

WELCOME

- To explore the church
- To light candles
- To pray
- To find your own Bible-card

HISTORY

June 27th 1860 it was decided by royal decree to divide Stavanger into two parishes; The Cathedral and St. Petri, each with its own parish priest and residing chaplain.

The name St. Petri was chosen for the new parish, because the name of the apostle Peter already had ties to the area where the new church was to be built. In the middle ages there was a hospital with its own church here at "Hospitalsberget". The field to the south was called "St. Peders Gjerde".

August 11th 1862, the city council voted to build a new church. The cornerstone was celebrated June 2nd 1864.

The architect, Conrad Fredrik von der Lippe, born in Kristiansand in 1833, was the son of Bishop Jakob von der Lippe. St. Petri church is the only brick church that Fredrik von der Lippe designed. In Tau/Strand a wooden church is signed by him. St. Petri was Von der Lippe's largest church project.

August 3rd 1866 the church was officially opened by Bishop Jakob von der Lippe.

RESTORATIONS

1887 – The walls and pillars in the new church are beginning to slant outward. It is decided that a set of strong bars are to secure the construction. These are still visible.

1912 – A more extensive renovation project takes place in the church this year. The city council grants kr.850 to cover the gables with copper. In addition another kr.1280 is given to install electricity.

1917 – The city council grants kr.11500 for a new organ. The construction of Jørgensen's organ doesn't start before 1921.

1961 – The two furthest back steeples are covered with copper.

1966 – Interior renovation. The colours are changed from a greyish yellow, a dark blue and a dark red, to a greyish green and white.

1969 – Offices, congregation hall and meeting room are built in the rear end of the church.

1973 – A building licence is given for furnishing a room in the basement, to be used for youth gatherings.

1982 – The pews are rebuilt for better comfort and a wheelchair entrance is opened.

2008 - Stavanger city council has spent approximately 120 million kroner on a complete renovation of the church. The interior has been restored to its original decor of 1866, both in terms of colouring and materials. The church is also upgraded to accommodate concerts and social activities.

THE STATUE OF CHRIST

The statue of Christ is created by the renowned Danish artist B. Thorvaldsen. It pictures the risen Christ, with visible wounds, greeting his disciples: "Peace be with you".

Originally the statue was bought for the Cathedral, where it was to replace a triptych from 1620. In the mid 1800s the Cathedral underwent a larger restoration. One decided that the statue should be moved to the church of St.Petri, which was being built at that time. The altar-apsis here still gives the statue a central role in the sacred room.

During the last renovation of St. Petri, completed in 2008, the statue of Christ was also restored. Curators at the Archaeological Museum in Stavanger took care of the fine artwork.



THE CHURCH BELLS

The main steeple measures 39 meters, and marks the entrance, the “weaponhouse”. In this tower three bells, all cast at the Stavanger foundry, call for services. The bells carry the following inscriptions:

The Big Bell:

Come to the Sanctuary of the Lord! Let the Word Sound, Let the Songs Chime, let Prayers rise, warm and pious, from Earth to the Throne of Heaven!

The Middle Bell:

I bring a Message of the Grave's Tranquillity in the name of Jesus! From the Strife of the World, seek peace with God in the embrace of Jesus!

The Small Bell:

Dear Congregation! Weigh your Time, work and pray!

THE ORGAN

Through history the St. Petri church has had three organs. The first one built by Amund Eriksen at Christiania, Ludvig Mathias Lindeman being their consultant. The organ was completed for the church's consecration August 3rd 1866.

This organ was then replaced by a fully modern instrument, built by Olsen and Jørgensen in 1921.

The church's current organ is from 1977 [sic.] and was built by Gebr. Jehmlich Orgelbau Dresden. This Organ has 40 ranks divided between three manuals and a pedal board. It is mechanical but with an electrical stop and couplers. This modern instrument is built on classical traditions and is one of the best, most sonorous Organs in Norway today.

LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION

St. Petri's staff and parish council want our congregation to be welcoming and relevant.

We strive to be present in the local community and the city centre in a way that allows people, regardless of their life situation, to meet the gospel of Jesus.

CULTURAL CHURCH

We aim at being a meeting place between heaven and earth. The beauty of the building and the worship services give room for a variety of cultural expressions.

A cultural committee under the parish council works to arrange and facilitate cultural events, mainly concerts.

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WELCOME
to St. Petri
church

