



## WELCOME!

Families are valued here! Thank you for trusting us with your time and spiritual care. Kids activity sheets and crayons are available on tables as you enter worship.

Two family-friendly rooms are located to the left and right of the main level sanctuary. One room is exclusively for nursing moms while the other is available for families who might need a quieter environment or simply more space to move during worship.

Kids Care is available during the 10:45 AM worship service in the Kids Ministry hallway. Little ones (Birth–Pre-K) will be welcomed into an engaging and fun experience. They will learn how much God loves them, what a special creation they are, and how Jesus wants to be their best friend forever!



## HOLY COMMUNION

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper as instituted by Jesus the night before He died. In keeping with 1 Corinthians 11:26-29, we ask everyone seeking communion to examine themselves by asking:

Am I sorry for my sins and desire forgiveness?

Do I believe that Jesus, by His death, offers me forgiveness?

Do I believe that I receive the true body and blood of Christ with the bread and wine?

Do I desire, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sinful ways?

All who trust in these words of Christ, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," who share our confession of faith, and can answer "Yes!" to the questions above, are invited to join us in this celebration!

If you choose not to commune with us, we invite you and any children who have not yet received communion instruction to come forward to receive a blessing. To communicate that you want a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms when you come forward. For those who prefer, we offer grape juice and gluten-free wafers. Grape juice is in the center of the communion trays, and you can ask for a gluten-free wafer when you come forward.

Our worship assistants and ushers are available to bring communion to those unable to come to the rail. To indicate that you need this service, please speak to one of our team members with the blue-colored lanyards before communion, and they will make sure to bring it to you.

*Please speak with a Pastor before the service  
if you have questions regarding communion.*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **Offering & Connect**



*Please stand*

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **For the Beauty**

*arr. Rick Modlin*

**For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**Heart and hands and voice we raise to you who give us breath to praise you;  
singing with the angel host to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Heart and hands and voice we raise to you who give us breath to praise you;  
singing with the angel host to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**


**Heart and hands and voice we raise to you who give us breath to praise you;  
singing with the angel host to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**God of love, to you we raise a song of never-ending praise.**

**For Yourself, O Gift Divine To our world so freely giv'n,  
For the love from which will shine, Peace on earth and joy in heav'n:  
Lord of all, to you we raise This our hymn of grateful praise.**

Text: © 2020 Rick Modlin. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 10001573

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** In this season of waiting and hope, we come before the Lord who draws near.  
**C** We wait for Your light, O Lord, to dawn upon us.
- P** Lord Jesus, You come to bring peace, yet we cling to worry and fear.  
**C** Lord, have mercy upon us.
- P** You come to bring light, yet we dwell in shadows of doubt and pride.  
**C** Christ, have mercy upon us.
- P** You come to make all things new, yet we resist Your transforming grace.  
**C** Lord, have mercy upon us.
- P** Hear the good news: The true Light has come into the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it. In Christ, your sins are forgiven, your hearts are made clean, and your hope is restored. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the full and free forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, and make us new.
- P** Now, we come to the table of the Lord, where the Light of the World comes to us in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation.  
**C** We come in hope and thanksgiving.

## Words of Institution

### Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Communion

# Choral Anthem: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Based on Prelude in C. Bach  
arr. By Kay Hawkes Goodyear

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



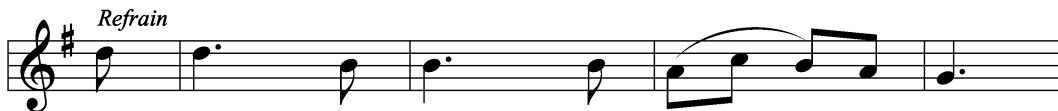
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
*Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Dismissal

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, we thank You for the gift of Christ's body and blood, wherein our sins are forgiven, our days are blessed, and You make us into Your people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Reading

*Psalms 23*

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

## Reading

*John 1:1-5, 9-14*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## Message

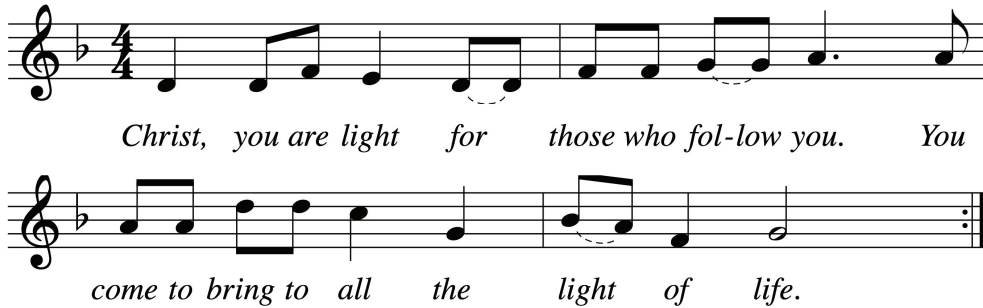
### Votive Lighting

*During this time, you are invited to come forward and light a votive candle. As you do, focus on a particular worry or thought that has been weighing on your heart. Lighting the candle serves as a visible reminder that the light of Christ is with you—bringing peace, presence, and power.*

*While the votives are being lit, the choir will lead a Taizé worship hymn. Taizé music uses simple, repeated phrases of Scripture or prayer, designed to draw us into quiet reflection and communion with God. You are welcome to join in singing or to rest in silent meditation.*



## Christe, Lux Mundi (Christ, You are Light)



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*Please stand*

### Responsive Prayer

*Each prayer will be followed by:*

- P** Lord Jesus, Light of Life,
- C** Hear our prayers and guide our way.

### The Lord's Prayer

- C** 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 forever and ever. Amen.

### Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867 Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

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## **SERMON NOTES**

**Main Idea:** The Advent and Christmas season is advertised as the most wonderful time of the year...but we know all too well that often isn't the case. Thankfully, Jesus didn't just shine in history—He still shines in our present world, offering peace, presence, and power in the face of fear, suffering, and spiritual confusion. The prophesied “Immanuel” assures us that God is with us. God's light is available now—in your pain, your busyness, your doubts. Are you looking for it? Are you walking in it?

# Holiday Schedule

## CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

### **4 PM Contemporary Christmas**

Featuring Christmas songs, a message that brings you back to the meaning of the season—great for young families.

### **6 PM & 8 PM Traditional Christmas**

Featuring Christmas hymns with choir, brass, and more.

### **10 PM Acoustic Christmas**

An more intimate celebration of Christ's birth featuring guitar and voice—with communion.

*Christmas treats will be served at the  
4pm, 6pm, and 8pm services.*

*All services include singing Silent Night by candlelight.*

## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NO Worship on Thursday, December 25

NO Worship on Saturday, December 27

Regular Worship on Sunday, December 28 at 8am & 10:45am

New Year's Eve Worship on Wednesday, December 31 at 7pm

Regular Worship on Saturday, January 3 at 6pm

and on Sunday, January 4 at 8am & 10:45am

*There will be no Sunday Morning Bible Groups on Dec. 28 & Jan. 4*

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

St. Peter's has put together an Advent devotional to go alongside our preaching series this Advent season, Clothing of the King. They are available for pick up in the Church Lobby. Text ADVENT to 812-775-2300 to sign up to get the devotions sent to your phone.



Advent Devotional

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## KIDS MINISTRY

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### December Quest Groups (Birth-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Quest Groups (Birth-6<sup>th</sup> Grade) meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 AM in the Kids Ministry hallway! This month our kids are learning all about why Jesus is so important in God's BIG story. Questions? Contact Desiree Shaw [dshaw@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:dshaw@stpeters-columbus.org)

*NO Quest on December 28th or January 4th due to Christmas Break*

### Kids Ministry Play & Grow Dates

Grownups with kids birth through kindergarten are invited to be a part of these fun play dates at St. Peter's. Older homeschooled siblings are also welcome! This is a great time to get to know other families through play and Jesus centered activities! If you would like notifications, contact Katey at [kmeadows@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:kmeadows@stpeters-columbus.org). Join us on December 19 @ 9:15am - Meet in Kids Ministry rooms

### 8am Kids Care

We will officially launch 8am Kids Care starting January 11th. It will be open to 0 - PreK. Doors open at 7:45am. We are still looking for additional volunteers to serve once a month and/or substitutes. Child care will be offered in the nursery room in the Kids Ministry hallway.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

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**Trek** (7th-8th Graders): Sunday, December 14, 4-5:30pm @ St. Peter's in The Den. Join us for games, worship, and community.

**Trek Christmas** (7th-8th Graders): Sun, Dec 21, 12--2PM @ St. Peter's in The Den.. Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season. Play fun games, wear an ugly Christmas sweater, and bring a white elephant gift. Invite a friend!

**Venture** (9th-12th Graders): Sunday, December 14 at St. Peter's, 6-8pm. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and small group time.

**Venture Progressive Dinner** (9th-12th Graders): Sunday, Dec 21, 4:30-10pm. We are excited to celebrate Christmas with you! Meet at St. Peter's as we walk to various downtown stops, concluding the evening back at St. Peter's. Remember to bring a white elephant gift and wear an ugly Christmas sweater. Invite a friend! To register, please use the QR code on the Church Center App.



*NO Trek or Venture on Sunday, December 28 - Christmas Break*

*Trek Winter Retreat Jan 2-4 @ Lakeview Ministries*

*Questions: Contact Bethany [bhayes@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:bhayes@stpeters-columbus.org)*

*NO Trek at St. Peter's on Jan 4*

## **BIBLICAL WORKSHOP: 5 TARGETS OF A DISCIPLE**

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You want to grow in your faith—but taking that next step can feel overwhelming? That's why we're inviting you to a one-day workshop with Zach Zehnder, pastor and author of the *Red Letter Challenge*. Together, we'll explore five powerful ways to follow Jesus more fully: being, forgiving, serving, giving, and going. Save the date: Saturday, February 7 from 9 AM–3 PM. Cost is \$10, and lunch is included.



## **JANUARY SERMON SERIES**

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**BC to AD** - This series explores how the Incarnation is the pivot point of history. When the eternal Word stepped into time and space everything changed: time changed, where God dwells changed, and power and leadership changed. The incarnation has implications beyond December. Every day is now the year of our LORD. We are living in a perpetual “Year of the Lord’s favor” (Isaiah 61:2).

## **2026-2027 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

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Please note that SPLS enrollment and reenrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is just around the corner, and there are a few changes to our process. Current students may reenroll January 12 - 23 to guarantee placement for the 2026-2027 school year.

The deadline to turn in your Financial Information Form for guaranteed placement is January 23, 2026, and a \$75 non-refundable registration fee per child must also be turned in with the Financial Information Form. Failure to turn these items in by January 23rd may result in your child being placed on a waiting list. Any siblings of currently enrolled students may turn in an enrollment application beginning January 13. Members of the St. Peter's congregation and other LCMS congregations may turn in an enrollment application beginning January 26 (SPL families will receive priority), and all other students that do not have a sibling already enrolled at SPLS, or are not a member of SPLC or another LCMS congregation may turn in an enrollment application beginning February 2.

For prospective new students, the \$75 non-refundable registration fee does not need to be turned in until the student has been accepted. If you have questions about our enrollment process, or would like to learn more about our amazing school ministry, please contact our school principal, Mr. Paul Meredith, [pmeredith@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:pmeredith@stpeters-columbus.org).

## **ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

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All families are invited to the St. Peter's Lutheran School Open House night, Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00pm. Parents will learn more about our school ministry, discuss school readiness issues, classroom structure, and a tour of our facilities will be provided. All interested families with students in grades K-8 for the 2026-2027 school year are invited to attend! Please contact our principal, Mr. Paul Meredith, at [pmeredith@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:pmeredith@stpeters-columbus.org) if you are interested in learning more about St. Peter's or would like to set up an appointment.

## COMBINED SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE GROUP: THE CHRISTMAS STORY

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We usually only sit with the classic Christmas passages for about 15 minutes in a Christmas Eve service. That is barely enough time to hear them, let alone soak in all the truth God has packed into them. On **Sunday, December 21, all Sunday Morning Bible Groups are invited to a combined session** as we slow down and walk through these beloved Christmas readings together. This will allow you to center your heart and mind on what truly matters in the days ahead. Let's pack the Old Gym to hear the annual story of Christmas.

## 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS

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St. Peter's Lutheran Church is blessed with many members and contributors. In preparing for year-end contribution procedures, we thought a few reminders might be helpful:

- We will accept 2025 online contributions until December 31st, at midnight. Due to federal regulations we cannot accept contributions after this time.
- The church office will be open from 8am-12pm on December 31st.
- If mailing your contribution, all checks must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.
- If you send a check without an offering envelope, please put a note on it stating the fund for which it is intended.
- For last minute contributions, or if the church office is closed, you can go online to make your 2025 contribution. Simply go to [www.stpeterscolumbus.org](http://www.stpeterscolumbus.org) and click on GIVE.
- PLEASE do not use your 2026 envelopes until January 2026.
- If you have questions, please contact Penny Houchin at 812-372-1571 x2302 or Aaron Littmann 812-372-1571 x2140. Thank you for your generous support of the Lord's work here at St. Peter's.

## 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

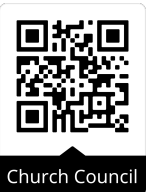
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Offering envelopes for 2026 will be available in the north coat room in the church lobby (behind the family room). If you do not find your envelopes, please call Penny Houchin in the church office at 372-1571 x 2302. If you are interested in our other giving options, you can access this information at [www.stpeterscolumbus.org](http://www.stpeterscolumbus.org). Go to the Give tab and follow the instructions.

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS

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The deadline is Wednesday, January 14, 2026. For more details on Council requirements or to submit names, scan QR code for more information or email Julie Dietrich at [JDietrich@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:JDietrich@stpeters-columbus.org).



## BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN

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Monday, December 29 from 12-5pm at The Den. You can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: stpetercolum.

## **SERVING**

Preacher: Pastor Adam Rodriguez  
Worship Leader: Pastor John Cordrey  
Organist: Lindsey Fugill  
St. Peter's Choir  
Flute: Jennifer Speer  
Guitar: Daniel Bodemann  
Trumpet: David Fugill

## **WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES**

Contemporary: 6pm Saturdays and 10:45am Sundays  
Traditional: 8am Sundays and 7pm Wednesdays

## **TO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST**

Call 812-372-1571 x2121 or complete the Prayer Request Form at: [stpeterscolumbus.org](http://stpeterscolumbus.org)

## **DOWNLOAD THE CHURCH CENTER APP**



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