



The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Holy Eucharist Rite II: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM



Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent; for this is the house of God.

Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you;
after the service (and during the peace) speak to one another.

Salt, Light, & St. Peter's Annual Meeting

To be 'salt' and 'light' in the midst of a sometimes dark and hurting world means that as followers of Christ we are to stand and work against hunger, poverty, homelessness, loneliness, injustice, cruelty and bigotry. Our faith isn't just private and personal, it also must have a public and communal element that reaches out to the neighbor, to the stranger. As we gather for our Annual Meeting today, I have seen our parish reaching out in so many ways. From feeding, clothing, and providing, to bringing hope, compassion, and love, to the simple act of welcoming the stranger who walks through the red doors here. I have seen you be that salt and light. It reminds me of this moving quote below from Martin Niemoller:

"You are the light of the world, the salt of the Earth!" We are not to worry whether the light is extinguished or not; that is God's concern; we are only to see that the light is not hidden away – hidden away perhaps with a noble intent, so that we may bring it out again in calmer times – no: Let your light shine!

The city of God cannot remain hidden. Brothers and sisters, the city of God will not be blown down by the storm. It will not be conquered even though the enemy take its outer walls. The city of God will stand, because its strength comes from on high, because the Lamb is with it, and so it will remain firmly established."

(Martin Niemoller – from a sermon just before his arrest in Nazi Germany)

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Reader: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-6, 10

Jerome Webster Meachen (b. 1930)



- 1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- [10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.]

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Reader: A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom,

but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God"*

Hymnal 711

The Gospel (*standing*)

Matthew 5:13-20

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you,

unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Annual Meeting

The Nicene Creed (*standing*)

BCP pg. 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form VI

(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)

BCP pg. 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and José, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Collect at the Prayers

BCP pg. 395

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory

"Prayer of St. Francis" – Allen Pote

Kathryn Graham, soloist

Lord make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord.
Where there is doubt, let there be faith.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek
to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.

Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there's despair, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, let there be light.
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.

For it is in giving that we receive,
and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.

At the Presentation

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Hymnal 380, stanza 3

The Bidding Prayer

Celebrant: This is the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is made ready for all.
So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
You who have tried to follow and those who struggle to find the path.
Come, because it is God who invites you.
It is God's will that those who desire to do so should meet God here.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP pg. 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Preface of the day.)
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S - 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The people kneel or sit.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Danish 3-fold (10:30) And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn "Bring Forth the Kingdom"

Refrain

Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the
King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,
Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Text: Mary Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Mary Haugen, b.1950
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Post Communion Prayer (Celebrant and People)

BCP pg. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Senting Hymn: *"I want to walk as a child of the Light"*

Hymnal 490

The Dismissal

BCP pg. 366

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Improvisation on HOUSTON*

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets downstairs every Wed. Please join us!

COFFEE HOUR Sign up in Fotinos Hall or call the office.

MUSIC MINISTRY: Chancel Choir rehearsals, Wednesday 7PM in the Nave. **Handbell Choir** rehearsals Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM downstairs in the choir room.

COFFEE WITH THE CLERGY Gather in Fr. Ron's office at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for a relaxed, casual conversation based on questions you may have regarding faith, church, and society. We hope you can join us!

KITCHEN CLEAN 2026 Hmmm.... Still see a lot of blank lines on our Kitchen Sign up sheet. Please think about doing a good deed this week—SIGN UP! We need for people to sign up for monthly kitchen cleaning in 2026. Please see the sign up sheet in the kitchen and sign up with a friend! Thank you.

2026 Dates to remember!

January 20th—February 10th—Supper & The Word

February 8th— Annual Parish Meeting

February 17th —Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18th—Ash Wednesday

February 22nd - Sister Madeleine Mary visit

February 25th—Blood Drive

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Beckye Smith

In honor of her nieces and nephews.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS — Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 2/15/25:

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers— Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs
Ushers - Diana Mushill, Mary Sansbury
Acolytes - Jenny Hunter, Jack Dwyer
Reader—Elaine Jacobs
LLR—Sherree Brady
Livestream - Walter Smith, Andy Halasz

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer—Jennifer Baker
Ushers - Emily Gentry
Acolytes - Cathy Melesh
Reader - Sherree Brady

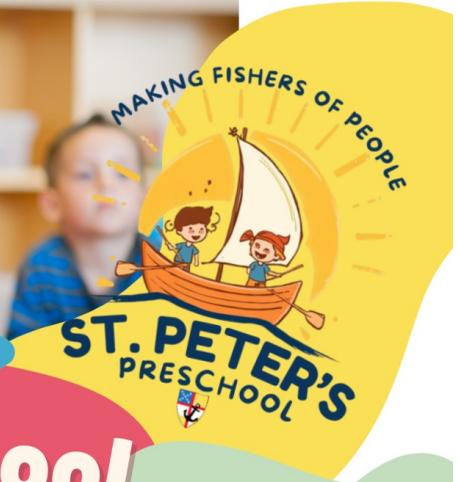
Financial Status as of Dec 31, 2025

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance YTD
Total Revenues	\$534,118	\$495,428	\$38,691
Total Expenses	\$500,097	\$495,428	(\$4,670)
Net Total	\$34,021	\$0	\$34,021

Note: Budget figures are adjusted to reflect Mother Tara's departure starting in June.

Scan the QR Code with your phone — this will take you directly to St. Peter's gift entry screen.





Preschool

Donate new or gently used toys and supplies. Please reach out to G before making your donation!

We are looking for teachers, assistants, and substitutes. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please contact G.

Explore our wish list for items we need that you could contribute. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Ginia.

gedwards@spbt.com

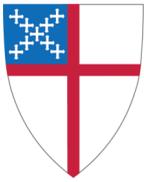


Check out our website:

WWW.SAINTPETERBYTHELAKE.NET/PRESCHOOL

Be a part of something special! Help us create a nurturing and creative environment for our new preschool.





The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake

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Denver, North Carolina 28037 (704-483-3460)

<https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/>

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church

Ministers: All members of the Church

The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, **Bishop**

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Nick McDonald

Christian Formation Director: Ginia Edwards

Director of Music: David Wilcox

Director of Music Emeritus: Leigh Ann Johnston

Licensed Lay Reader: Diane Davis

Ushers: Steve & Cathy Hiney, Diana Mushill, Roger Simpson

Chalice Bearers: Michele Moss, Patty & Patrick Duggan

Acolytes: Tracey Engel, Zachary Ireland, Ava Prouty

Readers: Susan Schuman, Lisa Anzalone

Altar Guild Team 2 – Jill McPeak, Betsy Clements, Marge Fairbanks, Cathy Melesh, Michele Moss, Karen Taylor, Claire and Bob Tracy, Diana Mushill, Rene Sliwoski, Tricia Wagner

Livestream Tech: Beth & Dick Lunney

Coffee Hour: Mike & Christine Scaglione

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil

Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

Tracey Engel, Pat Higbie, Steve Hiney,
Gary Jarvis, Connie Mathis, Michelle
Moss, John Stewart

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner

THE STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector

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The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest

nickmcd@spbtl.com

Ginia Edwards, Director of Christian Formation

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David Wilcox, Director of Music

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Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator

kate@spbtl.com

Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator

financeadmin@spbtl.com

Jim Heil, Treasurer

jheil164@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT:

BE DISCIPLES:

ENGAGE THE WORLD

