



# The Messenger

Greetings in the name of Christ!

Time is pretty important to us. You've heard the phrase, "Time is money." Everyone at some point has sighed and said, "I don't have time for this." Gary Chapman, the author of "The Five Love Languages", reports that around 20% of people indicate that quality time is the primary way they build healthy relationships. The Byrd's made a huge music hit with "Turn, Turn, Turn" a song quoting Ecclesiastes and it's thesis that there is "a time for everything under heaven." We mark the impact of our lives, in part, with our age and we mark our years by the seasons in them. Time is important to all of us.

It makes sense, then, that the Church would have its own calendar to mark the passage of time. Some of the seasons and days are fairly well known, even if you aren't Christian. Stores stock Advent calendars marking down the days to Christmas because no one, Christian or not, wants to turn down a little microdose of Christmas while the nights get longer. It's no mistake that restaurants pull out their best fish fry recipes during Lent, a time when traditionally people would not eat meat (apparently, fish was okay). There are a number of other seasons, though, that are a little less-known Pentecost (the day marking the day the Holy Spirit coming to early Christians), Epiphany (the day Jesus was visited by the Magi), and more recent holy days, like Reformation Day, All Saints' Day, and Christ the King Sunday. It can be hard to keep track of and even those who made the liturgical calendar seem to have lost interest, calling the seasons following some of those holidays such inventive names like Ordinary Time (between Pentecost and Advent) and the Season after Epiphany.

The liturgical calendar does have a good reason to exist, though, because each season reinterprets how we see God in our lives and reorients us to what God is doing. Advent, this new season and the beginning of the Church year, points us to the importance of waiting and being ready to respond when we see God at work in the world. During this season, much like a family awaiting a new baby, we will be waiting and preparing for the celebration of the new birth that is Jesus. We'll be making plans, preparing meals, buying and wrapping gifts, telling stories, and reflecting on the season's past. It's a time when we will feel a lot of emotions, especially if things are different this year than last, whether that means fewer (or more) people around the table, new traditions (or reimagined old traditions), or anything else that reflects the challenging and blessed year we've had.

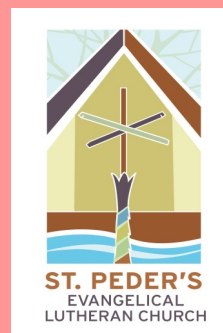
I want you to know that, as you go through this season of endings and beginnings and experience all that you're experiencing, that God is with you. Just as God interrupted plans and entered our time, our world, our suffering, and our joy with us, God still is with you. Just as Christ entered our world as child in a manger, Christ still enters our world and our ever important time. I pray that this season helps us to live with eyes open to see it and hearts open to know it's joy.

Advent Peace and Christmas Blessings,  
Pastor Bryan



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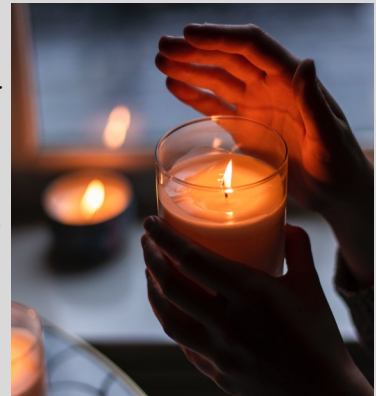
### **Bible Study, Every Tuesday at 6 pm**

#### **Upcoming Dates: 5th, 12th & 19th**

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 on Wednesdays 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 midweek 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!

### Christmas Books Available now!

In the season of Advent and Christmas, stop by the library to check out our wonderful collection of adult and children's Christmas books (including books on family Advent activities) and DVD's! You'll find some on display in the hall outside the library and lots more on the library table and in the Advent and Christmas bin in the Red Cart.

Even if you don't have the excuse of having a kid in your household, check out the children's Christmas books— many are beautifully written with gorgeous art, and are enjoyable to adults as well as children.



### Seward & Longfellow Business News

Join the Seward Civic & Commerce Association for their annual meeting, board elections, and social gathering. This event is free and open to anyone in the community and will take place on **December 7th from 4-6 pm at the Joan of Arc Gallery** (3020 E. Franklin Ave, Minneapolis). Drinks and appetizers provided.

They are also holding a holiday mixer at the **Hook & Ladder Theater and Lounge on Wednesday, December 13th from 4-6 pm** (3010 Minnehahah Ave, Minneapolis). This family-friendly event is free and will have refreshments available.

### News from the Office

#### Jammin' with the Pastor

Pastor Bryan will be playing at Bethel Lutheran Church at 4120 17th Ave, Minneapolis on **December 9th at 7 pm**, for their 2nd Saturday Concert Series. The concert will feature music he has written, and the stories behind it. The event is free, but there is a suggested donation of \$10. Hope to see you all there!

#### Save The Date!

St. Peder's Annual Meeting will be held on **January 28th a 10:30 am** following worship. Please join us as we celebrate what we have done together in 2023 and to discuss our priorities and elect a new Congregational Council for 2024. All members are invited!

#### New in the Library

New in the library is Patty Wetterling's gripping just-released memoir, "**Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope**", chronicling more than 25 years of her search for answers and how this story changed both her life and the U.S. response to missing and exploited children. While you're at it, check out all the current books of interest in the Gene Paulsen display case!





### White Elephant Christmas Party

This year's White Elephant party will be hosted by Craig and Marcia Rocheleau on **Friday, December 8th at 7pm at 1433 Deerwood Lane, Eagan**. Each guest should bring a wrapped gift for the exchange. Find an odd, outdated, absurd, or unwanted item from your home to gift (or regift!). Bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Dessert, waters, and soft drinks will be provided. Please RSVP to [craig.rocheleau@gmail.com](mailto:craig.rocheleau@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!



### Celebration of Life

Please join the family of Ruth Thomsen for a celebration of life at Ruth's home on **Friday, December 15th between 4 and 7 pm at 5157 28th Ave S. Minneapolis**. It was her wish for family and friends to gather, share memories, and enjoy some jazz music and wine. Light appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks will also be provided. If possible, please wear something blue, as it was Ruth's favorite color.



## 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 October	\$18,966	Budget for the month	\$23,124
Year to Date	\$284,637	Budget Year to Date	\$239,248

#### Expenses

Month of October	\$19,087	Budget for the month	\$24,037
Year to Date	\$232,390	Budget Year to Date	\$238,099

**Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod** \$12,833 YTD

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

#### Lutheran Social Services Adopt-A-Family

Brighten the lives of families in a housing crisis.

Stable housing is essential in our lives to develop roots in the community, maintain job stability and nurture our children well. Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota walks with families in a housing crisis to provide crucial support, including housing/rental assistance, mental health services, goal-planning and guidance to help them maintain stability and thrive. Your gifts this holiday season will be especially meaningful.

#### Ways to Give:

##### Adopt-a-Family

Receive a wish list with items that families have requested – often warm clothing, bedding, pajamas, sweatshirts/sweatpants, games, books, toys, hats, and mittens.

##### Gifts for Teens

Bring joy to a teen who would be excited to receive any of these gifts:

- Journal
- Gift Card (Target, Wal-Mart)
- Hoodie
- Board/Card Game
- Art Supplies/Projects
- \* Cozy Slippers
- \*

##### Gift Cards

If would rather not shop, consider giving a gift card to support a family.

- Target
- Wal-Mart
- Cub Grocery Stores
- Major Retailers

##### Cash Donations

If you would like to make a financial donation to LSS Housing Services, visit **[donate.lssmn.org](https://donate.lssmn.org)** to give online and in the drop-down box select "other". Gifts can also be mailed to:

##### LSS Development Team

**2485 Como Avenue**

**ST. Paul, MN 55108**

Please be sure to note that your gift is for LSS Housing Services Adopt-A-Family.



# 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 6:30pm Holden Evng. Prayer Worship Service	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	6:30pm Holden Evng. Prayer Worship Service	10 am Exercise Class*		10 am Betty Caspar Memorial Service 2 pm Fiber Arts/Fellowship Hall
<b>Song Service</b> 17 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 6:30 pm Longest Night Service	21 10 am Exercise Class*	22	23 10:30 am Brownies Group
<b>Christmas Eve</b> 24 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> 31 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship					<b>*No Kith &amp; Kin rehearsals in December</b>	

# December 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**

## **December 3**

Greeters: Bethene & Eric Hunsberger  
Ushers: Andrea & Auggie Wollak  
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak  
Reader: Kristi Lahti-Johnson  
Communion Set-Up: Sue Schnickel & Cameron Jamison  
Communion Servers: Alice Bekke & Bev Iverson-Bedford  
Communion Bread & Wine: --  
Counters: Steve Austin & Paul Aitchison  
Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young  
**LSS Safe House Dinner for December 4:** Tim & Elizabeth Anderson  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2**

## **December 10**

Greeters: Casey Clementson & Ben Campbell  
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Mark Jensen  
Acolyte: Fletcher Campbell  
Reader: Rick Johnson  
Counters: Cameron Jamison & Sue Nielsen  
Livestream Technician: Darrick Jensen  
**LSS Safe House Dinner for December 11:** Wendy & Gordon Legge  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3**

## **December 17**

Greeters: Bill & Judy Anderson  
Ushers: Craig Rocheleau & Paul Aitchison  
Acolyte: Isla Wills-Nelsen  
Reader: Shawna Wills-Nelsen  
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Darrick Jensen  
Livestream Technician: Cameron Jamison  
**LSS Safe House Dinner for December 18:** The Gleason Family  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: --**

## **December 24**

### **2pm**

Greeters: Allison O'Day & Michael O'Day  
Ushers: Gordon & Wendy Legge  
Acolyte: Maren Odeen  
Reader: Joe Munnich  
Counters: Cameron Jamison & Judy Hogan  
Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch

### **5 pm**

Greeters: Lisa Jensen & Sue Schnickel  
Ushers: Butch & Max Vossen  
Acolyte: Siri Vossen  
Reader: Wendy Legge  
Counters: Steve Austin & Curt Petersen  
Livestream Technician: Darrick Jensen

## **December 31**

Greeters: Dwight Lundby & Alice Bekke  
Ushers: Jeremy Anderson & Alan Nielsen  
Acolyte: Walter Anderson  
Reader: John Geroux  
Counters: Marcia Rocheleau & Eva Tangen  
Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson  
**LSS Safe House Dinner for January 1:** Pat and Cameron Jamison & Alice Bekke  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4**



## **December Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday, December 3 Gift Sunday**

9 am Worship  
9 am Youth Faith Formation  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### **Sunday, December 10**

9 am Worship  
9 am Sunday School Program  
9 am Youth Faith Formation  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### **Sunday, December 17 Song Service**

9 am Worship  
9 am Youth Faith Formation  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### **Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

2 pm Festival Worship  
3:15 pm Danish Worship  
5 pm Festival Worship

### **Sunday, December 31 New Years Eve**

9 am Worship  
9 am Youth Faith Formation  
10 am Coffee & 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 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:**

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PLACE  
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