

# The Messenger

## ***In the Interim: The Truth Shall Set You Free*** **-Pastor Eric Luedtke, Interim Pastor**



I've noticed something pretty remarkable at St. Peder's.

It seems we have no shortage of reasons to lament. COVID-19 has shifted the way we live for the past 15 months and this summer we are beginning to gather again with people in places that were once so familiar recognizing things don't entirely feel the same. We struggle to have meaningful conversation with those who disagree with us about certain topics, these struggles echo with rising neighborhood violence. We lament decline in organizations that have been important to us for much of our lives, including the church.

But we aren't stuck in our lament.

I hear story after story about people who are stuck in lament, particularly on the heels of the last 15 months. It seems easy for us to offer up our complaints about the world and wallow in self-pity.

But around St. Peder's there is an energy and excitement about what is to come that is particularly encouraging. As a pastor, I hear the concerns that many of you are raising about what the future might bring and how it will most assuredly mean doing some things differently. There is a certain sense of loss when we name the realities of people who died in the last year or two that we haven't been able to properly grieve. There is a certain longing for familiar patterns of life. But there is always a twinkle in eye of those I speak with that there is hope for tomorrow and what is coming on the horizon.

There is a reality for many that seems to reflect a quote from Jesus that is buried in the middle of John 14, as Jesus comforts his disciples about what to expect when he is no longer physically with them Jesus says, "whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these."

As we prepare to gather regularly in person indoors starting in September; as the milestone events of our shared calendars are planned and come to fruition; as we welcome guests and visitors into our church building again we are excited for what God will be doing in us, through us, and with us united by the Holy Spirit.



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## Letter to the Congregation from St. Peder's Council President

Dear Fabulous St. Peder's Members and Friends,

Happy August! I hope you have been enjoying time outside with friends and family this summer. It has been wonderful seeing many of you at our outdoor services this spring and summer and having time for fellowship after the service.

The St. Peder's Council had our first in-person Council meeting in June—it was great to be back together in person again. We are excited to welcome worshippers and volunteers back inside the sanctuary starting officially on **Rally Sunday, September 12**. We are hopeful that with strong vaccination rates in our members and community and low community COVID-19 rates, we can confidently begin resuming more normal operations at the church. Thank you all for your commitment to keeping each other and our community safe over the past nearly year and a half. The Council and staff will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will make any adjustments as needed.

The Council also voted to allow in-sanctuary services in the case of inclement weather on our upcoming outdoor service dates for the rest of the summer (Sunday's August 8, August 22). Hopefully we will be able to worship outdoors, but in case of rain, we will move worship indoors. Please join us if you feel comfortable. We ask anyone who is unvaccinated to continue to wear a mask indoors.

For Rally Sunday, we are planning an exciting morning with worship and fellowship time together afterwards outdoors weather permitting. We are hoping to have outdoor family games and special food treats! (Look for more details in a future e-mail and the September Messenger.) We hope that you and your family will join us for this special occasion as we gather together again in more familiar ways!

Please also keep an eye out for a new "Time and Talents Survey" as we begin gathering again and have an increased need for volunteers. We will also be welcoming back our Shepherding Groups and our delicious coffee and fellowship time! A special Parent's Council will be meeting to figure out faith formation for the kids this fall as well.

We are all thrilled to be moving forward with our Transition Team work and I hope you will lend your voices, ideas, experiences, and more as we gain valuable insight from our congregation. Special thanks to our Interim Pastor Eric, staff, and Transition Team leaders for helping lead this process.

Finally, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas at [shawnanelsen3@gmail.com](mailto:shawnanelsen3@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Peder's and our broader community. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a welcoming and generous faith community! Sending prayers to all as we move forward together during this time of change, hope, and joy as we gather together again.

In gratitude,

Shawna Nelsen-Wills, Council President  
612-408-2860

## Congregational Gatherings to Help the Transition Team



Over the next two months we will continue to offer opportunities to gather as a congregation, both in-person and on Zoom, to share our stories around three specific topics:

1. The History of St. Peder's (this meeting was held on 7/25)
2. My Most Meaningful Scripture, August 22 and 24
3. Experiences at St. Peder's, September 19 and 22

We'll take notes from each of these gatherings and the Transition Team will then work to identify the core themes that emerge from our conversations. Those themes will help the Transition Team complete the Ministry Site Profile that tells a story of who St. Peder's Lutheran Church is and why our next pastor is called to come and serve alongside us as we follow Jesus through the 21st Century. You can expect to see an invitation to each of these events as we get closer to confirm the details of our gathering and remind you to be part of this important work of the Transition Team.

*In-person meetings at 10:30 am:*  
Sunday, August 22  
Sunday, September 19

*Online Meetings at 7 pm via Zoom:*  
Tuesday, August 24  
Tuesday, September, 22

## Services for Long Time Member, Iver "Whitey" Jorgensen

With sadness for our loss and hope in the promise of the resurrection, we share that Iver "Whitey" Jorgensen died on Wednesday, June 23. Your prayers for Lis and their family are appreciated. Services will be held on Saturday, September 4th at St. Peder's with visitation at 10 am, funeral service at 11 am and a lunch to follow. The family requests that everyone attending the celebration be fully vaccinated to protect those attending who are under 12 or are immuno-compromised.



## National Night Out on the Lawn: Tuesday, August 3



Member Karen Vetsch would like to invite neighbors to meet her on the lawn at St. Peder's church for National Night Out. NNO takes place every year on the first Tuesday in August. Events are held in neighborhoods across the city. Minneapolis leads the nation for NNO participation. Every year, thousands of residents take part in the festivities. . If your block or neighborhood doesn't hold a formal National Night Out gathering please come join Karen from 5-7 pm. Karen will bring a few lawn games, snacks and water. You can bring a lawn chair and a smile! The building will not be open during this event, so please plan accordingly!

## Join Our Safehouse Volunteer Team!

St. Peder's has partnered with Lutheran Social Service for a number of years to serve meals to homeless youth. We trade off preparing and delivering meals on Monday nights throughout the year to the Safe House in St. Paul. It is easy to get to from church—its just across the river! Please read over this information and consider joining in on this ministry. **It ends up that each group, 2-4 people, are scheduled to volunteer about twice a year.**

Safe House is a 30-day emergency shelter for homeless youth ages 16-20. The shelter has six beds available and is open from 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. Safe House provides youth with a friendly, safe environment where youth living on the streets can begin the road to healthy, productive lives. Upon entering Safe House, youth are given access to basic needs such as meals and showers and are settled in their living space. After that, youth advocates work with the youth to develop trust, case plans and provide advocacy and independent living skills education.

The LSS Safe House is located at 1696 Dayton Ave. in St. Paul (blue house with white trim). Supper is for 6-8 people (less than usual because of COVID restrictions).

Please drop the meal between 5:00 & 6:00 pm (although we are now open 24/7 so we can be flexible around timing) Please come to the front door, the screen door will be open, there is a table on the front porch where donations can be dropped in a socially distant manner, please ask volunteers to ring the doorbell so staff know it is out there. If you have questions, please call or email [Ev.Pugh@lssmn.org](mailto:Ev.Pugh@lssmn.org) or [Kelly.wolf@lssmn.org](mailto:Kelly.wolf@lssmn.org) at 651-407-8801 or 651-644-3446

At this time Safe House is happy to receive prepared meals or groceries! The teens have been making some of the meals so if you had a simple recipe and bought the ingredients, that would be helpful!

**If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know. I can answer your questions and put you on the schedule.**

Sue Nielsen  
[Suenielsen76@gmail.com](mailto:Suenielsen76@gmail.com) 612-866-5744

## Quilters are BACK!

The quilters are meeting in person again on the **first and third Tuesday** of the month **from 9 am—noon**. Feel free to drop in and help them create beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No sewing experience required! They take a break for coffee and treats and would love if you joined in!

## Fiber Arts Resumes in August

Whether you are a skilled professional or someone who is just starting out, please join us. Projects could include knitting, crocheting, Hardanger, cross-stitch, felting, spinning, or weaving. Come share your gifts and talents. Fiber Arts will gather on the **1st and 3rd Saturdays from 2-4 pm, beginning August 7th.**



**Great News! You can still volunteer at the Hearts & Hammer event!**

**Join us Saturday Aug. 7th 2021**

We will be painting the home at 6801 Scott Ave N Brooklyn Center, MN 55429. Starting time is 8 am or whenever you get there. All are welcome. Jobs for everyone skilled or unskilled. We'll provide all the tools and equipment you need. If you have a favorite brush or ladder bring it along if you like. We will have some water and treats to keep the energy going. If you have questions or get lost call Dan Vetsch 612-227-2780 or Karen Vetsch 612-721-7385

## From the Racial Justice Team.....



Each month we will be sharing some thought provoking statements or questions for you to consider. We hope you'll take a few moments to engage your heart and mind while pondering them.

### Something to Ponder.....

“Healing from racism is a journey,” according to Anneliese Singh in her book *The Racial Justice Healing Handbook*. She goes on to say “the journey starts with reflecting on what you, as a White person or a person of color, have been taught to believe about the world and your own race.” She adds it’s important to know about your racial identity, a social construct which refers to a group that shares racial heritage, to understand how racism works.

Singh reports developing a positive racial identity is important. She states “a positive racial identity means you are secure in your racial identity, you are aware of the history of your racial group, and you are able to identify when you are being racially stereotyped.” She contrasts a positive racial identity with an identity under White supremacy where one race is inferior to another. “Rather, a positive racial identity means you have spent time learning about who you are as a racial human being, both privileges and the disadvantages it affords you, and how your racial identity affects your experience of others and the world.

From: Singh, Anneliese A. 2019. *The Racial Healing Handbook, Chapter 1*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, Inc.

### Consider:

- ◆ What is your racial identity?
- ◆ What are your earliest memories about race and racial identity?
- ◆ How did you learn about your racial identity? What was taught directly, absorbed indirectly?
- ◆ How does your racial identity affect your experience of others and the world?

## Support Businesses Owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color



**Winter Goddess Foods Owners**, Nehemiah Inverse and Terry Williams from the Corcoran neighborhood PO Box 6861, Minneapolis 55407  
612-309-2011 [www.wintergoddessfoods.com](http://www.wintergoddessfoods.com)

Try some organic and all-natural drinks, bread and snacks such as chai teas (classic, unsweetened, vegan), caramels, oatmeal muffins, ricotta cookies, wild rice bread, granola, or roasted nuts (classic, slow burn, inferno) made without artificial ingredients. Products can be purchased at Midtown Farmer’s Market Saturdays May-October 31 and several stores around town including Oxendale’s Market (Nokomis, West St. Paul), Kowalski’s Market (Lyndale, St. Paul) and Linden Hills Co-op. Learn more about their products on their website. You can also order bread and products for delivery in the Twin Cities Metro here.



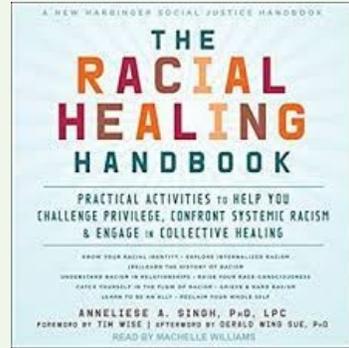
**Pimento Jamaican Kitchen Owner**, Tomme Bevas  
2524 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis, 612- 345-5637 <https://pimentokitchen.com/>

Pimento offers authentic Jamaican street and comfort food using family recipes, fresh ingredients, and love, according to their website. Try a Jerk Chicken, slow roasted jerk pork, curry chicken, curry goat, curry veggies, or braised oxtail entree with a variety of sauce selections such as Neutralizer, Jerk Ranch, MN Nice, or Kingston Kick. Check out the menu for all entrees, sides, sauces and more. Indoor dining and take out are available.

## Book Study: The Racial Healing Handbook

The Racial Justice team is coordinating a book study using The Racial Healing Handbook.

Writer Anneliese A. Singh, PhD, LPC The book provides practical activities to help you challenge privilege, confront systematic racism & engage in collective healing. The idea for the study would be to meet monthly and work one chapter at a time. We would spend time on the introduction, 10 chapters and conclusion. We felt meeting Sunday during Faith Formation time could work well but we are open to group discussion. We would work together to process and learn. We would have a person as the guide to keep us moving and remain respectful of our time.



The study would start at the end of September or early October. **If you would like us to order your book, we need to have your order by September 3rd.** The thought was to order the book through Moon Palace Books or another local book store. We will order one copy for our church library. We have also thought of sharing our (3) personal copies with interested participants.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Sign up with one of us or with the Church office.

Karen Vetsch, Kristi Erickson, Sue Schnickel, Racial Justice Team Members

## Join Us for Zoom Coffee Hour!



Please join us on the **August 1st** for coffee hour following our Zoom Communion Worship. Bring a cup of coffee or tea and connect with St. Peder's members virtually. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link. Meeting ID: 954 3253 5603 Passcode: 775151

## Together in Mission 2021

The offerings of your financial resources allow us not only to support the mission of our congregation, but to share our resources with others in ministry so that all may know of Christ's love. TOGETHER we work on Christ's behalf in the world - none of us can do it alone! Thank you for your offerings through the 6th month of 2021. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who'd like to see it.

### Income

Month of June	\$ 28,911.68	Budget for the month	\$ 20,833.33
Year to Date	\$ 112,060.48	Budget Year to Date	\$ 125,000.02

### Expenses

Month of June	\$ 17,326.77	Budget for the month	\$ 20,430.93
Year to Date	\$ 123,785.34	Budget Year to Date	\$ 140,585.38

### Mission Support to...

Minneapolis Area Synod	YTD	\$ 7000.02
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### **WE NEED YOUR VOICES**

Please help us support hymn singing for our virtual worship services. We will help you and your family learn the hymns, if you would like. Make a suggestion for a favorite you already know and could sing together. Contact Leslee Nestingen for more details: [lesleenestingen@mac.com](mailto:lesleenestingen@mac.com) or 612-910-0595

### **DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?**

We would love to include you in worship, either with a few others or for a solo. Please contact Leslee Nestingen (contact information above) or Lisa Rovick (Music & Worship committee) [lprovick@stkate.edu](mailto:lprovick@stkate.edu) or 612-716-4418

## **Volunteer Schedule for August**

### **LSS Safehouse Schedule**

**August 2:** Dale and Jackie West

**August 9:** Jim and Heidi Nelsen

**August 16:** Allison & Michael O'Day, Jill & Kerry Audette

**August 23:** Judy & Michael Hogan, Bev Jensen

**August 30:** Anne & Nick Legeros, Pete & Sheryl Juhl

### **On-Line Reader Schedule**

**August 1 :** Lisa Rovick

**August 8:** Allison O'Day

**August 15:** Bob Stanich

**August 22:** Bruce Simpson

**August 29:** Wendy Legge

### **Usher Schedule**

**August 8:** Dan & Karen Vetsch

**August 22:** Lisa Rovick & Bruce Simpson

**A Note from Pastor:** Pastor Eric will be on vacation August 9-16. If you have a pastoral need during that time please contact a Council Member or the office to be connected to the on-call pastor.

## **August Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday, August 1:**

9 am Online Worship w/ Holy Communion followed by online Coffee & Fellowship.

Click [here](#) for the Zoom link. Meeting ID: 954 3253 5603 Passcode: 775151

### **Sunday, August 8:**

9 am Outdoor/In-Person Worship (weather permitting)

\*Recorded option for those who cannot join in person.

### **Sunday, August 15**

9 am Online Worship

Visit our [website](#) or on [St. Peder's YouTube Channel](#) or [Facebook page](#) .

### **Sunday, August 22:**

9 am Outdoor/In-Person Worship (weather permitting)

\*Recorded Option for those who cannot join in person

### **Sunday, August 29:**

9 am Online Worship

Visit our [website](#) or on [St. Peder's YouTube Channel](#) or [Facebook page](#) .

## We're Learning: An update from our Riverside Innovation Hub Team

by Karen Vetsch



As reported last month, St. Peder's has been selected to be one of 11 local congregations to work with the Riverside Innovation Hub at Augsburg University in a Lily Endowment funded learning cohort. The core team from St. Peder's gathered on July 21st to prepare for an online kick off event with Riverside Innovation Hub July 30 & 31. The core group consists of

Karen Vetsch, Lisa Rovick, Judy Anderson, Allison O'Day and Pastor Eric Luedtke. We have many other St Peder's members beyond this core team who will also support and grow with us over this two year learning program. At the kick off event our team will get to meet the other 10 churches engaged in this learning program. We will engage closely with three neighborhood congregations that will make up our learning cohort and learn more about engaging our neighbors using the Public Church Framework.

The following information is provided by The Riverside Innovation Hub to explain the Public Church Framework.

There are four movements in the Public Church Framework:

- Accompaniment - The movement into your neighborhood to hear your neighbors' stories and begin to appreciate and understand their lives.
- Interpretation - The movement into your congregation's traditions and core beliefs so that you might come to understand your neighbors' stories in light of God's stories and so that you might come to understand God's story in new ways in light of your neighbors' stories.
- Discernment - The movement into a prayerful process of wondering together how God is inviting you to be present and active in your neighbors' lives.
- Proclamation - The movement back into your neighborhood with a message of good news that is informed by your neighbors' stories, God's story, and prayerful discernment.

The first few months of our team's work with the Riverside Innovation Hub will be learning the framework and getting to know our learning partners. We will have opportunities to share our learning with the St. Peder's congregation as together we engage more deeply with our neighbors and invite members of St. Peder's to join us in these activities.

### For those Looking to Serve

St Peder's has been involved with South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels (SMMoW) for many years. The dedication of volunteers to deliver meals to those who can't leave their homes really makes a difference in the lives of neighbors in our community. SMMoW is led by a volunteer Board and several committees that keep things running smoothly and those teams could use some new volunteers. If you have a heart to serve, gifts to share, and want to see your efforts impact your community, this is a great opportunity. Sonya Clementson and Pastor Eric have additional information about the specific Board and Committee responsibilities or you can contact South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels Board Chair Tom Overton at 612.807.3310



## Upcoming Events at Normandale Wellness Center

For the first time in US history the number of Americans 80 and over is greater than those 2 and younger and the trend is expected to continue such that by 2030 20% of Americans will be retirement age. Congregations that recognize this trend are asking "how might we better serve Seniors and those who care for them in our communities?" Normandale Center for Healing and Wholeness is one organization doing just that. Born out of Normandale Lutheran Church (ELCA) the organization supports caregivers and seniors through a variety of grant-funded programs and workshops. NCHW Executive Director Jennifer Monroe has reached out to St. Peder's to invite us to participate in some of their upcoming events:

### August 14th, 2021 Care for Caregiver: Intuitive Writing for Self-Care Wendy Brown-Baez, Creator of Writing Circles for Healing

Writing is a way to experience creative rejuvenation and cultivate inner resiliency. Intuitive writing helps us to pay attention to our inner voice, recognize our strengths, and practice self-compassion. Wendy will share a simple technique to get you started. You do not need previous writing experience.

Access all sessions via this Zoom [link](#) Meeting ID: 923 4388 7388 Passcode:17273. More information can be found at the Normandale Center's [Facebook page](#) or contacting the center at [info@normandalecenter.org](mailto:info@normandalecenter.org) or 952-929-1698



## Bach Roots Festival Available Free to Homebound

The music of J.S. Bach transcends the secular/sacred divide. Familiar in concert halls, in movie soundtracks, and worship services, Bach's music is well-known. The Bach Roots Festival celebrates the diversity of ways Bach's music is enjoyed still today. From August 15-22 the festival moves around the Twin Cities area with multiple performances of a professional chamber choir and orchestra. Thanks to a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board these events are available FREE to homebound seniors who otherwise might not be able to enjoy these wonderful events. If you or someone you know would benefit from this video delivery of these events,

please visit <https://www.bachrootsfestival.com/seniors> to sign up. *Please note, information collected in the sign-up process is used only to deliver the video content and is not sold or used in any other way by the Bach Roots Festival organizers.*

## Lutheran Social Services & City of Minneapolis

### Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota has partnered with the City of Minneapolis to offer up to \$4,000 in rent/utility assistance per household for up to 2-6 months of rent/utilities owed.

#### Eligible households:

- Must be a renter in 1-4 unit housing (single family, duplex, triplex, fourplex) in Minneapolis
- Must be at or below 80% Area Median Income for Minneapolis
- Must have Covid-related reason for needing assistance (job loss, reduced income/hours, etc.)

#### Documents Needed:

- Proof of income (form 1040, W2's, last 60 days of pay stubs, benefits statements)
- Signed lease (can self-certify if needed)
- Proof of back-rent or utilities owed (rent ledger, utility bills)
- Landlord or Property Owner W9 (if rental assistance is requested)
- Submit all documents to [preventionassistance@lssmn.org](mailto:preventionassistance@lssmn.org)

**How to Apply:** email [preventionassistance@lssmn.org](mailto:preventionassistance@lssmn.org) or call 612-552-7071

**St. Peder's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**

St. Peder's affirms the  
welcome of God to all persons.

St Peder's welcomes you to a community of faith nurtured by God's abundant grace, Christ's peace and the Spirit's lively presence! In response to such love, we open our hearts and hands and doors to joyfully serve our neighbor – whether it's you or someone across the world. We invite you to join us for worship or any activity at the little church on the corner of 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in south Minneapolis.



Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Eric Luedtke  
Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell  
Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking  
Caretaker: Jim Austin

[pastoreric@stpeders.org](mailto:pastoreric@stpeders.org)  
[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)  
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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

