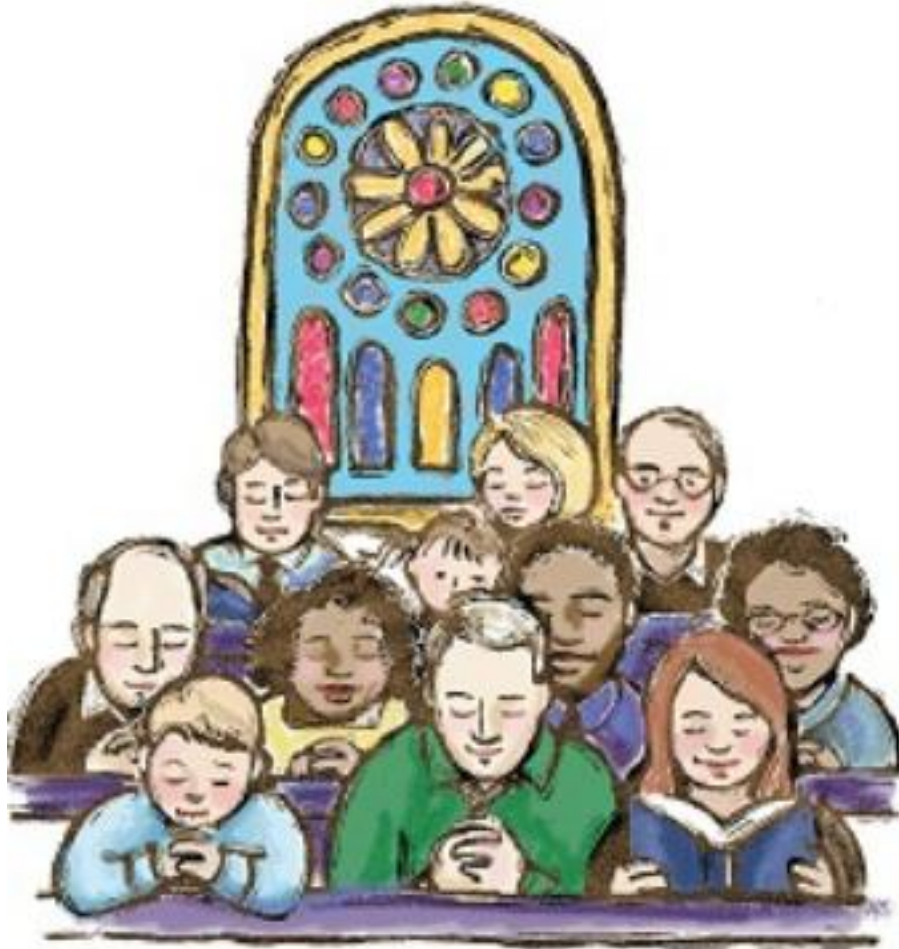


THE NET

OCTOBER 2025



**“This day is holy to our LORD;
and do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD
is your strength.”**

Nehemiah 8:10 NRSV



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

A Psalm of David

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.....Psalm 24:1

Stewardship: Our Duty & Our Delight

In the modern or postmodern church, the idea of "stewardship" usually sends chills through a church's collective spines. "How do we discuss stewardship this year?" "Do we ask for pledge cards?" "Who should take on the task of overseeing our stewardship initiative?" These are just a few frequently voiced concerns when a church council decides it is time to talk about giving, to talk about stewardship, and to answer the real question, "Who does it all really belong to anyway?"

I would like us to all re-look at the idea of stewardship through a new lens called "Duty and Delight." Reverend Mark Allan Powell has written a very useful book entitled Giving to God. This book does not ask how we improve giving but rather how do we improve LIVING with God and each other as both a duty and a delight as stewards for all that God has given to us.

Here is a very simple formula when it comes to personal stewardship of time, talents, and treasures:

First, God's children are called to the *dutiful care* and practices of using their gifts from God. It is our Christian duty to share of our time, talents, and treasures.

Second, God's children are also called to the *delightful care* and practice of giving beyond ourselves, beyond our dutiful practices of giving.

An example of this formula looks like this:

Weekly offering is a dutiful responsibility. Giving to special needs, projects such as food pantries, shelters, children's support items, and special financial needs of the church are all above and beyond our weekly dutiful gifts of time talents and treasures.

Rev Powell's book returns us to the Old Testament practices which are common in most of the major religions of the world called alms-giving which simply means, "giving beyond giving for the care of the other and God's creation."

In October our sermon series will be centered on being a people of God in the dutiful and delightful manner.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.... II Corinthians 9:6-7

Pastor Bettye



++ST. PETER'S MINISTRY TEAMS++

ALTAR GUILD

by Maryanne Siegert

We can't believe that Fall is here already and the holiday season is just around the corner. The women of the Altar Guild will be working to make sure that the altar and the paraments that dress it will help to enhance our spiritual celebrations. We do all of this with joy.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

by Mary Lou Tietz

The Community Services Committee wants to thank everyone who generously contributed to our Back to School supplies. Once again, you were very generous and we were able to support the Ocean City Elementary School, Buckingham Elementary in Berlin, and Phillip C. Showell Elementary in Selbyville with several boxes of supplies for teachers and administrators to hand out to children who are unable to afford many of the items that they need to take to school everyday to help them with their school work. This means a lot to them and was greatly appreciated.

We also continue to serve lunches and give out food bags every Wednesday. In August, 285 lunches were served, and 192 food bags were distributed.

We are having our meeting later this month so we will be reporting on our fall and holiday activities in the next NET, and details will be in the bulletins also.

Thank you, as always, for all your support. We are grateful. 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

Susanne Howard & Linda Grahe

As autumn approaches, our Fellowship Team reflects on the joy and warmth that fill our gatherings each month. From bustling coffee hours to festive luncheons, every event is a testament to the generous spirit that lives within our congregation at St. Peter's. The dedication of volunteers, the laughter echoing through the CLC, and the simple pleasures of shared meals remind us that fellowship is not just an activity, it is the heart that keeps our church vibrant and united. We are so blessed to have such a strong, caring, loving church family. We give thanks to the Lord for giving us this strong family, which keeps us moving forward and blessing us with His love. I want you all to know these celebrations could not move forward without your kind, loving hearts. Blessings to all of you.

We always welcome volunteers to work on the Fellowship Team and share in providing set-ups for various occasions. If you feel that you would like to share in our efforts to serve St. Peter's and our community, please visit us in the CLC after services, or call Susanne Howard 443-442-4285.

The Fellowship Team will continue to serve coffee, tea, and different pastries before and after each Sunday service. Everyone is invited to join us in the CLC for refreshments and fellowship.

Blessings to all

FUND RAISING

By Linda Grahe & Susanne Howard

The Boscov's Friends Helping Friends discount shopping passes for the one day event on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 are now available in the Community Life Center after each service on Sunday mornings. Donate \$5.00 and enjoy a 25% shopping discount during this one day event. You may also register to win a \$100.00 Boscov's gift card. Donate \$5.00 and enjoy.

Please feel free to spread the word about our fundraiser to your friends, family, neighbors, and other groups you belong to. 100% of your donation goes to help support our mission and ministries of St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

\$80.00 has been raised as of September 20.

st. Peter's Lutheran Church
(Non-Profit Organization)

Bosco's
FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS
IN-STORE & ONLINE

ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD**
One Winner at every Bosco's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:
Linda Grahe 443-614-3808
Sundays 10-10:30 AM, 11:30-12 Noon

*Exclusions apply. For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends

RECYCLING

Please prayerfully consider recycling the following items at St. Peter's Church:

We are collecting brown paper bags and plastic bags. Did you know - we use the bags for the Wednesday food give-a-ways. The small plastic bags fit perfectly in the Son & Sand Retreat Center (5) bedroom trash cans and are also used during the Cold Weather Shelter.

We are also collecting egg cartons.

The Hurlock Lion's Club is collecting empty pill bottles for patients in developing countries through Matthew 25: Ministries, an international humanitarian aid & disaster relief organization.

The Lions are asking the community to join in this project by donating empty pill bottles. The pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving

medical care in developing countries and caring for the environment. In developing countries, medicines are often dispensed into hands, leaves, or any other available containers. Matthew 25: Ministries offers a better way to distribute medicine in such communities. Acceptable items include prescription & over the counter pill bottles, any size, with or without child resistant caps, and please remove labels. The primary goal is to send bottles to third world countries where there is a shortage of proper medicine storage containers and reducing the amount of plastic going in landfills. Please consider donating your empty pill bottles to get new life. Donated bottles help keep medications safe and effective and solve a recycling problem.

RUTH CIRCLE

Women's Bible Study
by Joann Soult

Ruth Circle Bible study meets via Zoom on the first Thursday of the month. Our next Zoom gathering will be **Thursday, October 2 at 2:00 pm**. We'll continue using "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado, studying Chapters 10 and 11 with Joann Soult leading (202-544-7981 or jsoult624@gmail.com). **Join us!**

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (S.A.M.)

by Susanne Howard & Bridget Foster

The Senior Adult Ministry team will meet on Monday, October 6, 2025, to discuss more trips for 2026. Our team wants to remind everyone; all are invited to join our meetings and bring information for us to share on trips and outings. So don't be shy, join us in room 5 at 1:00pm on Monday, October 6th and bring your ideas.

Upcoming trips:

Our next event will be at Hoopers Crab House, in west OC, on Thursday, October 9th starting at 4:00pm. Our menu will consist of; **all you can eat**, shrimp, fried chicken, hush puppies, corn on the cob, crabs, and non-alcoholic drinks of tea, coffee, or soda.

Thursday, December 4th - Clear Space Theatre, 11:00am showing of "A Christmas Carol" and lunch at Victoria's. "A Christmas Carol" is a story that has defined the holiday season for generations, retold as a gorgeous, joy-filled musical for all ages to enjoy. After the show we will enjoy lunch at Victoria's Restaurant consisting of: First Course, Roasted Beet Salad, Entrée choice of either: 1) Center-Cut Pork Chop, 2) Steak Frites, 3) Upside Down Chicken Pot Pie, 4) Sautéed Jumbo Shrimp. A delicious dessert will follow. A flyer and sign-up sheet will be posted shortly, so keep your eyes open and focused on the Senior Adult Ministry bulletin board for further information. Cost of the trip is \$65 pp.

Our upcoming events promise to continue the enriching experiences that make the Senior Adult Ministry special. Be sure to check the bulletin board regularly for updates and don't hesitate to reach out with suggestions or inquiries. Whether it's a historical tour, a lively musical, or a holiday-themed outing, we aim to provide moments that connect with fellowship.

SON & SAND RETREAT CENTER

by Paul Grahe

In October, we welcome the Campus Ministry from Marymount University, Arlington, VA from October 2nd-October 5th. Let's give them a warm St. Peter's welcome. I am scheduling a Son & Sand Greeters' meeting for Sunday, October 19th, following the 10:30 a.m. church service.

If you would like to become part of this ministry by serving as a Son & Sand Greeter, I'm available on Sundays in the CLC Hall to learn more about this ministry. You may also email me at p.grahe@comcast.net or by phone at 443-604-8068.

WITNESS

by Evelyn Houston

With terrible events that have happened in the last few weeks in mind, I began to think about all of us and how we feel when we are hit with a bunch of bad things. It's easy to say "why me?" Why do all of these things have to come at once? I did not think that things could get any worse and yet today they did.

A former pastor of mine, many years ago, described life as a tennis game. "What would a tennis game be like without a net? "Sure it would make the game easy, maybe too easy. After a while, there would be no purpose." It's easy to say that all the bad stuff in life makes one stronger and better, even if that's true. But when the bad stuff comes, it is scary and doubt creeps in as is our ability to deal with it. Being human, it is honest to admit that we are scared and want a way out. Being Christians and knowing "Jesus is with us" can give us the courage to enter those dark valleys with him at our side.

God allows things to happen for a reason. Whether or not we understand His reasons, we must remember God is good, loving, and merciful. Often, bad things happen to us and others, that we simply cannot understand. Instead of doubting God's goodness, our reaction should be to trust him. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." We walk by faith, not by sight.



++ST. PETER'S NEWS++

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

by David Marzola

On September 28th, Pastor Bettye and Dave Wolinski hosted a new member information luncheon. Over 20 people expressed interest in possibly becoming members. I hope and pray that we had a great turnout to grow the future of St. Peter's. Please continue to invite friends and family to attend our services.

The Church Council is preparing for our annual meeting that will be held in December 2025. Information on the meeting will be forthcoming to the congregation, to include the Proposed 2026 Budget.

As a reminder, I will continue to mention, we are looking for fundraising ideas moving into 2026. If you have an idea, please send the idea to me, and I will develop a list to provide to our Fellowship Ministry Team Chairperson, Fundraising Chairperson, and the Church Council.

Finally, "Country Calling Festival" is taking place in Ocean City during the first weekend in October. Please be careful driving in town during this time.

God's Peace to All!
Sincerely,
David Marzola

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

August - 100 per week (5 weeks)

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TOTALS

Total Contributions as of August 31, 2025

\$264,580.40 Year-to-Date Budget
\$262,170.29 Year-to-Date Received
\$-2,410.11 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.

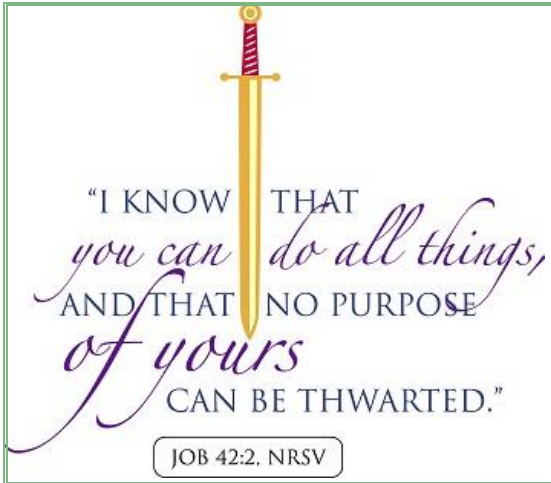
ALTAR FLOWERS & COMMUNION ELEMENTS



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.

your check out to St. Peter's and put OC Crisis Ministry in the memo. Thank you for your support!



++NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION++

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Carol Lee & Charlie Bell 10/03
- Fred & P. J. Lyon-Patterson 10/15
- Sandra & Anthony Palmisano 10/16
- Chuck & Theresa Pyle 10/17
- Michael & Maryanne Siegert 10/18
- Matt & Desirae Class 10/27
- Evelyn Houston & Paul Tishuk 10/31

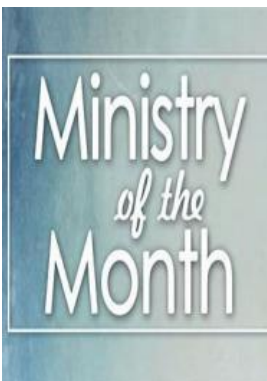


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Amy Gutowski 10/01
- Trudy Stock 10/03
- Lee Creamer 10/08
- Suellen Gerbracht 10/09
- Corey Rimel 10/09
- Carol Wolpert 10/14
- Veronica Bona 10/16
- Billy Haynes 10/17
- Jon A. Gerbracht 10/19
- Kathy Firor 10/21
- Susanne Howard 10/21
- Linda Harry 10/23
- Patrick Nash 10/24
- Jesse Gutowski 10/25
- Tina Palmer 10/25
- Robert Jordan 10/28
- Linda Grahe 10/30
- Ron Hager 10/31

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

Our October 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 that 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

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 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** 🌻

Received in August

to
Gifts & Memorials
from
Luke & Caitlyn Andrzejewski

**MANY ADDED THANKS FROM
LINDA AND DOUG HARRY**

Linda and I would like to thank all of those who planned or participated in our farewell luncheon after the 13 July Congregation Meeting and 27 July sendoff blessing. The charcuterie board was gigantic and delicious as were the excellent cakes and desserts provided. We will cherish the photo of the Open Door personnel and proudly display the framed memory board and its blessing.

We have moved to live near our son, daughter-in-law, and youngest grandchildren hoping to be available to assist them, when needed. We have left to acclimate ourselves to a new home, neighbors, and friends. We thoroughly enjoyed knowing and working with many of you in mission at St Peter's. As Linda stated many times, we appreciated opportunities to represent the generosity of this congregation's members and friends,

especially when we experienced the joys and thankfulness of its many recipients.

God bless St. Peter's Lutheran Church and each of you, as well as our adventure.

Yours truly, Linda and Doug Harry,
11500 Arbor Lakes Parkway, #3235, Maple Grove, MN, 55369



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: Bob Swingler, Betty Bellarin, Bonnie Hiewsky, Karen Schultz, Janet Schroeder, Family & friends of Earl Ludy, Family & friends of Kevin Coleman, Family & friends of Wayne Bridegum, Chris, Linda Riley, Rachel Vaughn & family, Tom Smoot, Marjorie Hagood, Katie Rimel, Lynn Benach & grandbaby due in Jan.

Ongoing needs: Caregivers, first responders and all on the front lines working to save lives, Terri Wheatley, Bob Coyner, Paul Tishuk, Mary Haynes, Pr. Harry & Carol Wolpert, Savannah Bona, Melissa Jester, Lorelai Grace and Brooklyn Eleanor, Dex Stannard, Ada May Shipley, 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 Dallochio, Matthew Dennis, Noah Kauffman, Nicolas Nalbone, David Owens, Jarrett Patterson, 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 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
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

2025 COUNCIL

Pastor Betty Wolinski
President - Dave Marzola
Vice President - Mary Lou Tietz
Secretary - Susanne Howard
Treasurer - Dave Wolinski (Non-Voting member)
Financial Secretary -
Vonnie Brown, Marcie Ermer, Billy Haynes,
Jeannette Latzo, Evan McDermott, Tina Palmer,
Theresa Pyle, Mike Siegert, Charlene Vanvick

MINISTRY TEAMS & LEADERS

Altar Guild - **Maryanne Siegert**
Christian Education - **Pastor Bettye Wolinski**
Community Service - **Mary Lou Tietz**
Fellowship - **Susanne Howard**
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 -



OCTOBER BIBLE LESSONS	
Sunday, October 5 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37: 1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Matthew 25:14-28
Sunday, October 12 18th Sunday after Pentecost	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Acts 20:32-35
Sunday, October 19 19th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 32:22-32 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 6:43-49
Sunday, October 26 Reformation Sunday	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

