

St. Peter's Lutheran

1130 St. Peters Road
Lexington SC 29072
803-359-2470

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9 am-6 pm
Friday 9 am—Noon
www.StPetersLexSC.org

Ministry Team

The Rev. Dr. Judson F. Merrell, STS
"Pastor Judson" Senior Pastor
JudsonMerrell@bellsouth.net
704-798-4280

The Rev. Cassandra L. Boehringer
"Pastor Cassie" Associate Pastor
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678-492-3956

Clay Morell

Youth & Young Adult Director
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Cell: 803-447-8124

Craig Davis

Matins Choir & Instrumental Director

Kayla Ellingson

Angel Choir Director

Lauren Henry & Penni Henry

Nursery Attendants

Barry Moore

Chancel Choir & Handbells Director

Valerie Porth

Bookkeeper

Molly Teem

SonShine Choir Director

Carol Wyndham

Administrative Coordinator
Organist/Accompanist
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What's With All the Bowing?

I recently had a youth ask me "Pr. Judson, I see you bowing a lot during the service. Why?"

Well, let's think about that. First, yes it looks like I'm bowing. Performers, musicians, and actors always bow at the end of their performance. It's a way of saying thank you to those who are clapping. When you learned to acolyte, you perhaps were told to bow to the altar. In the church, we use a different name for it than "bowing". We call it "reverencing". Some places use the even more formal term of "genuflecting". To lower your head to the altar is to show respect to God upon His throne. You are not performing; the congregation is not clapping. Instead, you are humbling yourself before the creator of the world.

A few times you will see Pr. Cassie or me reverencing the altar:

-When we first enter the chancel (the area of the sanctuary where the altar is located, separated from the nave by steps.)

-During the Words of Institution when the Host & the Wine become the body & blood of Jesus. At this time, we are reverencing Jesus' presence in the elements.

-When the Trinitarian form of God's name is used in song or speech (for example at the end of the doxology, "Praise Father, Son, & Holy Ghost. Amen.) Or in the Gloria Patri: "Glory be to the Father, & to the Son, & to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, & will be forever. Amen."

-When we exit the chancel at the end of the service.

There are other ways that reverencing are done as well, some in the Lutheran tradition & some in other traditions. Such as:

-kneeling before the altar & communion elements

-kissing the altar

-reverencing the bible during a procession

Now you know what we are doing, & rest assured, you can do it too! Much like signing the cross, reverencing is an act that all of God's children can do as a development in their faith life & relationship with God. Have more questions? Feel free to ask, as we always need ideas for these articles!

Blessings!

Pr. Judson

Church Business

St. Peter's By the Numbers February 1-28, 2026*	
Actual Received YTD	\$ 111,653.11
Actual Spent YTD	\$ 107,212.23
Difference YTD	+\$ 4,440.88
<i>*Because our newsletter is published before the end of the month, the numbers here & for the month, will always be a month behind.</i>	

Funds	February Fund Totals
General	\$ 68,837.66
Boy Scouts	\$ 143.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$ 125.00
David Davis	\$ 280.00
Easter Lilies	\$ 48.00
Electronic Sign	\$ 1,079.00
Endowment Fund	\$ 1,700.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,745.00
Mission Lexington	\$ 36.00
Music Camp	\$ 100.00
Music Ministry	\$ 100.00
Safety	\$ 225.00
School Supplies	\$ 500.00
Snack Sacks	\$ 450.00
Tartu Seminary	\$ 708.50
Youth Ministry	\$ 1,839.00
Processing Costs	\$ 20.25
TOTAL GIVING for February	\$ 79,144.91

Ministry Highlights

Church Council met March 22nd @ 3 pm.

Absent: Pastor Cassie, Martin Bowers, Brian Cook, Mary Rae Oxner

- **Education:** Pastor Cassie is starting an outing for moms with little ones at Wingard Park. More details to come.
- **Evangelism:** . St. Peter's night at the Blowfish baseball game planned for Friday, May 30th. Tickets on sale after Easter. **Details page 8.**
- **Homecoming:** Sunday, May 3rd this year. We are having an outdoor party with Belly's BBQ and blow-ups. **More details on page 5.**
- **Finance:** Looking good even after missing two weeks due to bad weather.
- **Property:** Repairs continue to be made on the ceiling in the sanctuary. Kudos to the younger men of the church for stepping up! We were given a very large quote and these guys have saved us tens of thousands! While scaffolding is up, new LED lights are being installed as well. Sanctuary porch roof leak has been repaired.
- **Safety** is sponsoring a Basic Life Saving Classes at 9 am & 1 pm on Saturday, April 25th. Youth Scholarships available for ages 12-18. If you are interested, please call Jo Wessinger.
- **Service** Relay for Life is May 1st. Collecting pop tops for Ronald McDonald House.
- **Worship & Music:** Preparations for Easter. Music camps are also being planned.
- **Youth:** Young adults going to Canada for NALC mission trip. Sponsoring clothing drive for Burnsville, NC kids. Young adults helped with ceiling repairs. Two of our young adults got hitched! Congratulations!
- **Carolina Missions District Convocation** will be May 1st & 2nd in Stanley, NC.
- **Bob Dernbach's Ordination Day** is set for May 17th at Silverstreet Lutheran Church.

Next meeting is April 19th @ 3 pm



Thank You Notes

To Our Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the continued prayers for my mother over the years. Following her passing, me and my family were blessed with having Pastor Judson and Carol participate in her memorial service. I very much appreciate the cards and condolences from my church family.

In Christ's Love,
Hillarie Vaughan

To all of our Friends at St. Peter's,

We are so blessed to have so many wonderful, caring, and concerned people at St. Peter's.

Thank you for all the cards, conversations of concern, phone calls, and most importantly, for the prayers that were lifted up for me before & during my surgery. I have been very blessed by this—many thanks to each of you.

I want to thank Pastor Judson for being with me and for the beautiful prayer he lifted up for me before surgery.

I also want to thank the church staff who helped relay information to all concerned about my surgery and kept me on the prayer list.

May God continue to bless St. Peter's in all that it does for our fellow Christians & our community.

In Christian Love,
Gene Porth

Dear St. Peter's Congregation,

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love, and support you have shown our family following the loss of Sam Harmon, beloved husband and daddy.

We deeply appreciate & will always remember your many expressions of kindness and generosity, including the food, cards, visits, phone calls, and texts. We are truly grateful to be part of the St. Peter's Church family.

Thank you,
Wanda, Michele, Angie, & John

Dear St. Peter's Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers and generous gifts to us to be able to serve the Lord and His people. We thank God for you and keep you in our prayers.

We hope to come and see you if it is God's will in this year.

May the Lord be your Joy & Strength!
Neeraj & Nijhar

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for all the cards, visits, meals, and calls during my recovery.

You don't know how much I appreciate and love my church family. May God bless all of you!

Thanks again,
Doug Schreiber



Holy Week & Easter

Easter Breakfast at St. Peter's is like the "Best Breakfast Pot Luck" you've ever had the pleasure of eating.

Pastor Cassie has created a sign-up genius & if you are able to participate, you are encouraged to sign-up. There are things that can be done ahead, like milk, juice, fruit, grated cheese, as well as casseroles, donut holes, sweet breads, etc. No time to cook? We also need servers and a clean-up crew.

[If you are willing to bring something, or help with clean-up or serving, please click here. We are still in need of casseroles. You can never have enough food. We usually have around 300 folks to feed. Our guest musicians & LEO's give it 5 stars.](#)



**Palm
Sunday**

March

29

8:30 & 11 am



**Maundy
Thursday**

April

2

11:15 am & 7 pm



**Good
Friday**

April

3

11:15 am & 7 pm



**Easter
Sunday**

April

5

7:30 am & 11 am

Honoring the Past Celebrating the Future



FOOD—GAMES—FUN

Join us for Homecoming! Belly's BBQ, chips & slaw, Bouncy House, Water Slide, Obstacle Course, Fellowship, & Laughs. **Dress is casual. Please bring a camp chair.** Meat & sweet tea provided. Bring a dessert to share if you'd like.

SUNDAY

3

MAY

CEMETERY

12:30 PM—3 PM

Call Carol or Clay with questions.

It's a little bit of a hike, so golf carts are needed to use as shuttles. Call Carol to volunteer. Thanks!

Odds 'n' Ends

BURNSVILLE ELEMENTARY NEEDS US! .
Our youth spent a week in Burnsville, NC in the Summer of 2025 and, believe it or not, there are *still* folks there without power.

Pastor Eddie at Shoal Creek Baptist is our contact. In addition to helping this school, Shoal Creek has been housing & feeding the many groups that have been coming to help rebuild their town. More than a year later, the community is still struggling.

Spring is coming and the kids are in need of some casual spring clothes—jogging pants, short & long-sleeved t-shirts, socks, & undies. Since these are little people, please only bring kids' sizes 4T-12. *NEW ONLY, PLEASE.*

They are also in need of laundry detergent, toilet paper, paper towels, cereal, dry beans, and oatmeal.

Help us be the hands & feet of Jesus in N.C.

Golf Carts Needed

Sunday, May 3rd

With all of the kids running around, we would like to use golf carts to transport people from the parking lot to the party site for Homecoming. If you would be willing to share yours, please call Clay or Carol.



THANK YOU!



Mini Music Camp

ages 1-5

Saturday, April 18

10 am to Noon

Fellowship Hall

We will sing songs, play games, do arts & crafts, and have a snack. Call Kayla with questions.

Lutheran Men

Join us for dinner on Thursday, April 23rd @ 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Bobby & Dory are cooking chicken stew.

Lexington County Fire Chief John Hendrix, speaker

Saturday

April 25th

9 am



Service Ministry

You've heard the expression "one man's trash is another man's treasure". Well, Service Ministry is collecting trash & we need your help.

- ★ **POP TOPS**—We are saving these for the Ronald McDonald House. There are clear bottles in the Fellowship Hall and PLC kitchens for your collection. Please help us recycle these for a great cause.
- ★ **PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS**—We collect these for Mission Lexington. Bring us your "bag of bags" (you know you have one). We will handle the rest on our service night at VBS. Please put them in the Mission Lexington bin in the PLC.

OTHER THINGS WE ARE COLLECTING...

- ★ **SHOE BOX MINISTRY**—We are always collecting small things for this ministry. When you're out shopping, be on the lookout for combs, toothbrushes, socks, pencils, crayons, small books, stickers, reusable water bottles—anything that will fit in a shoe box is needed. We try to pack at least 150 shoe boxes each year. That's a lot of stuff. These items go in the Disaster Relief bin in the PLC.
- ★ **RELAY FOR LIFE**—If you are interested in purchasing a luminary or a fence sign, please pick up a form on the table in the PLC. Luminaries are \$10 each and fence banners are \$100. Forms, with money attached, can be placed in the offering plate, dropped off in the church office, or given to Bobbi Buff or Rachel Price.
- ★ **RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM**—Join us May 1st at LHS football stadium from 6-10 pm. It's a super hero theme this year. Capes are optional. Barry will be cooking something yummy. Lots of fun!

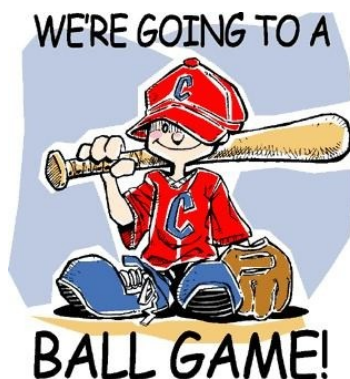


Join us for St. Peter's Night:



The Evangelism Ministry is sponsoring St. Peter's Night at the Blowfish game on Friday, May 29, 2026. This means:

- We will get all-you-can-eat Ballpark Menu (hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken sandwiches, fresh lettuce, tomatoes, onions, Cole slaw, chips, brownie, Coke products, and bottled water) served in the Stadium Club until the top of the 7th inning.
- A veteran from our church will be honored.
- Our choirs will sing the National Anthem before the first pitch.
- We need at least 50 people, but can have as many as 200.
- All seats in sections 101 and 102 behind the home dugout will be ours if we have at least 68 people.
- Parking is \$3 per game paid at entrance to the lot on Game Day.
- Tickets include all of the above except parking.
- Reduced tickets for the first 115 adults are \$20. Up to 30 Children (12 & under) are \$15 per ticket. Children 2 & under are free.
- After these reduced tickets are sold the price will be \$27 for adults & children over the age of two.
- Ticket sales begin April 12th after each service out in front of the church, in the PLC during Coffee Time, and in the church office on Tuesdays & Thursday from 11 am to 3 pm. Tickets are to be paid in full when ordered.
- Deadline is May 10th.
- Please do not put money in offering plates. Give it to Dot Rish.
- **When you go to the game, you **MUST** have your wristband AND ticket to get in the stadium. (You can get in the stadium with just a ticket, but you **CANNOT** get in the clubhouse without the wrist band. There are **NO exceptions! They check!**)**
- Pick up dates for tickets will be announced closer to game day.
- Questions? Ask Pastor Judson or Dot.



Other Stuff You Need to Know

Yes, I know summer is still a few months away, but I also know that some of you are already dreaming of warmer weather and are making your summer plans. Here are some of the major things already on the calendar for Spring & Summer 2026.

VBS—June 7-11
5:30-8 pm



[Click here to register for VBS.](#)

Basic Life Saving Classes

- Saturday, April 25th
- 9 am & 1 pm
- Fellowship Hall
- \$50 per participant
- Youth Scholarships Available
- Certification lasts 2 years



[Click here to sign up.](#)

Call Dennis & Jo Wessinger with

MOLLY'S
MUSIC CAMP
JULY 17-19

Saturday, May 2nd

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Homecoming Set-Up

Serving in April

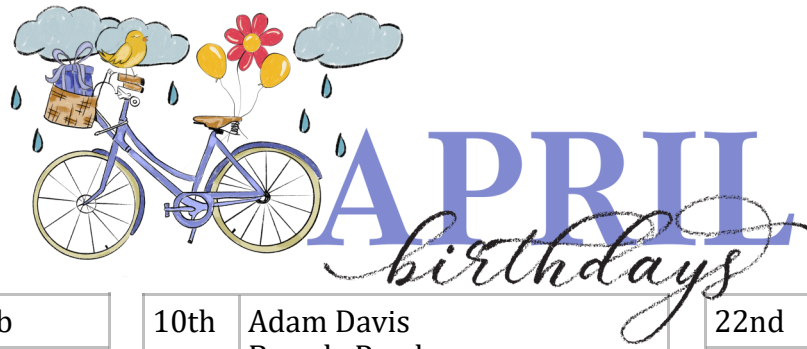
	April 5-EASTER	April 12	April 19	April 26
Acolyte Early	<i>Gospel Procession</i>	C. J. Williams	Grayson Porth	Volunteer Appreciated
Late	<i>Gospel Procession</i>	Miles Hendrix	Laura Riley	Laura Riley
Altar Flowers	Fulmer Family & Cynthia Johnson	Michael & Natalie Carter	Jesse & Laura Riley	Keith & Ashley Powell
Altar Guild	Donna Alford, Pat Allen, Bobbi Buff, Missy Porth			
Bulletins	Debbie Arnold & Sandy Coleman			
Coffee Time	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	Stewardship/ Finance	Busters SS Class	Backpack Class & Beebe Family
Communion Servers Early	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Catherine Oxner Judy Nichols	Bread: Pastor Cassie Wine: Michele Zee	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Judy Nichols Brenda Hedgecock	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: LeeAnn Crapps Brenda Hedgecock
Late	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Martin Bowers Steve Wyndham	Bread: Pastor Cassie Wine: Carl Shealy	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Marie Eargle Jenny Stone	Bread: Pastor Cassie Pastor Judson Wine: Marion Gable Catherine Oxner
Greeters Early	Rochelle Roof	Kay Keisler	Ed & Brenda Hedgecock	Rochelle Roof
Late	Sheila Kinnard	Rochelle Roof	Marie Eargle	Debra Carlsen Elizabeth Lindler
Lectors Early	Michele Zee	Michele Zee	Steve Wyndham	Judy Nichols
Late	Debbie Dent	Carl Shealy	Marie Eargle	Karen Cook
Pew Crew	Fulmer Sisters			
Ushers Early & Late	Jeff Elliott & Buck Vaughan—Co-Chairs Steve Alford, Steve Ellisor, Matt Hendrix, Jacob Johnson, Steve Johnson, Carl Shealy			

Updated 4-1-2026 9:15 am



If you are available to fill one of these open slots, please call Carol at the church. THANK YOU!!





1st	Melanie Webb
3rd	Hunter Hook
4th	Mackenzie Smith
5th	Charlee Branham Cindy Evans Caroline Shirer William Shirer
6th	Chris Jordan
7th	Michael Hook
8th	Amy Blobaum Emily Carter Elizabeth Cartin Alden Crapps Karen Gobbi
9th	Caroline Hendrix Buck Vaughan

10th	Adam Davis Brenda Rawl Greg Webb
11th	Allison Black Doug Riley Sonja Shull
12th	Christopher Lunsford
13th	Mary Howard
14th	Julianna Schreiber
15th	Curry Hook
16th	Michelle Jones Calder Shirer
18th	Pr. Judson Merrell
19th	Grayson Webb
20th	Calvin Porth Zach Taylor

22nd	Edie Beaver
24th	Doreen Edmondson Annelise Williams
26th	Lauren Buie Nicholas Sawyer Will Womble
27th	Grayham Carter Pr. Olin Chassereau Drew Sweatman
28th	Ryan Lever Walker Wilson
29th	Brooks Galub Jennifer O'Neill Ben Wilson
30th	Sandy Coleman



2nd	Steve & Teresa Ellisor	32 years
5th	Charlie & Marie Eargle	57 years
10th	Rudolph & Kathy Cooper	50 years
10th	Chip & Kelly Rhoads	22 years
12th	Michael & Gloria Sargent	46 years
21st	David & Sheila Kinnard	36 years
22nd	Darin & Lynn Roberts	9 years
23rd	Keith & Ashley Powell	10 years

24th	Jesse & Laura Riley	16 years
28th	Dustin & Amy Hoffman	19 years
29th	Carl & Donna Shealy	26 years
30th	Don & Kathy Fornal	43 years



APRIL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:30 am Worship
 9:30 am Coffee Time
 9:45 am SonShine Choir
 10:00 am Angel Choir
 10:00 am Sunday School
 10:15 am Chancel Choir
 11:00 am Worship
 4:00 pm Cub Scouts / SH
 4:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
 5:00 pm Youth/YR

MONDAY

12:00 pm Charity Crafts/FH
 6:30 pm Matins Choir
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts/SH

TUESDAY

1:00 pm Staff Meeting/CR

WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Bible Study / FH
 6:15 pm Chancel Choir

CR=Conference Room

FH=Fellowship Hall


GR=Gathering Room behind PLC

PLC=Parish Life Center

SH=Scout Hut

YR=Youth Room

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choirs & Brass Rehearsal 7 pm	2  11:15 am & 7:00 pm	3  11:15 am & 7:00 pm	4
5  7:30 am & 11:00 am Breakfast 8:30 am	6  No Matins Rehearsal	7	8 No Bible Study	9	10	11
12	13	14 Service 6pm/FH Safety 6:30pm/CR Cemetery 6:30 pm Evangelism 7pm/FH	15	16	17	18  Mini Music Camp w/Kayla 10am/FH
19 Kids sing 8:30 am Endowment Board 12:15/CR Council 3 pm/CR	20	21 Finance 7 pm / CR	22	23 Lutheran Men 6 pm /FH	24	25 Cemetery Work Day 9 am BLS Classes 9 am & 1 pm
26 Baptism 8:30 am	27	28 Loving Group / PLC	29	30	