

## 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!

## **Announcements**

### **Welcome & Passing of the Peace**

### **Invocation**

### ***Sing We the Song of Emmanuel***

### **Confession & Absolution**

- P** Lord, You have given us a time to heal and a time to build, yet we confess that we often resist Your timing.
- C** God of all seasons, have mercy.
- P** We cling when You call us to release, we stay silent when You invite us to speak, and we rush ahead instead of trusting Your work.
- C** God of all seasons, have mercy.
- P** We confess that we search for meaning in our striving rather than resting in Your grace. Forgive us for living as though everything depends on us, and not on You.
- C** God of all seasons, have mercy.
- P** Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, God has stepped into our time and claimed us as His own. In the waters of baptism, you were joined to Christ's death and resurrection, your sins were washed away, and a new life was given to you. Amen.

### ***Holy Water***

### **Apostles' Creed**

### **Baptisms**

*Sunday*

Finley Elizabeth Trotta, Jack Monroe Trotta, and Sophie Mae Trotta, children of Evan and Katie Trotta; sponsors are Paul and Kathy Trotta

### ***You Never Let Go***

**Offering & Connect****Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup> Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

**John 3:1-6**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” <sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

**Message****Prayers**

*We pray for those sick and hospitalized.*

*We pray for the Lord to bring blessings and new beginnings in this new year.*

*We pray God's blessings on the marriage of Zack O'Connor and Mallory Mays.*

*(January 3)*

*We pray for students as they return to school after Christmas break.*

*We pray for the Stride Center and the work they do to serve our community.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

## ***Time and Time Again***

## **Closing**

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## **SERMON NOTES**

**Main Idea:** The Incarnation was no accident. God entered history “at just the right time” and filled time with eternity. Because of Bethlehem, time literally changed from B.C. (before Christ) to A.D. (Anno Domini, Latin for "in the year of the Lord"). This means that we are still living in “the year of the Lord”. God will continue to provide for you and care for you at “just the right time”. We can live purposefully, secure in God’s perfect timing for our lives.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## KIDS MINISTRY

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

Quest Groups (Birth–6th Grade) meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:30 AM in the Kids Ministry hallway! This month, our kids are learning that when we follow Jesus and live out the things we hear and learn, the Holy Spirit helps our faith grow. Questions? Contact Desiree Shaw [dshaw@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:dshaw@stpeters-columbus.org)

*NO Quest on January 4th due to Holiday 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).

### **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.

### **Quest Family Ice Skating**

On Saturday, February 14th from 5:30–7:30pm, Kids Ministry is spreading the love with a special night of fun at Hamilton Ice Arena. Kids of all ages — grown-ups too — are invited to bundle up, gear up, and lace up for a memorable evening on the ice. Be sure to register ahead of time to save your spot!

## YOUTH MINISTRY

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**Trek Winter Retreat** (7th-8th Graders): January 2-4 @ Lakeview Ministries.

Questions: Contact Bethany bhayes@stpeters-columbus.org

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

**Venture** (9th-12th Graders): Sun, Jan 4 at St. Peter's, 6-8pm. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and small group time.

**Venture Colorado Mission Trip Meeting** (current 8th-12th Graders):

Sun, Jan 11 @ 12:00PM in the Summit. Lunch provided.

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

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.



## **2026-2027 SCHOOL ENROLLMENT**

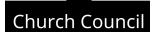
Please note that SPLS enrollment and reenrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is just around the corner, and there are a few changes to our process. Current students may reenroll January 12 - 23 to guarantee placement for the 2026-2027 school year. The deadline to turn in your Financial Information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

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.

## **SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN CHURCH COUNCIL POSITIONS**

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).



## CONCERT SERIES

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### **Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 3:30pm - Dueling Pianos**

Featuring performers from Jeffrey Bowen Music in Indianapolis, Dueling Pianos is a high-energy, interactive performance. Their team of full-time professional musicians has performed at top venues across the country, including in Las Vegas, New York, Chicago, and numerous locations throughout the Midwest. They pride themselves on years of experience and a passion for live entertainment.

*St. Peter's is proud to present this concert through the support of all of our patrons and sponsors, especially our Platinum Sponsors: Rusty and Holly Downey at Carpenter Realtors, and Jean and Annette Donica at Remax.*

## WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE FOR THE STRIDE CENTER

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To support the Stride Center—a safe, compassionate place for our unhoused neighbors and those managing mental health challenges and substance use crises—we are collecting winter clothing. Please consider donating adult coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and hand warmers. Collection boxes will be located in the church and main lobby through Sunday, January 18. Clean out your closets, invite your neighbors to join you, and help us share Christ's love in a practical way. Questions? Contact Mike Hinckfoot at [MHinckfoot@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:MHinckfoot@stpeters-columbus.org) or Melissa Clark at [MClark@stpeters-columbus.org](mailto:MClark@stpeters-columbus.org) (*Matthew 25:36 - "I needed clothes, and you clothed me." Jesus*)

## GROW5X2 PODCAST

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The weekly podcast discussing Christian discipleship continues to drop new episodes each Tuesday. During January, our topics will match our sermon series on "God Speaks" - how Scripture can be used in our life as disciples. Julie Dietrich & George Denholm welcome the following guests:

Dec 30 - Rev. Rich Rudowski from Lutheran Bible Translators - Introduction

Jan 6 - Rev. Joshua Haugen from Trinity Lutheran High - Useful for Teaching

Jan 13 - Aaron Littman from our own staff - Rebuking the Lies

Jan 20 - Rev. Doug Bauman from St. Paul Lutheran in Columbus - All Scripture Corrects

Jan 27 - Roger Watters, an elder at St. Peter's - Training in Righteousness

Episodes can be found on your favorite podcast provider or from the Resources tab on our St. Peter's website.

## NAMI (NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS)

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This Family to Family class is for those who have a loved one living with a mental illness (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, schizo-affective disorder, severe depression or anxiety, OCD, PTSD, eating disorders). The class is led by trained family members, to better understand mental illness and learn how to better walk alongside their loved one. They meet for 8 consecutive Monday nights from 6:00 to 8:30pm beginning on January 12 and concluding March 2 at the United Way Board Room in Columbus (1531 13th Street – 2nd floor). You can register by calling 812-376-9364 or 812-350-0609. *Having a loved one who lives with a serious mental illness is hard. This class offers skills, tools, and hope.*

## **SERVING**

Preacher: Pastor Adam Rodriguez

Worship Leaders: Pastor Tim Carter and Daniel Bodemann

## **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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[stpeterscolumbus.org](http://stpeterscolumbus.org) Church: 812-372-1571 School: 812-372-5266  
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