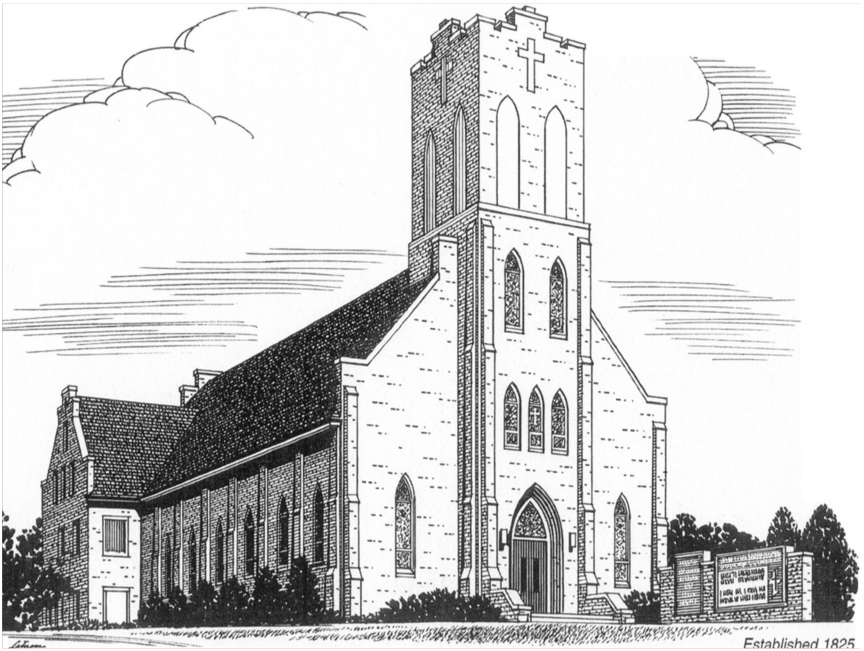


THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

The Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026



ST. PETER'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

↔ CONOVER, NC ↔

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.

Today's radio broadcast is given to the glory of God and in honor of Pastor Frank's birthday (April 20) by Debbie & Mike Gibbs (*Listen on WAIZ 630 AM or 105.9 FM during our 8:15 am service*)

Holy Communion Today - 8:15 AM; 10:45 & 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

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 “What Does Lasting Joy Look Like?” by Pastor Joby Martin with Kim Gantt , Kevin Gantt & Kim Rector.

***Ladies Sunday School Class** - Education Building, Room 7 with Beth Lail They are studying “The study of Angels, their nature, roles, and significance, highlighting their functions as messengers and servants of God.”

***Adults - Multi-Purpose Room Class** - They are studying “Heroes of Faith” with Christal Sigmon

***Pastor’s Class - Parish Hall** - Adult Bible Study - “Faith that Lives - A Bible Study on the Book of James” Join Pastor Eric for a four-week Bible study beginning today, exploring the practical wisdom of the New Testament book of James. Written to early Christians facing real struggles, James calls believers to a living faith—one that trusts Christ and shows itself in daily life through perseverance, humility, mercy, and prayer. Together we will discover how faith in Jesus shapes how we speak, serve, endure trials, and care for others. Come grow in God’s Word and be encouraged to live out the faith you confess.

PRAYERS

Church Members in Need of prayer Carol Abbott, Terry Bolick, Rosella Bollinger, Nancy Combs, Shirley Dellinger, Delmar & Betty Eckard, Jerry Eckard, Pastor Jason Groth, Audrey Hauss, Mary Ruth Hefner, Donald Killian, Judy Little, Randy Miller, Barb Nordyke, Teresa Taylor, Mary Ann Winebarger, and Marshall Wray

Pray for Our Homebound Members

Those at Home: Carol Abbott, Rosella Bollinger, Polly Bowman, Shirley Dellinger, Delmar & Betty Eckard, Joe Eckard, Annette Hollar, Kathleen Houston, Patricia Isenhour, Bobby Little, Hazel Moser, Jeanette Reese, Bonnie Sigmon, Eugene Sigmon, Richard Sigmon, Ernest & Carol Starnes, Dorothy Willis, Mary Ann Winebarger

Abernathy Center: Gracie Bolick, Gwendolyn Allen

Brookdale: Blanche Hefner

Catawba Valley Living: Alberta Winebarger

Kingston Manor: Barbara White

Trinity Village: Margaret Laws

Friends Needing Prayer

- Debbie Hefner (wife of Randy Hefner)
- Cathy Townsend (sister-in-law of Tina Watts)
- Roger Houston (brother of Teresa Houston)
- Lowell & Karen Rothenberger (parents of Peter Rothenberger)
- LeaAnn Buckwell (friend of Nancy Bruce)
- Debi Deal (friend of many St. Peter's members)

Pregnancies

- Amber Potter, due in July (*granddaughter of David & Dale Johnson*)
- Whitney Terry, due in July (*daughter of Terry & Donna Sigmon*)
- Allison Bentley, due in July, (*daughter-in-law of Terry & Lisa Bentley*)
- Kirby Caudill, due in August, (*daughter of Rob & Amy Rucker, granddaughter of Colleen Lafone*)
- Rose Marie Propst, due in September (*daughter-in-law of Mark & Barbara Propst*)
- Karen Bruce, due in October (*daughter-in-law of Nancy Bruce*)

Births

- Murphy Blair McCoy was born on April 12 to Trace & Ainsley McCoy. She weighted 7 lbs., 1 oz. and was 20 inches long. Proud grandmother is Alyson Mains.

Birthdays This Week Nathan Lewis (4/19); Christal Sigmon (4/19); Harper Bowman (4/20); David Sigmon (4/20); Pastor Peter Frank (4/20); Chris Barnes (4/22); Shirley Dellinger (4/22); Sandra Gantt (4/22)

Anniversaries This Week Terry & Shannon Little (4/20); Michael & Malla Killian (4/25)

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Door Offering - Sunday April 19 & 26 A special door offering will be collected after both services today and April 26 to support Bunker Hill and St. Stephens High School football players attending FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Summer Camp at Lenoir-Rhyne University June 18-20. Your gift will help offset costs so more players can participate and grow in their faith. Please prayerfully consider your support. If you need more information, please see Pastor Eric.

BBQ Plate Fundraiser Don't forget to get your tickets for the "Rev's BBQ" plate sale with proceeds going to the Mission Fund. Cost is \$15 for a pork plate and \$18 for a brisket plate. Plates can be picked up on Sunday, April 26 in the Spirit Center following both the 8:15 am or 10:45 am services. Tickets can be purchased from a mission team member or in the church office.

Next Israel Bible Study Tour Meeting Are you interested in traveling to Israel for a Bible study tour? After discussing it at our last meeting, we are moving forward with plans to travel to Israel next year from **April 25 – May 8, 2027**. We invite you to an important meeting **today at 1:00 PM in the Education Building**. At this meeting, Pastor Frank will share detailed cost information, the registration process, and answer any questions you may have. If you're considering this journey to walk where Jesus walked, you won't want to miss this meeting!

Kids Kamp 2026 Kids Kamp this year will be the week of June 22-26 for rising 2nd through 7th graders. The theme for this year will "Powered by Prayer." Cost for the camp is \$150 per camper. Registration deadline is Sunday, May 10. All forms and a \$50 deposit **ARE REQUIRED** before a spot can be served. (You can also pay in full at the time of registration.) Packets are available in the Narthex or the church office

Graduation Sunday - May 17th we will honor our graduates at both our 8:15 and 10:45 services. If you are graduating or have a family member graduating from high school or college, please send your/their information (school graduating from, degree, future plans, etc.) and a photo to Nancy in the church office at secretary@stpetersconover.org. Please send any photos in a [jpeg file](#). **The deadline to turn information into the office is Wednesday, May 6.**

New cards are out for our Forged in Fire Young Adult Ministry ...please take a bag of cards that are located in the narthex and back hallway to send cards to our college students and young adults of the congregation. Directions are in each bag along with the names and addresses.

Child protection training and background checks are required for ALL volunteers that helping with either Kids Kamp or Vacation Bible School. If you have not done either of these and plan to help this summer, please contact Nancy in the church office for the necessary paperwork.

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.

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

Last Week

Worship Services Attendance

8:15 am 140 10:45 am 69

Sunday School Attendance

Adults 6 Youth 12 (No adult classes due to Voters Meeting)

Offerings

(Needed in General Fund weekly to meet budget \$12,829.50)

\$8,234.50

Dedicated Fund Offerings

Autism Support Group - \$20 ; Kids Kamp - \$200; Domestic Missions - \$325
Senior Youth - \$500; Blessing Box - \$5 ; Building Fund - \$1001.06 ; Building Fund - Audio/Visual - \$76

Thru March 31, 2026 Year to Date

Income \$152,678.06 less expenses \$182,379.97 = \$29,701.01 (negative)

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

- Sun. (19) 8:00 am Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes
10:45 am Traditional Services with Holy Communion
12:30 pm Sunshine Group Lunch Outing - Captain's Galley on Hwy 321
1:00 pm Israel Bible Study Tour Meeting - in Education Building
2:00 pm Kids in Christ (K-6th grade) Outing - meet in Parish Hall
3:00 pm Confirmation Mentor Meeting
4:30 pm Homebound/Workers Communion Service
- Mon. (20) 8:30 am Quilters
6:15 am Girl Scouts
6:30 pm Praise Band Practice
- Tues. (21) **10:00 am Golden Agers in Parish Hall**
2:30 pm Staff Meeting
4:30 pm Centro Latino Tutoring - *in Education Building*
6:00 pm 5 Year Planning Team - in Education Building
6:30 pm Mission Team - in Multi-purpose room
7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- Weds. (22) 6:30 pm Adult Choir
6:30 pm Bible Journaling - *with Kim Kaylor, Leader, in Parish Hall*
- Thurs. (23) 10:00 am Small Group Bible Study - *with Kim Kaylor, Leader, in Parish Hall*
11:45 am Lyle Creek Lunch Buddy Program
4:30 pm Centro Latino Tutoring - *in Education Building*
6:30 pm Small Group Bible Study - *with Terry Sigmon, Leader in Multi-purpose room*
- Fri. (24) 10:00 am Small Group bible Study - *with Pastor Eric, Leader, in Parish Hall*
11:30 am Youth attending the Middle School Youth Conference leave
- Sat. (25) 7:30 pm Men's Small Group Bible Study
- Sun. (26) 8:15 am Contemporary Service
9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes
10:45 am Traditional Service
12:00 pm Sunshine Group Outing - to Winston-Salem Theatre

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

SERMON NOTES
“Burning Hearts and Opened Eyes”
Luke 24:13-35

I. Christ Draws Near When We Don't Notice

II. Christ Works Before We Understand

III. Christ Opens What We Can't

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: Christal Sigmon, Steve Sigmon

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 Emma Spencer 10:45 am Donna Sipe

Greeters: 8:15 am Donna Sigmon 10:45 am Judy Sigmon

Acolytes: Open

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

Communion Set-Up: Open

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

ITEMS NEEDED

- **The Quilters are in need of new and slightly used flat king and queen sheets.** Donations can be dropped off at the church office, or given to any member of the Quilters. Contact Brenda Griffin or Kay Watts if you need more information.
- **Kids Kamp** is collecting items for Ebenezer's Children's Home. Items needed are: small toiletry items (shampoo, lotion, soap, hand sanitizer, tooth paste, tooth brushes, chap stick, lip gloss, comb, brush, hair barrettes, make-up, etc.) and school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, crayons, markers, small note pads, etc.) Boxes are in the hallway outside the church office. Items need to be collected by Sunday, June 21.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new GriefShare Support Group will start back on **Sunday, May 3.** If you are interested in attending this group, please contact Sandra Jenkins (828-638-5224) so she can be sure she has enough material. The group will meet Sunday afternoons at 4:30 pm in the multi-purpose room of the church.

Join the LWML as we are honored to host the 70th Biennial District Convention of the Carolinas May 1 - 2 here at St. Peter's. Registration begins Friday at 4 pm. in the Spirit Center. A worship service with Holy Communion is at 7 pm in the church sanctuary, followed by a President's Reception in the Spirit Center. Saturday's activities begin with registration from 8-9 am in the Spirit Center, followed by a Bible study, program, lunch, and business with adjournment at 3 pm. All women are welcome to attend. Registration is required. Forms are available in the narthex at the front of the church We welcome your help in various ways during the convention. Contact Jan Sigmon with any questions or to volunteer.

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

- **Given to the General Fund** in loving memory of Donald Bowman , Charles Bowman, Dan Timmerman, Jr., and Rev. Earl Godfrey by Jerry & Sandy Eckard
- **Given to the Building Fund** in loving memory of Judy Nance and Rev. Earl Godfrey by Craig & Donna Lackey

SUNSHINE GROUP NEWS

- The group is planning to go see the Bee Gees/ABBA tribute bands at the COMMA Theatre in Morganton on Saturday, June 13. Cost for tickets will be approximately \$55 per person. If you'd like to go, please let Betty Goble know by **today.**
- The group is planning to attend the play "Ain't Misbehavin'" at the Winston Theatre on Saturday, May 9 for the afternoon show. Plans for lunch or dinner will be decided later. Please let Betty know by **Friday, April 24** if you'd like to attend.



Stewards in Belize

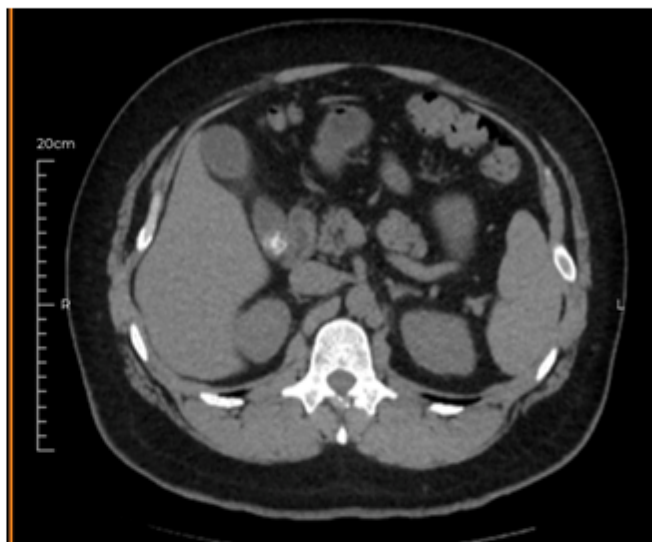
While I was away, these four held down the fort. They kept up with homeschool, attended worship, renewed their passport stamps, and watched over the camp in my absence. It was not easy to be separated for a month, and I will not pretend they did not miss me or that I did not miss them. But their time in-country was not simply waiting. Each day spent in Belize moves our family closer to residency, a status that will open doors and deepen roots here for years to come.

I returned to four kids who had been faithful in the ordinary things, which is really all any of us are called to be.



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.

Where does our help come from?



I'm not a doctor. Although my wife thinks so. She is always asking me what ailment she or someone in the family has, and she shows me the signs and symptoms. Making me listen to someone's cough or take someone's vital signs. I appreciate the confidence she has in me! However, usually I look at her, sigh deeply with a furrow of concern and deep thought, then I say, "I think they need a doctor."

The picture above is a CT scan of part of my body. Again, I'm not a doctor. However, somewhere in that swirling mass of digitally enhanced imagery is a gallbladder that is not doing so great. At the end of February, I went to the hospital with an infection and horrible stomach pains. In the end, it was determined that I needed to return to the United States and have a surgery.

It is a humbling thing, the body. We talk a great deal about vocation, purpose, and the work God sets before us, but the flesh has a way of interrupting all of that to remind us we are not in as much control as we imagine. A gallbladder does not ask permission to fail. Neither do fevers, or infections, or the hundred ordinary ways the flesh announces its limits.

There is something illuminating about lying in a hospital bed. It has a way of stripping away the illusion that we hold our lives together by our own effort. We do not. They are held for us. I am grateful for good medical care, for a wife who stayed calm through a stressful situation, and for the God who tends to frail and finite creatures...even ones who should have gone to the doctor sooner.

Belize FORO Spring 2026

While I was away for the month of March, the FORO gathered in Orange Walk Town. I was sorry to miss it! Orange Walk is home to two of the church plants here in Belize, one in San Roman and one in the neighboring community of Trial Farm. Both are served by Pastor Roldan Rios, who was installed in November of last year as the first Lutheran pastor from Belize. That is no small thing. It is the kind of milestone that reminds you the work here is not simply about maintaining a foreign presence it is about the Gospel taking root in a place and producing its own fruit.

The FORO is a group of individuals, congregations, and organizations who support and partner with the mission. It brings together people from across the region to pray, plan, and encourage one another in the work. On the final day of this gathering, members of the local

church plants joined visiting guests for a meal and an evening of sharing stories about the life of the church in Belize; the challenges, the surprises, and the quiet evidences of grace. You can see some of those faces in the photo below. They are not a crowd of strangers. They are the church.



• PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- **Healing and Dependence on God:** Give thanks that the Lord provides care for His servants even in unexpected illness, and that His mercies are not interrupted by hospital stays or disrupted plans. Pray that those who serve in Belize would hold their health and strength loosely, trusting the God who tends to frail and finite creatures, and that any season of weakness would deepen rather than diminish their faith and calling.
- **The Church Taking Root in Belize:** Give thanks for the congregations in Orange Walk and for Pastor Roldan Rios, the first Lutheran pastor raised up from Belize itself. Pray that the Lord would continue to build His church through faithful preaching and the administration of the Sacraments, that these young congregations would be strengthened in the Word, and that the harvest field in Belize would yield fruit that endures.
- **Families Serving Together:** Give thanks for families who bear the ordinary costs of missionary life; separation, uncertainty, and the slow work of building a home in a foreign land. Pray that the Lord would sustain and knit together the households of those serving in Belize, that children would grow up knowing why they are here, and that families would be a witness in themselves to the faithfulness of God across generations.

Kids Korner

“I was away for almost the whole month of March. What is one word or phrase you would use to describe that month?”



Thankful to be able to visit my family during my stay in Michigan.

Gideon: “Boring, because there was no other boy in the house.”

Martha: “Boring, but I don’t want the answers to be all the same...”

Esther: “Boring.”

Joanna:
“Boring.”

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light that darkness cannot overcome, and the strength of those who have none of their own. We give You thanks for bodies tended in weakness, for families kept faithful in separation, for a church sprouting in the soil of the Word, and for the quiet mercies that sustain Your people when no one is watching. Keep us from the illusion that we hold our own lives together. Remind us daily that we are held. And as You have planted Your cross amidst this world's darkness, plant it also at the center of our homes, our congregations, and our hearts, that all we do may be done in Your name and for Your glory. Hear us for the sake of Your bitter suffering and death, and Your glorious resurrection. 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 Pastor Jason and Emily Groth. Make checks payable to:

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

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