



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!

Prelude

Announcements

Welcome

Please stand

Passing of the Peace

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Lloyd Larson



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



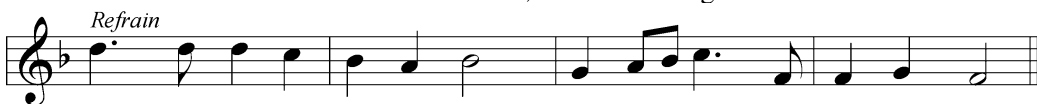
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47 Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Call to Worship

- P** Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. (*Psalms 96:1*)
- C** We sing with joy, for the Lord is coming to reign in righteousness and truth.
- P** This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (*Psalms 118:24*)
- C** In this Advent season, we rejoice, for the Lord draws near with salvation.
- P** You have put more joy in my heart than when grain and wine abound. (*Psalms 4:7*)
- C** Our joy is in the Lord, who is our light, our salvation, and our song.
- P** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea resound and all that is in it. (*Psalms 96:11*)
- C** Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for He comes to bring justice, mercy, and joy.
- P** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad; may those who love Your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!" (*Psalms 40:16*)
- C** We rejoice, for our King is coming. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

As with Gladness Men of Old

arr. Vaclav Nelhybel



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872 Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

- P** Almighty God, You have called us to walk in Your light and to seek Your presence with humble and willing hearts.
- C** **We confess that we have strayed from Your ways. We have followed our own desires, and have not loved You with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves.**
- P** You invite us to offer our time, our gifts, and our devotion. Yet we have held back, failing to offer You our best, and hesitating to bow before You in trust and obedience.
- C** **Have mercy upon us, O Lord. Forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy Name.**
- P** Hear the good news: God, who is rich in mercy, sent His Son to lead us out of darkness and into the light of forgiveness and peace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. May His light guide our steps, His grace renew our hearts, and His love lead us ever onward.**

Please be seated

Offering & Connect



GIVE



GUEST

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:7–11

Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours. ⁸“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.” ¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the

sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Exodus 28:15–30

“Fashion a breastpiece for making decisions—the work of skilled hands. Make it like the ephod: of gold, and of blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and of finely twisted linen. ¹⁶ It is to be square—a span long and a span wide—and folded double. ¹⁷ Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl; ¹⁸ the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald; ¹⁹ the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst; ²⁰ the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings. ²¹ There are to be twelve stones, one for each of the names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes. ²² “For the breastpiece make braided chains of pure gold, like a rope. ²³ Make two gold rings for it and fasten them to two corners of the breastpiece. ²⁴ Fasten the two gold chains to the rings at the corners of the breastpiece, ²⁵ and the other ends of the chains to the two settings, attaching them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front. ²⁶ Make two gold rings and attach them to the other two corners of the breastpiece on the inside edge next to the ephod. ²⁷ Make two more gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the shoulder pieces on the front of the ephod, close to the seam just above the waistband of the ephod. ²⁸ The rings of the breastpiece are to be tied to the rings of the ephod with blue cord, connecting it to the waistband, so that the breastpiece will not swing out from the ephod. ²⁹ “Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the LORD. ³⁰ Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron’s heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

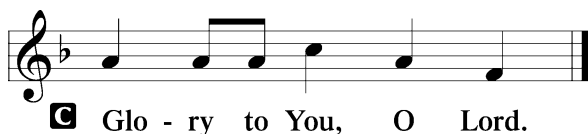


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Kids Message

What Child Is This

arr. Charles Peery



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

The First Noel

arr. Charles Peery

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
 In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep. Refrain

Ref Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east, beyond them far,
 And to the earth it gave great light,
 And so it continued both day and night. Refrain

- 4 Then let us all with one accord
 Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
 Who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
 And with his blood mankind hath bought. Refrain

Text: Public domain

New Member Welcome

Please stand

Prayers

We pray for those sick and hospitalized.

We give thanks to God for the families that are joining St. Peter's today.

We pray for our call committee and that the Lord would lead us to a new Youth Director.

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

- 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.

Angels We Have Heard on High

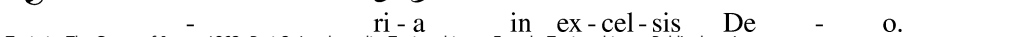
arr. Lloyd Larson



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

St. Peter's is a place where you can breathe and belong. So we'd love for you to join us for coffee and donuts in the cafeteria! Afterward, stick around for Sunday Morning Bible Groups, Quest, and Youth Bible Study – there's a place for everyone!

SERMON NOTES

Main Idea: In Christ's birth, God clothes Himself in our weakness, wrapped in swaddling clothes in Bethlehem. In exchange, He clothes us in garments of salvation and robes of righteousness. The true High Priest bears our names on His heart and makes us jewels in His crown.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Mackenzie Adams	Calijah Kenney	Phil Parker
Trey Adams	Frank Jamerson	Caren Perry
Molly Alviar	Sarah Jamerson	Yuliia Dybka Phillips
Zac Alviar	Brittany Maine	Ryan Smith
Morgan Edwards	Keith Maine	Ryanne Smith
Joy Etheredge	Nancy Mathis	Rob Tarr
Claudia Garvin	Danette Mensendiek	Leslie Weaver
Kaeleigh Larrison	Max Mensendiek	Greg Young
Melissa Hennessee	Amy Neff	Gretel Young
Beverly Hoagland	Dawn Parker	

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

December Quest Groups (Birth-6th 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 all about why Jesus is so important in God's BIG story. Questions? Contact Desiree Shaw 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. 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

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

NO Trek at St. Peter's on Jan 4

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.



JANUARY SERMON SERIES

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

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.

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 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

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

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:

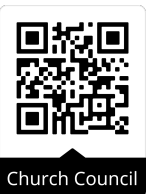
- We will accept 2025 online contributions until December 31st, at midnight. Due to federal regulations we cannot accept contributions after this time.
- The church office will be open from 8am-12pm on December 31st.
- If mailing your contribution, all checks must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.
- 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 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

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. Go to the Give tab and follow the instructions.

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.



BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN

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

SERVING

Preacher: Pastor Adam Rodriguez
Worship Leaders: Pastor Tim Carter
Organist: Lindsey Fugill
Trumpet: David Fugill, Jake Cronauer
Trombone: Steve Slone, Roger Jensen

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



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stpeterscolumbus.org Church: 812-372-1571 School: 812-372-5266
Facebook & Instagram: St. Peters Columbus-LCMS