

From Past to Present: Local Churches and Their Christmas Celebrations

{1.} Calvary Baptist Church (Built 1975)
1910 Marietta Rd. Lancaster, OH 43130
Christmas Eve Service: Led by Pastor Robert Reed at 5:30 p.m. Offers youth group FUEL (Sundays 6 p.m.) and children's program Awana (Wednesdays 6:45 p.m.). A Christ-centered, community-loving congregation.

{2.} Emanuel Lutheran Church LCMS (Built 1916)
231 E Mulberry St. Lancaster, OH 43130
Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 p.m.

{3.} Faith Memorial Church (Built 1928)
2610 W Fair Ave. Lancaster, OH 43130
Events: Columbus Symphony Orchestra Concert – Dec. 12, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.; Live Nativity – Dec. 20–21, 2025, 6–8 p.m.; Lancaster Community Band Concert – Dec. 21, 2025, 2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Dec. 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

{4.} First Presbyterian Church (Established 1801, Built 1823)
222 N Broad St. Lancaster, OH 43130
Celebrating 225 years in 2026. Christmas Eve Services: Family Service at 6:00 p.m. and Candlelight Communion at 8:30 p.m. Website: firstpbc.org.

{5.} First United Methodist Church (Built 1905)
163 E Wheeling St. Lancaster, OH 43130
Christmas Eve Services: 5:30 p.m. (children-focused) and 8:00 p.m. (both candlelight).
Additional Services: Candlelight Christmas Eve Eve Service – December 23 at 7:30 p.m.; Blue Christmas Service – December 20 at 2:00 p.m. (for those grieving or finding the season difficult).
The church will also participate in the Downtown Christmas Stroll on December 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

{6.} Maple Street United Methodist Church (Built 1924)
438 E Wheeling St. Lancaster, OH 43130
Serves free breakfast and lunch every weekday through the Short East Community Kitchen. Operates a Wednesday Free Store offering clothing and personal items. Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 p.m.
Dedicated to serving the homeless and low-income community.

{7.} Pleasant Hill Methodist Church (Established 1815, Current Building 1863)
1596 George Rd. NE. Lancaster, OH 43130
Christmas Eve Service held jointly with other local churches.

{8.} Sixth Avenue Global Methodist Church (Original Building 1902; Current Sanctuary Dedicated 1971)
1004 W Sixth Ave. Lancaster, OH 43130
Founded in 1901 with sixteen charter members, the church's first building was erected in 1902 and dedicated the following year at a cost of \$12,000. The present Educational Unit was constructed in 1958–1959, and the current sanctuary was dedicated on January 17, 1971, following demolition of the original structure.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

{9.} Redeemer Lutheran Church (Founded 1958, Built 1959)
1400 Concordia Dr. Lancaster, OH 43130
The original church and school were built in 1959, and the present sanctuary was completed in 1992.
Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 7:00 p.m.
Redeemer's Early Childhood Center is a two-time award winner in the preschool category, as voted by the public through the Eagle-Gazette Choice Awards.

{10.} St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Dedicated 1882)
105 E Mulberry St. Lancaster, OH 43130
Located at Broad & Mulberry Streets, Lancaster, Ohio. Christmas Eve Service: 24, 2025, at 9:00 p.m.

{11.} The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption (Consecrated 1864)
132 S High St. Lancaster, OH 43130
- The parish began sometime after the first Mass celebrated in Lancaster in 1817 and before the first church was dedicated at Easter in 1819. The current (third) church was constructed beginning in 1854 and was consecrated for sacred worship, on June 5, 1864. The interior received a major beautification in 2019. On July 7, 2022, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Decree elevating the church to the rank of Minor Basilica.
- The rector is Rev. Msgr. Craig R. Eilerman.
- Christmas Masses (Nativity of the Lord): Christmas Eve at 4:00, 6:30, and 9:00 p.m.; Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.
- We have a Lessons & Carols service of Prayers, Scripture readings, and choral pieces on the Third Sunday of Advent at 3 pm. Open to all – no cost.
- Website: stmarylanaster.org

{12.} NOW Church (Originally Built 1897)
111 W. Mulberry St. Baltimore, OH 43105
Improvements: 1911 – Basement and classrooms added; 1916 – Stained glass windows installed; 2012 – Complete interior remodel. Congregation History: 1893–1994 Beulah Church (Methodist); 1994–2011 Living Word (Assemblies of God); 2013–Present NOW Church (Assemblies of God). Christmas Eve Service: 6:30 p.m. Motto: 'We are the perfect church for imperfect people.'

{13.} Trinity United Church of Christ (Built 1899)
105 High St NW. Baltimore OH 43105
Organized on July 21, 1845, at the home of Henry Leonard. The congregation's name has changed over time due to denominational mergers: originally Trinity Reformed Church, then Trinity Evangelical and Reformed in 1934, and finally Trinity United Church of Christ in 1957.
This is the congregation's second house of worship — the first was built in 1847 at a cost of about \$2,500. The present structure was completed and dedicated on December 10, 1899, at a cost of \$8,725.09.
Christmas Eve Service: 9:00 p.m.

{14.} Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church (Built 1990) (First Service Dec. 1990)
895 Old Diley Rd. Pickerington OH 43147
Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 p.m. (Candlelight and Communion, Lessons and Carols). Advent Theme: 'What Do You Fear?'. Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.; Indonesian Service: Sundays 8:00 a.m. and Christmas Day at noon.

{15.} The Family Church of Pickerington (Built 1866)
13475 Toll Gate Rd. NW. Pickerington, OH 43147
Christmas Eve Services: December 23 and 24, both at 7:00 p.m. Features traditional carols, a Christmas message, and a closing candlelight rendition of 'Silent Night.' Families enjoy photos by a 12-foot tree in the lobby.

{16.} Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church (Built 1908)
142 Purvis Ave. Bremen, OH 43107
Formed by the merger of Bremen Presbyterian Church and Bethel Presbyterian Church. Communion Service: December 21, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. (with children's Sunday school during worship).
Local Mission: Provides weekend breakfast bags to Bremen Elementary students—open to all families who sign up, serving nearly 300 children each week.

{17.} Bremen Community Methodist Church (Built 1900)
205 Walnut St. Bremen, OH 43107
Known for its beautiful stained glass and hourly church carillon music. Active in community outreach. Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

{18.} Rushville United Methodist Church (Built 1824)
3304 Market St. Rushville, OH 43150
Major renovations have added a fellowship hall, kitchen, and classrooms. The original log cabin church was located at Rushville Pleasant Hill Cemetery. New Facebook page shares event updates.

{19.} St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (Built 1855)
133 W South St. Lithopolis, OH 43136
Christmas Eve Services: 7:00 p.m. Special Music, 7:30 p.m. Service with Holy Communion. Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., 133 W. South St., Lithopolis.

{20.} Christ Way Community Church (Built early 1900s)
113 Walnut St. Pleasantville, OH 43148
Christmas Eve Service: 1:00–2:00 p.m.
At Christ Way, we keep it real by sticking to biblical truth and striving to live it out every day. We believe in preaching the Word with honesty and clarity, and supporting our community through practical acts of love and service. No pretenses, no airs — because Jesus didn't put on a show, and neither do we. It's all about real people, real faith, and real connection.

{21.} St. Joseph Catholic Church (Built 1853)
308 N. Elm St. Sugar Grove, OH 43155
Christmas Eve, 8 p.m.; Christmas Day, 9 a.m.
Serving the village of Sugar Grove and surrounding areas since 1853, St. Joseph's embodies the charm of a classic "little white country church," easily visible from Route 33 about an hour from Columbus. Visitors and parishioners alike are welcome to attend Mass, receive the Sacraments, or spend quiet time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Did you know?

- {1.} Fairfield County is home to approximately 87 historic churches built between 1800 and 1960.
- {2.} This map shows 89 churches across Fairfield County, and we will continue to collect data for future projects.
- {3.} The oldest church we've discovered so far dates back to 1823.
- {4.} In the City of Lancaster, there are 24 churches showcased.

We sincerely appreciate the participation of all the churches in this December's "Map of the Month." Your communication and collaboration has made this possible.

{{If you'd like your Church to be featured next time, please reach out to the GIS/Map Room Team.}}

Legend

Historical Church Dates



1800–1829 Early Settlement



1830–1849 Frontier Expansion



1850–1860 Pre-Civil War



1861–1879 Civil War & Reconstruction



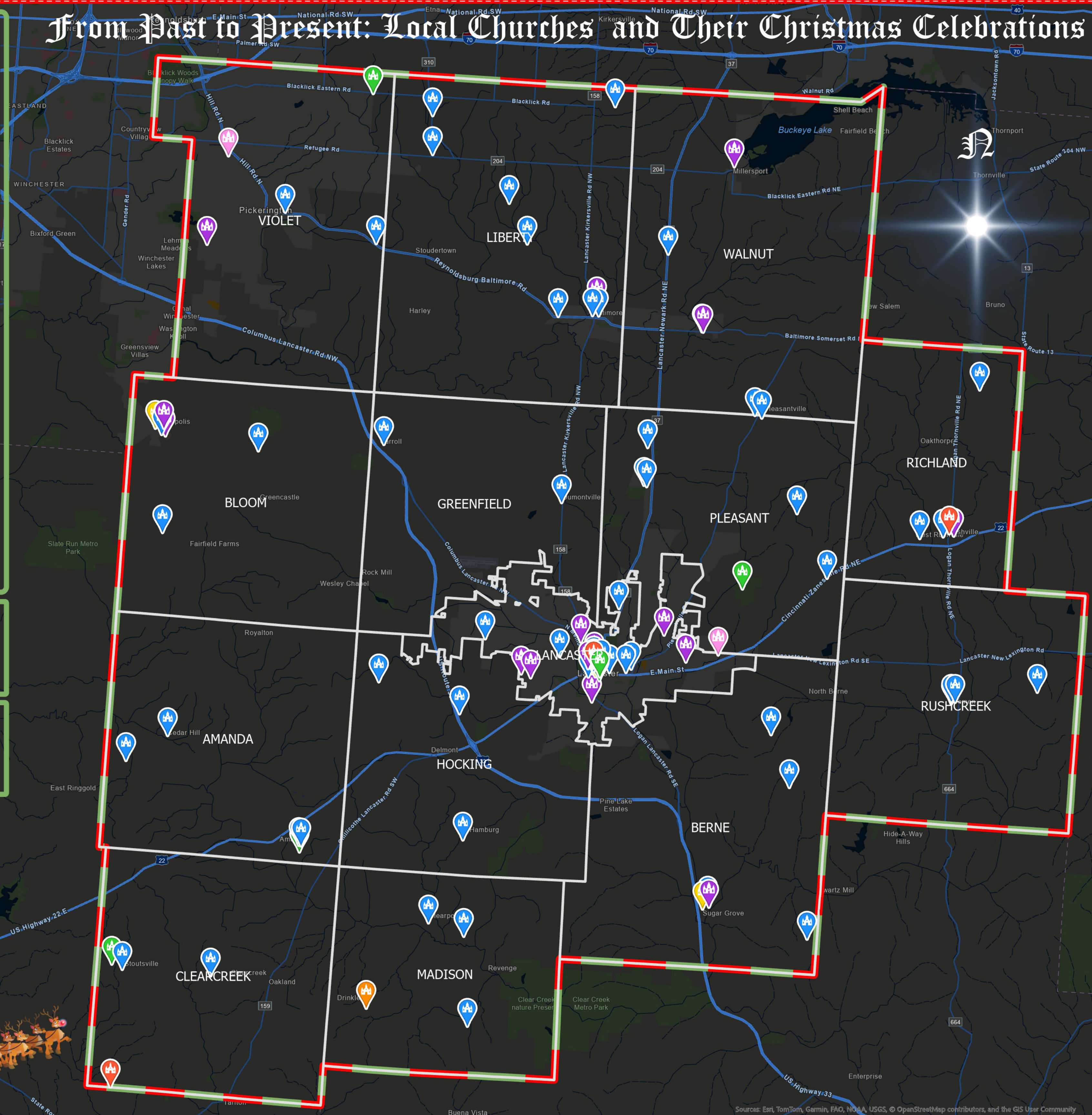
1880–1929 Industrial to Early Modern



1930–1960 Pre-WWII & Postwar



1961–1990 Modern Transition & Global Era



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community