

THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

November 30, 2025



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
✠ CONOVER, NC ✠

TODAY'S WORSHIP

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.

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 *(Listen on WAIZ 630 AM or 105.9 FM during our 8:15 am service)*

Fifth Sunday Social Please join us in the Spirit Center for social time and refreshments sponsored by the Senior Youth. Sunday School will follow at 9:45 am.

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** - Study of "Ephesians - The Mystery Revealed" with Pastor Frank

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Church Members in Need of prayer Carol Abbott, Carol Alley, Terry Bolick, Rosella Bollinger, Sherry Bumgarner, Keilee Cox, Betty Eckard, Judy Eckard, Earlene Fulbright, Janet Good, Mary Ruth Hefner, Malla Killian, Judy Little, Randy Miller, Seth Paschal, Alan Pruitt, Amy Rucker, Karen Smith, Teresa Taylor, Dorothy Willis, 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, 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, Reva Reinhardt

Trinity Village: Margaret Laws, Donald Bowman, Dorothy Willis

Friends Needing Prayer

- Debbie Hefner (wife of Randy Hefner)
- Andreas Rodriquez (friend of Carolyn Paschal)
- Don Hauser (friend of Bob & Kay Watts)
- Matt Dellinger (son of Judy Dellinger)
- Guy Mundy (friend of Kim Kaylor)

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

Christian Sympathy

- The family of Chris Mundy, father of Claudia Mundy and former member of St. Peter's

Birthdays This Week Connie Fox (11/30; Kinsey Rothenberger (11/30); Charles Bumgarner (12/2); Nancy Combs (12/2); Brenda Hallman (12/2); Bill Jones (12/2); Glenda Thornburg (12/2); Carol Alley (12/3); Wayne Huffman (12/3); Crystal Witherspoon (12/5)

Anniversaries This Week Jerry & Sandy Eckard (12/2); Wayne & Nancy Bostian (12/6)

Advent Services: Every Heart Prepare

We decorate in preparation for Christmas. In November and December people spend hours putting up lights in their living space and ornaments on their evergreens. Poinsettias are placed on the mantel and presents under the tree, and we “deck the halls with boughs of holly.” These Christmas decorations bring enjoyment and anticipation to the holiday.

Advent is the church’s season of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Lord. This Advent season, as part of our preparation, we reflect upon common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming. Join us Sundays evenings at 7:00 pm in the Spirit Center on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21. Free meals will precede each service from 5:30-6:30 pm, with the exception of December 14th, when we will have our Congregational Christmas Party at 5:00 pm.

Wreaths Across America Ceremony - St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Saturday, December 13 at 11 AM - church cemetery - rain or shine

Join us as honor and remember our veterans by placing wreaths on their graves. **All orders due today.** (*order forms are in the narthex*) to a mission team member or the church office. Checks payable to “Wreaths Across America.” Our goal is to cover every veteran’s grave - and we need your help. Please consider donating or sponsoring a wreath today!

Guest Speaker - Second Sunday Social - December 14

During our December Second Sunday Social, Mrs. Jean Davis, Executive Director of Ebenezer Children’s Home, will be giving a presentation. Her presentation will be on their current building project, Esther’s Home, which is located in Hudson, NC. Donations to purchase items for the new home may be made with Walmart gift cards or going to their registry at <https://www.walmart.com/cp/gifts-registry/1094765>. Select registry type: any location; select registry name: Ebenezer; Select State- NC. You may purchase any of these yourself and bring them on the 14th. They are also in needs of electricians, plumbers, sheet rock hangers. You can find out more by visiting their website www.ebenezerfamily.org.

Supporting Our Neighbors at Centro Latino

As followers of Christ, we are called to love and serve our neighbors. For over 25 years, Centro Latino has faithfully served the Latino community—welcoming legal immigrants, providing educational programs and community resources, and supporting families through a food pantry, tutoring for children, ESL classes, and computer training. In these uncertain times, you can support Centro Latino's ministry in two ways:

- **Financial Contributions:** Your gifts help Centro Latino continue their vital programs and services.
- **Amazon Wish List:** Purchase needed items directly through their wish list to meet specific needs.

To contribute or learn more, visit www.centrolatinohickory.org. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in our community, showing kindness and support to all our neighbors

200th Anniversary Celebration - An Afternoon Featuring the Music of Bach & Luther - Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 pm. Join us for a serene and inspiring afternoon celebrating the timeless connection between faith and music. Experience the profound beauty of Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions alongside the enduring hymns of Martin Luther, whose words and melodies shaped centuries of worship and art. The presentation will feature, Carolyn Paschal, Rev. Morgan Lane and the St. Peter's church choir. Let the harmonies of Bach and the words of Luther lift your spirit and renew your soul!

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Program Practice Schedule

- Sunday, November 30 - 2:00 pm - All ages
- Sunday, December 7 - 1:00 pm - All groups with the music
- Sunday, December 14 - 2:00 pm - Just main speakers & soloists
- Saturday, December 20 - 12 noon - Dress rehearsal all ages & pizza lunch will be served
- Sunday, December 21 - 9:00 am - Meet in Spirit Center to get ready for program
- Sunday, December 21 - 9:30 am - Program "*The Night Before Jesus*"

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

Advent Evening Services

"Every Heart Prepare"

Sunday Evenings

November 30

December 7

December 21

Fellowship Meals

5:30-6:30 pm

Service 7:00 pm

Congregational Christmas

Party

December 14

Meal & Fun 5:00 -6:30 pm

Service 7:00 pm

(Bring a covered dish)

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 21

9:30 am

(One service only)



Christmas Eve

Family Worship

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 pm Candlelight Service
with Children's Message

11:00 PM Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Bell Service

Thursday, December 25

9:30 am

Service of Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve Family Worship Service

Wednesday, December 31

7:00 pm

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

6175 ST PETER'S CHURCH ROAD

CONOVER, NC 28613

WWW.STPETERSCONOVER.ORG

Last Week - November 23, 2025

Worship Services Attendance

8:15 am 141 10:45 am 74

Sunday School

Adults 69 Youth 21

Offerings

General Fund \$7,782.60; Sunday School - \$137

***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

Building Fund - \$510; Building Fund - Audio/Visual - \$88; Crocheting & Looming - \$115;

Senior Youth - \$85; Domestic Missions - \$2,716; Poinsettias - \$100

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sun. (30)	<p>8:15 am Contemporary Service</p> <p>9:15 am Fifth Sunday Social - <i>sponsored by the Youth</i></p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School & Bible Classes</p> <p>10:45 am Traditional Service</p> <p>12:00 pm Handbells</p> <p>2:00 pm Christmas Program Practice (ALL AGES)</p> <p>5:30 pm Advent Meal - Taco bar - <i>sponsored by the Church Staff</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>
Mon. (1)	<p>8:30 am Quilters</p> <p>6:00 pm Lydia Circle</p> <p>6:15 pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Band Practice</p>
Tues. (2)	<p>9:00 am Pastors Winkel Gorup</p> <p>10:00 am Miriam Circle</p> <p>2:30 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm Naomi Circle</p> <p>7:00 pm Boy Scouts</p>
Wed. (3)	<p>6:30 pm Adult Choir</p> <p>6:30 pm Bible Journaling with Kim Kaylor - <i>in Parish Hall</i></p>
Thurs. (4)	<p>10:00 am Bible Study with Kim Kaylor, leader - <i>in Parish Hall</i></p> <p>11:45 am Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies</p> <p>6:00 pm Autism Support Group - <i>in Spirit Center</i></p>
Fri. (5)	<p>10:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Eric - <i>in Parish Hall</i></p>
Sat. (6)	<p>7:30 am Men's Small Group Bible Study - <i>in multi-purpose room</i></p> <p>9:00 am - 2:00 pm - Winter Workshop / Craft Fair - <i>in Spirit Center</i></p>
Sun. (7)	<p>8:15 am Contemporary Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes</p> <p>10:45 am Traditional Service with Holy Communion</p> <p>12:00 pm Handbells</p> <p>1:00 pm Christmas Program Practice (ALL groups with the music)</p> <p>4:00 pm 200th Anniversary - An afternoon featuring the music of Bach & Luther</p> <p>5:30 pm Advent Meal - Soup & Sandwiches - <i>sponsored by Betty & her rowdy friends</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Advent Service</p>

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

SERMON NOTES
“It Shall Come to Pass”
Isaiah 2:1-5

1. What does Advent prepare us to receive?
2. What makes you feel uncertain about the future?
3. What goes out from the mountain of the Lord?
4. How can you live confidently with hope after coming to the mountain of the Lord?

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: Brenda Hallman, Robin Little

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 David Sigmon 10:45 am Landon Griffin

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

Greeters: 8:15 am Mary Deese 10:45 am Joy Eckard

Ushers: Open

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>DECEMBER</div> <div>2025</div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div>8:30 AM Quilters</div> <div>6:00 PM Lydia Circle</div> <div>6:15 PM Girl Scouts</div> <div>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice</div> <div>Pastor Eric's day off</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9:00 AM Pastors Winkel Group</div> <div>10:00 AM Miriam Circle</div> <div>2:30 PM Staff Meeting</div> <div>6:00 PM Naomi Circle</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:30 PM Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 PM Bible Journaling with Kim Kaylor, leader - in Parish Hall</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10:00 AM Bible Study with Kim Kaylor, leader - in Parish Hall</div> <div>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies</div> <div>6:00 PM Autism Support Group - in Spirit Center</div> <div>Pastor Peter's day off</div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</div>	<div>6</div> <div>7:30 AM Men's Bible Study</div> <div>9:00 AM - 2:00 PM - Winter Workshop & Vendor Craft Fair</div> <div></div>
<div>7 Second Sunday in Advent</div> <div>8:15 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion</div> <div>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes</div> <div>10:45 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion</div> <div>12:00 PM Handbells</div> <div>1:00 PM Christmas Program Practice (all groups with music)</div> <div>4:00 PM 200th Anniversary - An afternoon featuring the music of Bach & Luther</div> <div>5:30 PM Advent Meal - Soup & Sandwiches - provided by Betty & her rowdy friends</div> <div>7:00 PM Advent Service</div>	<div>8</div> <div>8:30 AM Quilters</div> <div>6:15 PM Girl Scouts</div> <div>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice</div> <div>Pastor Eric's day off</div>	<div>9</div> <div>2:30 PM Staff Meeting</div> <div>6:00 PM Crocheting & Looming Class - in Spirit Center</div> <div>6:30 PM Ruth Circle</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>10</div> <div>5:00 PM Barnabas Team</div> <div>6:00 PM Elders</div> <div>6:30 PM Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 PM Bible Journaling with Kim Kaylor, leader- in Parish Hall</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10:00 AM Bible Study with Kim Kaylor, leader - in Parish Hall</div> <div>11:00 AM LWML lunch - meet in Parish Center lunch at Boxcar Grill</div> <div>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies</div> <div>Pastor Peter's day off</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7:30 AM Men's Bible Study</div> <div>11:00 AM Wreaths Across America Ceremony - in church cemetery</div> <div>4:30 PM All youth (all ages) meet to go Christmas Caroling and for dinner afterwards.</div> <div>5:00 PM Sunshine Group outing - to Gateway Baptist Church Christmas Dinner</div>
<div>14 Third Sunday in Advent</div> <div>8:15 AM Contemporary Service</div> <div>9:15 AM Second Sunday Social - guest speaker Jean Davis from Ebenezer Christian Children's Home</div> <div>9:45 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes</div> <div>10:45 AM Traditional Service</div> <div>12:00 PM Handbells</div> <div>2:00 PM Christmas Program Practice (just main speakers & soloists)</div> <div>5:00 PM Congregation Christmas party - bring a covered dish to share</div> <div>7:00 PM Advent Service</div>	<div>15</div> <div>8:30 AM Quilters</div> <div>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice</div> <div>Pastor Eric's day off</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10:00 AM Golden Agers - in Parish Hall</div> <div>2:30 PM Staff Meeting</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:30 PM Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 PM Bible Journaling with Kim Kaylor, leader- in Parish Hall</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10:00 AM Bible Study with Kim Kaylor, leader - in Parish Hall</div> <div>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies</div> <div>Pastor Peter's day off</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</div>	<div>20</div> <div>7:30 AM Men's Bible Study</div> <div>12:00 Noon - Christmas Program dress rehearsal for all ages and pizza lunch</div>
<div>21 Fourth Sunday in Advent</div> <div>9:00 AM All Youth in the Christmas Program meet in the Spirit Center</div> <div>9:30 AM Worship Service with Children's Christmas Program (ONE SERVICE ONLY)</div> <div>12:00 PM Handbells</div> <div>4:00 PM Church Council</div> <div>4:30 PM Homebound/Workers Communion Service</div> <div>5:30 PM Advent Meal - Pizza & Salad - provided by Christal Sigmon's Sunday School class</div> <div>7:00 PM Advent Service</div>	<div>22</div> <div>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice</div> <div>Pastor Eric's day off</div>	<div>23</div> <div>2:30 PM Staff Meeting</div> <div>7:00 PM Boy Scouts</div>	<div>24 Christmas Eve</div> <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Children's Message</div> <div>11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</div> <div></div>	<div>25 Christmas Day</div> <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>9:30 AM Christmas Day Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion</div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div>Church Office Closed</div>	<div>27</div> <div>7:30 AM Men's Bible Study</div>
<div>28 First Sunday after Christmas</div> <div>8:15 AM Contemporary Service</div> <div>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes</div> <div>10:45 AM Traditional Service</div> <div>Pastor Eric on PTO - Dec 28-30</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8:30 AM Quilters</div> <div>6:15 PM Girl Scouts</div>	<div>30</div> <div>2:30 PM Staff Meeting</div>	<div>31 New Year's Eve</div> <div>7:00 PM New Year's Eve Family Worship Service</div>			<div></div>

December

Birthday

- 12/2 - Charles Bumgarner
- 12/2 - Nancy Combs
- 12/2 - Brenda Hallman
- 12/2 - Bill Jones
- 12/2 - Glenda Thornburg
- 12/3 - Carol Alley
- 12/3 - Wayne Huffman
- 12/5 - Crystal Witherspoon
- 12/8 - Ray Goble
- 12/8 - Kevin Sigmon
- 12/9 - Dustin Sigmon
- 12/11 - Darlene Eckard
- 12/11 - Greg Eckard
- 12/12 - Tommy Stewart
- 12/13 - Gaye Marlowe
- 12/15 - Betty Goble
- 12/15 - Mack Reinhardt
- 12/16 - Sherry Cogdell
- 12/18 - Kadlee Sigmon
- 12/18 - Betty Smith
- 12/18 - Matt Witherspoon
- 12/19 - James Huffman
- 12/19 - Steve Sigmon
- 12/23 - Darlene Knight
- 12/26 - Randy Hefner
- 12/31 - Vicki Miller
- 12/31 - Danny Reynolds



Anniversaries

- 12/2 - Jerry & Sandy Eckard
- 12/6 - Wayne & Nancy Bostian
- 12/12 - Rodney & Maureen Price
- 12/15 - Bob & Kay Watts
- 12/18 - Scott & Pam Medlin
- 12/19 - Scott & Angela Honeycutt
- 12/19 - Seth & Caroyln Paschal
- 12/21 - Delmar & Betty Eckard
- 12/21 - Bobby & Joann Huffman
- 12/28 - Kevin & Susan Gantt

(*If we have forgotten your special day, please call the church office. Thank you!*)

Serving In December

Communion Set-Up: Open

Altar Guild: Patti Dellinger, Stanley Dellinger

Ushers:
8:15 am Open
10:45 am Danny Sipe, Donna Sipe, Eddie Little, Stanley Dellinger

Greeters:
12/7 8:15 am Donna Sigmon 10:45 am Donna Sipe
12/14 8:15 am Joy Lail 10:45 am Donna Sipe
12/21 9:30 am Mary Deese & Eunice Reiter (*one service only*)
12/24 7:00 pm Donna Sigmon 11:00 pm Marla Early
12/25 9:30 am Donna Sigmon (*one service only*)
12/28 8:15 am Vickie Miller 10:45 am Donna Sipe

Flowers:
12/7 Open
12/14 Open
12/21 Open
12/24 Gary Eckard
12/28 Gary Eckard

Readers:
12/7 8:15 am Frank Family 10:45 am Tonya Darden
12/14 8:15 am Beth Lail 10:45 am Richard Hallman
12/21 9:30 am Emma Spencer (*one service only*)
12/24 7:00 pm Pastors 11:00 pm Pastors
12/28 8:15 am Kevin Gantt 10:45 am Carmen Lander

Prayer Room:
12/7 8:15 am Scott Medlin 10:45 am Richard Hallman
12/14 8:15 am Darrell Freeman 10:45 am John Thomas
12/21 9:30 am Mike Pritchard (*one service only*)
12/28 8:15 am Danny Goforth 10:45 am John Thomas



October in Belize

In October, the weather began just as we expected: hot, humid, and heavy, the kind of heat that wraps around you the moment you step outside. But as the month ended, Belize offered us an unexpected gift. A cool front moved in, bringing temperatures down into the mid-80s and easing the humidity. It wasn't "cold" by any northern standard, but after months of relentless heat, it felt refreshing.

This marks the slow transition from the rainy season toward the dry season, an annual rhythm that shapes nearly every part of life here. The frequent downpours have eased, and outdoor work becomes less taxing and far more enjoyable. It's the time of year when the jungle seems to take a long exhale. As the season turns, we're reminded once again of God's faithfulness in all the small things: the weather that changes, the work that continues, and the grace that sustains us through each new day.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email message to [\[firstname.lastname@lcmsintl.org\]](mailto:[firstname.lastname@lcmsintl.org]) with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

jason.groth@lcms.org

All Children Confirmed To Be Well



All the Groth children seen by pediatrician at St. Luke's Hospital in Belmopan.

This month, all of our children had their well-child visits with a local pediatrician here in Belize, a milestone that felt both ordinary and deeply comforting. Each of them checked out healthy and is growing fast, something our pantry confirms daily. The doctor was warm and attentive, and the kids handled the experience with their usual mix of curiosity and humor. It was encouraging to see them cared for by someone who understands the local context and who will walk with us in this part of our life and ministry.

Establishing medical care is one of those quiet but important steps in settling into a new country. Now, if any health concerns arise, we will not need to introduce ourselves or explain years of medical history; we are known, and our children are known. That brings real peace of mind. We're grateful for this relationship, for a pediatrician we can trust, and for the Lord's unfailing provision as He continues to surround us with the care and support, we need in this place where He has called us to serve.

Belize FORO Fall 2025

In late October, we gathered in St. Louis for the Fall FORO, a meeting of congregations, organizations, and individuals who prayerfully and financially support the LCMS mission in Belize. The FORO provides a unique opportunity for partners in the Gospel to sit around the same table, hear updates from the field, and see firsthand how their faithful support is bearing fruit. For those of us serving in Belize, it is a blessing to step back from the daily work and remember that we are not laboring alone; we are upheld by a wide network of brothers and sisters who care deeply about the proclamation of Christ in this beautiful country.

Throughout the two-day gathering, we presented updates on ministry in Valley of Peace, Seine Bight, Orange Walk, and our ongoing partnerships with the Belize Mission Society and the Lutheran Synod of Mexico. These conversations helped paint a fuller picture of what Christ is doing across Belize: confirmations, baptisms, catechesis, mercy work, and the



steady growth of relationships in each community. Participants offered valuable insight and encouragement, helping us see challenges clearly and consider new opportunities for mission. Their questions and feedback remind us that the work in Belize is truly shared work, shaped by many voices working toward the same goal: spreading the Gospel, planting Lutheran churches, and showing mercy.

The FORO is also a place for dreaming together about the future. Discussions around Camp Concordia, short-term teams, leadership development, and long-term ministry goals gave us renewed clarity for the road ahead. Even though some

missionaries were unable to attend in person, the unity and support felt throughout the gathering remained strong. As we return to our respective communities and responsibilities, we do so strengthened by the fellowship, wisdom, and partnership that the FORO provides. Soli Deo Gloria!



Operation: Play-It-Forward

This month, Gideon, Samuel, Elisha, and I had the opportunity to help move a large playground set from the Cayo District down to Seine Bight. A team from the Belize Mission Society will install it in November, but first it needed to be uncovered from its resting place under tarps in the jungle, hauled up a short hill, and loaded onto a truck for transport. I was

incredibly grateful for the strength and willing spirit of these young men—they turned a hot, heavy job into a joyful afternoon of service. The children of Seine Bight are going to be thrilled with this new addition to their school yard, and it was a blessing to play a small role in getting it there.

Kids Korner



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Ongoing Ministry in Seine Bight:

Give thanks for the opportunities to preach, teach, and build relationships in Seine Bight throughout October. Pray that the Word sown there would take deep root and that the Holy Spirit would draw many into Christ's Church.

Health and Daily Life:

We are grateful for healthy well-child visits and the blessing of establishing care with a local pediatrician. Please pray that the Lord continues to guard our family's health as we serve, and that medical needs can be addressed quickly and wisely when they arise.

FORO Follow-Up and Future Planning:

Pray for clarity and unity as we reflect on the October FORO and begin planning for 2026. Ask the Lord to guide every decision made for the mission in Belize, including the use of Camp Concordia, short-term teams, and new ministry opportunities.



“What is one thing about staying healthy in Belize that you want people to know?”

Gideon: “Be careful because all foods are greasy.”

Martha: “Okay, don't get bit by a tarantula and don't get bit by a jaguar.”

Joanna: “Go for a walk everyday, like we do. Eat healthy food, like chicken or apples, or carrots, or avocados. Also, just stay alive.

Esther's Real Answer:

“Don't eat the broccoli. It's not local and could be weird...Liza told me that.”

Esther's perfectionist additional revision to her answer:

“To live healthy in Belize; exercise daily, eat a good healthy diet, and do safe activities.”

Lord God, heavenly Father, You are our refuge and strength. Keep us steadfast in the work of Your Gospel and fix our eyes on Christ, who has redeemed us and gathers people from every nation into His Church. Strengthen us in both joy and trial and bless the mission in Belize that Your Word may be proclaimed and Your mercy shown. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

— Rev. 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/givewith/Groth
Call a donor care representative: 888-930-4438