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



November 15, 2026

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist & Holy Baptism

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.

The Day of the Lord

In our Epistle reading today from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul does not leave the issue of Christ's sudden return as an open question. It is assumed to be a settled truth. While the 'signs of the time' might challenge us to rededicate our commitment to discipleship, hardship in life does not threaten our assurance of salvation. Of course you will be prepared. You already know. You live in the light, faith, and life of the resurrection.

Even more reassuring are Paul's concluding words, which remind us that we are not alone. In verse 11, Paul states: "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." The best evidence believers have of the assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation is each other. The promise of Christ's return sustains and upbuilds the Church in whatever circumstance it finds itself. God has given us two great gifts for sustaining our faith in the midst of hardship: the promise of Christ's return and the mutual encouragement of the community of faith. According to Paul, we can step out into eternity on these two realities.
(John E. Cole – 'Feasting on the Word')

Faithfully,

Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

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

Opening Voluntary *Allemande from Suite No. 4* - G. F. Handel

Entrance *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **Hymnal 390**

General Acclamation **BCP pg. 299**

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

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;
People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**
Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People: One God and Father of all.

The Collect of the Day
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The First Lesson **Judges 4:1-7**

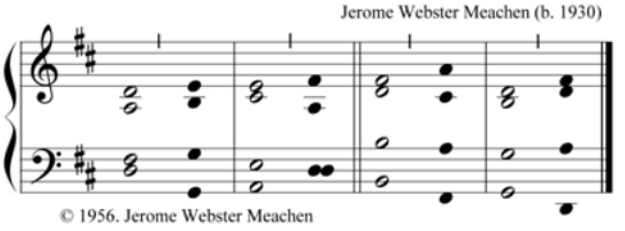
Reader: A reading from the Book of Judges.

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.
At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam

from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

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

Psalm 123



1 To you I lift up my **eyes**, *
to you enthroned in the **heavens**.

2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her **mistress**,

3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his **mercy**.

4 Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have **mercy**, *
for we have had more than enough of con**tempt**,

5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent **rich**, *
and of the derision of the **proud**.

The Second Lesson **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

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

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a

thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

The Sequence Hymn: *All Who Love and Serve Your City* **Hymnal 571**

The Gospel *(standing)* **Matthew 25:14-30**
Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not

scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

The Baptismal Liturgy

BAPTISMAL HYMN ***Baptized in water*** **Songbook 127**

PRESENTATION/EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATE **BCP 301**

Celebrant: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.
Parents and Godparents: I present *Hannah Leslie Christoph* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?
Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.
Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?
Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.
Question: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?
Answer: I renounce them.
Question: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
Answer: I renounce them.
Question: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
Answer: I renounce them.
Question: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
Answer: I do.
Question: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Answer: I do.

Question: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer: I do.
Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this person in her life in Christ?
People: We will.
Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT **BCP 304**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?
People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**
Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People: **I will, with God's help.**
Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People: **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE **BCP 305**

Celebrant: Let us now pray for *Hannah Leslie Christoph* who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader : Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Open her heart to your grace and truth.

People : **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader : Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People : **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Send her into the world in witness to your love.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER **BCP 306**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

Celebrant: We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever**.** **Amen.**

THE HOLY BAPTISM **BCP 307**

Celebrant: *Hannah Leslie Christoph*, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Celebrant: *Hannah Leslie Christoph*, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Kingdom Kids dismissal

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

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 *Cornerstone – Lloyd Larson*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but holy trust is Jesus' name.

Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord. Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale. My anchor holds within the veil.
My anchor holds within the veil

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O, may I then in Him be found,
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless, stand before the throne

At the Presentation

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**

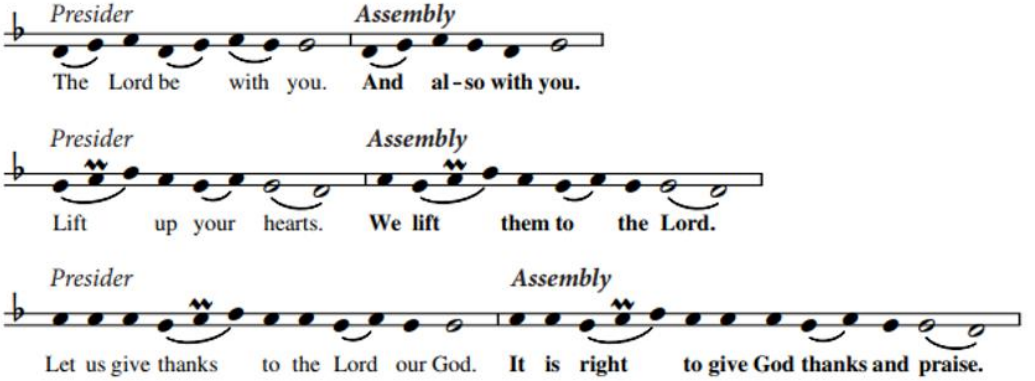
8:30 am: *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

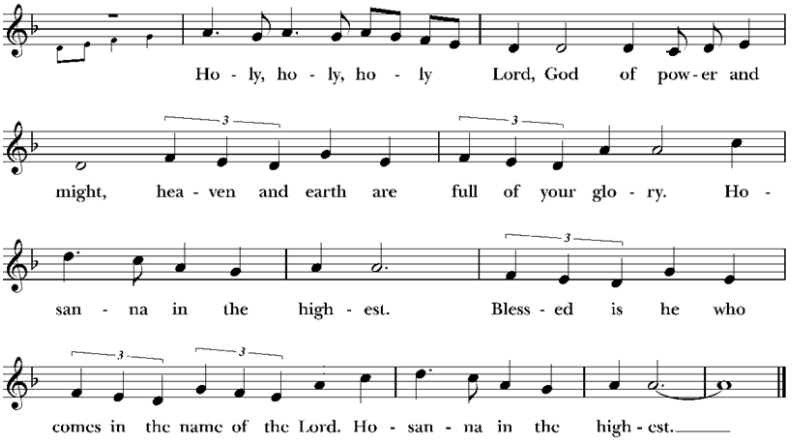
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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**

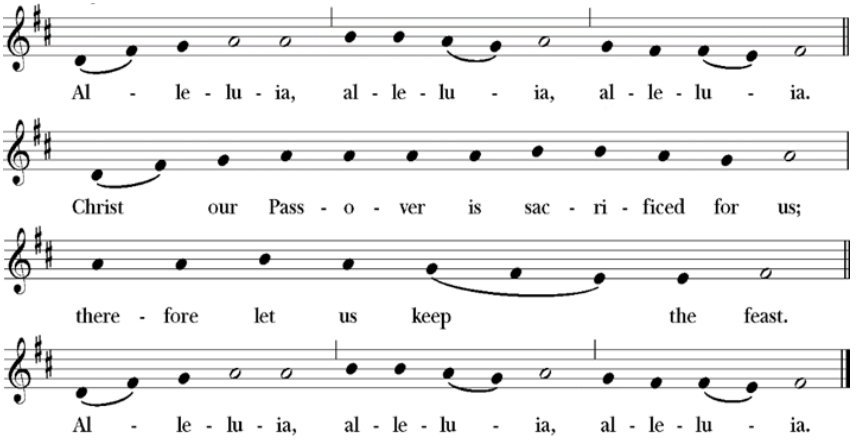
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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 *When We Are Living* **Songbook 167**

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: *Trust and Obey* **Songbook 109**

The Dismissal **BCP pg. 366**

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Allegro from Water Music* - G. F. Handel

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.

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 DUE TODAY! 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 Frances and Walter Smith in thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 11/22/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Michele Moss
Ushers – Helen Lungwitz
Acolytes – Michele Moss
Reader - Jennifer Baker

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers – Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs
Ushers – Joe Anzalone, Kathy Campbell
Acolytes – Christine Scaglione, Grace Finch
Reader – Brian Stone
Livestream - Zach Edwards, Andy Halasz
LLR – Diane Davis

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: Libby Motto
Chalice Bearers: Kathleen Wiley, Bob Tracy, Mary Sansbury
Ushers: Chad Hamby, Sheryn Fletcher, Claire Tracy
Acolytes: Michele Moss, Mike Scaglione, Lillian Finch
Readers: Libby Willis, Jan McDonald
Altar Guild Team 3– Carmen Hatley, Cathy and Tom Grace, Jean Hatley, Jeanne Hawkins, Cyndi Jarvis, Nancy Pittinaro, Brandy Rudd, Daphne Wagner, Mary Sansbury
Livestream Tech: Walter Smith, Beth Lunney
Coffee Hour: Scaglione & Jarvis

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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The Rev. Nick McDonald, Assisting Priest
nickmcd@spbtl.com
Ginia Edwards, Director of Christian Formation
gedwards@spbtl.com
David Wilcox, Director of Music
music@spbtl.com
Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator
kate@spbtl.com
Sherree Brady, Finance Administrator
financeadmin@spbtl.com
Jim Heil, Treasurer
jheil164@yahoo.com