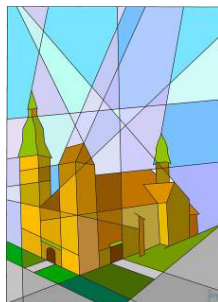


Dear Visitors,

Welcome to Petrikirche, home of the Petri-Nikolai Protestant-Lutheran Parish in Freiberg. Petrikirche is a working church in daily use. Our community is characterized by intensive work with children and young people and by the active participation of many parishioners, engaged in numerous activities, such as the church choir, monthly meetings held in parishioners' homes ("Hauskreise"), various parish circles, the children's choir, youth and senior gatherings etc. Petrikirche is also well-known for its musical events.



The Interior: Petrikirche has many modern features. The nave is both a place of worship and our main church hall, and is used for meetings, celebrations and other events. Beneath the galleries there are our parish rooms – used for children's religious education lessons, youth and senior gatherings, the playing of music, and for many other activities and circles – and there is a kitchen, too. In the former choir area, various exhibitions are held from time to time. This expresses the idea of "church in the church". Major parts of the interior, namely the front of the organ and the pulpit, were created by Johann Christian Feige the Elder after the great town fire in 1728. Feige also created the sculptural embellishments of Dresden Frauenkirche. In 1896 Theodor Quentin made considerable changes to the inside of Petrikirche. Further alterations were made between 1974 and 1986, at the time when the two parishes in the town centre, St Petri and St Nikolai, amalgamated.

Friedrich Press: The artist Friedrich Press (1904–1990) is well-known for his decoration of sacred buildings. From 1974 to 1986 he created impressive works of art for the nave of Petrikirche. The twelve sculptures on the walls beneath the galleries represent the waiting community looking towards the altar. The huge figure on the glass wall is entitled "Christ returning as the Saviour" (Rev. 20). There is a second figure on the wall in the choir; the artist depicted Christ as the suffering Son of God and called it "The Last Cry" (Jes. 52, 13–).



The Organ – a masterpiece of Gottfried Silbermann: On the western gallery there is another unique attraction – the organ. It has 32 sounding stops and is the largest bi-manual organ built by Gottfried Silbermann. It was completed in 1735 and was the first organ to realize the sophisticated ideas of his late creative period. Its solemn, fundamentally orientated sound reflected the taste and preference of the late Baroque age. In the 19th and 20th centuries alterations were made and in 1993/94 the organ was partly restored to its original state. Final comprehensive restoration work was completed in July 2007, meaning the organ once again demonstrates its former musical excellence.



There is great national and international interest in this organ as it is acknowledged to be the ideal instrument for playing music from the Baroque period up to the time of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. From May till October the organ is presented every Wednesday at noon. In addition to this, guided tours, including detailed information about the organ, and of course concerts can be booked.

The Building and the Bells: The parish church Sankt Petri was built as a Romanesque basilica on the highest point of the town centre prior to 1190. The remains of the basilica can still be seen in the choir. The church dominates the skyline of the city due to its elevated position and the well-graded Baroque bonnet of the western tower with its tall spire. The large bell (3,850 kg) was cast by Oswald Hilliger in 1487 and the small one (1,940 kg) was made by his grandson Wolf Hilliger in 1570. Both bells and the belltower were restored in 2005 and their sound can be heard resonating through the town to announce services. The smaller Hour Bell and the Miner's Bell in the Petri Tower chime several times a day.

The Steeples – Petriturm, Fauler Turm and Hahnenturm: At 72 meters in height, Petri Tower is the tallest spire in Freiberg and a very impressive panorama can be seen from the top. The Petri Tower can be climbed during regular guided tours and also by prior arrangement.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact our parish priest, Pfarrer Tetzner, at pfarrer@petri-nikolai-freiberg.de or by phone +49 3731 247859. The staff of Petrikirche are available on +49 3731 34188. You can find a detailed presentation of our parish, more information about the building, the organ etc as well as current times of services and events schedule at www.petri-nikolai-freiberg.de!

