

## 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?

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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 Pascal, 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

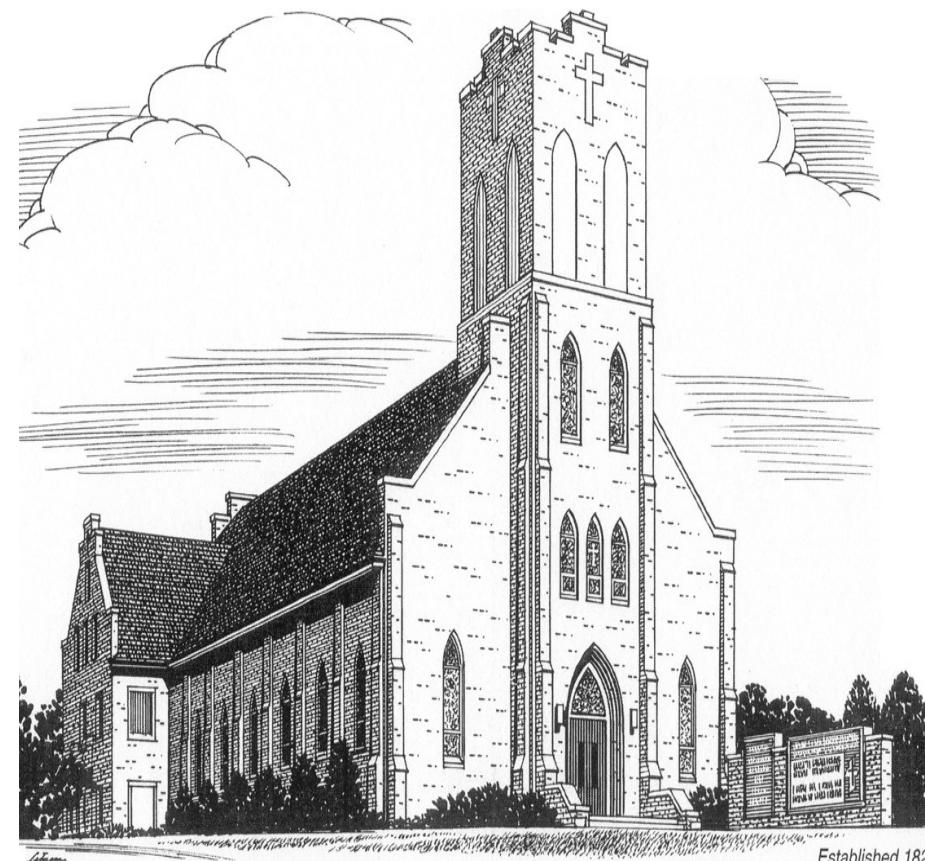
**Prayer Room:** 8:15 am Danny Goforth 10:45 am John Thomas

**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

# THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**December 28, 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 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*)

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

## Friends Needing Prayer

- Debbie Hefner (wife of Randy Hefner)
- Andreas Rodriguez (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)

## 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

## 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.

**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

**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.

|   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>JANUARY 2026</b>   |   |   |   | 1 <i>Happy New Year</i><br><b>Church Office Closed</b><br>   | 2   | 3<br>7:30 AM Men's Small Group Bible Study   |
| 4 <i>Epiphany</i><br><br>8:15 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion<br>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes<br>10:45 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion<br>6:00 pm Senior Youth Meeting (Grades 6-12)  | 5<br><br>8:30 AM Quilters<br>6:15 PM Girl Scouts<br>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice<br><br><i>Pastor Eric's day off</i>  | 6<br><br>9:00 AM Winkel Pastors Group<br>10:00 AM Miriam Circle<br>2:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>6:30 PM Lydia Circle<br>6:30 PM Ruth Circle<br>7:00 PM Naomi Circle<br>7:00 PM Boy Scouts             | 7<br><br>6:30 PM Adult Choir<br>6:30 PM Bible Journaling 101 - with <i>Kim Kaylor in Parish Hall</i><br>10:00 AM LWML Monthly Meeting - in <i>Spirit Center</i><br>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies<br>6:00 pm Autism Support Group<br>6:30 PM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Terry Sigmon in Multi-Purpose Room</i><br><br><i>Pastor Peter's day off</i> | 8<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Kim Kaylor in Parish Hall</i><br>10:00 AM LWML Monthly Meeting - in <i>Spirit Center</i><br>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies<br>6:00 pm Autism Support Group<br>6:30 PM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Terry Sigmon in Multi-Purpose Room</i><br><br><i>Pastor Peter's day off</i> | 9<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</i>  | 10<br>7:30 AM Men's Small Group Bible Study<br>9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Church Council Planning Retreat - at Conover Station Meeting Room |
| 11 <i>The Baptism of our Lord</i><br><br>8:15 AM Contemporary Service<br>9:15 AM Second Sunday Social<br>9:45 AM Voters Meeting<br>9:45 AM Sunday School (youth only)<br>10:45 AM Traditional Service<br>1:00 PM Confirmation Sermon Study & Acolyte Training   | 12<br><br>8:30 AM Quilters<br>6:15 PM Girl Scouts<br>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice<br><br><i>Pastor Eric's day off</i> | 13<br><br>10:00 AM Golden Agers<br>2:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>4:30 PM Centro Latino Tutoring Orientation - in <i>Education Building</i><br>6:00 PM Crocheting & Looming Class<br>7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 14<br><br>6:30 PM Bible Journaling 101 - with <i>Kim Kaylor in Parish Hall</i><br>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies<br>6:30 PM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Terry Sigmon in Multi-Purpose Room</i><br><br><i>Pastor Peter's day off</i>  | 15<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Kim Kaylor in Parish Hall</i><br>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies<br>6:30 PM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Terry Sigmon in Multi-Purpose Room</i><br><br><i>Pastor Peter's day off</i>   | 16<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</i> | 17<br>7:30 AM Men's Small Group Bible Study<br>8:00 AM Senior Youth (Grades 6-12) Outing to Seven Devils Ski Resort                |
| 18 <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i><br><br>8:15 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion<br>9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Classes<br>10:45 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion<br>1:30 PM 200th Anniversary Team Meeting<br>3:00 PM Confirmation Journal Mentor Meeting<br>4:30 PM Homebound/Workers Communion Service<br>6:00 PM Church Council | 19<br><br>8:30 AM Quilters<br>6:15 PM Girl Scouts<br>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice<br><br><i>Pastor Eric's day off</i> | 20<br><br>2:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>4:30 PM Centro Latino Tutoring - in <i>Education Building</i><br>6:30 PM Mission Team Meeting - in <i>Multi-purpose room</i><br>7:00 PM Boy Scouts             | 21<br><br>6:30 PM Adult Choir   | 22<br><br>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies<br>4:30 PM Centro Latino Tutoring - in <i>Education Building</i><br>6:30 PM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Terry Sigmon in Multi-Purpose Room</i><br><br><i>Pastor Peter's day off</i>  | 23<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</i> | 24<br>7:30 AM Men's Small Group Bible Study  |
| 25 <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i><br><br>8:15 AM Contemporary Service<br>9:30 AM Sunday School & Classes<br>10:45 AM Traditional Service<br>12:30 PM 4th Sunday Lunch Bunch - <i>Brookwood Restaurant in Maiden</i><br>3:00 PM Kids in Christ (Ages K-6th grade) outing to the Green Room Theatre to see "Jack and the Beanstalk" and dinner afterwards   | 26<br><br>8:30 AM Quilters<br>6:15 PM Girl Scouts<br>6:30 PM Praise Band Practice<br><br><i>Pastor Eric's day off</i> | 27<br><br>2:30 PM Staff Meeting<br>4:30 PM Centro Latino Tutoring - in <i>Education Building</i><br>6:00 PM Crocheting & Looming Class<br>7:00 PM Boy Scouts                                      | 28<br><br>5:00 PM Barnabas Team Meeting<br>6:00 PM Elders Meeting<br>6:30 PM Bible Journaling 101 - with <i>Kim Kaylor in Parish Hall</i><br>6:30 PM Adult Choir  | 29<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Kim Kaylor in Parish Hall</i><br>11:45 AM Lyle Creek Lunch Buddies<br>4:30 PM Centro Latino Tutoring - in <i>Education Building</i><br>6:30 PM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Terry Sigmon in Multi-Purpose Room</i><br><br><i>Pastor Peter's day off</i>                          | 30<br><br>10:00 AM Small Group Bible Study - with <i>Pastor Eric - in Parish Hall</i> | 31<br>7:30 AM Men's Small Group Bible Study  |

# January

## Birthday

- 1/1 - Clara Petrovich  
1/2 - Donna Sipe  
1/4 - Gina Shook  
1/4 - Carolyn Paschal  
1/6 - Tonya Darden  
1/6 - Shelley Dellinger  
1/8 - Delores Wells  
1/9 - Sandra Bryant  
1/9 - Steve (Christal) Sigmon  
1/9 - Lynn Starnes  
1/11 - Stacey Eckard  
1/12 - Cheryl Pennell  
1/12 - Nancy Wray  
1/13 - Joe Eckard  
1/13 - Greg Hollar  
1/15 - Shannon Little  
1/16 - Sharon Hefner  
1/16 - Michael Sigmon  
1/16 - Crystal Starnes  
1/17 - Grayson Schwandt  
1/18 - Shannon Cline  
1/18 - Mike Pritchard  
1/20 - Grace Pruitt  
1/21 - Amy Sigmon  
1/21 - Mary Sigmon  
1/21 - Christian Sigmon  
1/22 - Lisa Brittain  
1/23 - Billy Houston  
1/23 - Landon Griffin  
1/25 - Gavin Griffin  
1/25 - Mark Killian  
1/25 - Richard Sigmon  
1/31 - Fate Adams



## Anniversaries

- 1/12 - Gary & Cheryl Pennell  
1/14 - Dallas & Linda Ross  
1/16 - Harry & Brenda Fulbright  
1/19 - John & Debbie Thomas  
1/24 - Barry & Carolyn Matthews

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

## Serving In January

### Communion Set-Up: Open

### Ushers:

- 8:15 am Open  
10:45 am Open

### Greeters:

- |        |                       |                          |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan 4  | 8:15 am Joy Lail      | 10:45 am Joy Eckard      |
| Jan 11 | 8:15 am Pam Medlin    | 10:45 am Karen Hoyle     |
| Jan 18 | 8:15 am Mary Deese    | 10:45 am Christal Sigmon |
| Jan 25 | 8:15 am Eunice Reiter | 10:45 am Judy Sigmon     |

### Altar Guild: Susan Gantt, Jeanette Gantt

### Flowers:

- Jan 4 Open  
Jan 11 Open  
Jan 18 Open  
Jan 25 Open

### Readers:

- |        |                         |                        |
|--------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Jan 4  | 8:15 am Bob Watts       | 10:45 am John Thomas   |
| Jan 11 | 8:15 am Lisa Brittain   | 10:45 am Trudy Huffman |
| Jan 18 | 8:15 am Christian Queen | 10:45 am Scott Medlin  |
| Jan 25 | 8:15 am Audrey Hauss    | 10:45 am Donna Sipe    |

### Prayer Room:

- |        |                         |                      |
|--------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Jan 4  | 8:15 am Kevin Gantt     |                      |
| Jan 11 | 8:15 am Scott Medlin    | 10:45 am John Thomas |
| Jan 18 | 8:15 am Darrell Freeman |                      |
| Jan 25 | 8:15 am Mike Pritchard  | 10:45 am John Thomas |