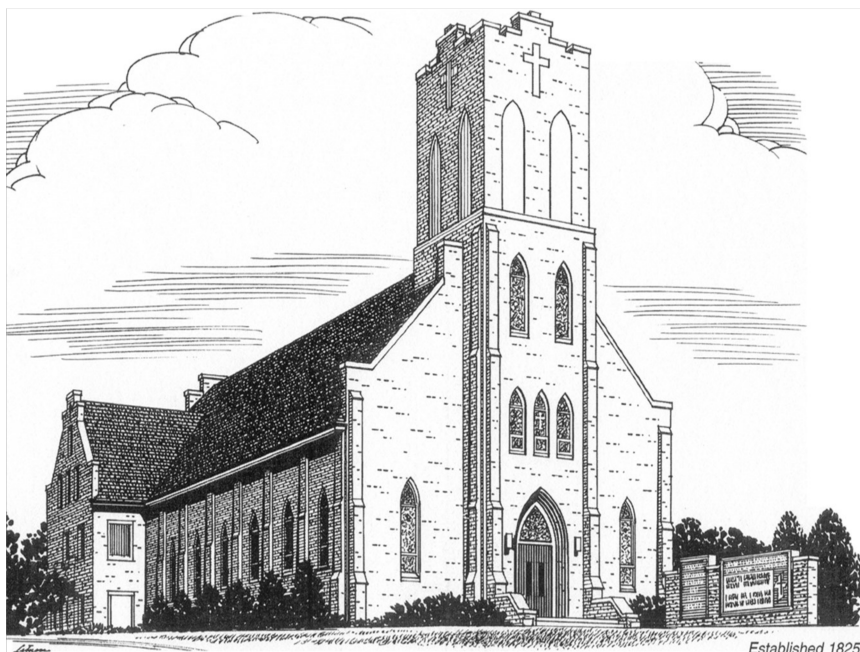


THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 21, 2025



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ CONOVER, NC ✠

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Cry of Faith: Lord, Have Mercy

The ten lepers cried out from a distance, *“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”* (Luke 17:11–19). Their condition cut them off from God and others. So also do the works of the flesh cut us off from God and others. *“Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5:16–24). Thus we cry out with the lepers, *“Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy,”* eagerly seeking His good gifts. Jesus said to the lepers, *“Go and show yourselves to the priests.”* And as they went, they were cleansed. So too, we walk by faith and not by sight, being confident of Jesus’ help before we see any evidence of it, trusting that Jesus’ cleansing words of forgiveness will restore us to wholeness in the resurrection. Let us be as the one leper who returned to the true High Priest to give Him thanks and glory. For Jesus bore our infirmities in His sacrifice at Calvary. His words are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh (Prov. 4:10–23).

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 - 8:15, 10:45 and 4:30 pm services

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

A special welcome to Rev. Dr. Peter H. Nafzger to St. Peter's today as our guest preacher. Dr. Nafzger is associate professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and has been a faculty member since 2016. Prior to coming to Concordia Seminary, he served as the sole pastor of New Life Church—Lutheran in Hugo, Minn (2007-16). His areas of interest and research include the theology of Scripture, homiletics and the theology of preaching, the communal shape of the Christian life, and confirmation and Christian formation. In addition to teaching, Nafzger serves as the head coach for the Preachers basketball team at Concordia Seminary. With his family, he enjoys hiking, camping, traveling, rock climbing, German board games, World Cup soccer and March Madness. He is married to Katie, who teaches high school biology. They have four children: Olivia, Johann, August and Louisa.

Need Prayer? Those desiring personal prayer will find an elder stationed in the prayer room following communion 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 Paula's birthday (Sept. 24) by Dan & Paula Timmerman (*Listen on WAIZ 630 AM or 105.9 FM during our 8:15 am service*)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

***Ages 2-5** - Room #1 Education Building- Brenda Fulbright & Alice Layne

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

***3rd - 5th Grades** - Grover Herman Room Education Building - Terry Sigmon

***Middle & High Schoolers (6-12th Grades)** - Room #4 Education Building - John Adams

.*Adults of All Ages - Education Building, Room #2 - A study on "The Book of Jude" by Eric Geiger with Kim Gantt ,Kevin Gantt & Kim Rector.

***Ladies Sunday School Class** - Education Building, Room 7 with Beth Lail They are studying "The Book of Acts."

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

***Pastor’s Class - Parish Hall** - Lectionary Study with Pastor Eric and Pastor Frank

PRAYERS

Church Members in Need of prayer Carol Abbott, Carol Alley, Terry Bolick, Rosella Bollinger, Stanley Dellinger, David Duncan, Betty Eckard, Danny Goforth, Janet Good, Scottie Goble, Brenda Hallman, Mary Ruth Hefner, Karen Hoyle, James “Himey” Huffman, Sandra Jenkins, David Johnson, Carter Link, Angela Martin, Seth Paschal, Alan Pruitt, Amy Rucker, David Sigmon, Karen Smith, Mickey 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, Patricia Isenhour, Bobby Little, Hazel Moser, Seth Paschal, Jeanette Reese, 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

Greens at Viewmont: Reva Reinhardt

Kingston Manor: Barbara White

Catawba Valley Living: Alberta Winebarger

Trinity Village: Margaret Laws, Donald Bowman

Friends Needing Prayer

- Carolyn Reitzel (friend of Ron & Brenda Hefner)
- Possum & Phyllis Mathews (friends of Bob & Gaye Marlowe)
- Judy Sherrill (cousin of Debbie Adams)
- Mike Brittain (cousin of Debbie Adams)
- Sarah Brummet (wife of Pastor Daniel Brummet , former vicar at St. Stephens LCMS)
- Lee Hartley (family of Judy Eckard)
- Tim & Roxanne Atwood (friends of Bob Marlowe)
- Sawyer Lackey (grandson of Craig & Donna Lackey)

- Debbie Hefner (wife of Randy Hefner)
- Tom Hottman (brother-in-law of Carmen Lander)
- Tammy White (friend of Nancy Bruce)
- Carson Hollar (son of Rev. Eric Hollar)
- Tyler Coulbourn (nephew of Sandra Jenkins)

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

Expectant Mothers

- Katelynn Ruff - due Oct. 27 (granddaughter of Nelson & Selena Gurganious)

Christian Sympathy

- The family of Todd Starnes (son of Ernest & Carol Starnes)

Births

- Oliver Elias Martin was born on September 11. Oliver is the son of Preston & Ashley Martin, and grandson of Michael & Angie Martin

Birthdays This Week Alice Freeman (9/21); Kim Rector (9/23); Savannah Couch (9/24); Keilee Cox (9/24); Deborah Rufty (9/24); Paula Timmerman (9/24); Oz Hefner (9/27); Ryan Lewis (9/27); Donna Sigmon (9/27)

Anniversaries This Week Chris & Christin Sigmon (9/21); Mike & Deborah Rufty (9/27)

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

All committee chair are requested to begin their budget requests for fiscal year 2026. Please get your requested budget turned in to David or the church office by the end of the month. If we start early we can allocate the funds that will best serve the congregation. If you have any questions, please call David Sigmon: 828-381-1883.

Council Elections If you would like to be considered for a position on church council in 2026 (*positions available will be announced soon*), please contact David Sigmon (828-381-1883) or Nancy in the church office to add your name to the list.

Feed the Athletes This fall we will be providing the pregame meal for the Bunker Hill football team on Friday, September 26 and for the St. Stephens football team on Friday, October 3. We will be feeding approximately 60 people per meal. Volunteers are needed to help serve the meals as well as provide desserts. (desserts requested are brownies, cookies with no icing, and pound cakes.) Monetary donations will also be accepted to help offset the cost of purchasing the food for the meal. (please write on memo line "Feed the Athletes." Please see Pastor Eric or call the church office if you would like to volunteer or need more information.

Lyle Creek Lunch Buddy Program The lunch buddy program with Lyle Creek Elementary School will start back on Thursdays at 11:45 am, starting September 4. Please consider joining us to meet with students during lunch to provide positive support and friendship. We will leave from the parish hall at 11:45 am to carpool to Lyle Creek or you can meet at the school. For more details, contact Kim Kaylor (828-234-5945).

Festival of the Tables Festival of the Tables will be November 15, 2025 at 5:30 in the Spirit Center, with fellowship, dinner, entertainment, and a raffle. If you are willing to host a table (this is someone willing to decorate a table and provide table settings for 8 people). Please let Audrey Hauss, Theresa Cook or Brenda (Oz) Hefner know by Sunday, September 28th if you would like to be a table host. Cost is \$20 per person to attend and proceeds go to The Corner Table and St. Peter's Mission Team.

Last Week - September 14, 2025

Worship Services Attendance

8:15 am 159 10:45 am 66

Sunday School

Adults 68 Youth 18

Offerings

General Fund - \$8,185; Sunday School - \$5

***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

Domestic Missions - \$150; Feed the Athletes - \$225; Kids in Christ - \$1,353; Senior Youth Gathering - \$1,353; Building Fund - \$723; Building Fund - Audio/Visual - \$188

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sun. (21)	<p>8:15 am Contemporary Service with Holy Communion with guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes</p> <p>10:45 am Traditional Service with Holy Communion with guest Preacher - Rev. Dr. Peter Nafzger</p> <p>12:00 pm Handbells</p> <p>4:00 pm Circuit Forum - at Christ Lutheran Church</p> <p>4:30 pm Homebound/Workers Communion Service</p> <p>4:30 pm GriefShare Support Group</p> <p>6:00 pm Church Council</p>
Mon. (22)	<p>8:30 am Quilters</p> <p>6:15 am Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Band Practice</p>
Tues. (23)	<p>2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm Crocheting & Looming Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>
Wed. (24)	<p>6:00 pm Elders</p> <p>6:30 pm Basketball League</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible Journaling with Kim Kaylor- <i>in Parish Hall</i></p> <p>6:30 pm Adult Choir</p>
Thurs. (25)	<p>10:00 am Bible Study with Kim Kaylor - <i>in Parish Hall</i></p> <p>11:45 am Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible Study with Terry Sigmon - <i>in multi-purpose room</i></p>
Fri. (26)	<p>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Eric - <i>in Parish Hall</i></p> <p>2:00 pm Volunteers arrive for meal for football team</p> <p>2:30 pm Meal for Bunker Hill High School football team</p>
Sat. (27)	<p>7:30 am Men's Small Group Bible Study - <i>in multi-purpose room</i></p>
Sun. (28)	<p>8:15 am Contemporary Service</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes</p> <p>10:45 am Traditional Service</p> <p>12:30 pm Sunshine Group - lunch at El Paso Mexican in Viewmont</p> <p>12:45 pm Kids in Christ (Grades K-6) Outing</p> <p>1:00 pm Evangelism Team - in multi-purpose room</p> <p>4:30 pm GriefShare Support Group</p>

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

SERMON NOTES

1. What work of Christ, accomplished for your benefit, is described in this sermon?

2. In what ways does the Holy Spirit empower you to live differently?

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: Theresa Cook, Tony Darden

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: 8:15 am Kaylor Spencer 10:45 am Richard Hallman

Prayer Room 8:15 am Kevin Gantt 10:45 am John Thomas

Greeters: 8:15 am Donna Sigmon 10:45 am Joy Eckard

Ushers: 8:15 am Open 10:45 am Open

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Studies - Join a Bible study this fall!

- Wednesday Night Bible Journaling with Kim Kaylor, leader at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.
- Thursday Morning Bible study with Kim Kaylor, leader at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall - studying Revelation
- Thursday Night Bible study with Terry Sigmon, leader at 6:30 pm in the multi-purpose room of the church, studying "The Risen Christ: Jesus' Final Words on Earth"
- Friday Morning Bible study with Pastor Eric, leader at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall, studying "The Chosen" series

Tutors Needed for Partnership with Central Latino's Opening Doors

Program This program provides tutoring for children from Spanish-speaking homes in Grades 1-5 throughout the school year. This program is designed to provide academic support, foster confidence, success and independence in a child's learning journey. Tutors will assist students with homework and work to enhance their reading and writing skills. We need 5-10 volunteers to tutor and another 2-3 volunteers to work check-in on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting the week of October 7. Tutoring would be here on the campus at St. Peter's and will be part of our evangelism outreach in the community. Times would be from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. You could tutor both days, once a week, once every other week, it is flexible. If you are interested in sharing your time and talents with these students, please contact Nancy in the church office.

The Quilters are looking for additional hands to help them tack quilts on Monday mornings from 8:30 am to 12 noon. (You don't have to stay the whole time and no experience is necessary, they will teach you.) For more information, see Brenda Griffin or Catherine Huffman.

Sunshine Group The Sunshine Group is planning an outing to the Winston Theatre Alliance to see "The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon." on Sunday, November 16. They will leave at 12 Noon (after the 2nd service ends). After the movie we will stop for dinner. If you'd like to attend, please contact Betty Goble (828-308-4251) by October 1. Ticket cost is approximately \$25 per person.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS INFORMATION

- **The Catawba County Hunger Walk**, presented by Ashure Ministry, Hickory Soup Kitchen, and The Corner Table will be held on **Sunday, October 5** starting with registration at 2 pm and the walk at 3 pm. You can register to walk at www.cchungerwalk.com.
- **Pregnancy Care Centre Walk for Life** will be held on **Saturday, September 27 at 9 am** in downtown Hickory. For information or to register contact Gentry Wade at commdir@pcchickory.com or on their website at www.pcc.hickory.com.
- **Corner Table Pop-Up Vendor Event** will be held on **Thursday, October 2 from 6-8:00 pm** at Sapphire Hills Event Center, 6610 NC Hwy 16 North, Conover NC. Donations of non perishable food items and/or cash donations will be accepted at the event to support the Corner Table.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kids in Christ (Grades K-6) will have an outing to the Johnny Wilson Farm in Granite Falls for a fun afternoon in their pumpkin patch, corn-maze and seeing the farm animals on **Sunday, September 28**. Meet in the Parish Hall at **12:45 pm**. Eat lunch before you come! Questions - contact Kim Kaylor.

Online Giving Did you know that you can give your offerings on line? You can sign up through our website stpetersconover.org and click on "Online Giving". You can give through bank draft, debit or credit card. You can do a one time offering or set up for weekly, monthly etc.

SERVING THE LORD IN

Belize

NEWS FROM GROTH FAMILY



August 2025



Alcohol Workshop

This picture shows my friend Clifton and I listening to a workshop on Alcoholism. Just like many other communities around the world Seine Bight suffers when people look to the easy cure of alcohol, drugs, or other distractions from their suffering or challenges.

This workshop aimed to inform about the dangers of alcohol consumption for the individual's body, family, and the community. Some topics covered were tolerances, mood/inhibition changes, long-term health concerns, and destruction of one's health or professional life.

We are thankful to the LCMS Christian Health Evangelism team that led this workshop!



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to jason.groth@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

jason.groth@lcms.org

From Word to the World



Your LCMS Latin America and the Caribbean Missionaries and their families

In early August, missionaries and their families from across Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in the chapel of the International Center in St. Louis for our annual missionary conference. The photo above, taken from the chapel's glass walls, captures a striking contrast: God's people gathered around His Word and Sacraments, while just beyond the windows, two major highways hum with the busyness of the world. It is a vivid reminder that the Church always stands at the crossroads of Word and world—called to be nourished in Christ and then sent back into the world to proclaim His Gospel. For us as missionaries, this yearly gathering is a vital part of sustaining the mission. It provides time for worship, rest, and encouragement in God's Word, while also offering opportunities for training, reflection, and collaboration. In the field, it is easy to become isolated or focused only on immediate needs, but the conference draws us back to the bigger picture: Christ's mission through His Church to bring the Gospel to the nations. By gathering, we are reminded that we do not labor alone, but as part of a larger body joined in the same confession, strengthened to return to our places of service with renewed zeal and hope.

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

The annual missionary conference in St. Louis began with a deep dive into the roots of our church body. Dr. Lawrence Rast, historian and president emeritus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, gave us a thorough history of Lutheranism in America and the formation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. His teaching helped us reflect on how the Lord has guided His Church through challenges and change, always preserving His Word and Sacraments at the center of our life together. For missionaries serving far from home, it was both humbling and inspiring to see how our work today connects to the faithful witness of generations before us.

Our time together also took us back to Perry County, Missouri, where the first Saxon immigrants settled and planted churches. Walking the same ground where these men and women built homes, schools, and congregations, we were reminded of their sacrifices and their determination to keep the Gospel pure. It was moving to stand where they once stood, realizing that their commitment to Word and Sacrament

ministry continues to shape the work we are called to carry out across Latin America and the Caribbean today.

The week concluded with a service of Holy Communion at Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown St. Louis, one of the oldest congregations of our Synod. There, all of us missionaries and our families gathered around the Lord's table and partook of the very chalice once used by C.F.W. Walther, the Synod's first president, and those early Saxon Lutherans. To share in that same cup was a profound reminder that we are joined not only across continents today, but also across the generations, united in Christ who continues to sustain His Church and send His Word into the world.



Missionary Care – Enduring Mission

In August, we were blessed by a visit from Tirzah Krey, the Missionary Care Coordinator for the Latin America and Caribbean region. Tirzah brings a unique combination of gifts to this role: she is both a nurse and a deaconess, able to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of missionaries and their families. Her presence is a reminder that the health and well-being of missionaries are vital to the ongoing work of the Church. By listening, encouraging, and providing practical care, Tirzah helps ensure that we remain strengthened for the task of proclaiming Christ in the places we are called to serve.

The role of the Missionary Care Coordinator is essential because most missionaries do not leave the field due to theological disagreements or lack of desire to serve, but rather because of challenges and obstacles that could have been eased with timely support. Whether it is offering medical advice, guidance through transitions, or spiritual encouragement rooted in God's Word, Tirzah helps us navigate those challenges before they become overwhelming. Her work keeps us focused on the mission—spreading the Gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing Christ's mercy—while reminding us that we, too, are cared for by the body of Christ.





Esther turns 12 in Belize!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- **Missionary Conference Reflections:** Give thanks for the time of worship, learning, and fellowship at the annual missionary conference in St. Louis. Pray that the lessons learned and encouragement received would strengthen all missionaries as they return to their fields of service.
- **Missionary Care:** Praise God for the visit of Tirzah Krey, our Missionary Care Coordinator. Pray for her continued work in supporting missionaries across Latin America and the Caribbean, that she may be sustained in wisdom and energy to care for those serving Christ's Church abroad.
- **Family Life and Schooling:** With the new school year beginning, pray for our children as they continue adjusting to homeschooling in a new country. Ask the Lord to give them joy in learning, resilience in challenges, and friends to walk alongside them in faith.

Kid Korner

"If you could invite kids from the United States to come see one thing in Belize, what would it be?"

Gideon:

"Rio on Pools, it is a bunch of rivers and slides you can ride. Oh, and St. Herman's Blue Hole National Park."

Esther:

"I would take them to the waterfalls and the rivers."

Martha:

"The Mayan Ruins...because they are cool."

Joanna:

"Um, to see the camp (Camp Concordia). Um. And Spanish Lookout, because I think it is cool."

Lord Jesus, You call us to walk by faith and not by sight. As we step into the unknown, give us courage to trust that You go before us, working in ways we may never see. Even if we do not witness the fruit of our labor, keep us faithful to Your Word and confident that all things rest in Your hands. Amen.

— Pastor Jason Groth



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Jason and Emily Groth. Make checks payable to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

OR
Mission Central
40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, IA 51034

On the memo line include *Groth-Belize*

Give securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/groth
Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438