

The Messenger

From the Pastor....

Dear Siblings in Christ,

School has been out for a while now and the backpacks have (finally) all been cleaned out. During this process, we'd remove each item, put it on the table, admire it, and then decide if it was something to keep or something that is ready to move along. This is the big task during the change between school and summer - unpacking what you needed last year and deciding if you still need it. Pencil stubs? Toss them. Books and cards? Keep. Art projects? Maybe grandma and grandpa will want those. You might be familiar with the drill.

This examination of our lives is a valuable process - especially in the face of change. In a lot of ways, we cannot control the change that happens around or in us; changes within society, health, the economy, our status, and families can all change quickly and without our consent. It can be difficult to accept, especially when so many of us were raised thinking that we can control our own destiny. These changes often accompany big emotions and sometimes even outright panic.

But I'd like us to think about this idea in the context of new life. New life is inherently different from "old life". Many times, new life means that ideas, practices, and habits that we've taken for granted will need to be questioned. Like the school backpack, things get put on the table and examined. Some things we will keep and put back in the backpack. Other things we will decide don't serve our needs anymore. When it's all done, our bags are lighter and it's easier for us to move around and find what we need without sifting through things that we don't need.

But this isn't just a personal process of self-examination in the face of change. It is happening all around us as our neighborhoods, country, and world change. This process is not just about removing what we don't need, but learning what our neighbors have been carrying, how they've been changing, and allowing ourselves to be changed by it. When we allow ourselves to be changed by the neighborhood, we are helping the community see more clearly, the love, grace, mercy, and new life of God. By allowing ourselves to be changed, we can be a part of God's hospitality and justice.

This isn't to say that we should become like everyone else. This doesn't mean that we should try to be cool or chase trends. It means that we can learn what is life-giving to others might be life-giving for us, too. Because new life is not just an individual process, but a communal process, too. We are learning, along with those around us, what God is doing in the world.

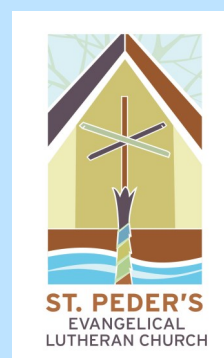
What are you putting on the table today?

Peace,
Pastor Bryan



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Bible Study, Every Tuesday at 6 pm

Upcoming Dates: August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

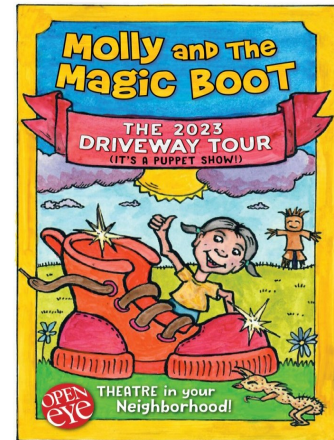
Are you ready to dive a little deeper? Join us at Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. We take this time to read through and reflect on the readings for the coming Sunday, as well as pray and encourage each other. Come ready to read, discuss and learn. Bring a Bible if you have one. Bibles are provided for those who need one.

Open Eye Figure Theatre– Driveway Tour

Wednesday August 9th at 7:00 pm in St. Peder's courtyard.

(if the weather doesn't cooperate we will move indoors)

Molly is excited to spend a whole week at Grandma's farm, but events on the journey there leave her without her gadgets. With the help of a magic boot and a cast of new farm friends, Molly's time with Grandma becomes a summer to remember.



Monthly Potluck TUESDAYS! **Please note the new day

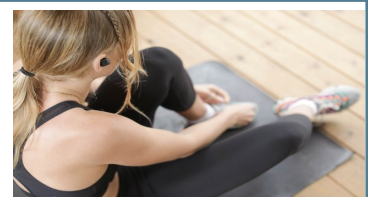
Next Potluck Tuesday, August 8th

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!



Exercise Classes– Thursdays at 10 am

Join your friends here at St. Peder's and get your workout on! All levels of skill and fitness welcome. Take some time to get your mind *and* body in shape with a great group of people.



Quilters Meetings Wednesday, August 2nd & 16th

After taking the month of July off, the Quilters will be returning to their usual 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Just a reminder, even if you do not know how to sew, you are welcome to join!



Welcome new renters! Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors

The LS Healthy Seniors will be at St. Peder's once a month hosting a Chronic/Multiple Disease Support Group. This group will offer support and ideas to help improve health. The in person group is free to attend. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month from 2-3:15 pm on July 11 (second Tuesday to avoid the holiday) and August 1st. For more information contact Mary Albrecht at 612-729-5799 or maryalbrecht@LShealthyseniors.org

News from the Office

My name is Lyn Town, and I am the new Office Coordinator for St. Peder's church! I just moved to the Twin Cities from Mankato. I am a wife and a mother of a grown child, and I have two silly cats and a hyperactive dog. I have many years experience in an office setting, so I think I can help get things in order and keep Pastor Bryan on track! I will be in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, so please feel free to stop in and say hello. I always have plenty of good cheer and an overflowing candy dish, both of which I am happy to share! Thank you to Liz Bentley and Judy Hogan for training me in. I hope to meet more of you in the weeks to come!



Volunteer News and Opportunities

Adopt a Garden

"Gardening is learning, learning, learning. That's the fun of them! You're always learning." -Helen Mirren

If you are looking forward to playing in the dirt this year, St. Peder's would appreciate your help in the gardens. There are garden beds of different sizes around the church building...front gardens facing south, west side, courtyard, container gardens and east garden. Select any section of any garden that fits for you (you don't have to select the WHOLE courtyard!) You could work alone or with a group on your own schedule. Our hope is that you could provide regular weeding and upkeep during the growing season. You can purchase and plant new plants as desired but that is not required. Tools can be available by request. If you adopted a garden bed last year and want to keep working that one, let me know.

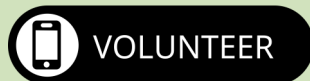


Thanks to John and Doreen Skraba who adopted the garden patch (see above) in the courtyard. A little weeding, mulch and love go a long way!

Questions or to sign up, talk to: Sue Nielsen
suenielsen76@gmail.com 612-360-3936

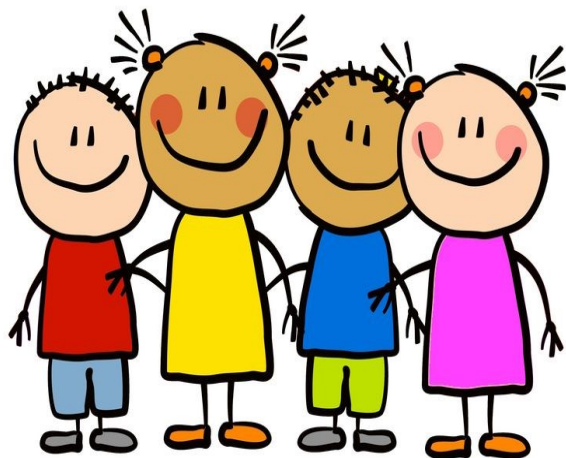
Gather On The Green: Saturday, September 9th 4pm-7pm Silent Auction Items and Volunteers Needed

The Christian Life Committee is hosting an event on September 9th called Gather on the Green, which will be a great way for us to meet our neighbors, showcase the congregation's involvement in the community, and have fun. The committee is looking for items for silent auction as part of this event. If you have something you'd like to donate to the cause, please contact Andrea Wollak or Pastor Bryan, or use your smart phone to capture an image of the QR code below.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday school will start up again on **Sunday September 17th**, which also happens to be Rally Sunday. The kids will have so much fun they won't even realize they are learning! Please contact the office with any questions! 612-722-8000



Note regarding June's Financial Report:

Our revenue for June was significantly higher than usual due to a one-time payment from the government as part of the federal Covid-19 support program. The ERC (Employee Retention Credit), totaling over \$50,000, will be used to replenish money spent from our Building and Furnishing Funds/Savings on rehabilitating the parsonage last year. As often happens to congregations during the summer, we are running a deficit in our budget, due to a number of factors, including the assessment for the street work and the cost of energy, goods, and services increasing. While it is wonderful to receive this one-time ERC boost, we know that it is critical to make up our current budget deficit on our own instead of relying on this unique influx of funds. For now, the Church Council is thrilled to have more cushion back in our savings account to be able to respond to any critical needs or opportunities and help balance the budget if needed. Thank you, again, for your generosity and care for this congregation, the people in it, and the neighborhood in which it resides. Your generosity with your time, talents, and financial resources helps St. Peder's grow and thrive!

Prayerfully,
Shawna Nelsen-Willis, Congregational President & Pastor Bryan

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 June	\$ 80,309	Budget for the month	\$ 23,124
Year to Date	\$ 178,259	Budget Year to Date	\$ 138,752

Expenses

Month of June	\$ 15,793	Budget for the month	\$ 23,762
Year to Date	\$ 137,388	Budget Year to Date	\$ 143,365

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10 am exercise class 2 pm Chronic/ Multiple Disease Support Group 6 pm Sister in Crime Meeting 6 pm Bible Study	2 9 am Quilters	3 10 am exercise class	4	5 Paint-A-Thon 2 pm Fiber Arts/ Fellowship Hall
6 9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 am Coffee & Fel- lowship	7	8 10 am exercise class 12 pm potluck 6 pm Bible Study	9 7 pm Open Eye Thea- tre: Puppet Show	10 10 am exercise class	11	12
13 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fel- lowship	14	15 10 am exercise class 6 pm Bible Study	16 9 am Quilters	17 10 am exercise class	18	19 2 pm Fiber Arts/ Fellowship Hall
20 Courtyard Worship 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fel- lowship	21	22 10 am exercise class 6 pm Bible Study	23 7 pm Council Meeting	24 10 am exercise class	25	26
27 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fel- lowship	28 7 pm Music & Wor- ship Committee Meet- ing	29 10 am exercise class 6 pm Bible Study	30	31 10 am exercise class	Events in BLUE are community groups that use the building.	

August 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, August 6, 2023: Worship with Holy Communion

Greeters: Dale and Jackie West
Ushers: Karen Vetsch and Craig Rocheleau
Acolyte: Maren Odeen
Reader: Sue Schnickel
Communion Set Up: Denise Logeland and Sue Schnickel
Communion Servers: Jackie West, Dan Vetsch and Peter Juhl
Communion Bread and Wine: Jackie and Dale West
Counters: Jackie West and Bruce Simpson
Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safe House Dinner for August 7: Jim & Heidi Nelsen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 1

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Greeters: Sue and Al Nielsen
Ushers: Paul Aithison and Tom Goodoin
Acolyte: Phoebe Anderson
Reader: Dan Vetsch
Counters: Annalise Munnich and Sue Nielsen
Livestream Technician: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safe House Dinner for August 14: Allison & Michael O'Day, Jill & Kerry Audette
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 2

Sunday, August 20, 2023: Courtyard Worship

Greeters: Julie and Scott Ebbesen
Ushers: Steve Austin and John Skraba
Reader: Leslee Nestingen
Counters: Steve Austin and Doreen Skraba
Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young
LSS Safe House Dinner for August 21: Judy & Michael Hogan
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 3

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Greeters: Marcia and Craig Rocheleau
Ushers: Sue and Al Nielsen
Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger
Reader: Alice Petersen
Counters: Marcia Rocheleau and Curt Petersen
Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safe House Dinner for August 28: Peter & Sheryl Juhl
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 4



August Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 6

9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
10 am Coffee and Fellowship

Sunday, August 13

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee and Fellowship

Sunday, August 20 Courtyard Worship

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee and Fellowship

Sunday, August 27

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

pastorbryan@stpeders.org

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse

mia@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator: Lyn Town

office@stpeders.org

Accounts Manager: Susan Shellberg

bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Caretaker: Jim Austin

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