



# The Messenger

Hello friends of St. Peder's,

We live in a world that often tries to find easy solutions to complex problems. And one of the easiest ways to find easy answers is to ignore the complexity of the problem. It is so very tempting to view the world in a black-and-white, us-versus-them, in-or-out mindset because it draws quick solutions and allows us to go on with our days feeling that the decision, idea, or conclusion has been made well. It is far more difficult to try to understand issues from multiple perspectives and grapple with multiple truths at once, but I believe it is imperative that we try.

Our faith gives us many different examples of this. Our first, and probably most obvious, model for this work comes from Jesus. Jesus was a practicing Jew who was also critical of Jewish leadership, especially as it pertained to the treatment of vulnerable people. Matthew 23 contains several direct condemnations of hypocritical practices by the leaders of the religion that he loved. Jesus also understood that these people in leadership are often not immune to pressures. In his days, the chief priests were selected by the occupying Roman government and could easily be deposed (or worse) for teaching or practicing faith traditions that could be seen as opposition to the occupation.

Our faith invites us to this work of truth-holding, too. As Christians, we recognize that we are both flawed and loved. We confess that we are both sinners and saints. Hopefully, each of us see ourselves as complicated, complex creatures. If we forget that we sin, we can become narcissistic and self-absorbed. If we forget that we are made saints by God's grace, we can feel hopeless and worthless. You and I are both broken and beautiful in God's eyes, just as all people are. I hope that we can begin to recognize this about others, because that is a truth of our human condition.

I hope that we, as a family of faith, will remember this reality as we witness the suffering that is happening currently in Israel and Gaza, as well as other places around the world. Can we strive to hold multiple truths at once? Can we recognize that all people deserve a homeland, both Israelis and Palestinians? Can we criticize the terrorism of Hamas while also seeing Palestinians as people worthy of life and love? Can we criticize actions taken by Israel's leaders and military without being antisemitic? As our world faces and enacts violence, I believe that it is part of work as people of faith to not accept the easy answers made by or about others that we would not accept of ourselves. If we take the call to love God with all that we are and love our neighbors as ourselves seriously, these are the things we are called to wrestle with.

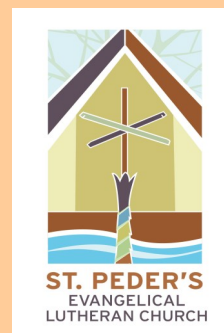
I want to be clear on this: I am not advocating for a side or party of the conflict. My desire is for all people to be loved, able to flourish, and free to be their authentic selves. Regardless of how this or any other conflict plays out, there is a tragic loss of human life that makes me grieve. Our laments and grief are an appropriate response to what is happening and I know God hears us. As this situation dominates our news and works its way into our conversations, I hope that we'll be able to resist easy answers, advocate for non-violent peace, and keep our eyes open for God's love made real.

Peace,  
Pastor Bryan



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Midweek Advent	2
PCYC Children's Gift Sale	2
Nov. 7th Elections	3
News From The Office	3
Volunteer Opportunities	4
Financials	4
November Calendar	5
December Calendar	6





### **Bible Study, Every Tuesday at 6 pm**

#### **Upcoming Dates: 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th**

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.

### **Midweek Advent and Longest Night Worship Services**

This year, we will be having midweek evening services during Advent. There will be 3 in Wednesday's in December before Christmas. The first 2 Wednesdays (**December 6th & 13th**) will be using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, and on **December 20th**, we will be having the Longest Night Christmas Service. The Longest Night Service is specifically tailored toward people who might have complicated feelings during the holiday season, whether because of changes within their family, lifestyle, or some other reason. The Longest Night liturgy helps give voice to those complicated feelings while also proclaiming the promises of eternal life and God's presence in and through those complex emotions. All three of these mid-week services will begin at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there!



### **PCYC Children's Gift Sale 2023**

Plymouth Christian Youth Center is an organization in North Mpls founded in 1954 by three Luther seminary students. Their mission is to enrich the skills, prospects, and spirit of area youth and adults, in partnership with families and communities. The 57th Annual Children's Gift Sale on **Saturday, December 9th**, helps to teach children the joy of giving to others. On Gift Sale day, the children of North Minneapolis can select up to five gifts for their family members, for a minimal fee, with a pre-purchased ticket. We have the opportunity to participate in this spirit-filled event by purchasing gifts for sale, volunteering to help sort gifts, stock the pop-up holiday store, or help children shop on December 9th. PCYC needs over 3,000 gifts and over 200 volunteers to set up the gift shop at the Capri Theater. Donation suggestions new, unused items valued between \$10-25 for men, women, teenagers, children, and infants. PCYC serves many ethnic backgrounds so gifts that reflect diversity are prized. See the Christian Christmas tree outside the fellowship hall for ideas or search online for "PCYC Gift Sale". Please place your gifts in the box under our PCYC Christmas tree by Sunday, November 26th, or bring them (marked for PCYC) to the altar for St. Peder's Gift Sunday on December 3rd. Monetary donations are also accepted and used to purchase items for



the sale. For questions regarding the sale, or to volunteer, please contact PCYC at 612-643-2092, or Kristi Erickson at 612-823-2273. Your support will make the holiday season brighter for lot of families in our community!

### Election Day– Raise Your Voice!

Minneapolis is voting for City Council members who represent city wards and neighborhoods, and pass local laws. Council members will be elected to a two-year term, and will be up for election again in 2025, along with the mayor and other municipal officers. Learn more about the candidates at:

<http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot/>

To find out about elections in other communities, go to:

[sos.state.mn.us](http://sos.state.mn.us).

Your vote is your voice! Remember to VOTE!



### Gift Sunday with Emma Norton from Norton Services

Norton Services is a trauma-informed organization that promotes healing and recovery, operating at a scale that brings a full array of resources to women, individuals, and families who have experienced homelessness. Housing and services are exemplary, offered in collaboration with key community partners. St. Peder's will be working with them this year for Gift Sunday on **December 1st**. More information will be shared as the project progresses.

### News from the Office

#### Introducing the first ever Stocking Stuffer Spectacular!

St. Peder's is proud to present the Stocking Stuffer Spectacular, geared specifically towards our congregations youngest members. Any member of our church under 18 years old that would like to be involved will receive a Christmas stocking with their name on it that will be attached to the bulletin board outside the church office. Every Sunday from December 3rd through December 24th, a small toy, treat, or other surprise will be placed inside each participant's stocking. If you would like your child or children to be involved or have any questions about the program, please email Lyn at [office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org) with your child's name, age, and any food allergies or restrictions. Participation emails must be received by **November 23rd at the latest**.



### Thanks from the Pastor!

Pastor Bryan Odeen would like to extend his gratitude to everyone who supported him during his marathon training, offered condolences over the race being cancelled, and donated to his fundraising campaign for Wildflyer Coffee. With the support from so many of you in this project, he was able to raise over \$1,800 to support their mission to end youth homelessness in the Twin Cities. Great job, everyone!

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

This year, we will be hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Worship together with Bethel Lutheran and Minnehaha Methodist on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7 pm**. Pastor Becky from Minnehaha Methodist will be preaching, and a choir will be made up of members from all three churches. The evening will conclude with a pie social. Each congregation is invited to bring 3 pies. If you would like to provide one, please let Pastor Bryan know!



## Volunteer News and Opportunities & Financials

### 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 September	\$22,924	Budget for the month	\$23,124
Year to Date	\$265,834	Budget Year to Date	\$216,124

#### Expenses

Month of September	\$34,015	Budget for the month	\$23,641
Year to Date	\$213,303	Budget Year to Date	\$214,062

**Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod** \$11,667 YTD

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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. Contact Sue Nielsen if you are interested in working either of these dates. The residents are so appreciative when they see us!

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

**Dates: 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.)

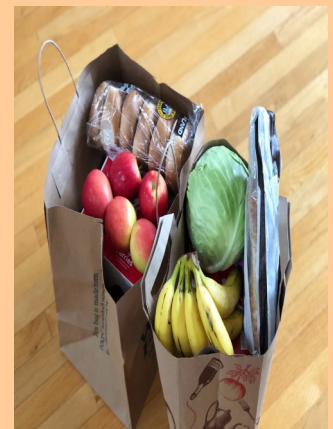
Responsibility:

- Unload van of grocery bags & 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 (parking lot is for residents only)
- Masks may be required at apartment building (it changes weekly)
- Closed toe shoes recommended
- Should be able to lift 25 pounds

Contact Sue via email or phone to sign up at: Sue Nielsen76@gmail.com or 612-360-3936





# NOVEMBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 am Quilters	2 10 am Exercise Class*	3	4 2 pm Fiber Arts/Fellowship Hall
<b>All Saints Sunday</b> 5 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	6 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	<b>Election Day</b> 7 NO exercise class 2 pm Chronic Disease Support Group* 6 pm Sisters in Crime* 6 pm Bible Study	8	9 10 am Exercise Class*	10 <b>Veterans Day</b>	11 10:30 am Brownies Group
<b>Aebleskive Breakfast</b> 12 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	13 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	14 10 am Exercise Class * 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	15 9 am Quilters 7pm Council Meeting	16 10 am Exercise Class* 7:30 pm Kith & Kin Open Sing	17	18 2 pm Fiber Arts/Fellowship Hall
<b>Budget Meeting</b> 19 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Form. 10 am Coffee & Fellow. 10:30 am Congregat. Budget Meeting	20 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	21 10 am Exercise Class * 6 pm Bible Study	22 <b>7 Pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b> 23 Office Closed	<b>Native American Heritage Day</b> 24 Office Closed	25 10:30 am Brownies Group
26 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Advent Craft	27 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Potluck & Rehearsal* 7 pm Music & Worship Comm. Meeting	28 10 am Exercise Class * 6 pm Bible Study	29	30 10 am Exercise Class*		



# December

# 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						2 pm Fiber Arts/Fellowship Hall
<b>Gift Sunday</b> 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	4	5 10 am Exercise Group 6 pm Sisters in Crime* 6 pm Bible Study	6 9 am Quilters	7 10 am Exercise Class*	8 10:30 am Brownies Group	9
Youth X-Mas Program 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9 am Worship 9 am X-mas Program 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship		10 am Exercise Class * 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study		10 am Exercise Class*		2 pm Fiber Arts/Fellowship Hall
<b>Song Service</b> 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	18	19 10 am Exercise Class * 6 pm Bible Study	20 9 am Quilters 7 pm Longest Night Service	21 10 am Exercise Class*	22	23 10:30 am Brownies Group
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Form. 10 am Coffee & Fellow. 2 pm Festival Workshop 3:15 pm Danish Worship 5 pm Festival Worship	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Office Closed	26 10 am Exercise Class * 6 pm Bible Study	27	28 10 am Exercise Class*	29	30
<b>New Years Eve</b> 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship					<b>*No Kith &amp; Kin rehearsals in December</b>	

# November 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](mailto:office@stpeters.org) or 612-722-8000

Nov 5, 2023

**Greeters:** Kerry & Jill Audette

**Ushers:** Andrea & Aemelia Wollak

**Acolyte:** Fletcher Campbell

**Reader:** Joe Munnich

**Communion Set Up:** Dwight Lundby & Lisa Jensen

**Communion Servers:** Paul Aitchison, Karen Vetsch & Dan Vetsch

**Communion Bread and Wine:** Kristi Lahti-Johnson

**Counters:** Jackie West & Darrick Jensen

**Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch

**LSS Safe House Dinner for November 6:** Bill & Judy Anderson

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 6**

Nov 12, 2023

**Greeters:** Bill & Judy Anderson

**Ushers:** Butch Vossen & Lisa Jensen

**Acolyte:** Walter Anderson

**Reader:** Bob Stanich

**Counters:** Marchia Rocheleau & Julie Ebbesen

**Livestream Technician:** Cameron Jamison

**LSS Safe House Dinner for November 13:** Chuck Johnson & Krisit Lahti-Johnson and Eric & Bethene Hunsberger

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 7**

Nov 19, 2023

**Greeters:** Paul Paulson & Alice Bekke

**Ushers:** Wendy Legge & Craig Rocheleau

**Acolyte:** Isla Willis

**Reader:** Gordon Legge

**Counters:** Terri Vetsch & Sue Nielsen

**Livestream Technician:** Darrick Jensen

**LSS Safe House Dinner for November 20:** Bob Stanich & Jeanne Schleh

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 8**

Nov 26, 2023

**Greeters:** Forrest & Liz Bentley

**Ushers:** Jeremy Anderson & Paul Aitchison

**Acolyte:** Eden Hunsberger

**Reader:** Shawna Nelsen-Willis

**Counters:** Annalise Munnich & Tim Anderseon

**Livestream Technician:** Bruce Simpson

**LSS Safe House Dinner for November 27:** Pat & Cameron Jamison and Alice Bekke

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 1**



## November Worship Schedule

### Sunday, November 5

#### All Saints Sunday

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### Sunday, November 12

#### Aebleskive Breakfast

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### Sunday, November 19

#### Budget Meeting

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 am Congregational Budget Meeting

### Sunday, November 26

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

10:15 am Advent Craft

**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.



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](mailto:pastorbryan@stpeders.org)

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse

[mia@stpeders.org](mailto:mia@stpeders.org)

Office Coordinator: Lyn Town

[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)

Faith Formation: Sarah Laulunen-Raj

[faithformation@stpeders.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeders.org)

Accounts Manager: Susan Shellberg

[bookkeeping@stpeders.org](mailto:bookkeeping@stpeders.org)

Caretaker: Jim Austin

**St. Peder's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church ELCA  
4600 E 42nd St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
Phone: 612-722-8000  
[www.stpeders.org](http://www.stpeders.org)**

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

