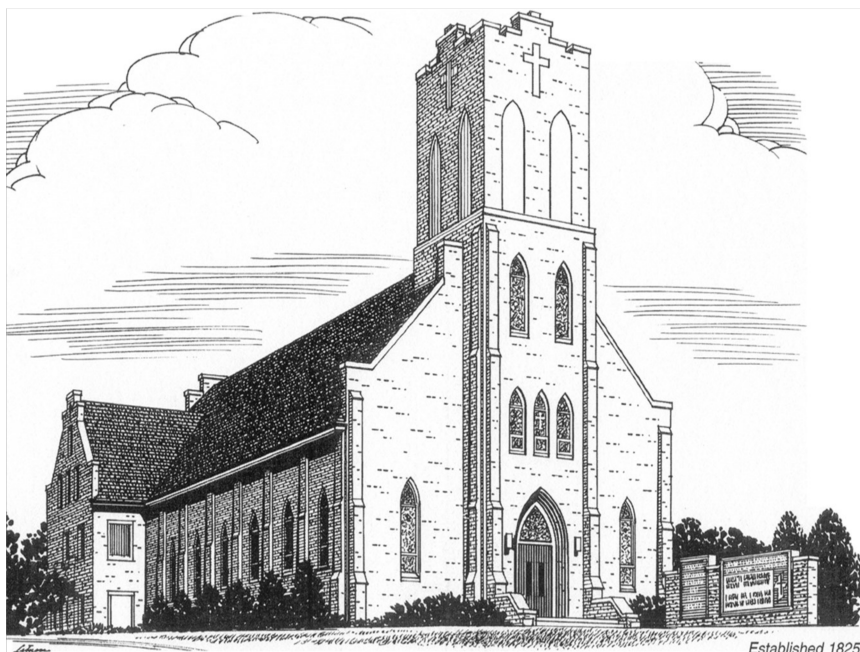


THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

Freedom Celebration Service

Third Sunday after Trinity

July 6, 2025



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ CONOVER, NC ✠

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Third Sunday after Trinity

"This man receives sinners and eats with them" (Luke 15:2). The Pharisees' statement of judgment against Jesus is in fact a proclamation of Gospel truth. For our God is one who delights in mercy, who casts all our sins into the depths of the sea through the cross (Micah 7:18-20). *"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"* (1 Tim. 1:15). Those who refuse to be counted as sinners also refuse Jesus who came only for sinners. Those like the older son (Luke 15:11-32), who think they are righteous of themselves, will not join in the heavenly celebration over the sinner who repents and so remain outside of the Father's house. Let us therefore be on guard against self-righteously trusting in our own merits. *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you"* (1 Peter 5:6). Rejoice that Jesus receives sinners like us and that He still sits at table with us in the Holy Supper, bestowing His forgiveness and life.

Welcome to St. Peter's! We are glad you are here! We ask everyone to fill out an "attendance card" and place it in the offering plate later in the service. We welcome our first-time guests and visitors and request that you fill out the back side of the attendance card as well. Guests and visitors please take a "welcome" bag from our table out front.

Holy Communion Today

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper, where the risen Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine, offering His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome to commune all baptized Christians who:

- Believe in Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Savior
- Trust they receive Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sins
- Acknowledge their sinfulness and desire to live a new life in Christ

As this Sacrament is a public confession of our shared faith, we ask visitors to speak with a pastor or an elder before communing. This ensures all who commune receive this gift as a blessing rather than to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). We are happy to answer any questions you might have about the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Frank, Pastor Eric, and the Board of Elders

Need Prayer? Those desiring personal prayer will find an elder stationed in the prayer room following the service today. You may also leave prayer requests there for them to pray over.

Today's radio broadcast is given to the glory of God and in honor of Brandon & Lauren Gantt Wrenn's wedding June 20th, and in honor of Lauren's 25th Birthday today, June 6th by her Grandmother Sandra Gantt

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Reva Reinhardt's 100th birthday (7/12). God truly blessed us with you Aunt Jack! Love, Danny & Donna Sipe.

Children's Bulletins and Devotional Books are available in the narthex and by both side entrance doors.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

***Babies - Kindergarten** - Room #1 Education Building- Brenda Fulbright
Alice Layne

***K-2nd Grade** - Room #8 Education Building - Emily Schwandt

***3rd - 6th Grades** - Room #7 Education Building - Terry Sigmon

***Middle & High Schoolers** - Room #4 Education Building - John Adams

***Adults of All Ages** - Education Building, Room #2 - A study on "Esther" by Danielle Brown with Kim Gantt ,Kevin Gantt & Kim Rector.

***Ladies Sunday School Class** - Grover Herman Room Education Building, with Beth Lail. They are studying "Great Stories of the Bible."

***Adults - Multi-Purpose Room Class** - They are studying "The Cross" with Christal Sigmon

***Pastor's Class - Parish Hall - Genesis Bible Study** "Calling of Abram" with Pastor Eric and Pastor Frank

PRAYERS

Church Members in Need of prayer Carol Abbott, Terry Bolick, Johnny Bryant, Betty Eckard, Judy Eckard, Janet Good, Mary Ruth Hefner, Sandra Jenkins, Darrell Little, Seth Paschal, Alan Pruitt, V. Mickey Stewart, Tommy Stewart, and Marshall Wray.

Pray for Our Homebound Members

Those at Home: Carol Abbott, Rosella Bollinger, Polly Bowman, Shirley Dellinger, Joe Eckard, Annette Hollar, Kathleen Houston, Bobby Little, Hazel Moser, Seth Paschal, Jeanette Reese, Reva Reinhardt, Bonnie Sigmon, Eugene Sigmon, Richard Sigmon, Ernest & Carol Starnes, Tommy & Mickey Stewart, John Van Horne, Dorothy Willis, Mary Ann Winebarger

Abernathy Center: Gracie Bolick, Gwendolyn Allen

Brookdale: Blanche Hefner

Kingston Manor: Barbara White

Catawba Valley Living: Alberta Winebarger

Trinity Village: Margaret Laws, Donald Bowman

Friends Needing Prayer

Ronnie Sigmon (brother-in-law of Johnny & Sandra Bryant)

Carolyn Reitzel (friend of Ron & Brenda Hefner)

Dave Abernathy (father of Brad Abernathy)

Anne Schenk (sister-in-law of Nancy Bruce)

Michelle Shoup (friend of Dixie Ingram)

John Hallman (son of Richard & Brenda Hallman)

Patti Oliver (cousin of Deborah Rufty)

Ashley McComb (daughter of Seth & Carolyn Paschal)

Robert Kanipe (friend of David & Grayston Sigmon)

Jim Totty (father of Bill Totty)

Lowell & Karen Rothenberger (parents of Peter Rothenberger)

Randy Shook (son-in-law of Joy Lail)

Andres Rodreguiz (friend of Seth & Carolyn Paschal)

Tim Self (friend of Adam Watts)

Jacob 'Levi' Baker (friend of Carter Link)

Talynn Clark (great granddaughter of Johnny & Sandra Bryant)

*(*names are listed for 4 weeks and can be renewed by calling the office*)*

Expectant Mothers

Ashlyn Martin - due Sept. 13 (daughter-in-law of Mike & Angie Martin)
Katelynn Ruff - due Oct. 27 (granddaughter of Nelson & Selena Gurganious)

Birthdays This Week Lauren Gantt (7/6); Barbara Nordyke (7/8); Faye Bowman (7/10); Reva Reinhardt (7/12);

Anniversaries This Week Peter & Leslie Rothernberger (7/1); Johnny & Sandra Bryant (7/2); Bobby & Crystal Gantt (7/2); Jerry & Doris Bolick (7/5) Alan & Deborah Pruitt (7/9);

ANNOUNCEMENTS

July Over 80 Birthdays: The LWML has given a donation to the Helping Hands Fund in honor of the following: Faye Bowman (7/10); Reva Reinhardt (7/12); Margaret Laws (7/14); Betty Eckard (7/17); John Van Horne (7/19); and Rev. Delbert Roth (7/31).

GriefShare A new GriefShare class will begin Sunday, August 3 at 4:30pm. Anyone who is interested please contact Sandra Jenkins at 828-638-5224

100th Birthday Party The congregation is invited to come and celebrate Reva Reinhardt's 100th birthday on **Saturday, July 12 from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Spirit Center.** Please NO gifts. If you'd like to do something in her honor, she requests donations be made to the St. Peter's Crocheting & Looming group.

VBS Items Needed Our Vacation Bible School will be held this year, **July 27 - July 31.** Our theme this year is "Egypt: Joseph's journey from prison to palace." If you have any Egyptian themed items at your house (palm trees, etc.) that we can borrow, please let Ashton Sigmon or Laura Frank know.

Blessing Box Update

After our June meeting, we're strengthening our Blessing Box ministry with regular stocking and usage tracking. We need donations of canned meals, hygiene products, baby food, pet food, laundry detergent, and basic food staples. Pop-top items are especially helpful. Please bring your donations to the back hallway of the church building. Join us for our next Blessing Box meeting on **Sunday, July 13 at 2:00 PM** in the Education Building to discuss our progress and future plans. Thank you for supporting this important community resource!

"We Are One in Christ " Back to School Bash St. Peter's has joyfully committed to providing 1,300 spiral notebooks (700 wide-ruled, 600 college-ruled) and 1,000 composition notebooks for the "We Are One in Christ" back-to-school event at the Hickory Fairgrounds on **August 2nd**. We are also helping with the cost of backpacks and pencil cases. While we gladly welcome notebook donations, financial contributions would allow us to purchase supplies in bulk at better prices. Any amount helps—please mark your donations "We Are One in Christ Supplies." ***Boxes for contributions are located in the back hallway of the main church building near the restrooms.***

We're also seeking volunteers to lead fun games and activities for the children during the event. If you'd like to help run activities like ring toss, cornhole, or ball games—or if you have other game ideas—we'd love to hear from you! To contribute or volunteer, please contact Evangelism Chair Marla Early or Pastor Frank.

Last Week - June 29, 2025

Worship Services Attendance

8:15 am 170 10:45 82

Sunday School Attendance

Adults 50 Youth 14

Offerings

General Fund - \$10,091.06 Sunday School - \$55

In order to meet the budget for 2025 that was approved by the congregation, our weekly General Fund offerings must average \$11,184.22

Dedicated Fund Offerings

Radio Sponsor - \$100; Evangelism - \$100; Senior Youth - \$708; Building Fund - \$970;

Building Audio/Visual - \$85

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sun. (6)	9:30 am Independence Day Worship Service ONE SERVICE ONLY 11:00 am Family Cookout following service
Mon. (7)	8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm Praise Band Practice <i>Pastor Eric's day off</i>
Tues(8)	2:30 pm Staff Meeting
Wed. (9)	6:30 pm Basketball League
Thurs. (10)	6:00 pm VBS Team Meeting - all volunteers to attend- in Education Building. <i>Pastor Frank's day off</i>
Fri. (11)	10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall. Alaska Mission Team to Ninilchik
Sat. (12)	2:00 pm 100th Birthday for Reva Reinhardt - Spirit Center
Sun. (13)	8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday School & Bible Classes 10:45 am Traditional Service 1:00 pm Confirmation Changes Proposal Meeting - Education Building 2:00 pm Blessing Box Review Meeting - Education Building 3:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting

***Bold = activities that don't happen on a typical week**

If you know of a member of the congregation who is sick, hospitalized, or has special needs, please contact the church office at 828-256-2970 or Pastor Frank or Pastor Eric

SERMON NOTES

“True Freedom: Celebrating His Reckless Grace”

Luke 15:11–32

1. What gives you a sense of freedom?
2. In what ways could the father in the parable be considered "reckless"?
3. What prevented each son from experiencing true freedom?
4. How might we join in celebrating the freedom found in God's reckless grace?

Rev. Peter Frank, Senior Pastor

314-882-7117 (cell)

pfrank@stpetersconover.org

Rev. Eric Hauss, Assistant Pastor

828-896-5180 (cell) 828-441-9559 (home)

pastor_e@stpetersconover.org

Nancy Bruce, Administrative Asst

secretary@stpetersconover.org

Kim Kaylor, Family Ministry Director

828-234-5945 (cell)

familyministry@stpetersconover.org

Rev. Jason & Emily Groth, Missionaries

lcms.org/Groth

Carolyn Paschal, Music Director

304-590-0504 (cell)

music@stpetersconover.org

Drew Stiles, Praise Band Leader

stilesdrew70@gmail.com

Church Office

Phone: 828-256-2970

Website

stpetersconover.org

Church WiFi

Stpeters1364

Church Address

6175 St Peters Church Rd, Conover NC 28613

Today's Servants

Altar Guild: Carolyn Paschal

Praise Band: Drew Stiles, leader; Bradley Abernathy, Emily Allen, Thom Bumgarner, Tom Delgreco, Melody Frank, Susan Gantt, Brenda Hefner, Oz Hefner, Olivia Owens, Kim Rector, Emily Sherbino, Emma Spencer, Jeff Winebarger

Adult Choir: Charles Bumgarner, Sherry Bumgarner, Greg Eckard, Judy Eckard, Trudy Huffman, Carmen Lander, Scott Medlin, Carolyn Paschal, Emily Sherbino, Jan Sigmon, Drew Stiles, John Thomas.

Handbells: Betty Goble, Alice Layne, Carolyn Paschal, Cheryl Pennell, Cheryl Sigmon, Drew Stiles, Bill Totty.

Organist: Carolyn Paschal

Office: Bob Marlowe

Readers: Beth Lail, Mike Pritchard, Bob Watts

Prayer Room: Danny Goforth

Greeters: Marla Early

Ushers: Open

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Proposal - Informational Meeting

St. Peter's Lutheran Church invites the entire congregation, especially parents of children who will soon be confirmation age, to an important informational meeting on **Sunday, July 13 at 1:00 PM** in the Education Building.

We will be presenting a proposal for a new approach to confirmation instruction. This proposed program aims to make confirmation more flexible while maintaining accountability, replace the "graduation mindset" with a focus on confirmation as the beginning of adult church membership, allow students to be confirmed when they're ready, and increase parental involvement through mentoring.

This is still in the proposal stage, and we sincerely want your feedback and input before finalizing any changes. Please come with your questions and suggestions as we work together to strengthen our confirmation program. Contact Pastor Frank with any questions prior to the meeting.

THANK YOU NOTES

The family of Libby Sigmon would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and all the prayers that have been sent our way the last few weeks. Libby was only at St. Peter's a few years but she felt so very welcome here. God Bless our wonderful church family.

Kid's Kamp would like to say a special thank you to the many volunteers that helped with Kids Kamp...especially Debra Shipman and Catherine Huffman for the delicious breakfast each day, Kim Kaylor for the devotions and recreation, Bob Watts, Betty Goble, and Kim Kaylor for driving us to the many locations and a host of others that pitched in for a wonderful week...Alyson Mains, Patricia Pritchard, Kay Watts, Julia Robinson, Emily Schwandt, Annissa Beck, Beth Lail, Judy Sigmon, Brenda Hefner, Angie Little and our youth counselors-Ethan, Cannon, Jaxon, Rachel and Serenity. It takes a village.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Invites Families to our 2025 Vacation Bible School *Egypt Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace*

Our 2025 Vacation Bible School called *Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace* will be hosted at St. Peter's every evening from **Sunday, July 27 to Thursday, July 31**. Families step back in time at Egypt, exploring the life of Joseph and learning the love of Jesus every step of the way.

Kids participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Egyptian eats, visit Joseph in prison and then in his palace home, and collect reminders of God's Word. Plus, everyone learns to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

Adults are welcome to volunteer (background checks are required) or they can attend Pastor Frank's Bible Study in the Sanctuary.

Vacation Bible School will begin with a meal at 5:00 and then activities will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day.

Register today! Students and volunteers who register before Sunday, July 20th will receive a free t-shirt! You can register online at <https://www.stpetersconover.org/ministries/vbs/> or complete the form in your bulletin.

MEMORIALS

- **Given to the General Fund** in loving memory of Libby Sigmon by Judy Hester
- **Given to the Miriam Circle** in loving memory of Janet Van Horne by John Van Horne
- **Given to Senior Youth** in loving memory of Barbara Hinds by Judy Little
- **Given to the General Fund** in loving memory of Libby Sigmon by Martha Pendasulo