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



November 8, 2026

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 AM & 10:30AM Holy Eucharist

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.

Be Prepared to Wait

At first listen, today's parable from the Gospel of Matthew sounds like something that any scout or guide could have told us: Always be prepared. Plan ahead. Bring enough oil. Keep extra batteries on hand. Know where the candles and matches are before the power goes out. As good as that advice is, there's more to it than that. It's not just, "Always be prepared," but also "Be prepared to wait." And not just, "Be prepared to wait," but "Be prepared to wait for the Lord."

We don't like waiting, but God promises blessings even as we wait. We hear in Lamentations 3:25, "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him." God says in Isaiah 40:31, "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wing like eagles."

Waiting is not doing nothing, and having to wait for the Lord doesn't mean the Lord is doing nothing. We can wait, trusting that God is always doing something. We can continue to pray, to worship, to love and serve our neighbors. We can participate in what God is already doing, the purposes of God that are already underway. We can then be ready, like wise bridesmaids with our one job of bringing the light, or we can be untrusting, unaware, unprepared to do our part. The choice, as always, is ours.
The Rev. Dr. Amy Richter – Synthesis)

Faithfully,
Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

May God bless you during this time of quiet reflection and personal prayer.

Opening Voluntary *"Sleepers, Awake!"* — J.S. Bach Troy Keeney - Trumpet

Entrance *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* **Hymnal 68**

General Acclamation **BCP pg. 355**

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen**

The Collect for Purity **BCP 355**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

8:30 am: *Celebrant:* Lord have mercy **BCP Pg. 356**
People: **Christ have mercy**
Celebrant: Lord have mercy

The Gloria (10:30 am) **Hymnal S 280**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father, Amen

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson **Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25**

Reader: A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

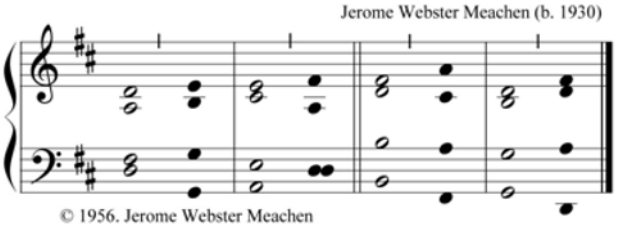
"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-7(8)



1 Hear my teaching, O my **people**; *
incline your ears to the words of my **mouth**.
2 I will open my mouth in a **parable**; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient **times**.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have **told us**, *
we will not hide from their **children**.
4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the **LORD**, *
and the wonderful works he has **done**.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for **Israel**, *
which he commanded them to teach their **children**;
6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet un**born**; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their **children**;

7 So that they might put their trust in **God**, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his com**mandments**;
8 And not be like their forefathers,
A stubborn and rebellious gene**ration***
A generation whose heart was not steadfast,
And whose spirit was not faithful to **God**.

The Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Reader: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn: *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* **Hymnal 58**

The Gospel *(standing)* **Matthew 25:1-13**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Kingdom Kids dismissal

The Sermon **The Rev. Dr. Ron Taylor**

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 III **BCP pg. 387**
(said responsively by celebrant and congregation)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

Confession and Absolution **BCP pg. 360**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Leader and People:

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **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 *Promised Land – Southern Harmony, arr. Susan Geschke* Bell Choir

At the Presentation (8:30) **All things come of thee, O Lord.**
And of thine own have we given thee.

Doxology with Alleluias **Songbook 183**

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

The Bidding Prayer

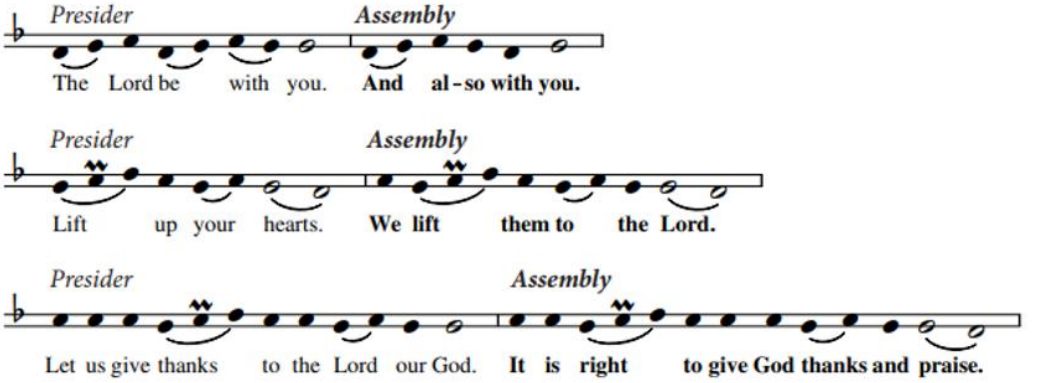
Celebrant: This is the table of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is made ready for all. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, You who have been here often and you who have not been here long, You who have tried to follow and those who struggle to find the path. Come, because it is God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

8:30 am:

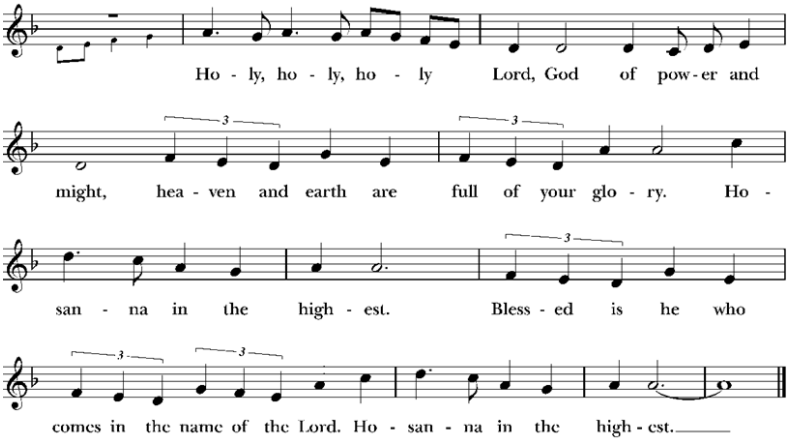
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Sursum corda – S-120 ***(10:30am)***



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



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. *Amen.*

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER **BCP 364**

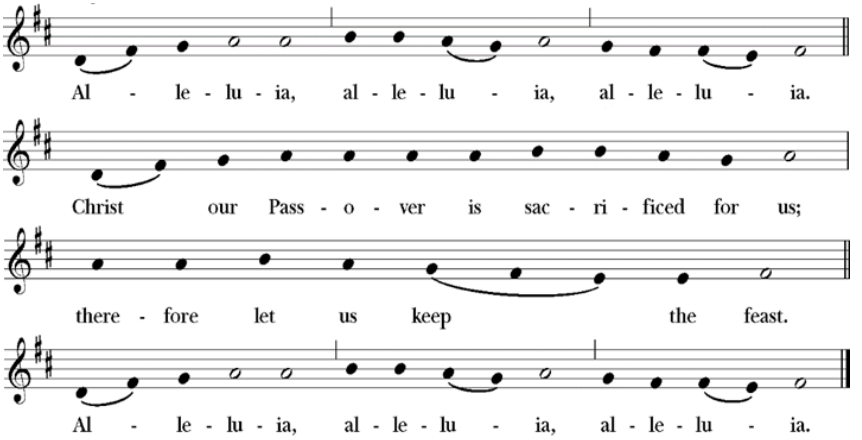
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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



Administration of the Sacrament

Communion of the People

Communion Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* **Hymnal 324**

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

Sending 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: *"St. Anne" Fugue in E-flat Major — J.S. Bach*

SPBTL NEWS AND EVENTS

CENTERING PRAYER 10AM, Meets in the parlor every Wed. Please join us!

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

MUSIC MINISTRY: **Chancel Choir** practice –Wednesdays at 7pm and **Handbell Choir** Wednesdays at 6pm.

AED and CPR Classes at SPBTL fee/donation of $10/person. These are the classes to be offered at SPBTL on Nov 7th.Two hour-long classes will be held, one at 2pm and another at 3pm. Each class has a maximum of 15 participants. If you are interested, sign up using this link CLICK HERE Or Contact Pat Racz or Kate at the office to sign you up. Please contact Pat Racz with any questions at pat.racz01@gmail.com or 704-748-3327.

ADVENT 2026 - Advent Season begins November 29th**,** and we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. We are starting preparations to publish **the 26th edition of the Advent Devotional. We would really like to have you participate by writing a devotion about memorable past Christmases / traditions , Advent Season thoughts, and favorite scriptures**.

One of the things that makes our Advent devotional so special is that it comes from the hearts and faith experiences of our own parish family. As we read a different reflection each day, we are reminded of the many ways God is working in the lives of those around us, enriching our own Advent journey. So please take a few moments and write a devotion. It does not have to be long or a "Biblical Epistle", **just from you!** This year we would like to make an extra special request to **help your children write a devotion also! Devotions written by our youth are "special" and enriches our Advent experience.**

Also, Continuing from last couple of years. We are also asking the SPBTL artistic community to create Nativity Artwork of various forms which will be included in this year's devotional. (We are not looking for "Hallmark card art", just productions of Nativity scenes / Christmas artwork created by you or your family). Artwork from your children are very special treasures to include & share with all!

Please complete and **submit by November 11th**. If you have any questions, please contact us at **(704) 663-9004**. Please place devotions in our Church mailbox, or email in Word format to **budhawkins@charter.net**. Thanks, in advance, for your support!

Jeanne & Bud Hawkins

ALTAR FLOWER SIGNUP FOR 2027 It's that time again…to sign up for altar flowers for next year. Once again, we are using an online signup via SignUpGenius. Click on this link, or scan the QR code:

Backpacks for Kids- Holiday Food Donations Needed! It's that time of year again! Our Backpacks Team is preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes to help provide holiday meals for students in need at St. James Elementary and G.E. Massey Elementary. We need your help to ensure these students and their families have food to enjoy during the holidays! PLEASE RETURN FOOD TO FOTINOS BY November 15th.

How You Can Help:

- Visit the posters in Fotinos Hall to see the needed food items.
- Remove one or two sticky notes from the posters.
- Purchase the requested items and bring them back to the church.
- Place your donations on the floor beneath the posters.

Our Backpacks Team will collect the donations and use them to prepare holiday food boxes for these students. Thank you for your generosity and support in helping make the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays brighter for the children and families in our community. Your kindness truly makes a difference!

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE Join Fr. Ron and Fr. Nick as they guide the group in an exploration of the Bible. All are welcome for any or all of the sessions! Sessions will be every Tuesday in November (3, 10, 17, 24), 6:30-8PM in Fotinos Hall. NO SIGNUP REQUIRED!

BLANKETS NEEDED FOR ANSWERED PRAYERS MINISTRY The recent change in the weather means the need for blankets for the unhoused is once again upon us. St. Mark's has already given out all of the extra blankets that they had remaining from last winter season. If you are able, please consider donating gently used or new blankets to this ministry. Please place your donations on the Answered Prayers table located in Furr Hall.

DRIVERS NEEDED FOR ANSWERED PRAYERS MINISTRY Looking for a few volunteers –Are you willing to drive ONCE a month to Gastonia? It would be wonderful to provide Cathy Wesson with some help. Instead of her driving up to Denver each week to pick up the donations for Answered Prayers, we would love to have a parishioner take them down to her at St. Marks in Gastonia. We would ask you to just choose a week (example: every first week of the month) and transport our donations. Let Kate at the church office know if you are interested in helping.

EAST LINCOLN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (ELCM) NEWS St. Peter by-the-Lake is a supporter of ELCM, and many of our parishioners volunteer in different capacities there. ELCM is adding another program to serve the community: McAdams Free Clinic. This clinic is a nonprofit organization with a mission to transform the lives of low income, uninsured individuals by expanding access to free comprehensive healthcare. It will provide primary care, dental care, behavioral health, and lab & pharmacy services to uninsured low income families in Lincoln County. Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to attend a Community Care Day on Saturday, November 14th from 9AM to 1PM at the ELCM Campus at 4278 Catawba-Burris Rd in Denver. Please contact Marilyn Saunders (704-589-1530) with any questions you may have.

CHECK DISBURSEMENT REQUESTS SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR 2026

All requests for disbursement of various ministry funds, as well as personal reimbursement requests for 2026, must be received by the Finance Office no later than November 23rd. Requests received after this date will be processed in 2027. All requests must be pre-approved by the specific ministry fund owner and include the specific account number from which the disbursement is to be paid. Reimbursement request forms are available in the copy room left-side wall should you need them. Please contact Sherree Brady at financeadmin@spbtl.com if you have any questions.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Dave & Michele Moss in honor of their grandson Peyton's 14th birthday.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 11/15/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Kathleen Wiley
Ushers – Chad Hamby
Acolytes – Michele Moss
Reader - Libby Willis

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers – Patrick & Patty Duggan
Ushers – Sheryn Fletcher, Mary Sansbury
Acolytes – Mike Scaglione, Lillian Finch
Reader – Jan McDonald
Livestream - Walter Smith, Beth Lunney
LLR – Libby Motto

Aug YTD	Actual	Budget	Variance YTD
Revenue	$325,003	$319,886	$5,117
Expenses	$353,292	$319,886	-$33,406
Net Total	-$28,289	$0	-$28,289

Notes:
- Contributions given for support clergy are excluded from Revenue since non-budgeted
- Paid in full annual pledge contributions received are pro-rated for YTD Revenue

To give online, scan the PayPal QR code with your phone – this will take you directly to St. Peter's gift entry screen.

Please use the "NOTE" field to indicate where the gift is to be directed (pledge, tithe, flowers, etc.)

The Episcopal Church of St. Peter by-the-Lake
8433 Fairfield Forest
Denver, North Carolina 28037 (704-483-3460)
https://www.saintpeterbythelake.net/

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
Ministers: All members of the Church
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: Sherree Brady
Chalice Bearers: Jennifer Baker, John & Michelle Stewart
Ushers: Ronnie Rudd, Mark White, Mary Sansbury
Acolytes: Brian Lambe, Bonnie Grant, Becket Rinkus
Readers: Diane Johnson, Zoe Jarman
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: Bill Reid, Andy Halasz
Coffee Hour: Farewell for Meg

THE VESTRY

Senior Warden – Stephanie Heil
Junior Warden – Mary Sansbury

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

Clerk of the Vestry: Daphne Wagner



MISSION STATEMENT:
BE DISCIPLES:
ENGAGE THE WORLD

THE STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Ronald B. Taylor, Rector
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jheil164@yahoo.com