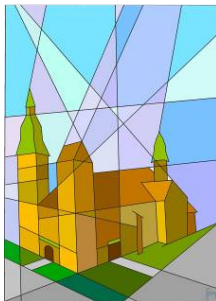


**Dear visitor,**

welcome to the parish church Petrikirche, home of the Protestant-Lutheran parish Petri-Nikolai in Freiberg. Petrikirche is a working church in daily use and the centre of a worshipping and serving community. Our community is characterized by intensive work with children and young people and by the active participation of many parishioners in a lot of activities, eg the church choir, monthly meetings of parishioners at their place each ("Hauskreise"), various parish circles, the children's choir, youth as well as senior gatherings. Moreover, Petrikirche is famous for its musical events.



**The Interior:** Petrikirche has got a remarkably modern decoration for the most part. The nave is on the one hand a place of worship and on the other hand our main church hall for meetings, celebrations and other events. Beneath the galleries there are our parish rooms (used for children's religious education lessons, youth or senior gatherings, playing music, and many other activities and circles) and there is a kitchen, too. In the former choir various exhibitions take place from time to time. This expresses exactly 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 made the sculptural decoration of Dresden Frauenkirche.) In 1896 Theodor Quentin considerably changed the inside of Petrikirche. It was rebuilt again from 1974 to 1986 at the time when the two parishes in the town centre St Petri and St Nikolai united and got its present appearance not until 1983.

**Friedrich Press:** The artist F. 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 at the altar and the huge figure on the glass wall, – 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 peculiarity – the organ. It has got 32 sounding stops and is the largest bi-manual organ that was built by Gottfried Silbermann. He completed it in 1735 and realized the sophisticated idea of his late period of creation for the first time. By its solemn, fundamentally orientated sound this organ corresponded to 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 brought closer to its original state. The final, comprehensive restoration work was finished in July 2007 and now the organ can display again its former musical splendour. There is great national and international interest in this organ because it is an ideal instrument for the interpretation of 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, you can book of course for both guided tours through the organ and concerts.



**The Building and the Bells:** The parish church Sankt Petri was built as a Romanesque basilica on the highest point of the town centre, a former place of execution, before 1190. You still can find the remains of the basilica in the choir. The church dominates the skyline of the city due to its raised position and the well-graded Baroque bonnet of the western tower with its tall spire. The big bell (3850 kg) was cast by Oswald Hilliger in 1487 and the small one (1940 kg) was made by his grandson Wolf Hilliger in 1570. Both bells and the belltower were restored in 2004/2005. They boom over the city and sound for service. The smaller Hour-Bell and the Häuerglocke in the Petri Tower chime several times a day.

**The Steeples** – Petriturm, Fauler Turm and Hahnenturm: Petri Tower has got the tallest spire in Freiberg which rises to 72 metres. From this steeple the most comprehensive all round view is to be seen. You can climb up Petri Tower at regular guided tours and also by arrangement.

In case of further information we will be pleased to answer your questions. Do not hesitate to contact our parish priest Pfarrer Tetzner at [pfarrer@petri-nikolai-freiberg.de](mailto:pfarrer@petri-nikolai-freiberg.de) or on the phone +49 3731 247859. The staff of the Petrikirche is available at +49 3731 34188. A detailed presentation of our parish, more information about the building, the organ etc as well as the current times of services and event schedule you can find at

**Englisch**

VI.30

[www.petri-nikolai-freiberg.de!](http://www.petri-nikolai-freiberg.de!)

Thank you for your interest! **P**arish council of the Protestant-Lutheran parish **P**etri-**N**ikolai Freiberg

