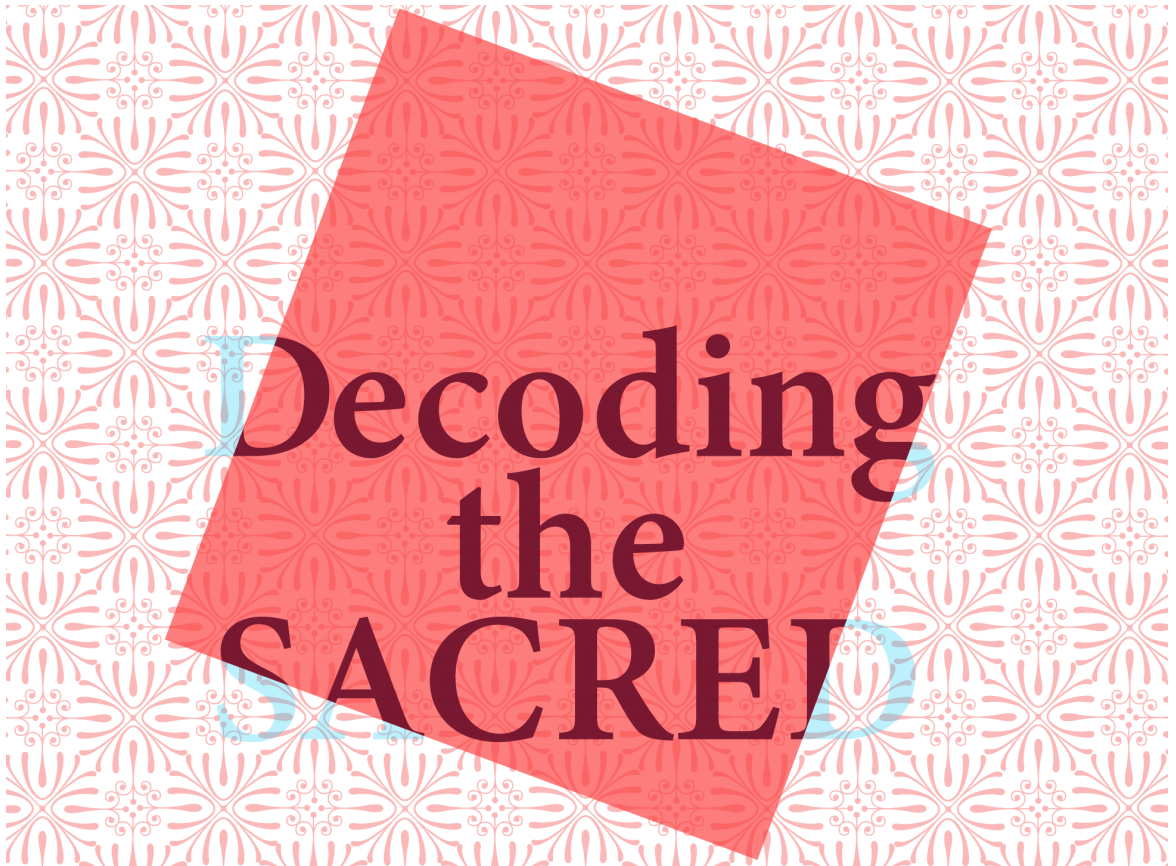


**WELCOME!**

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 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM worship services 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!

Today we start a new teaching series called *Decoding the Sacred*.
The goal of this series is to hand down the faith and teach the story of salvation
that we practice and rehearse in worship.

The first step in obtaining this goal is recognizing one thing:
some of our worship practices in the Christian
and Lutheran church are really strange.

Maybe you are a longtime member of St. Peter's
and no longer notice the strange things we do.

Maybe you are new to the faith wondering the "why"
behind certain things in worship.

Most people want to understand why the Christian Church
has been doing these strange but sacred things for millennia,
but have never had something to help them
decode what they mean or why they matter.

To help us do just that, your worship bulletin will look
a little different throughout this series.

Alongside each part of the worship service,
you'll find a brief explanation of why we do it
and where that practice is rooted in Scripture.

Our hope is that these notes help you see that the things we do in worship
aren't random and aren't empty in meaning.

They are rooted in God's Word and meant to point us to Jesus again and again.

Welcome to Decoding the Sacred.

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.*

Announcements

Welcome & Passing of the Peace

A tradition that traces back to the New Testament, echoing Jesus greeting His disciples with "Peace be with you" after the resurrection (John 20:19).

Why we do it: *Today we use this time to speak the words of Christ to each other as we greet one another, establish connections, and recognize the value of every person gathering in worship.*

Invocation

The service opens with, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19b)

Why we do it: *It reminds us of our Baptism, stakes a claim on Jesus' promise to be among us, and establishes who is gathering us.*

Praise

Music: *A song or collection of songs sung throughout the service. (Ephesians 5:19)*

Why we do it: *Music is a gift from God that connects with us in a way that words alone cannot. Songs teach, reinforce, declare the promises of God, and give the church words of response to God's work in Christ Jesus.*

Responsive Reading (Psalm 98)

- P** Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- C** **The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- P** He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- C** **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- P** Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!
- C** **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!**

- P** Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
- C** **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

Praise

Nicene Creed

Recitation of either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed. (Romans 10:9)

Why we do it: *We join the historic Church to publicly confess the faith into which we were baptized.*

Offering & Connect

A response of thanksgiving, usually accompanied by a song. (Psalm 116:17-19)

Why we do it: *We return a small portion of the financial firstfruits God has given us as an act of worship and gratitude.*



The Scripture Readings: *Many times an Old Testament reading, or Epistle (New Testament letter), and a Gospel reading. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

Why we do it: *Specific readings in the service highlight the importance of hearing God's Word and they are put together to teach the theological theme and point of the day.*

Ephesians 5:8-20

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 14:12-26

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. ¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?" ²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." ²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." ²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵ "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Message

The pastor proclaims God's Word, rightly dividing Law (our need for a Savior) and Gospel (what Christ did for us). (Acts 2:14)

Why we do it: *It interprets the historical biblical text directly into our present-day lives.*

Goodness of God

Confession & Absolution

We corporately acknowledge our sins and hear the pastor speak Christ's words of total forgiveness. (1 John 1:8-9, John 20:19-23)

Why we do it: *We cannot approach a holy God on our own merits. Cleansed by the Absolution (forgiveness), we can stand before Him in confidence.*

- P** O Lord, You have done marvelous things; You have made Your salvation known and revealed Your righteousness. Yet we confess that we have not always responded with hearts ready to praise You.
- C** **Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have been slow to sing, praise, and give thanks.**
- P** You call Your people to sing a new song, to make a joyful noise, and to tell of Your steadfast love. Yet we often keep silent when You have given us reason to rejoice.
- C** **Forgive us when we let fear, embarrassment, or indifference keep us from lifting our voices to You.**
- P** You gather us together as Your people and teach us Your truth through the songs we sing. Yet we sometimes treat worship as something we watch rather than something we receive and proclaim together.
- C** **Forgive us when we fail to fix our hearts and voices upon You.**
- P** Lord, Your Word calls all the earth to sing for joy before You, our King. Restore in us a right spirit and renew for us the joy of Your salvation.
- C** **Amen.**

Words of Institution

***The Words of Our Lord:** The pastor speaks the words Jesus used to institute the Lord's Supper. (1 Corinthians 11:23-25)*

***Why we do it:** By Christ's word and command, he instituted this sacrament, and by repeating His words we are reminded of his command and promise, and we also set apart the elements to be used in the meal.*

Communion

We Praise You and Acknowledge You

O Praise the Name (Anástasis)

Revelation Song

Communion Dismissal

Prayers

The prayers of the church where the pastor leads the congregation in intercession, thanking God for His grace, confessing sin, and lifting up the needs of the local community and the world. (Philippians 4:6)

Why do we do it: *Scripture tells us to pray often and always as God is our Heavenly Father eager to hear and respond to us.*

We pray for our sick and hospitalized.

We give thanks for the baptism of Lincoln Thomas Bonnell, son of Michael and Whitney Bonnell.

We pray for our country as we remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and ask God to bring comfort, peace, and healing to all who continue to be affected by that tragedy.

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is the very words of Jesus instructing us how to pray. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Why we do it: *While serving as a general model, it also serves as a specific, all-encompassing prayer for the congregation to speak together. It begins by honoring God and then turning to our own needs.*

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

The historic blessing from Numbers 6 ("The Lord bless you and keep you...") spoken over the congregation. (Numbers 6:24-26)

Why we do it: *God gets the last word in the service, sending us back into the world marked with His holy name.*

Forever and Ever Amen

Closing

One last Christ centered phrase is used to dismiss all worshippers back into service. (Romans 11:36, 12:1)

Why we do it: *We are reminded as we leave, that though corporate worship has concluded, living our lives as a living sacrifice to Christ is not. In that respect worship is not over, it has just begun.*

SERMON NOTES

Main idea: From the outside, congregational singing can feel like church karaoke. A room full of ordinary people sing together, whether they feel like singing or not. Scripture shows us that singing is one of the ways God's people proclaim His victory, teach the faith, encourage one another, and join the song of heaven. We sing because Christ has won the victory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIDS MINISTRY

Quest Groups (Birth–6th Grade) meet on Sundays in the Kids Ministry hallway (9:30-10:30am).

Babies & preschoolers will learn how God is always with them. “God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

K-3rd graders will understand how to hear from God while learning John 10:27 (NIRV):
“My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.”

Preteens will dig into Scripture to answer these big questions: Does God care about how I use my time? Is what the Bible says about me true? Does God really expect me to love everybody?

Questions? Contact Desiree Shaw dshaw@stpeters-columbus.org.

Play & Grow

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! Join us on Fridays @ 9:15AM for Play and Grow 2x per month. Upcoming dates are September 25 and October 23. This is a great time to get to know other families through play and Jesus centered activities! Groups are always open! Questions about the field trip or getting connected to a Play and Grow group? Email Katey Meadows at kmeadows@stpeters-columbus.org.

Field Trip: Fall Scavenger Hunt

Come explore Donner Park with your little one before winter hits on Friday, October 2 at 9:30am. We'll enjoy a fall scavenger hunt as we take in the beauty of God's creation. We'll wrap up at the Donner playground which is good for all ages. *If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll head to the library instead. This field trip is FREE to attend but please register so we can send you weather updates as needed! Registration will close on October 1st.



Moms Night Out Event



Hog Molly

Moms of ALL ages are invited to Moms' Night Out for a fun social event at Hog Molly on Wednesday, September 16 @ 6:30pm. Mom's night is a great way to meet new friends and old friends over easy conversation and food. :)

Please RSVP by the September 15th. Also for venue information check out <https://hogmollybrewing.com>

YOUTH MINISTRY

Venture (9th-12th Graders): Sun, Sep 13 at St. Peter's, 6-8pm. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and small group time.

Trek (7th-8th Graders): Sun, Sep 13, 3:30-5:30pm @ St. Peter's at The Den. Join us for games, worship, and community.

EXPLORE (7th-8th Graders)

EXPLORE is our junior high confirmation program. For more information, please contact Pastor John (jcordrey@stpeters-columbus.org) or Julie Dietrich (jdietrich@stpeters-columbus.org).

Sunday, September 13 - 7th grade will begin meeting weekly in The Summit, 9:30-10:30am; 2026 Confirmation Class (9th graders) will meet in The Den from 9:30-10:30am

Sunday, October 4 - 8th grade will begin meeting weekly in The Summit from 9:30-10:30am

SEARCH FOR DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



At the Voters Meeting this past May, it was announced that Mike Hinckfoot would be retiring as Executive Director of Ministries at the end of June 2027. The succession plan, in light of some organizational structure changes, is for Aaron Littmann to move into the slightly revised role and lead our new Ministry Operations department as the Executive Director. His current role, Director of Ministry Operations, is being divided between the Director of Campus Operations and the new Director of Finance.

We are now actively seeking names for the position of Director of Finance. This position The Director of Finance oversees the financial stewardship, tuition management, and employee support functions to measure and maximize our overall financial ministry.

If anyone comes to mind for consideration, please send qualified candidate names to Aaron Littmann at alittmann@stpeters-columbus.org. Scan the QR code for the full job description.

OPEN GYM BASKETBALL

St. Peter's offers an open gym in our Den for pick-up basketball games. Usually this is on Thursdays from 8-10pm, but will flex depending on the school athletic usage. The coordinators use a GroupMe text for reminders and updates on times. This is for high school and older players, male or female. To get on the GroupMe list or for more questions, call or text Tim Ernst at 812-344-2580.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Serve Columbus 2026

Have you ever wanted to make a difference in your community? Serve Columbus is the place for you! On Sunday, October 4, we will be serving throughout Columbus at local organizations such as Orphan Grain Train, Love Chapel, Camp Lakeview, and more. We eat lunch together in the Old Gym after the 10:45 service, pray together, and then go out and make a difference. Scan the QR code to register!



Seeking Service Sites

Serve Columbus is scheduled on Sunday afternoon, October 4. During this event, participants work in teams at various locations around the County such as Love Chapel and Camp Lakeview. This year, as part of the Serving Challenge, we would also like to include the homes of members and neighbors who could use a little extra help. If you, or someone you know, needs a little extra help doing yardwork, painting, storage cleanup, or even light construction, you can request to have a team assist. Follow the link below to give us the details.

Auto Maintenance Day

The fall event is in need of volunteers for Saturday, September 19th (Rain Date: October 3rd) from 6:30am-2:00pm in the Den parking lot. Tasks include basic vehicle inspections, fluid level checks, air filter inspection, oil and filter replacement, etc. Not a Master Mechanic? No Problem! If you come across a problem, you can't fix, we've got an experienced team that can help! RSVP for any 3-4 hour block that is convenient for you to help us reach our goal of 50 volunteers! To RSVP, click the link or scan the QR code. Contact Ben Eckert at benjamin.eckert1@outlook.com for additional questions.



Serve Puerto Rico 2027

A call-out meeting to share information about our adult mission trip to Puerto Rico in January of 2027 will be held on Sunday, September 20, immediately after late service in Room 2164. We'll share past events, date and costs, and registration links. Contact George Denholm if you are interested but can't attend. (gdenholm@stpeters-columbus.org)

A Simple Way To Help Families

Have you ever wanted to help families in crisis but didn't know where to start? St. Peter's has partnered with Hands of Hope through the Care Portal to make this a simple reality. The Care Portal connects foster and kinship families in need of tangible resources with local churches, like St. Peter's, who can respond. We need you to help get this off the ground. Scan the QR code to sign up to receive requests for tangible needs from families in crisis in our community. For more questions, contact Melissa Clark at mclark@stpeters-columbus.org



LEMONADE FOR A CAUSE – THIS WEEKEND!

St. Peter's Jr. High students are sponsoring lemonade stands, in partnership with the Isaiah 117 House, after each service this weekend. Our students want to raise awareness for children who enter foster care. Please stop by for some lemonade, treats, and great conversation with our student advocates. Donations are welcome as we support this important cause.



TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT



Get ready for a fun-filled afternoon as we welcome our church, school and Lincoln Central Neighborhood families to our first Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 25 from 3:30-6pm. We are excited to create a safe, fun, and welcoming space where families can enjoy food, candy, music, games, crafts, and inflatables. We need your help to make it happen. Whether you can host a trunk, help with hospitality or serve behind the scenes, there's a place for you

to SERVE. Scan the Volunteer Code to sign up!



We're also collecting LOTS of candy to help make the event a success. Scan the Wishlist QR Code to shop our Amazon Wishlist and help us stock up for the big day. Thank you for helping us love and serve the families within our community!

MEN'S BEAST FEAST – FALL EDITION

Friday, September 25 at George Denholm's house. Come anytime after 5:30pm - grills will be on starting at 6:00 - you can leave when you must, but the fun continues until 10pm.

Items to bring: a meat to grill, a side dish to share, your preferred beverage, a lawn chair, and a friend if you'd like. **Provided:** tableware, grills, and water

We have an optional cooking competition featuring prizes for the most exotic meat (previous winners include camel, elk, and wild boar) as well as the tastiest dish! Lots of fellowship and fun! Mark your calendar now so you can join us.

THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING - LCNFC

The Lincoln-Central Neighborhood Family Center is a full-service resource center situated in the heart of the Lincoln-Central Neighborhood in downtown Columbus, the neighborhood in which St. Peter's sits. Ensuring that all residents' voices are heard, the LCNFC provides a wide array of services and activities through a friendly stigma-free environment. Working in collaboration with individuals and groups from both the public and private sectors, including St. Peter's, the LCNFC helps cultivate neighborhood resident empowerment and programming (advocacy, neighborhood improvement, and human services) to ensure that residents with needs go through the right door at the right time. Approximately 30 programs are provided collaboratively, including two through St. Peter's – The Auto Ministry and Angels of Love. You can donate to the 3rd Sunday ministry using the PCO-GIVE dropdown on the church app or on the website.

FALL CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, September 27 @ 4pm

The Indianapolis Brass Choir is a large brass ensemble of musicians who volunteer their time and effort, without pay, to provide high-quality brass performances for area churches and to aid local charities. Founded by Delbert Dale in 1986, the choir has a membership of about 30 professional musicians and serious amateurs. The freewill offering collected at concerts is given to the charity of each church's choosing. To date, the IBC has raised over \$100,000 for various charities.



Sept. Concert

The choir includes trumpets, trombones, horns, euphoniums, tubas, and percussion. The IBC has been directed by Darin Sorley since 2014, a professional horn player who has studied at Butler University, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Indiana University.

This concert's freewill offering will go to support Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center (LCNFC). The LCNFC opened its doors in 1994 and was born out of the desire to combat poverty, domestic violence, drug addiction, homelessness, and other issues in downtown Columbus. The LCNFC offers a wide array of programs and activities that address seven priority needs: safety, infrastructure, health, education, positive youth development, parent-child interaction and parent support. The LCNFC is proud to be a Certified United Way Agency. This concert is free and takes place in the Sanctuary.

Saturday, Nov. 14 @ 2pm

Columbus Indiana Philharmonic's "Lamentations and Luminance"

St. Peter's is proud to present the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic's choral program featuring the Philharmonic Chorus. Music selections will feature Mozart; the Czech composer Jan Dismas Zelenka, considered "the Czech Bach"; as well as J.S. Bach's Missa Brevis.



Tickets for this concert will be available at www.thecip.org.

Use the code StPetersVIP at the checkout page to receive your free tickets. This code is only valid for St. Peter's members.

ANGELS OF HOPE SUPPORT GROUP

Angels of Hope offers support for those who have suffered the loss of a baby by miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss. We will resume our meetings on Weds., Sept. 16th at 6pm in room 2164 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Please enter through door A. Support meetings will be held at 6pm on the third Thursday of each month thereafter. Contact Melissa Clark at mclark@stpeters-columbus.org with any questions.

The Church Council and Pastor John invite you to join them for a Congregational Forum. St. Peter’s is exploring a new partnership with a ministry called **Isaiah 117 House**. Each forum is an opportunity to learn more about the growing need to advocate for children, the Isaiah 117 House ministry, and clear ways we can engage to bring comfort and safety to vulnerable children.

From the Founder of **Isaiah 117 House**:

*‘We’re a home that reduces trauma for children, lightens the load of caseworkers, and eases the transition for future placement. And we do it all under a roof with lots of grace, love, and joy. We want that home in Columbus, Indiana. We want the children of your community to be reminded that Jesus loves them, that He built a house for them, and that He will always go before them. **He’s never forgotten them, and they are not alone.**’*

Isaiah 1:17 says: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

We believe that a partnership between St. Peter’s and Isaiah 117 could be a part of the solution.

At each forum, we plan to discuss 3 partnership components:

1. Strategic alignment with our Vision to Grow Younger and Deeper in Christ
2. Potential for our members to volunteer
3. Donation of land, specifically the west lot (the green space with the single tree)

We have three scheduled forums; hopefully one will work for you and your family. Each forum should last around one hour. *Youth and adults are encouraged to attend.*

Monday, September 28 - 6:00pm in 2164

Sunday, October 4 - 9:30am in the Old Gym

Monday, October 5 - 6:00pm in 2164



PREREAD

We have a pre-read (FAQ of sorts)
for folks to review before the meeting.

**SCAN THE QR CODES for a pre-read
and more information about Isaiah 117 House.**



3 min video

SERVING

Preacher: Pastor Adam Rodriguez

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Cordrey 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

DOWNLOAD THE CHURCH CENTER APP



In remembrance of Megan Renee

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

-until we meet again

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