

# The Messenger

## Congratulations graduates!

This year St. Peder's sends off three graduates with our blessings and our love! When we are back together again we'll do our traditional blessing, but until then we send them good wishes. If you'd like to send these graduates a card, their addresses are in the church directory!



**Charlie Anderson** is graduating from Woodbury High School and is interested in majoring in a business related field.



**Isabelle Geroux**, graduating from Visitation School in Mendota Heights, looking forward to her future at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire in hopes of becoming a teacher.



**Alaiyah Nelsen-Tobechukwu** is graduating from South High School. She has been accepted into the EF Gap Year Program and plans to travel to Europe and Costa Rica on a language immersion and service project experience. Due to COVID-19, she has chosen to delay to Spring Semester and will leave in January 2021. She aims to attend college for film, acting, and dance in Fall 2021.

## Virtual Fair Trade Event

This year's Fair Trade event will be a virtual event due to the pandemic. Pour yourself a cup of Peace Coffee while you browse through the Ten Thousand Villages store website. (You can order Peace Coffee online and have it delivered to your home!) The village artisans still need us to help support their work. Check out their website to order beautiful gifts! At the check out, you will be able to show that you are supporting the St. Paul Ten Thousand Villages store.

<https://www.peacecoffee.com>

<https://www.tenthousandvillages.com/gift-ideas/>

<https://www.tenthousandvillages.com>



## Virtual Pub Theology!

Pub Theology is back! Kind of. We'll be meeting on **May 4th at 7pm on Zoom!** Shannon will be sending an email to the Pub Theology list with a Zoom link. If you're not on the list and would like to attend, just send him an email at [faithformation@stpeters.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeters.org). BYOB and pizza! :)

## Looking for a Couple of Volunteers.....

St Peder's is in need of updating our computer hardware - and we'd love to have a couple of volunteers skilled in such IT matters help in that process! If you'd like to share your time and expertise, please contact Pastor Julie at [pastorjulie@stpeders.org](mailto:pastorjulie@stpeders.org). Thanks!

## Suspension of Worship and Other Activities Continue

We will continue to offer weekly online worship at least throughout the month of May as we shelter in place. The Council and Pastor Julie will continue to assess the COVID-19 situation and how we will operate during this time of pandemic. Look for more information in the June Messenger.



*For the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day kiddos made posters about how they care for the earth. Some were featured in our April 26th worship and here are a couple more!*



## Lutheran Social Services of MN announces new CEO.

Last month, we received word that LSS of MN named Patrick Thueson its new CEO after Gov. Tim Walz appointed the organization's leader, Jodi Harpstead, commissioner of the Department of Human Services last fall.

"It's just an honor," said Thueson, 58, of Stillwater, a University of St. Thomas graduate who got his start working for Coca-Cola in finance, operations and marketing. "We plan to keep innovating; that's our hallmark so far."

Thueson, who's worked for Lutheran Social Services for 13 years, has been the interim CEO since Harpstead's departure and previously worked as the nonprofit's chief operating officer and chief financial officer.

He takes over in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, which has prompted the nonprofit, like others, to deliver all services virtually or by minimizing person-to-person contact, such as providing mental health counseling via video or delivering meals to seniors' homes. Thueson said no services have been suspended or closed because of the pandemic. In fact, demand for services like counseling and food have increased along with the number of Minnesotans in need.

"We've been able to pivot so far," he said.

St Peder's is donating \$1,000 to LSS of MN from our Tabitta Kassen Endowment Fund this month for use in their work during this pandemic. We give thanks for Jodi Harpstead's excellent leadership over the past years and look forward to the expertise and gifts Theuson brings to his new role.