

The Messenger

From the Pastor...

Greetings!

We have started July and once we hit July, I always get the feeling of cresting the top of a hill. The realization that the year is half over can lead to a combination of wonder, excitement, dismay, and myriad other emotions. While there is still plenty of time to get things done, what seemed a long time in January is now half of what it was.

This month offers us a chance, both as individuals and as a community, to reflect on how we are doing. How have we practiced our values this year? How have we joyfully shared the gospel and lived with opened hearts, hands, and doors? How can we improve in the second half of the year?

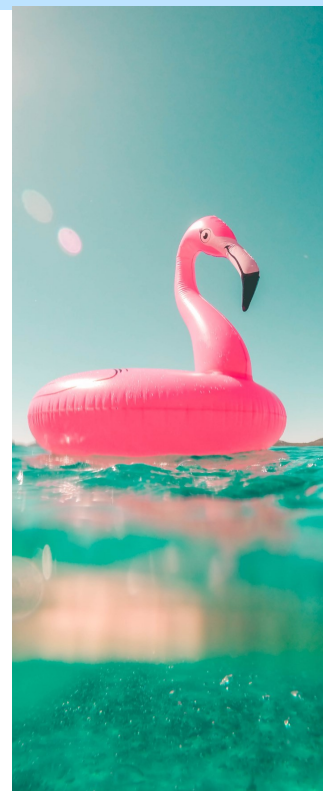
I ask myself these questions and often find that I've accomplished less than I had hoped, but also that there have been opportunities, joys, and experiences that I never saw coming. Some of these are enjoyable but some of them are not. What has caught us by surprise? What has happened that made us adjust our plans? How have these been an opportunity to experience God in a new way?

At this time of year, I find myself with a little more time to think and plan. Given what has happened in the past 6 months, there are things that might seem possible now that felt impossible before. Or, perhaps, it's the other way, and things that felt easy before are now feeling harder. Whether this is through changes in our world, health, families, or time, we are often faced with new challenges and opportunities.

In the midst of all this reflection, we have a promise that we're not doing it all alone. No matter what life has thrown (or will throw) at us, God is present with us. In Matthew 28:20, as Jesus bids farewell to his disciples, he tells them, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." I believe this is still what God tells us. Through every transition you will face, however mundane or monumental it may be, this promise of God's presence remains true. God is with you and is accompanying you through the last half of this year, just as you are (not as you will be).

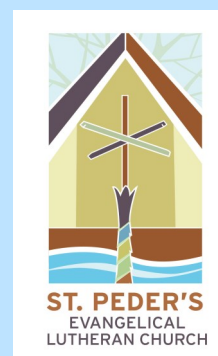
As we have crested the hill of 2023, may you find ways that God has been present with you, and may you find ways to be present with the world around you. The grace of God is always yours. I hope we find ways to practice that grace as we head into July and the rest of this year.

Peace,
Pastor Bryan



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Bible Study, Every Tuesday at 6 pm **Upcoming Dates: July 11, 18 and 25**

Are you ready to dive a little deeper? Join us at Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. We take this time to read and reflect on the readings for the coming Sunday, as well as pray and encourage each other. Come ready to read, discuss and learn. Bring a Bible if you have one. Bibles are available if you do not.

Second Sunday Gardeners: July 9th

Thanks to all that attended our first work day at St Peder's, we achieved quite a bit!
We plan to "Dig In" again on Sunday July 9th.

Wear your garden work clothes to church. We'll plan to work from 11:00 - 1:00 followed by a light lunch to gather and enjoy our labors.

Projects for the garden:

- Pull weeds in the front door gardens, courtyard and around the shed and parking area
- Spread wood chips in the gardens



Monthly Potluck TUESDAYS!

Next Potluck Tuesday, July 11th

All are welcome to share a meal at our monthly potlucks! Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, we will have a brief devotion, prayer, and then we'll enjoy each other's company and cooking. All are welcome to join in, whether you're working from home, on your lunch break, or retired. Can't stay for all of it? That's fine, too!



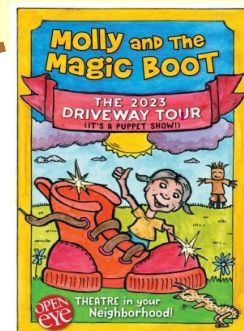
Quilters Note....

The quilters will not be quilting in July, but will return to our usual 1st and 3rd Wednesdays starting in August. Just a reminder, even if you do not know how to sew, you are welcome to join!

Save the Date!

Open Eye Figure Theatre-Driveway Tour

Performance of Molly and the Magic Boot puppet show on Wednesday, **August 9th** at 7:00pm in St. Peder's courtyard. (If the weather doesn't cooperate we will move indoors).





Tie Dye Sunday: Sunday, July 16

On July 16th, after our courtyard worship (and time for coffee and snacks, of course), Jean Evers and her daughter will be leading a tie dye craft. Please bring something light-colored to tie dye if you'd like to take part.

Blessing of the Pets: Sunday, July 16

We will have a pet blessing during worship during our courtyard worship on July 16th. If you bring a furry, feathered, fishy, or scaly friend, we'll invite you up with your pet for a blessing (and a little treat for the dogs and cats). If you have an animal companion that does not make a good travel companion (aka, you leave them home), you're welcome to bring a picture up for the blessing, too.



Vacation Bible School—Volunteers Needed!

We are hoping to have VBS from July 16-20 from 5:30-7:30, but we need volunteers to help with snacks, activities, crafts, and teaching. We're hoping to use the ELCA's curriculum from 2019 called "Who is my Neighbor?", which uses the story of the Good Samaritan to teach good neighboring practices. If we don't have enough volunteers, we may have to cancel or adjust our plans, so please take time to consider if you'd have a few hours. And if you have kids in your lives who you think would enjoy VBS at St. Peder's, you can sign them up here: <https://bit.ly/StPedersVBS>

Looking for Some Great Summer Reading?

St. Peder's has an excellent collection of books for all ages that would be perfect to curl up with this summer! Check out the Gene Paulsen display case, the Red Cart, and the New Acquisitions bookshelf.

Looking for a bestseller or an award-winner, either fiction or non-fiction? It's easy to find them at a glance because of the labels on our book spines. Other book labels indicate local (including member) authors and multi-cultural books with diverse perspectives, and shelf labels indicate other popular topics, such as history, biography, family life, and spiritual growth.

Ever tried a graphic novel? We have some great examples for teens and adults, including John Lewis's stunning trilogy *March* (in the display case) about the civil rights movement in the 60s and Shannon's generous gift of teen books on the library table. Our expanded teen section (bookcase on the right) has a wide variety of popular young adult novels.

We have a beautiful collection of children's books on all topics in the Red Cart. And the art in many of these books is so great, adults might want to sneak them out, too!



Volunteer News and Opportunities

Community Emergency Services (CES) Grocery Delivery

Are you looking for an impactful way to make a difference with a small volunteer commitment?

St. Peder's is looking for 4-6 volunteers on each date to help deliver groceries one Monday evening every other month to the residents at Hiawatha Towers through Community Emergency Services. CES has been working with our neighbors for 50 years. Let me know if you are interested and available for any of these dates. The residents are so appreciative when they see us.

Thanks,

Sue Nielsen

Suenielsen76@gmail.com

612-360-3936

Activity: Distribution of Pre-bagged Groceries at Hiawatha Towers (3 buildings at one location)

Dates:

- Monday, July 24, 2023
- Monday, September 25, 2023
- Monday, November 20, 2023

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Location: Meet at Hiawatha Towers Apartment Complex located at 2121 - 16th Avenue South, Minneapolis (There are 3 buildings. 2121 is the "middle" building. Look for the CES cargo van (with CES logo.)

Responsibility:

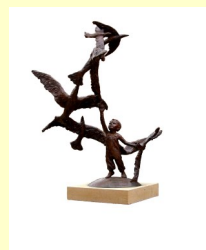
- Unload van of grocery bags and transfer into community room
- Arrange bags by building and floor
- Deliver Bags to Neighbors' Apartments (We provide carts for delivery)

Good to Know:

- At apartment building, please park on the street (lot is for residents only)
- Masks may be required at apartment building (it changes weekly)
- Closed toe shoes recommended

2024 will Mark St. Peder's 140th Anniversary!

Our last major anniversary celebration was the 125th in 2009. One of the many celebratory events and activities at that time was updating our archives. We have beautiful scrapbooks documenting St. Peder's long history through 2009—but almost nothing since!



We would like to assemble an Archive Committee to put together pictures and other documentation to bring us up-to-date on the highlights of congregational life from Pastor Julie's tenure to present and would like to get started this summer. If you'd be interested in helping—even if just for a few hours—contact the office or Jeanne Schleh. Questions? Ask Jeanne!

Save the Date!

Annual Hearts and Hammers - Home Painting Event

(formerly known as Paint-a-thon)

Saturday August 5th 8:00 am House location is 3249 Colorado Ave S, St. Louis Park. Patricia B. is the homeowner. She has lived in this house for 34 years. This project looks to be a one story stucco home with very little trim work. More details to come

Free Money for St Peder's:

Thrivent Choice Dollars, and Thrivent Action Teams

If you're a member of [Thrivent](#), there are ways you can use their money to help St Peder's at no cost to you.

Choice Dollars: As a Thrivent member, you get to direct some of their charitable funds toward nonprofits of your choice - including St Peder's. Simply log on, see your available balance of choice dollars, search for St Peder's Lutheran Church, and follow the prompts to give to church. We received over \$1,000 of these choice dollars in 2022, helping us live out our mission.

Action Teams: Thrivent provides up to \$250 to fund specific projects - St Peder's could use Action Teams to fund everything from Ableskiver breakfast to the Cod Fish dinner, and many smaller projects. Specific instructions on applying can be [found here](#).

If you have questions, reach out to Susan at bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Thrivent is a holistic financial services organization driven by a higher purpose, helping members make the most of all they've been given. For more information on Thrivent membership, [click here](#). If you have received a paper copy of the Messenger and would like a hard copy of this information, please contact the office: 612-722-8000.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



Together in Mission 2023

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 5th month of 2023. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who'd like to see it.

Income

Month of May	\$ 16,538	Budget for the month	\$ 23,124
Year to Date	\$ 97,950	Budget Year to Date	\$ 115,628

Expenses

Month of May	\$ 25,250	Budget for the month	\$ 23,932
Year to Date	\$ 121,595	Budget Year to Date	\$ 119,602

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod

YTD \$ 7,000

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<div>Events in BLUE are community groups that use the building.</div>		1 2 pm Fiber Arts
2 9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 4 pm Girl Scouts	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5	6 10 am Exercise	7	8
9 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 4 pm Girl Scouts	10	11 10 am Exercise 12 Potluck 2 pm Chronic Pain Support Group 6 pm Bible Study 6 pm Sisters In Crime	12	13 10 am Exercise	14	15 2 pm Fiber Arts
16 Blessing of the Pets 9 am Courtyard Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship w/ Tie Dye Event 4 pm Girl Scouts	17	18 Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Exercise 6 pm Bible Study	19	20 10 am Exercise	21	22
Tentative Dates—Vacation Bible School—Volunteers Still Needed!						
23 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 4 pm Girl Scouts	24 7 pm Music and Worship Committee	25 10 am Exercise 6 pm Bible Study	26 No Council Meeting	27 10 am Exercise	28	29
30 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 4 pm Girl Scouts	31					

July Volunteer Schedule

Thank you for sharing your time and talent at St. Peder's!
Please try to arrange your own trades. Reminder emails are sent weekly along with contacts for substitutes. If you are pressed for time or have questions, please contact the office: office@stpeters.org or 612-722-8000

Sunday, July 2, 2023: Worship with Holy Communion

Greeters: Eric and Bethene Hunsberger

Ushers: Sue and Al Nielsen

Acolyte: Walter Anderson

Reader: Lisa Rovick

Communion Set Up: Dwight Lundebj and Lisa Jensen

Communion Servers: Bob Stanich, Lisa Rovick, Karen Vetsch

Counters: Marcia Rocheleau and Paul Odegaard

Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson

LSS Safe House Dinner for July 3: Terri Vetsch, Dan and Karen Vetsch

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 4

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Greeters: Forrest and Elizabeth Anderson

Ushers: Butch Vossen and Lisa Jensen

Acolyte: Fletcher Campbell

Reader: Allison O'Day

Counters: Cameron Jamison and Julie Ebbesen

Livestream Technician: Darrick Jensen

LSS Safe House Dinner for July 10: Sue and Al Nielsen

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 5

Sunday, July 16, 2023: Courtyard Worship/ Blessing of the Pets/Tie Dye Event

Greeters: Kristi Lahti Johnson and Chuck Johnson

Ushers: Julie Ebbesen and Paul Aitchison

Reader: Kristi Lahti-Johnson

Counters: Bob Stanich and Judy Hogan

Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch

LSS Safe House Dinner for July 17: Liz and Forrest Bentley

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 6

Sunday, July 23, 2023

Greeters: Lee Hawks and Cameron Jamison

Ushers: Andrea Wollak and Peter Juhl

Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak

Reader: Joe Munnich

Counters: Annalise Munnich and Karen Vetsch

Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young

LSS Safe House Dinner for July 24: Lisamarie and Bryan Odeen

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 7

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Greeters: Kristi Erickson and Jean Evers

Ushers: Joe Munnich and Jim Nelsen

Acolyte: Isla Wills

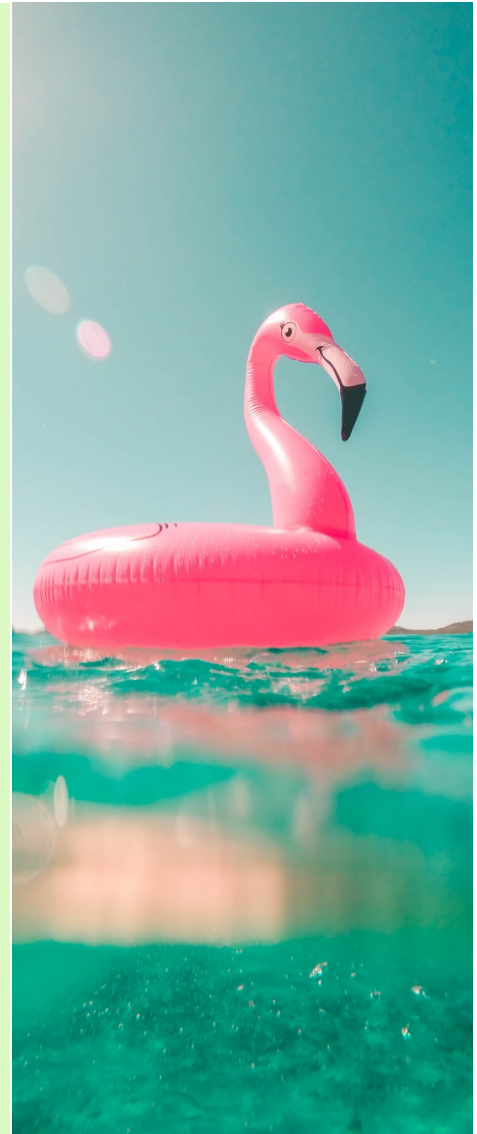
Reader: Max Vossen

Counters: Marcia Rocheleau and Shawna Nelsen-Wills

Livestream Technician: Cameron Jamison

LSS Safe House Dinner for July 31: Dale and Jackie West

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 8



July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 2

9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

Sunday, July 9

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

Sunday, July 16

Blessing of the Pets

9 am Courtyard Worship

10 am Coffee and Fellowship
w/Tie Dye Event

Sunday, July 23

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

Sunday, July 30

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

**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 46th Avenue and 42nd Street in south Minneapolis.



Want to support our mission to joyfully live the gospel with open hearts, open hands and open doors? Make a donation from your smartphone by scanning the QR code or head to this website: <https://bit.ly/stpedersgiving> Thank you for sharing your gifts.

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Odeen

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Mia Kruse

mia@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator:

office@stpeders.org

Accounts Manager: Susan Shellberg

bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Caretaker: Jim Austin

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