

THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

December 21, 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 in loving memory of Clyde & Katherine Fox's wedding anniversary by their family (*Listen on WAIZ 630 AM or 105.9 FM during our 8:15 am service*)

Children's Christmas Program This morning the children and youth of St. Peter's congregation will share the wonderful news of our Savior's birth with the program, "His Name is Jesus." The good news leads us directly to Jesus, God's son, who was born on Christmas Day to be our Savior.

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

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 Darlene Knight (12/23); Randy Hefner (12/26)

Anniversaries This Week Delmar & Betty Eckard (12/21); Bobby & Joann Huffman (12/21)

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holidays. The office will reopen on Monday, December 29.

Christmas Day Service - Thursday, December 25 at 9:30 am

Join us for a Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion.

A special called Voters Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 28 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.

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.

2026 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex. If you currently giving electronically, you were not assigned an envelope. If you cannot find your envelopes, please contact the church office or Julie Robinson.

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, we 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.
- Christmas party news: The congregational Christmas party was a huge success. Passengers were greeted at the door and took their seats on the St. Peter's Express. Our "Newlywed Game" winners were the Witherspoons. It was a great competition. However, there were a few awkward glances at partners due to some of the answers but no harm was done. I was told this was "the best Christmas dinner yet" during my survey. For the tree topper survey, guests were asked if they preferred an angel or a star on the tree. There was no clear winner. However, I did learn from one guest that they use a Cracker Barrel ornament on their tree topper. Owner of said tree shall remain unnamed! - Reported from the St. Peter's Express reporter

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.

Last Week

Worship Services Attendance

8:15 am 146 10:45 am 70 7:00 pm (Advent) 70

Sunday School

Adults 56 Youth 6

Offerings

General Fund - \$7,231.25; Sunday School - \$1; Advent Service - \$574

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

Crocheting & Looming - \$100; Domestic Missions - \$1,074; Radio Sponsorship - \$100
200th Anniversary - \$155; Building Fund - \$647; Building Fund - Audio/Visual - \$530

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sun. (21)	9:00 am All youth in Christmas Program meet in Spirit Center 9:30 am Worship Service with Children's Christmas Program (ONE SERVICE ONLY) 12:00 pm Handbells 4:00 pm Church Council 4:30 pm Homebound/Workers Communion Service 5:30 pm Advent Meal - pizza & salad - in Spirit Center - <i>provided by Christal Sigmon's Sunday School Class</i> 7:00 pm Advent Service - in Spirit Center
Mon. (22)	6:30 pm Praise Band Practice
Tues. (23)	2:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
Wed. (24)	<i>Church Office Closed</i> 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Children's Message 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
Thurs. (25)	<i>Church Office Closed</i> 9:30 am Christmas Day Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion
Fri. (26)	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
Sat. (27)	7:30 am Men's Bible Study
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 Traditional Service

***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

The Inconvenience of Christmas

Matthew 1:18-25

1. Can you think of a time when your plans were interrupted or you were thoroughly inconvenienced?
2. What might have been the most inconvenient part of Mary's pregnancy for Joseph?
3. How does understanding God's greater purpose help us trust Him when His plans disrupt our own?
4. What would it look like in your daily life this Christmas season to respond to God's interruptions with faith?

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Rev. Jason & Emily Groth, Missionaries

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Drew Stiles, Praise Band Leader

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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: 9:30 am Emma Spencer

Prayer Room: 9:30 am Scott Medlin

Greeters: 9:30 am Mary Deese, Eunice Reiter

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

- **Given to the General Fund** in loving memory of their parents, Everette Eckard, Elizabeth Eckard Huffman, and Robert & Pauline Herman by Jerry & Sandy Eckard
- **Given to the Quilters** in loving memory of Floyd & Willie Gantt by their family

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wreaths Across America Update Members laying wreaths for our veterans this past weekend could not locate the graves for: Calvin Lafayette Houston (July 19, 1906 - Dec. 19, 1989) ; Hiram Hefner (Jan. 8, 1824 - Aug. 6, 1889); Jacob Franklin Houston (June 5, 1837 - Dec. 27, 1922) and John M. Houston (Jan. 19, 1843 - July 23, 1899). If any family members know of their locations in the church cemetery, please contact Shelley Dellinger, Bill Totty or Bob Watts.

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.



The poster features a warm, festive background with a wooden panel wall and evergreen branches. At the top, three lit red candles are displayed. The text "St. Peter's Lutheran Church Christmas Services" is prominently displayed in white. Below this, the invitation "Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus" is written. The service schedule is divided into two sections: "Christmas Eve" and "Christmas Day". The Christmas Eve section lists a 7:00 pm Candlelight Service with a Children's Message and an 11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion. The Christmas Day section lists a 9:30 am Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion. At the bottom, there are three circular images showing different candlelight services. The footer contains contact information: a phone icon with the number 828-256-2970, a location pin icon with the address 6175 St Peter's Church Rd, and a globe icon with the website www.stpetersconover.org.

**St. Peter's
Lutheran Church
Christmas Services**

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus

Christmas Eve

- 7:00 pm Candlelight Service with a Children's Message
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day

- 9:30 am Service of Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

828-256-2970 6175 St Peter's Church Rd www.stpetersconover.org