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



November 22, 2026

Last Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King)

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.

Christ the humble king of love & service

Our Gospel of Matthew story of the sheep and the goats ask us a searching question that can sometimes be difficult to bear: are we admirers of Jesus or are we followers? The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard describes the difference like this: "The admirer never makes any true sacrifices. He always plays it safe. Though in words, phrases, songs, he is inexhaustible about how highly he prizes Christ, he renounces nothing, gives up nothing, will not reconstruct his life, will not be what he admires, and will not let his life express what it is he supposedly admires." Becoming a disciple, a follower of Jesus, is no easy task. Many throughout the ages have admired Jesus, but far fewer have chosen the sacrifice of following.

There is a sign in a church that has gone around on Facebook for the past few year and it says, "Sometimes I want to ask God why God allows poverty, famine, and injustice in the world when God could do something about it, but I'm afraid that God might ask me the same question." Remember that Jesus tells us in our Gospel today that when we feed or welcome or give clothing or visit the sick or those in prison we are, in turn, feeding, welcoming, clothing, and visiting Jesus himself. When people respond to human need – or fail to respond – they are responding or failing to respond to Jesus himself.
(The Rev. Danae Ashley – Sermons that Work)

Faithfully,
Father Ron

The Liturgy of the Word

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

Opening Voluntary *Crown Him with Many Crowns – arr. Anna Laura Page*

Entrance *Crown Him with Many Crowns* **Hymnal 494 (1,2,3)**

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

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

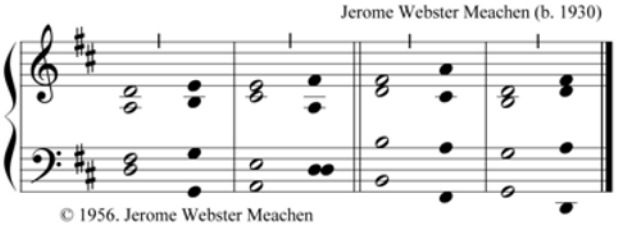
Reader: A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will

bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

Psalm 100



1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you **lands**; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a **song**.

2 Know this: The Lord himself is **God**; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his **pasture**.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with **praise**; *
give thanks to him and call upon his **Name**.

4 For the Lord is good;
his mercy is ever**lasting**; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to **age**.

The Second Lesson **Ephesians 1:15-23**
Reader: A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

The Sequence Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* **Hymnal 602**

The Gospel *(standing)* **Matthew 25:31-46**
Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry

and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 *Wesley Charles Rudd* 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 *Wesley Charles Rudd* who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

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

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

Leader: Open his heart to your grace and truth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: Bring him 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: *Wesley Charles Rudd*, 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: *Wesley Charles Rudd*, 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 *For the Fruit of All Creation* **Songbook 20**

At the Presentation

Commitment Sunday blessing of Pledges for 2027

Doxology with Alleluias **Songbook 183**

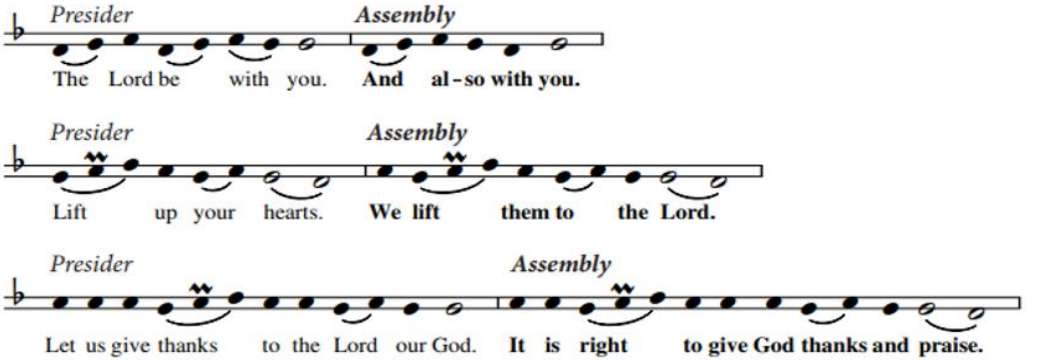
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

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 C) **BCP pg. 369**

Sursum corda – S-120 ***(10:30am)***



Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.
People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

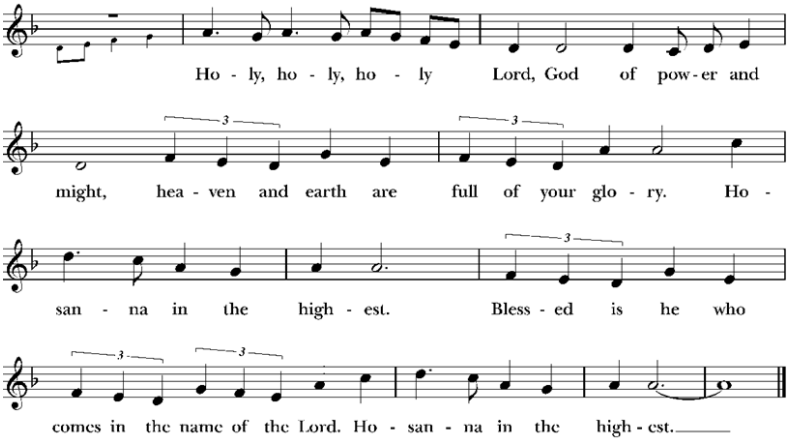
Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.
People: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS – S-129



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

The people kneel or sit.

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People: **We celebrate his death and resurrection,**
as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rachel, and Rebekah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Celebrant and People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

Danish 3-fold AMEN (10:30)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

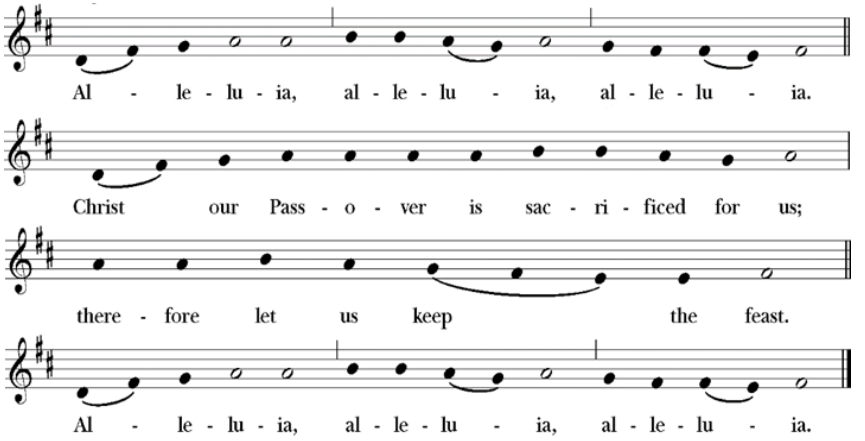
THE LORD'S PRAYER **BCP 364**

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 the Poor Ones* **Songbook 98**

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: *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* **Songbook 171**

The Dismissal **BCP pg. 366**

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary: *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* - arr. Anna Laura Page

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Diane Johnson in honor of Charlie's birthday.

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:

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.

Angel Gift Outreach for East Lincoln Christian Ministry! We invite you to participate in our annual gift giving opportunity to help the less fortunate in East Lincoln community. The tags hung in the narthex starting today. Please choose a tag (or 2!), write your name and phone number beside the appropriate gift wish on the sheet next to the hanging tags, purchase the designated gift (approx. $30) and bring back your unwrapped gift before November 28th. Full details are on the back of each angel tag.
Or you may want to consider picking up one of the red tags for ELCM's Home Meals Program. Just $30 covers a week of meals for elderly and homebound persons in our area. Please make your check payable to ELCM, noting Home Meals in the memo line and place in Marilyn Saunders mailbox at church. Your generosity could bring Christmas joy and hope to someone who may not have much of that in their life right now. **Contact Marilyn Saunders; email address- saundersm2022@gmail.com** with any questions or concerns.

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.



Thanksgiving service, Thursday at 9am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS —- Please check your calendars in advance so we don't have missing servants. We will see these Special Servants next week, 11/29/26:

8:30 AM

Chalice Bearer - Cathy Melesh
Ushers – Helen Lungwitz
Acolytes – - Cathy Melesh
Reader - - Cathy Melesh

10:30 AM

Chalice Bearers – Jim & Stephanie Heil
Ushers – Roger Simpson, Dick Lunney
Acolytes – Michelle Stewart, Blake Robinson
Reader – Christine Scaglione
Livestream - Bill Reid, Cha Wuerdeman
LLR – John Stewart

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: Diane Davis
Chalice Bearers: Hope Paasch, Elaine Jacobs
Ushers: Mike Scaglione, Claire Tracy
Acolytes: Christine Scaglione, Grace Finch
Readers: Brian Stone
Altar Guild Team 4 – Beckye Smith, Emily Gentry, Kathryn Graham, Karen & Ron Horne, Chuck & Jenny Hunter, Scott Major, Pastsy Roosa, Pamela Weed
Livestream Tech: Walter Smith, Beth Lunney
Coffee Hour: Bob Tracy

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

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David Wilcox, Director of Music
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Kate D'Amato, Parish Administrator
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Jim Heil, Treasurer
jheil164@yahoo.com