

# **THE NET**

## **JANUARY 2026**



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

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

**"And he said to them, "Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16: 15**

Happy New Year Friends!

We have been together for one year as people and pastor of God. During transitions we have found ourselves seeking a healthy renewed future with each other serving our Lord, his community and church.

I am including my thoughts for how I believe God is "centering" our mission and ministry. These thoughts help me organize how I can help your leadership direct its strengths and order its steps for the future. I am talking about a renewed PACT with God, each other, and the community at large. Here are my thoughts that I have shared with your council.

**P** "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"

Praise God through plans to increase worship style, welcome, sound, and presentation to exhibit the invitational nature of our Faith.

**A** **Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."** John 21:14-17

Intentionally act on, plan, and subsidize the feeding and tending of God's children who are hungry and without home.

**C** "For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard." Acts 22:15

Enhancing our communication style within the church and to the larger community through improved online communication, Facebook, Twitter, and improved internet appearance through upgraded website so that we might tell the story of our Savior.

**I** "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – **1 Peter 4:10**

Committed plans to develop time, talents, and treasure follow-through for the next year.

*I want to walk worthy*

*My calling to fulfill*

*Please order my steps, Lord*

*And I'll do Your blessed will*

*The world is ever-changing*

*But You are still the same*

*If You order my steps, Lord, I'll praise Your name*

This is a portion of lyrics from a song entitled **Order My Steps in Your Word** by Glen Edward Burleigh written in 1991. It is a gospel song based on Psalm 37 & 119 and speaks of God's guidance and support for those that align their lives with God's guidance and direction.

Let us begin our new year together by *ordering our steps!*

God's blessings and strength to all!

Pastor Bettye



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

### ALTAR GUILD

by Maryanne Siegert

The Altar Guild has been quite busy this season of the year. We got the church decorated thanks to Steve Kiser, Jack Saunders, Cathy Wood, and Mike Siegert. I could not have done it without them. THANK YOU. The paraments will change again on Christmas Eve and a taller white candle will be included in the Advent wreath. The poinsettias will add beautiful color to our altar as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Please check your bulletins for the un-decorating of the church in January. The more hands we have the faster it goes. We do all of this with Joy.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

by Mary Lou Tietz

The Community Service team did not meet in December so there's not much new to report this month. We delivered Christmas family holiday gifts, gift cards and dinners to 6 families in need in the area.

The team will meet again on January 14th at 2pm and will have more information to offer after that meeting. We always are in need of and welcome new members. Just come to our next meeting and you're in!

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

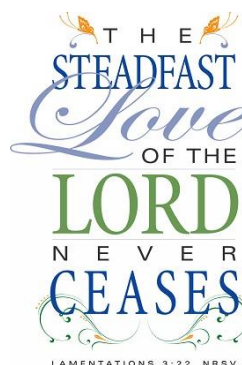
She's Baaack! Jeannette Latzo is back on the Fellowship Team. She's looking for women and men that would love to help with dinners, luncheons, breakfasts, soup dinners, Bible Studies, and no reason at all but to get together with food. There is no commitment to every activity, just when you can help.

### FUND RAISING

by Linda Grahe & Susanne Howard

Three hundred eighty-five dollars (\$385) was raised from the O.C. Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6, 2025 and One hundred forty-five dollars (\$145) was raised from our church Bake Sale on Sunday, December 7, 2025 for a **TOTAL of Five hundred thirty dollars (\$530)**. Thank you all the volunteers, bakers, and supporters of this event.

We will start our 2026 Fundraising events with a Super Bowl Sub Sale on Sunday, February 8, 2026 - \$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 1st or by calling Linda Grahe at cell l#443-614-3808. Deadline is Sunday, February 1st. The subs will be made fresh on Saturday, February 7th from 11 AM - 1 PM and will be available for pick-up at 1 PM (on Saturday) or Sunday after the services. Thank you in advance for participating in our 1st Fundraiser of the year.



**RECYCLING  
at St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

by Linda Grahe

From October 5th to December 13, 2025, we collected a TOTAL of 573 empty medicine bottles (& over the counter bottles like Tylenol, vitamins, etc.) GREAT JOB!

Also, thank you for your donations of bags (brown paper & plastic) and egg cartons. We appreciate you recycling these items at St. Peter's.

**RUTH CIRCLE**

Women's Bible Study  
by Joann Soult

Ruth Circle Bible study will meet via Zoom on Thursday, January 8 at 2:00 pm. This is one week later than our usual time due to the January 1 holiday. We'll begin a new study using "How to Age Without Getting Old" by Joyce Meyer studying Chapters 1 and 2 with Joann Soult leading (202-544-7981) or jsoult624@gmail.com). Order your book now and begin the New Year with us!

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

by Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

The Senior Adult Ministry is eagerly preparing for the new year and looking forward to discovering fresh and exciting venues as we move into 2026.

On Thursday, December 4th, forty members, friends, and neighbors gathered for a delightful afternoon at the Clear Space Theatre to enjoy the beloved holiday performance, "A Christmas Carol." The classic story, which has defined the holiday season for generations, was presented as a beautiful and joy-filled musical suitable for all ages. The costumes, songs, and talents displayed on stage were wonderful and added to the festive atmosphere.

Following the performance, the group enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Victoria's Restaurant. It was a fun-filled afternoon marked by fellowship, laughter, and a tasty meal, creating special memories for everyone in attendance. What a joyful conclusion to end our 2025 season of travel.

The Senior Adult Ministry remains dedicated to providing enriching experiences that foster a sense of community and connection. Members are encouraged to check the bulletin board regularly for updates and are welcome to reach out with any suggestions or questions. Whether through historical tours, lively musicals, or festive outings, the ministry strives to create meaningful fellowship and memorable moments for all participants.

All members are warmly invited to attend future meetings and are encouraged to bring ideas and information about trips and outings. The next meeting will be held on January 19th, at 1:00 PM in Room 5. Everyone is welcome to join and participate in planning future activities.

God's blessings to all,  
Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

**SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER**

by Paul Grahe

In January, I plan on submitting an article pertaining to the Son & Sand Retreat Center in the Synod E-Letter. Current paperwork for Son & Sand Retreat Center will be reviewed and changes made prior to mailing out to those groups who made inquiries for 2026 and to those groups who have come on retreats in the past.

If you like to learn about this ministry by serving as Son & Sand Greeters, I am available in the CLC on Sundays or you may e-mail me at [p.grahe@comcast.net](mailto:p.grahe@comcast.net) or by phone at 443-604-8068.

**WITNESS**

by Evelyn Houston

The new year is upon us, and it's time to think about the changes we intended to make in 2025 but never got around to. One of the ways to implement some change in 2026 is living with intention. Living with intention is one of the most powerful ways to achieve the life we desire.... to transform what already exists into something better, different, or more fulfilling. But simply wishing or hoping for change isn't enough. We must set our hearts, thoughts, and actions in the right direction. It is said that living an intentional life means being aware of God's will, which involves finding your purpose in Him through faith, good works, and relationships.

To help achieve this goal, select a word of intention, listed below, or use your own word and write it on a Post-it note. Place the note where you can see it every day.

Strength  
Family  
Prayer  
Faith  
Love  
Thankful  
Determined  
Hope

God wants you to be a caring person, sensitive to the needs of others, and aware of how He wants you to minister to them. Because God loves you, His desire for you and your faith life is to make you a channel of His tender, loving care to others. You are encouraged to ask yourself, "How strong do I want my faith life to be"? Let your "Word of Intention" guide you to your highest potential in 2026!



**++ ST. PETER'S NEWS ++**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

by David Marzola

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

Happy New Year to All. I want to take this time to recognize and thank the following outgoing Church Council Members who have been serving and leading St. Peter's for the past few years: Billy Haynes, Mike Seigert, and Evan McDermott. These three (3) gentlemen have served faithfully in their positions on the Council. They will continue to be an integral part of our congregation. THANK YOU!!!!

I would also like to thank Char Vanvick, Jeanette Latzo, Lee Creamer, Steve Kiser, Ken Corbett, and Vonnie Brown for volunteering to either take on another three (3) year commitment or to serve for the first time on Council.

2026 has a lot in store for St. Peter's Lutheran Church! Your Council, Ministry Teams, and Call Committee will be working on the following items for 2026:

- Continued growth in membership
- A new Church Sound System
- Bringing back Streaming of Services
- Marketing St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Ocean City through Social Media
- Fundraising Events
- Community Events
- Development of a 12 and 18 month Strategic Plan for St. Peter's
- Submission of the Mission Site Profile for the Call Process

During the month of January, we will begin our quarterly Giving Challenge. The money received as part of this

Giving Challenge will go to the Ocean City Crisis Ministry. The OC Crisis Ministry assists families across Ocean City and West Ocean City.

I want to personally thank our congregation as we continue to move forward with our Church's Mission. You are a giving congregation, and it makes my heart grow each day. We are ONE TEAM, and I am a proud member of the TEAM because of each member of our Congregation.

Sincerely,  
David Marzola

**AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**

**November - 94 per week (5 weeks)**

**MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS**

**Total Contributions as of November 30, 2025**  
**\$362,853.12 Year-to-Date Budget**  
**\$374,192.01 Year-to-Date Received**  
**\$ 11,338.89 Year-to-Date Difference**



## OUR CURRENT REALITY AT ST. PETER'S

### Life at St. Peter's

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

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

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

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

Hand sanitizer – available throughout the building.

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

Please contact the church office if you have any questions

## **OTHER GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

We will continue to stay connected and keep you updated with concerns and changes via the Constant

Contact email system, the Call Multiplier automated prayer chain, and by mail for those who are not electronically connected.

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS & COMMUNION ELEMENTS



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

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

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

**Our January Ministry of the Month is "The Ocean City Crisis Ministry."**



We, along with other area churches, send funds to support this community ministry, which offers financial assistance for folks in our community who find themselves in a crisis situation. By combining our funds with other churches and dispensing them through the OC Crisis ministry, we are able to offer more support than any individual church may be able to. Distributing funds through the OC Crisis also helps us to be good stewards of these resources through record keeping and tracking. We ask you to prayerfully consider giving a special donation this month to help support this ministry. If you feel called to do so, please make your check out to St. Peter's and put OC Crisis Ministry in the memo. Thank you for your support!



**FOR IN THE  
ONE  
SPIRIT  
WE WERE ALL  
BAPTIZED  
INTO ONE  
BODY**

*1 Corinthians 12:13, NRSV*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

William Ellis	01/03	Arline Kelso	01/10
Linda Steelman	01/04	Ada May Shipley	01/10
Chuck Pyle	01/05	Kaitlyn Peters	01/11
Genevieve Reif	01/05	Jack Kelly	01/15
Glenn Riley	01/05	Sharon Sorrentino	01/16
Stephen Kiser	01/06	Joanna Dove	01/17
Philip Ermer	01/07	Lyn Meixner	01/17
Jack Saunders	01/08	Broderick Bushnell	01/23
Maryanne Siegert	01/09	Cyndi Gradwell	01/25
		Michael Konski	01/28

### 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.



### ++NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION++



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Diana & Bob Detwiler	01/09
Ronald & Patricia Hartman	01/19
Kathy & David Firor	01/30
Vincent & Herla Lobo	01/30



## GIFTS & MEMORIALS



None Received in November

## PRAYER CHAIN AND PRAYER LIST

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

The “**Call Multiplier**” automated prayer chain continues to be a valuable resource and blessing. If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please text or call **Pastor Bettye at 410-292-2360** to have a prayer request sent out. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, you **MUST** have his/her permission before sending out the request. We can share as much, or as little, information as you want to be shared. When you receive a prayer call, you are asked to pause and offer prayer for the need presented. You are then asked to continue to hold that person/need in prayer. The Automated Prayer Chain will be active daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please let Pastor Bettye know if you are not receiving the prayer calls and would like to be.

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

## PRAYER CONCERNS



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

**Current needs:** Joe Hicks, Family & friends of Dyonna, Rita Curry, Mia Schultz, Kathy Parent, Jack Saunders, Alex Alexis, Pr. Harry & Carol Wolpert

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

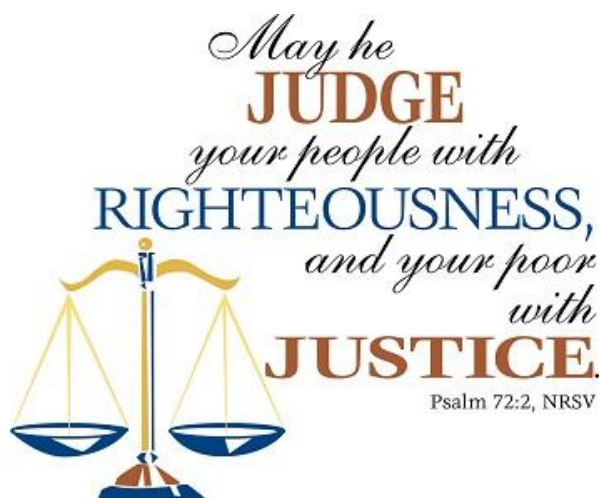
**Assisted Living:** Fred Deily, Mim Fritz, Violet Green, Elsie Koehler, Betty Romig

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

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

### G-4 Church Partners:

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





**2026 COUNCIL**

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

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

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

**STAFF**

- The Rev. Bettye Wolinski,  
[emwolinski@msn.com](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.)* - **Briget 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**

## **JANUARY BIBLE LESSONS**

<b>Sunday, January 4 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>	<b>Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-18</b>
<b>Sunday, January 11 Baptism of Our Lord</b>	<b>Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34--43 Matthew 3:13-17</b>
<b>Sunday, January 18 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42</b>
<b>Sunday, January 25 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23</b>