 donation per sub with chips. Choice of subs will be: 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 in January and February 4th or by calling Linda Grahe at Cell 443-604-8068. Deadline is Sunday, February 4th.

Our next Fundraising Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 12:15 PM in the CLC. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to join us, all are welcome.

A Blessed New Year to You!

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

by Paul Grahe

We will meet on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Room #5. We will meet in the CLC with the ladies to enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by our Chef, Pastor Frank. We will go to our designated areas to do our studies.

Pastor Frank will lead our discussion on a Christian Virtue. Remember to bring your Bible with you. If your planning to attend, see Paul in the CLC on Sundays after the church services or call him at 443-604-8068 so the proper amount of food can be prepared. A Free-Will Offering will be collected.

Have a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (S.A.M.)

by Pastor Harry

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

First of all, on a personal note, I want to state again how very appreciative I am of the love and support Sharey and I have been shown by all of you. You are a caring, serving, giving, and loving congregation. And you certainly are a blessing to me and to many. THANK YOU!

Also, thank you to all for the Christmas cards and generous cash Christmas staff gift. Always a wonderful gift and much appreciated.

Senior Adult Ministry is expecting to have another great year in 2024. We finished 2023 in good style. There were over 50 who enjoyed the Clear Space Theater production of "Estella Scrooge" followed by the wonderful meal at the beautifully decorated Boardwalk Plaza Hotel.

Our end of year stewardship benevolence project has again been the support of ELCA Good Gifts. As of this writing it looks as though we will surpass our generous offering last year of two family farms at a cost of \$715 each. We will report the final offering amount once all donations have been totaled. Again, thank you to all who so generously contributed to this. If you would like more information regarding this ministry, please log into ELCA Good Gifts.

LOOKING AHEAD:

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

January 18 – 1:30 pm, movie in Son & Sand Retreat Center: "We Are Marshall." 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

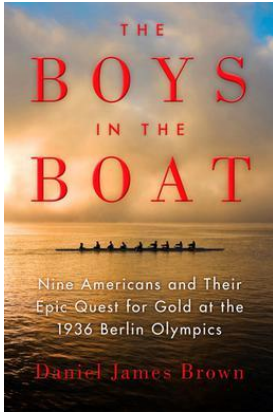
At our Son & Sand Greeters Meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2023 we discussed changes to be made for 2024. This was due to the number of cancellations we had this year-10. On Tuesday, December 12, 2023, the Church Council reviewed and approved the proposed changes to take effect in 2024.

I will prepare a letter to go out to all Visiting Churches/Groups about the changes. Also, information on our wed-site and other paperwork will need to be updated with the changes.

A Blessed & Happy New Year!

SPIRITUAL READINGS

by Deacon, Sharey Biles



January Spiritual Readings

The Spiritual Readings group will start the discussion of **The Boys in the Boat** on Monday, January 15, at 2:30 pm via Zoom. Amy Morgan will email a link that morning to everyone. The book promises to be a favorite!

Please join us!

Sharey Biles
443.944.7241

ST. PETER'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA

by Debbie Ryan

Women's Bible Study

All women are welcome to join one or both. If you are interested in wonderful, uplifting, and encouraging discussions, please contact me or the church office.

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 January 4th. Since we canceled last month, we are still on chapter 6 of "It's All Under Control Bible Study," by Jennifer Duke Lee.

For our in-person Women's Bible study, we meet at church, with breakfast provided by Pastor Frank. We meet on the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 am for breakfast and 10:00 am for study. This month we will meet on January 20th. We will be continuing our study of "Encouraging One Another," by Nicole Johnson, and we will be starting chapter 6.

My contact information is: 410-430-4743 and Debryan57@gmail.com.

Blessings,
Debbie Ryan

WITNESS

By Evelyn Houston

Everyone wants to start the new year off differently than the year before, so they will be making lists of resolutions (which unfortunately, last a week or two). The following are resolutions that should be easy to make and easy for everyone to keep.

SET THE ALARM CLOCK TEN MINUTES EARLIER - Devote that time to prayer, meditation, and Bible reading. You will grow spiritually and be blessed and be a blessing to others.

SAY GRACE - Many of us resolve to begin the new year eating better. Saying grace reminds us that food is a gift, not sinful if you are attempting to change your eating habits.

MEMORIZE A BIBLE VERSE A WEEK - Put it on an index card where you can see it every day and soon you will be able to quote it.

CREATE A PRAYER JOURNAL - In a notebook, put down prayer requests, persons names or a thing you pray for, and date answered. Amazingly you will look back and see how trustworthy God is by all answered prayers.

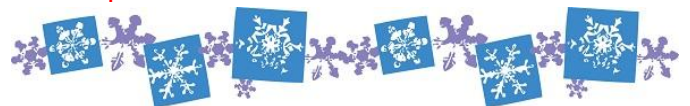
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING - Make prayer rather than worry your default inner dialogue.

END EACH DAY WITH A PRAYER - May sound easier than it actually is, but the benefits are enormous. Try it.

EVANGELIZE - Make 2024 the year that you bring someone to know Jesus.

If you spend more time reading the Word of God and following the above steps, you will not only have better days, but you will grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Peace and Blessings in the New Year.



++ST. PETER'S NEWS++

COUNCIL NEWS

by Susanne Howard, Council Secretary

From December 12, 2023 Meeting
President, Dan Holtzer and Treasurer, Dave Wolinski, along with others, worked long hours to put the 2024 budget together. Dave informed the council that on the "Weekly Income & Expenses Liquid Assets Projection sheet in the Financial Report for 2023, the December 2022 - November 2023 average weekly income and average week expense are reversed. It should read: average weekly income, \$9033, and the average weekly

expense \$9952. Dave explained that our liquid assets have rebounded during November, thanks to members contributions from IRA's. The weekly deficit over the last twelve months has remained unchanged from the previous period. We are still in a deficit situation, but the increase in liquid assets has extended our cash reserves into the Spring of 2025.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Frank

- continues to support: Open Door Feeding Ministry, Cold Weather Shelter, Fellowship and Fundraising Events, Men's and Women's Fellowship Breakfast, Advent Mid-Week Soup Suppers, and Worship Services, and lead the Wednesday morning Bible Study.
- on Christmas Eve there will be a traditional service at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent, and Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4 & 8 p.m. There will be one service of Lessons and Carols on Dec 31st at 10:30 a.m.
- will be hosting a Pot Blessed Dinner and Game Night at the church on New Year's Eve beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- will be installing the 2024 Council Members during their respective worship services on January 14, 2024.

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.
- Senior Adult Ministry- (S.A.M.)
 - Upcoming event:
 - January 18th -Movie in the Retreat Center (to be announced)
 - February 8th- Valentine Luncheon (at Fager's Restaurant)

Council-

- approved the 2024 Budget. Vote-unanimous
- approved the increases to the Retreat Center rates. Vote-unanimous
- President, Dan Holtzer- thanked the retiring council members for their dedication to serving on the council during their term.

2024 Council

- 2024 New Council Members- are: Vonnie Brown, Mary Lou Tietz, Betty Wolinski.
- Appointment of Susanne Howard as council Secretary, and Dave Wolinski as Treasurer for the 2024 year.
- Evan McDermott was elected as President and Mary Lou Tietz was elected as Vice-President of the council for a term of 1 year.

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

November, 84 per week

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

Total Contributions as of November 26, 2023

\$380,747.00 Year-to-Date Budget

\$318,788.52 Year-to-Date Received

\$(61,958.48) 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, Evan McDermott 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.

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 January 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 January 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.

PASTOR FRANK

Pastor Frank will be away the afternoon of January 28th-January 31st for Continuing Education. Please Contact Pastor Harry should you have a pastoral emergency or need a prayer chain sent out during this time.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!!

Thank you to Dan Holtzer and Fred Deily who have completed their current term on the Congregation Council; to Susanne Howard and Evan McDermott who have finished their first term and are serving a second term on the Congregation Council; and to our newest Council members for 2024: Vonnie Brown, Mary Lou Tietz, and Pr. Bettye Wolinski.

God has truly blessed us with faithful and hardworking leadership, and I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us in 2024.

St. Peter's 2024 Council officers are:

- Evan McDermott-President
- Mary Lou Tietz- Vice-President
- Susanne Howard- Secretary
- David Wolinski- Treasurer

The 2024 Council will be installed at both worship services on January 7, 2024

Please hold each member of the Council in prayer as they oversee the operations and make decisions on your behalf.

THANK YOU

AND THANKS BE TO GOD for everyone who helped with and/or supported our various Advent and Christmas worship opportunities and celebrations. It is your participation and support that made them true celebrations.

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR FRANK

Dear St. Peter's Family,

Thank you for the Christmas Cards, Gifts, Goodies, and very generous staff gift that you gave me this year.

It is truly a blessing to be part of such a loving and supportive church family, and I am blessed to be your pastor!

Love and prayers, Pr. Frank

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. Peters 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 12th, 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. **IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN YOUR TIME AND TALENT SHEET PLEASE DO SO A.S.A.P.** If you need another sheet please contact the church office.

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 into your web browser
2. Click on "Join Meeting"
3. Type in Meeting ID Number: 892 6626 2232

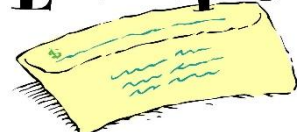
Please contact Pastor Frank is you have any questions.

THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31ST BECAUSE PASTOR FRANK IS AWAY FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION.

BEGINNING JANUARY 2024

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2024 WE HAVE A NEW OFFERING ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes with your name on them are 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 affect 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

William Ellis	01/03	Kaitlyn Peters	01/11
Chuck Pyle	01/05	Jack Kelly	01/15
Glenn Riley	01/05	Sharon Sorrentino	01/16
Rob Robinson	01/06	Joanna Dove	01/17
Philip Er,er	01/07	Lyn Meixner	01/17
Maryanne Siegert	01/09	Broerick Bushnell	01/23
Arline Kelso	01/10	Cyndi Gradwell	01/25
Ada May Shipley	01/10	Michael Konski	01/28



++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 the folks at Grace of God Lutheran Church as they discern their future and for Pastor Bettye Wolinski (who is serving as Vice Pastor) and Grace of God Lutheran Church.



++NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION++



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Daniel & Mary Ann Holtzer	01/01
Dianna & Bob Detwiler	01/09
Ronald & Patricia Hartman	01/19
Vincent & Herla Lobo	01/30

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.



GIFTS & MEMORIALS



Gifts & Memorials received in November

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Will Hiewsky
to
Witness
Bonnie Hiewsky

Sophie Trott
to
Gifts & Memorials
by
George Trott

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.

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: Lloyd Smith, Chuck Pyle, Carol Endley & Max Currier, Ted Vanvick, Jeanne McClellan, Marion Shipley & family, Ray Priebe, Jennifer McKelvey, Rose Skledar & family

Ongoing needs: Caregivers, first responders and all on the front lines working to save lives, Fred Kauffman, Patti McDermott, Sandy Holthe, Pat Johnstone, Carol Stano, Lee Creamer, Bonnie Hiewsky, Ron & Barb Albright, Michael Parker, Phillip Delaney, Chuck Pyle, Sharon Harris, Paul Grahe, Pat Pfannenstiel, Kim Councill, Byron Anthony, Jack Hardy, Teresa, Pauline Schilling, James, Ryan M., Rosalie & Ted Frick, Sherie Detty, Jodi Wolinski, Lindsey George, Rick Latchaw, Amelia Councill, Noreen

Emerson, Eric Pierce, Viola Collins, Denise Smith, Dennard Quillen, Fred Ryon, Stuart Glassman, 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, Steve Lepone, Richard Smith, Beverly, Jo Rohr, Tim & Kim Raymond, Nicole Lewis, Mary W., Marty & Janet Schroeder, 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 Nalbhone, 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

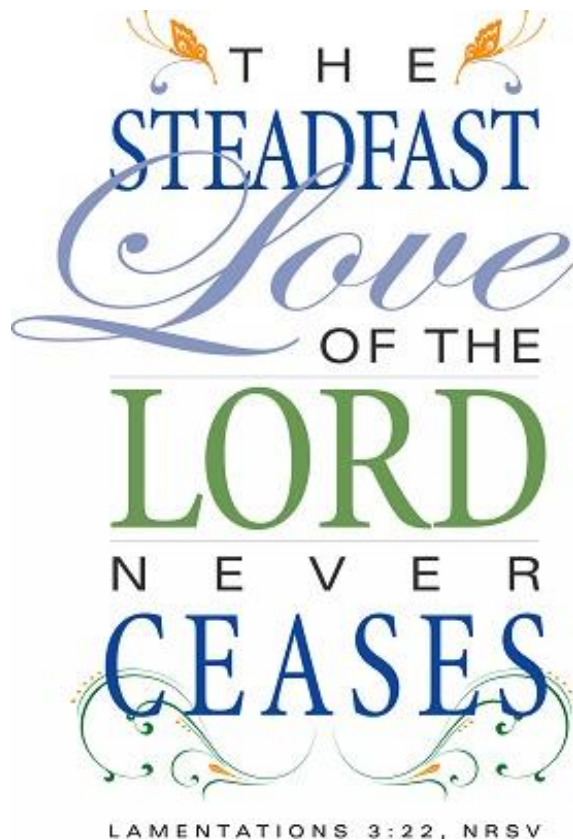
The Rev. Frank Harpster, Senior Pastor
fehiiif@aol.com
The Rev. Harry Biles, Assistant Pastor
HarryBiles@aol.com
The Rev. Dr. Harry Wolpert, Pastor Emeritus
handcoc2003@yahoo.com
Mr. Elsworth Wheatley, Minister of Music
Wheatleymusic@aol.com
Mr. Keith Hall, Praise Team Leader
Soulendeavors.keith@gmail.com
Ms. Amy Morgan, Office Manager
amy.splcoc@comcast.net

2024 COUNCIL

Pastor Harpster
Pastor Biles
Evan McDermott - President
Mary Lou Tietz - Vice President
Susanne Howard - Secretary
Dave Wolinski - Treasurer (Non-voting member)
Dan Holtzer - Financial Secretary (Non-voting member)
Vonnie Brown, Dee Floyd, Bridget Foster, Linda Harry,
Fred Kauffman, Teresa Pyle, Mike Siegert, Dex Stannard,
Bettye Wolinski

MINISTRY TEAMS & LEADERS

Altar Guild - **Maryanne Siegert**
Christian Education -
Pastor Frank, Pastor Biles
Community Service - **Mary Lou Tietz**
Fellowship - **Susanne Howard**
Fundraising - **Linda Grahe**
Mutual Ministry - **Dee Floyd**
Open Door Feeding Ministry - **Linda Harry**
Personnel - **Billy Haynes**
Property-Green Sustainable Living - **Charlie Brown**
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**



JANUARY BIBLE LESSONS

<p>Sunday, January 7 Baptism of Our Lord</p>	<p>Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11</p>
<p>Sunday, January 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>1 Samuel 3: 1-10 [11-20] Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51</p>
<p>Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20</p>
<p>Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p>	<p>Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28</p>



PSALM 72:5, NIV



THERE IS BUT ONE LORD
Jesus Christ...

1 CORINTHIANS 8:6, NIV