

SERMON NOTES
The Deadly Illusion of Control

Matthew 2:13-23

1. How did King Herod's desire to hang onto his control cause him to act?
2. Why is control an illusion?
3. What actions have you taken out of fear?
4. What promises of Christ can conquer your fear of losing control?

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: Patti Dellinger, Stanley Dellinger

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

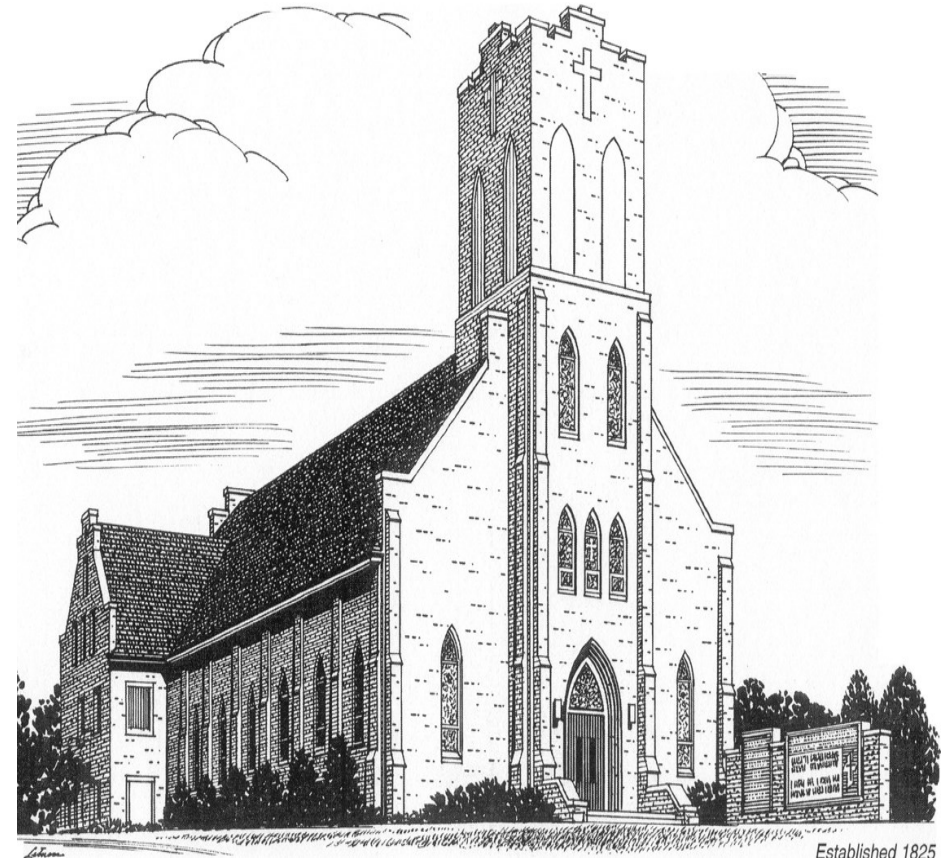
Office: Bob Marlowe

Readers: 8:15 am Kevin Gantt 10:45 am Carmen Lander

Prayer Room: 8:15 am Danny Goforth 10:45 am John Thomas

Greeters: 8:15 am Vickie Miller 10:45 am Donna Sipe

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



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 in loving memory of Donald Gantt who's earthly birthday would have been today, December 28 by Sandra Gantt. Donald left us for his heavenly home on December 26, 2023. *(Listen on WAIZ 630 AM or 105.9 FM during our 8:15 am service)*

Alter Flowers are given to the glory of God by Gary Eckard

PRAYERS

Church Members in Need of prayer Carol Abbott, Carol Alley, Terry Bolick, Rosella Bollinger, Sherry Bumgarner, Keilee Cox, Shirley Dellinger, Betty Eckard, Jerry Eckard, Earlene Fulbright, Janet Good, Mary Ruth Hefner, D. J. Johnson, Malla Killian, Judy Little, Seth Paschal, Amy Rucker, Karen Smith, Teresa Taylor, John van Horne, 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

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sun. (28)	8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:30 am Special Called Voters Meeting 9:30 am Sunday School <i>(youth only)</i> 10:45 am Temporary Service
Mon. (29)	6:30 pm Praise Band Practice
Tues. (30)	2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Wed. (31)	7:00 pm New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion
Thurs. (1)	New Year's Day Church Office Closed
Sat. (3)	7:30 am Men's Bible Study
Sun. (4)	8:15 am Contemporary Service with Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes 10:45 am Traditional Service with Holy Communion

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

Pastor Frank Appointed District Secretary

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Frank has been appointed to serve as Secretary of the Southeastern District (SED) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In this role, he will support the District's governance and administrative functions. Pastor Frank's background in organizational leadership, technology, and communications, combined with his pastoral ministry and experience in lay leadership, will serve him well in this additional responsibility. He will participate in the quarterly board meetings of the SED in addition to a few other meetings each year. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve the broader Church, and the SED thanks the congregation for their continued support

THANK YOU NOTES

- Thank you for the prayers, card, messages, visits and gifts this past year. The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful church family. I wish each you a healthy New Year! - Mary Ann Winebarger

Last Week

Worship Services Attendance

9:30 am 268 4:00 pm 8 7:00 pm (Advent) 50

Sunday School

Offerings

General Fund - \$13,487.87 Advent \$532

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 \$1286; Building Fund Audio/Visual \$666; Radio Broadcast \$100

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)
- Blake Fraley (friend of Mike & Patricia Pritchard)
- Fayne Cradic (friend of David Johnson)
- Debbie Keffler (friend of Danny & Linda Goforth)
- Barbara Little (friend of Danny & Linda Goforth)
- Amy Lookadoo (friend of Emily Allen)
- Maggie Stiles (daughter of Drew Stiles)

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

Birthdays This Week Vickie Miller (12/31); Danny Reynolds (12/31); Clara Petrovich (1/1); Donna Sipe (1/2)

Anniversaries This Week Kevin & Susan Gantt (12/28)

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special called Voters Meeting will be held **today during the 9:30 am** Sunday School hour. There will be no adult Bible studies that day. The Ephesians Bible study will wrap up on Sunday, January 4. Youth will still have their Sunday School.

New Year's Eve Worship Service with Holy Communion Join us 7:00 PM on December 31 as we gather on the final day of 2025 to reflect on God's faithfulness to us and to ask his blessings upon the New Year to come.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, January 1 for the New Year's Day.

End of Year Giving Those end of year gifts make a real difference as we continue to share the gospel of Jesus to those in our community and beyond! Reminder that all cash/check gifts sent via the postal service **must** have an official postmark of December 31 or earlier to be counted as a contribution in 2025.

Serving in 2026 We are currently working on our master list for readers, communion set-up, ushers, and greeters for next year. If you would like to be removed or added from the current list, please contact the church office. We appreciate everyone that has served in 2025!

The 2026 Flower Chart is out at the front of the church. Please sign-up for any dates you'd like to sponsor flowers in honor or memory of that someone special!

LWML News

- All mites, including any Red Stocking mites, need to be given to Sandra Gantt by December 31. The total mites collected as of October are \$2,192.67. We are appreciative of the congregation's participation.
- Any changes to the Hostess group lists need to be given to Jan Sigmon by December 31. New volunteers for the groups are most welcome as each year some of our ladies are no longer able to prepare food for funerals, etc.
- The new year provides an opportunity to join one of the 4 LWML circles and the LWML. This is a good time for you to serve our church and missions both here and around the world. Contact Jan Sigmon (LWML); Catherine Huffman (daytime circle), or Marla Early, Annissa Beck, and Tonya Darden (evening circles) for more information.
- A special thanks to all the members of the LWML groups for their dedication this year. There is always room for more ladies to join! May God bless your holidays!

Sunshine Group News

- The group is planning any outing to see the play "Little Women" at the Winston Theatre Alliance in January on Jan. 11th Tickets are approximately \$25 per person. (Due to possible weather concerns, they will check the forecast and order tickets on Jan. 5) Please let Betty Goble know by Sunday, Jan. 4 if you'd like to attend.
- The 4th Sunday Lunch Bunch will be going to eat at Brookwood Restaurant in Maiden on Sunday, Jan. 25. Please let Betty Goble know by Sunday, Jan. 18 if you plan to attend, so she can make reservations.

New Opportunity: Confirmation Journal Mentor Program

St. Peter's is launching a Confirmation Mentor Program! We're looking for adults willing to journey through the *Guided by Truth Enduring Faith Confirmation Journal* to prepare for mentoring future confirmation students. This program will equip you to guide our junior high confirmands while deepening your understanding of Luther's Small Catechism and the foundations of our faith.

Participants will complete approximately two sections per week at home. We'll meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon for eight months starting in January for discussion and coaching. Interested? Please speak with Pastor Frank to sign up. Space is limited for this first cohort, so don't delay!

New Centro Latino Tutoring Program: Help Needed!

We're excited to announce a new partnership with Lyle Creek Elementary and Centro Latino to provide tutoring for Latino students in grades K-5. Starting **Tuesday, January 20**, we'll meet **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30-6:00 pm** in our Education building with the initial goal of helping 5-10 elementary students with reading and vocabulary. An orientation meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 13 at 4:30 pm**.

How You Can Help:

- **Volunteer as a tutor:** We need one tutor per student (a background check is required). Educators especially welcome!
 - **Provide snacks:** We'll need snacks for students from 4:30-5:00 pm each session
 - **Lead activities:** Help with games and activities before tutoring begins
- Donate resources:** We're building a library of reading materials and age-appropriate books

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community and share the love of Christ. If you're interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Pastor Frank or Lucas Nordyke.