

THE SUNDAY SPIRIT

The Ascension of our Lord

May 17, 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 and Pastor Eric by Craig & Donna Lackey
(Listen on WAIZ 630 AM or 105.9 FM during our 8:15 am service)

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Braeden Little and all graduates that worked hard for their accomplishments and in gratitude to the Lord for their 48th wedding anniversary by Eddie & Robin Little

Holy Communion Today - 8:15 am, 10:45 am and 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

Graduation Sunday - Today, we will honor our high school and college graduates at both our worship services. Please see the bulletin insert for information on our graduates.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE CLASSES

***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 Heart of the Family” with Kirk Cameron and Chelsea Cameron with Kim Gantt , Kevin Gantt & Kim Rector.

***Ladies Sunday School Class** - Education Building, Room 7 with Beth Lail They are studying “Kingdom Prayer: Touching Heaven to Change Earth.”

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

***Pastor’s Class - Parish Hall** - Adult Bible Study “Learning to Pray the Psalms: God’s Words on our Lips” - led by Pastor Frank.

PRAYERS

Church Members in Need

Carol Abbott, Terry Bolick, Rosella Bollinger, Eddie Coulbourn, Shirley Dellinger, Betty & Delmar Eckard, Jerry Eckard, Mary Ruth Hefner, Donald Killian, Randy Miller, Barb Nordyke, Crystal Starnes, Teresa Taylor, 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)
- Judy Sherrill (cousin of Debbie Adams)
- Terry Love (brother-in-law of Greg & Judy Eckard)
- Kathy Farus (sister of Carolyn Paschal)
- Randy Milstead (nephew of Clayton Milstead)
- Chuck Smith (son of Clayton & Debbie Milstead)
- John Laws (brother of Debbie Milstead)
- Carole Glass (friend of Nancy Bruce)
- June Cherry (friend of Carolyn Paschal)
- Tom McGarity (friend of Pastor Frank)

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*)
- Hailey Childress, due in August, (*granddaughter of David & Sheree Sigmon*)
- Summer Dupuis, due in September, (*granddaughter of David & Sheree Sigmon*)
- Rose Marie Propst, due in September (*daughter-in-law of Mark & Barbara Propst*)
- Karen Bruce, due in October (*daughter-in-law of Nancy Bruce & John Schenk*)
- Becca Martin, due in December (*daughter of Nancy Bruce & John Schenk*)

Birthdays This Week Ernest Starnes (5/17); Judy Sigmon (5/18); Dorothy Willis (5/18); John Adams (5/19); Staci Bumgarner (5/19); Billy Canipe (5/20); Dorothy Sigmon (5/20); Lynn Fox (5/22); Lyla Killian (5/22); Scott Medlin (5/22); Michael Sheahen (5/22)

Anniversaries This Week Terry & Lisa Bentley (5/17); Chris & Emily Sherbino (5/17); Chris & Tina Watts (5/17); Darrell & Alice Freeman (5/21); Mike & Patricia Pritchard (5/21)

Safe Travels For Pastor Eric on his mission trip to Ghana

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quilt of Valor Presentation There will be a presentation for Delmar Eckard on **today** immediately following the 4:30 pm worship service. (Approximately 5:15 pm) The congregation is invited to attend as we say thank you to Delmar for his service to our country.

New Adult Bible Study in the “Adults of All Ages” class today. They will be studying “The Heart of Family” that is designed to share the principles that Kirk & Chelsea Cameron have learned in nearly 30 years of marriage and parenting. They are solid, biblically-based, and faith-filled. This isn’t a self-help seminar. This is about bringing the lessons God has taught them to you and growing you as a spouse and a parent. It’s an investment not just in your family but culture, as Heaven starts in the home and flows out from there.

New Member Classes Starting in May

If you’re interested in joining St. Peter’s, we’d love to walk with you as you learn and grow in the Word of Christ and in the life of our congregation.

Our New Member instruction begins **Wednesday, May 20**. This year we’re introducing a four-track approach, so you can start where you are on your faith journey—without unnecessary repetition.

This is for anyone who is new to the Christian faith,

- new to Lutheranism,
- new to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS),
- or simply new to St. Peter’s.

Along the way, you’ll learn what we believe, teach, and confess about Jesus Christ, the gifts He gives through His Church, and what it means to share, serve, and grow at St. Peter’s. To get started, please set up a time to speak with **Pastor Frank** or **Pastor Eric** by calling the church office at **(828) 256-2970**.

The Golden Agers will be doing an outing to Asheville NC on **Tuesday, May 19**. They will visit the Estes Williams Car Museum, the Asheville Farmers Market and have lunch at the Moose Café. **Please meet in the Parish Hall at 8:30 am**. Questions, see Kim Kaylor.

Church Directory Update You can still sign up for the last two photography sessions in May - May 26-27. If you are not able to attend a photography session for our new church directory, you can submit a photo digitally (high quality) as a jpeg file or bring a high quality printed one by the church office, or use your photo from the previous church directory. There is a \$15 charge for photos being submitted by either of these methods, and checks need to be payable to “St. Peter’s Lutheran Church.” You will need to bring your money by the church office by May 27. Questions, please contact Julie Robinson or Joy Eckard.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids in Christ (K-6th grade) will meet on **Sunday, May 31 at 2 pm** in the Spirit Center. Please meet in the Spirit Center for a short devotion and then they will leave for a “Mystery Trip.” Make sure you have a permission slip signed to ride the bus. See Kim Kaylor if you have any questions.

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 178 10:45 am 92

Sunday School Attendance
Adults 7 Youth 15 2nd Sunday Presentation 45

Offerings
(Needed in General Fund weekly to meet budget \$12,829.50)
General Fund - \$9,553.80; Sunday School - \$5

Dedicated Fund Offerings
Senior Youth - \$743; Kids Kamp - \$400; Missions - \$3,491; Israel Bible Study Tour - \$500;
Building Fund - \$3,612.86; Building Fund - Audio/Visual - \$100

Thru April 30, 2026 Year to Date
Income \$152,678.06 less expenses \$182,379.97 = \$29,701.01 (negative)
Budget-to-date is a monthly average. Income and expenses are seasonal so totals may run ahead or behind

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING WEEK

- Sun. (17) 8:15am Contemporary Service with Holy Communion and **recognition of graduates**
9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes
10:45 am Traditional Service with Holy Communion and **recognition of graduates**
12:15 pm Handbell rehearsal
2:30 pm Confirmation Mentor Meeting - Make-up session
3:00 pm Confirmation Mentor Meeting
4:30 pm Homebound/Workers Communion Service
5:15 pm Quilt of Valor Presentation for Delmar Eckard
- Mon. (18) 6:15 am Girl Scouts
6:30 pm Praise Band Practice
- Tues. (19) **8:30 am Golden Agers - Outing to Asheville**
6:30 pm Mission Team - in Multi-purpose room
7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- Weds. (20) **5:00 pm Barnabas Team Meeting**
6:00 pm New Member Class
6:30 pm Adult Choir
6:30 pm Bible Journaling - *with Kim Kaylor, Leader, in Parish Hall*
- Thurs. (21) 10:00 am Small Group Bible Study - *with Kim Kaylor, Leader, in Parish Hall*
6:30 pm Small Group Bible Study - *with Tery Sigmon, Leader, in Multi-purpose room*
- Fri. (22) 10:00 am Small Group bible Study - *with Pastor Eric, Leader, in Parish Hall*
- Sat. (23) 7:30 pm Men's Small Group Bible Study
4:00 pm Sunshine Group Outing to JD's BBQ
- Sun. (24) 8:15 am Contemporary Service
9:30 am Sunday School & Bible Classes
10:45 am Traditional Service

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

SERMON NOTES

"Hold Firm to the Trustworthy Word"

Titus: A Guide for Life in Christ Series

Titus 1:5-16

1. What makes someone in authority credible to you?
2. What voices are you tempted to listen to in place of the Word of God?
3. How does knowing the ascended Lord rules over all things give you confidence in the Word of God?
4. In what ways can you hold more firmly to the Word?

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Rev. Jason & Emily Groth, Missionaries

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Carolyn Paschal, Music Director

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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: 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 Christian Queen 10:45 am Tonya Darden

Greeters: 8:15 am Joy Lail 10:45 am Donna Sipe

Acolytes: 8:15 am Open

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

Communion Set-Up: Danny & Donna Sipe

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

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing Box — Help Needed Our Blessing Box is a simple way we can care for neighbors in our community, and we're thankful for everyone who has helped keep it going. We're currently looking for:

- **Food donors** (nonperishable items)
- **Weekly helpers** to stock the box and remove any expired items
- **A coordinator** to help organize donations and weekly stocking

Church Council is also trying to discern whether there is enough support to continue the Blessing Box ministry into the future, so your involvement now will make a real difference. **If you're interested in helping in any of these ways, please contact Alex Scott Fulbright or Pastor Frank.**

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.

SUNSHINE GROUP NEWS

- The Lunch Bunch will be going to dinner on Saturday, May 23 at JD's BBQ in Gamewell. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Spirit Center at 4 pm. Ice cream could be involved in this adventure! Let Betty Goble know by May 19 if you plan to join them.
- The Sunshine Group is planning an outing to the Green Room Theatre on Sunday, June 14 to see "4 Old Broads" (*don't look for anyone you know to be on stage!*) Let Betty know by May 24 if you'd like to attend the play.
- Summer Fun - Let's go chasing waterfalls! If you are interested in "chasing" waterfalls, let Betty know. More details to follow.
- Shopping or just strolling the street - A day out to Black Mountain or West Jefferson. Let Betty know if you'd are interested and a date will be decided soon. Who doesn't like a little shopping - just sayin'!!!

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

- **Given to the General Fund** in loving memory of Nettie Sigmon by Archie & Irene Sigmon
- **Given to the General Fund** in loving memory of Charles Bowman by Catawba County Farm Bureau
- **Given to the Quilters** in loving memory of Louise Goble by Kenneth & Linda Goble

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewardship Corner: The Widow's Mite, Mark 12:41-44

*"Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many **wealthy individuals contributed substantial amounts**. But a **poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny**. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything she had to live on.'"*

The widow's mite reminds us that true generosity is measured not by the size of the gift, but by the sacrifice and faith behind it. Jesus highlights a poor widow who contributed just two coins, yet he deemed her offering the **greatest**.

Scripture says, "*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God*" (Hebrews 13:16). God values generosity as an **act of worship and obedience**. It calls us to **trust God** enough to give ourselves **wholeheartedly** to something greater than our own needs. May we continue to be faithful to give to the church and those in need with, compassion, humility and love—just as the widow did.

Beth Lail, Stewardship Chair



William Phenix Hubbard will graduate Cum Laude from Maiden High School. In high school he was a member of the Beta Club & National Technical Honor Society. He is also an Eagle Scout. He plans to attend CVCC to obtain an Associates Degree in Welding Technology. He is the son of Heather & Chad Hubbard and grandson of John & Debbie Thomas.



Maria Elizabeth Perez will graduate from North Iredell High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society, and was in the Army JROTC where she was a captain and received the “Daughter of American Revolution” Award. After graduation, she will be joining the Marines and leaves for Basic Training on July 28. She is the daughter of Andres and Deanna Varquez and granddaughter of Carolyn Paschal.

Honoring Our Graduates

May 17, 2026



**St. Peter's Lutheran Church
6175 St. Peter's Church Road
Conover, NC 28613**



Kenny Wayne Ballard will graduate with honors from Bandys High School. He will attend Lenoir-Rhyne University in the fall and plans to major in Sports Management. He is the grandson of Mitzi Ballard, Jack Sigmon and Bonnie Sigmon.



Gunner Lane Smith will graduate from St. Stephens High School. He will be entering the military as a member of the US Navy and hopes to be a Navy diver which is part of the special warfare community. Gunner is the son of Christopher Smith and Ashley Smith and grandson of Karen Smith.



Braeden Gene Little will graduate Summa Cum Laude from Alexander Central High School. He will attend NC State University in the fall and has been accepted into the prestigious Poole College of Management. He plans to major in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship. Braeden is the son of Terry & Shannon Little and the grandson of Eddie & Robin Little.



Mallory Hope Watts graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and double minors in Psychology and Sociology. During her time in college, she was a dedicated member of the cheerleading team for four years and served as team captain her senior year. She plans to continue her education by pursuing a graduate degree in Nutrition, with a passion for helping others live healthier lives. Mallory is the daughter of Chris & Tina Watts, twin sister to Ty, nephew of Adam Watts & Alyson Mains and granddaughter of Bob & Kay Watts.



Ty Thomas Watts graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and a minor in Psychology. He plans to continue his education in graduate school, pursuing a career in occupational therapy. Ty's heart is to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, with the goal of changing the world through his work as an occupational therapist. In his spare time, you can find him on the pickleball court. Ty is the son of Chris & Tina Watts, twin brother to Mallory, nephew of Adam Watts & Alyson Mains, and grandson of Bob & Kay Watts.