

ST. PETRI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



November 30, 2025
Advent 1

Welcome to St. Petri!

Worship is both in person and online today.

If joining us in person, please observe all health and distancing policies!

Interested in Church Membership? Contact the office at 419-385-4639

3120 S. Byrne Road, Toledo Ohio 43614

stpetritoledo1@gmail.com • www.StPetriToledo.org • facebook.com/StPetriToledo

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

FOR THOSE IN THE CONGREGATION: IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS STANDING, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REMAIN SEATED THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

¶ CALL TO WORSHIP

On Sundays and Mondays,
 on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
 here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.
 Meet us in this space.
Surprise us with your presence.
 Fill this room with your good news.
With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray.
 Amen!

¶ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God,
we long to feel you close.
We long to feel your presence in our lives.
We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.
However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.
Forgive our rushing and distractions.
Forgive our wandering hearts and center us in this space.
Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

¶ WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence,
 even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world,
 God is always moving closer to us.
Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:
C: **Nothing can keep God's love away.**
 We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

My Lord, What a Morning

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

CANDLE LIGHTING – Hope

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

We see hope when we look to the next generation.

We feel hopeful when we gather together.

**We know hope, deep in our bones, when
we dream of a better world.**

You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

(Candle is lit as the congregation sings the song)

¶ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Eric Dickey

Refrain

Light of the World, shine in our darkness, and bring us the light of your peace.

Light of the World, shine in our darkness, and bring us the light of your peace.

Long, long ago the prophets had told us that Jesus the light would appear.

Lord, send now that light and brighten our spirits and cast away all our fear. *Refrain*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, prayer and song.

READING: Lamentations: 3:55-57

A reading from the Book of Lamentations:

⁵⁵ I called on your name, O Lord, from the depths of the pit; ^(A) ⁵⁶ you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear to my cry for help, but give me relief!" ^(B) ⁵⁷ You came near when I called on you; you said, "Do not fear!" ^(C)

READING: Psalm 98 (Read the Psalm responsively)

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good."

¶ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

Congregation only sings once

Congregation:

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

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

¶ GOSPEL Luke 1:5-15

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Adam Bohland



The First Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?
 IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN

In the Time of Herod

CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906

In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold Hope was bur - ied
 Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in Day by day the
 Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song "Do not fear!" rings
 In the time of He - rod, fear has ta - ken hold Still we share a

5
 deep and hid - den, rare as gold Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared
 peo - ple bent and drew with - in With the clouds so hea - vy, who
 hol - low when we've feared so long Still in the re - cess - es of
 long - ing for a glimpse of hope Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout

not speak a - loud Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break - ing through the clouds
 could see the stars? Hope - less - ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
 our wea - ry souls Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
 the truth we trust: God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news is louder than fear.
We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.
We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Present God,
Once more, we bow our heads.
Once more we quiet the racing thoughts in our minds.
Once more we allow our spirits to lean toward you like trees in the wind.
We bring you our prayers.
Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

Gracious God,
Today we are grateful for the many amazing things in this world that leave us speechless.
Thank you for the beauty of nature as we welcome a new season.
Thank you for the contagious joy of children.
Thank you for homemade meals and the kindness of strangers.
Thank you for music that buoys our spirits, and scripture that points to your presence.
We bring you our prayers.
Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Congregation to remain seated.)

"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone." (1 Tim. 2:1)

L: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation...*A brief silence.*

L: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Surround all with care and consolation. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home with all the saints (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: Creator God, we thank you for the bounty of creation and the generations of faith that have preceded us. Help us steward these gifts well as the South Toledo Lutheran Parish, passing on a legacy of faithfulness in every place we gather. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: Bless our nation and those who guide it: our President, Congress and Courts; our state and local leaders; and for those who serve as police, first responders, and for all who serve in the military, especially those known to St Petri: Kurtis, Matthew, Courtney and Pastor Adam. We bring our prayers.

C: Gracious Lord, hear our plea.

L: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

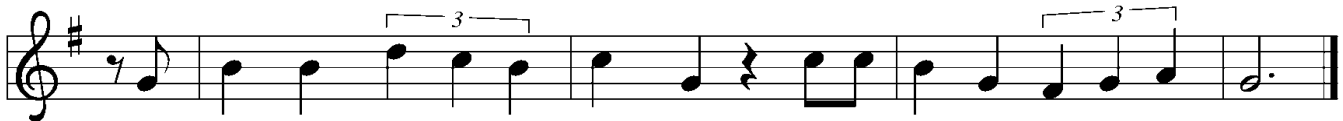
C: Amen.

(Let us now collect our offering.)

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

SENDING

The Holy Spirit sends us to share the Good News in our community this week.

BENEDICTION

“You shall say to them, the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:23-26)

In a fearful world, may you look for God’s spirit.

May you reach for each other’s hands.

May you choose courage whenever you can.

And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear.

In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends,

and the one who journeys with us,

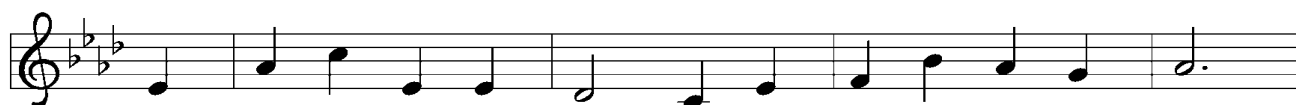
go in peace and *be not afraid*.

Amen.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

Leading Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Pastor Larry Michaels
Organist	Martha Amstutz
Lector	Julie Gibbons
Cantor	Carrie George
Lead Usher	Rick Kinkaid
Altar Care	Sue Mead
Camera Operator	Cindy Kuhman
Greeter	Marianne Melton
Sunday School Leader	Micki Francis

St. Petri Staff and Worship Chairs

Pastor	Rev. Adam Bohland
Director of Music	Martha Amstutz
Office Manager	Shelly Savory
Altar Guild	Sandy Seelman
Head Elder	Terry Francis
Worship Cmte.	Cindy Kuhman
Custodian	Tonya Roberts

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY! If you do not know a hymn or song, feel free to speak the words rather than sing. Please notice that congregational responses are in bold. The congregation may stand as they are able for the parts of the Service marked ¶.

RESTROOMS are located on each side of the outside entrance to the worship space.

FREE WiFi: Anyone may access "SPLC-Guest". The password is: Troop200



SPECIAL WELCOME VISITORS: A special welcome to all visitors with us today. Please take a moment to sign the red guest book located in the Narthex. If you have any further questions we are happy to try and assist you.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS FOR 2025

Mitten tree will be located in the Narthex. We will be collecting for both children and adults. These will be donated to Cherry Street Mission.

Cherry Street Mission donation box will be located in the Chapel. This year we will be collecting travel size personal hygiene and men's/women's underwear, any size.

Christmas stockings will be both in the Chapel and the Narthex. Men's and women's socks, all sizes, will be collected and donated to Cherry Street Mission.



FAMILY BINGO: Saturday, December 6, 6:30pm, BINGO in the Fellowship Hall. Spaghetti, Garlic bread and salad. Donations are Welcome. (No prize donations are needed).



DONUTS WITH SANTA: Saturday, December 20, 11-1pm, Fellowship Hall at St. Petri. Donuts and hot chocolate. Photos with Santa. Sign up on bulletin boards or on Facebook.

SAFETY: Once the service begins, the rear entrance and the chapel entrance will be locked for everyone's safety. The front entrance will remain open as the elder is at that door.



WINTER WEATHER POLICY: In a Level 2 or Level 3 Snow Emergency in Lucas County, St. Petri will not hold Sunday worship or weekday events. If Toledo Public Schools are closed, St. Petri will also not hold weekday events.

We Offer with Joy and Thanksgiving

~ ourselves, our time, our possessions ~

Attendance last Sunday: 58 in person 16 online

iving last Sunday	Current Offering Receipts:	\$1,940.00
	Received Month-to-Date:	\$5,915.00
	Budgeted Needs Monthly:	\$14,044.17

Offerings for current expenses:

From Member Envelopes:	\$1,940.00
From Other Sources:	<u>2,220.00</u>
Total Received:	\$4,160.00

Offerings for Benevolence:	\$10.00
Offerings for Project Fix-Up:	\$30.00
General Memorial	\$25.00

~ signs of God's gracious love! ~

REMEMBERING IN PRAYER

Members in Nursing Homes	Military	Members	Non-Members
Terrence Henricks, <i>Ayden Healthcare</i> Delores Bradner <i>Lakes of Monclova</i> Marilyn Henricks <i>Otterbein-Monclova</i> Ruth Beach <i>Lakes of Monclova</i>	Kurtis Grohowski Matthew Cass Courtney Gills Pastor Adam Bohland	Norma Schrickel Gene Daniels Pam Michalski David Michalski Terry Henricks Sherri Leininger Marti Huepenbecker Chuck Dolt Irene Daniels Marilyn Henricks Sydney Easton Fred Shook Karen Snyder Gene Campbell	Sam Saar Doris Muszaynski Monica Matuszak Mencia Delores Jabs Jeri Campbell Adrienne Perreault Avery Monroe Danielle Scott Vivian McCarthy Jim Hicks Pastor Tim Rothfuss Pastor Chuck Campbell Melissa Haydock Judy Carr

If you would like your name, the name of a friend or loved one added to the prayer list, please call the church office at 419.385.4639. To have your prayer added to St. Petri's Prayer Chain or to become a part of our Prayer Chain, please call Norma Schouten at 419.382.3301, or the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUN [NOV 30] 9am	<i>Advent 1</i> Worship	SUN [DEC 7] 9am	<i>Advent 2</i> Worship
MON [DEC 1] 5:30pm 7pm 7pm	Girl Scouts Dartball – Trinity @ St. Petri Boy Scouts Den/Troop Meeting	MON [DEC 8] 5:30pm 7pm	Girl Scouts Dartball Practice
TUES [DEC 2] 9:30am	Quilting	TUES [DEC 9] 9:30am	Quilting
WED [DEC 3] 6pm 6:30pm	Midweek Advent Service at Holy Trinity Choir Rehearsal	WED [DEC 10] 1pm 6pm 6:30pm	Church Council Midweek Advent Service at Holy Trinity Choir Rehearsal
THURS [DEC 4] 1pm 6:30pm	Rachel Circle Neighborhood Block Watch	THURS [DEC 11] 12 noon	Men's Lunch – Bob Evans
SAT [DEC 6] 6:30pm	Family Bingo		

The South Toledo Lutheran Parish Presents: 2025 Advent Midweek Service

Come for a meal with a casual service to follow at
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1825 Glendale Ave.
6 p.m. on Wednesdays
- December 3, 10, 17 -



Wednesday, December 3 -

Soup Cookoff!

(Each church brings a soup) Patty Baughman will be baking bread and Pastor Adam Bohland will be sharing a message.

Wednesday, December 10 -

Family Night!

Join Pastor Aaron Baughman for an interactive worship. Pizza and Salad provided.



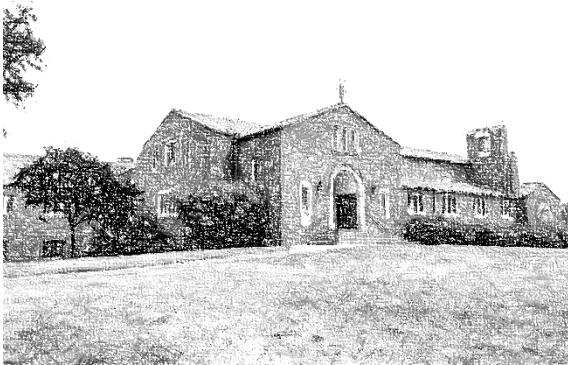
Wednesday, December 17 - Chili Cookoff!

Cook your favorite Chili to share as we find out who is the best Chili maker in all of South Toledo! Pr. Jim Martin will be sharing a message.

South Toledo Lutheran Parish



We are the South Toledo Lutheran Parish



Faith Lutheran Church

2440 South Ave, Toledo, OH 43609

Phone: 419.385.7459

Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM

Follow us on FB 



St. Petri Lutheran Church

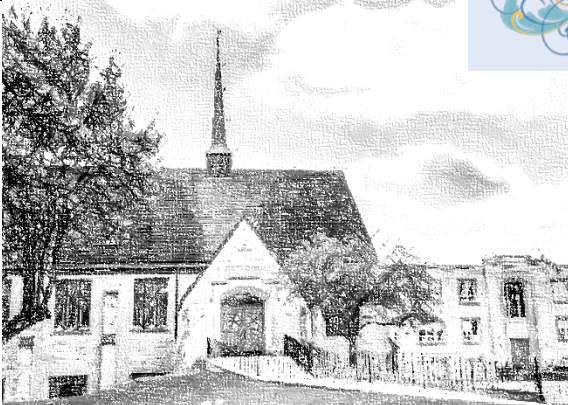
3120 S Byrne Rd, Toledo, OH 43614

Phone: 419.385.4639

Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM

<https://stpetritoledo.org/>

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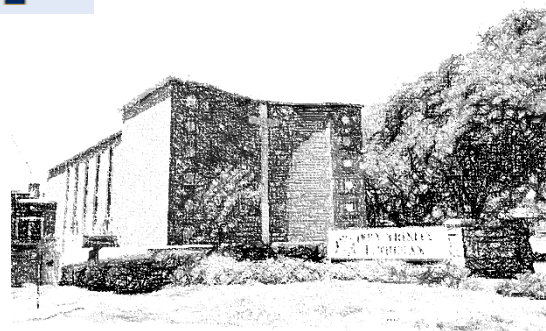
Bethel Lutheran Church

1853 South Ave, Toledo, OH 43609

Phone: 419.385.5339

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Follow us on FB 



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1825 Glendale Ave, Toledo, OH 43614

Phone: 419.382.5644

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

<https://www.holytrinity-toledo.org/>

Follow us on FB 

Check out our events page on FB!

2025-2026 Parish Open Houses

Come out and experience what the South Toledo Lutheran Parish is all about!



Thanksgiving and Christmas 2025

Thanksgiving Eve at St. Petri

November 26, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Advent Midweeks, Meal and Service

at Holy Trinity, 6:00 PM

Wednesdays in December (Dec. 3, 10, 17)

Bowsher Choir Christmas Concert

at Bethel, December 7 – 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve – December 24

3:00 PM at St. Petri

4:00 PM at Bethel

7:00 PM at Holy Trinity

5:00 PM at Faith

Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 – 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM at Faith

Lenten Midweeks, Meal and Service

at Holy Trinity, 6:00 PM,

Wednesdays in February and March

(February 25 and March 4, 11, 18, 25)

Palm Sunday

March 29 at each of our worship locations

Maundy Thursday at Bethel

April 2 – 6:00 PM

Good Friday at St. Petri

April 3 – 6:00 PM

Easter Vigil in the Garden at Holy Trinity

Saturday, April 4 – 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026

St. Petri – 9:00 AM

Bethel – 10:00 AM

Holy Trinity – 10:00 AM

Sunrise Service at Walbridge Park – 8:00 AM

Faith – 11:00 AM

2026 Events

Multifaith Earth Day Celebration

April 19 at Holy Trinity (*time to be determined*)

Parish Worship and Picnic at

Walbridge Park

July 19 – 10:00 AM