

The Messenger

From the Pastor.... Happy New Year!

This is often seen as a time of new beginnings and new goals. Gym memberships will be bought. New savings accounts will be signed up for. Plans will be made and dream boards will be assembled as we look ahead to what we hope we can someday become. It can be a really exciting time, especially for those of us who are motivated by tangible, concrete results. The calendar gets replaced with 2023 and we will begin to see the clean slate as a chance to write a whole new chapter of our own stories.

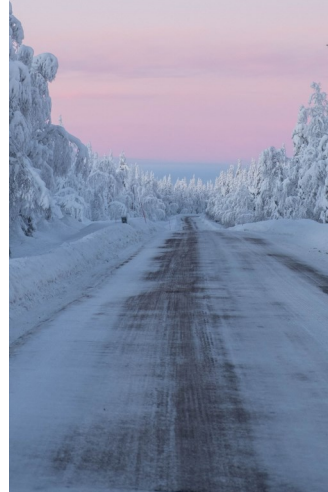
Of course, there's more to it than just having to remember to write 2023 on your checks. The fact is that January isn't a magical "reset" button on our lives. We will carry into the new year all the things that we have experienced beforehand. You don't magically feel more motivated to eat better, take up a new hobby, or give up a bad habit on January 1 than on December 31. In fact, January is often the hardest month to start something new, as it is also the month that many people feel the effects of depressive episodes and personal stress more acutely in the cold months.

I say all that to say that, whether you make and keep a new year's resolution or not, you are the person you are. On one hand, that means that there will be some things that continue to bother you that you wish would stay back in 2022. On the other hand, it means that your worth and value are not held in what you accomplish in the next 12 months. This is, I think, the epitome of what the gospel means for us - your worth and value are not the result of your actions, but on the love that God already has for you.

You cannot exercise, save, or habit-break your way into God's eternal life, but you have it nonetheless. This frees us from the false idol of achievement or accomplishment. It gives us contentment that, come what may, we will never face this world without God's love and Spirit within us. And, when you feel the Spirit nudging you or drawing your attention to something, you can be sure that it is God's love calling you there, not the pressures to be someone "better".

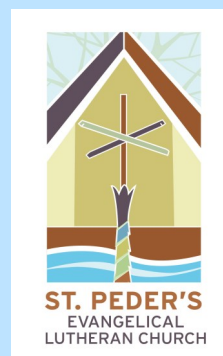
So instead of spending this year trying to be "better", I hope we'll spend this year trying to be connected - connected to the love of God, connected to each other, and connected to our community. And, in doing so, we will see God at work more clearly this year, both among us as a community and within us as individuals, and we will look back not at the things we've done, but at the relationships we've been lucky enough to build together.

Peace and Happy New Year,
Pastor Bryan



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting	2
Join the Council	2
Welcome, Susan	2
Potluck Wednesdays	3
Time and Talents	3
Pub Theology	3
Service Opportunities	4
Coat Drive	5
Calendar	6
Volunteer Schedule	7





**Annual Meeting of the Congregation is:
Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 10:30**

All voting members (confirmed members) are invited to attend this meeting to elect new or re-elect current Council members, including a new Treasurer, and receive reports from the Council and various committees.

The Ottar Jorgensen Service Award recipient will also be announced.

Annual Reports will be prepared and available on January 23rd.

**St. Peder's Welcomes
Accounts Manager!**

Susan Shellberg is the new Accounts Manager here at St Peder's. Her most recent job was accounting for the camping program at the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She and her husband Jeff live in Plymouth. She's a lifelong Lutheran, enjoys reading, yoga, and fostering kittens.



*Welcome.
Susan!*

Seeking New Councilmembers for 2023

Dear Fabulous Members of St. Peder's Lutheran Church,

Happy New Year! 2022 was such a wonderful year for St. Peder's with more members, families, and guests returning to church, incredible music, fun events, welcoming Pastor Bryan (and now new bookkeeper Susan), and so much generosity for our community through in-kind and holiday drives, Marathon Sunday, and donations to organizations helping those in need. Everyone at St. Peder's adds so much to the life of the congregation. Behind the scenes, the Church Council helps make important decisions to keep St. Peder's moving forward and thriving. Are you interested in helping lead St. Peder's in this vital way? We are looking for three new people to join the St. Peder Council in February. (One slot is for one-year, and the other two are for three-year terms.) For one open spot, we are especially seeking someone who may be able to take on the important role of treasurer as Paul Odegaard is rolling off Council this year. We meet once a month, and have a lot of fun together--it's a great way to get to know other members and Pastor Bryan. Please reach out to Council President Shawna Nelsen-Wills at shawnanelsen3@gmail.com or 612-408-2860 to ask questions or find out more! (Or just talk with me or another Councilmember at an upcoming service.) Thank you all for the many gifts of time, talents, and donations that you provide to St. Peder's! Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In gratitude,

Shawna Nelsen-Wills
Council President

Upcoming Events and News

Time and Talent Sheets are Back!

The forms will be sent out electronically early in January. You can also find paper copies at the church (if you would like one mailed to your home, give Jeannie a call in the office). Prayerfully consider how you'd like to use your time and energies to work with the church for the sake of the community and the world. Think of it like a gospel-fueled New Years Resolution!



All Are Welcome for Crafts and Conversation

Do you have a missing button that you need to sew back onto a shirt? Then you qualify to join the exclusive-sounding but really-not-at-all-exclusive St. Peder's Fiber Arts group. We believe "arts" can mean a lot of things. Come for good conversation, and bring any kind of handcraft or mending you'd like to bring along. We'll put on a pot of coffee and pass around a few treats. **We meet on the first and third Saturday of each**

Confirmation Corner

Our January meeting will be at St. Peder's on January 11th at 5:30.

The topic for this month will be "*What Happens in Worship*".

Pub Theology: January 2 at 7 pm

We will meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave. All are welcome! This month's topic: New Year / New Chapters - Do you make New Year resolutions? why or why not? Do you have another tradition you do going into a new year? Tell of a time you moved to a new chapter in life? How did that change come about? Any questions....please contact Michael O'Day mlo-day14@gmail.com or Allison O'Day at madeoday@msn.com



Donations for Quilters.....

The St. Peder's Quilters meet twice a month to lovingly create quilts that are sent to those in need worldwide. They are seeking donations for fabric, either cash donations or gift cards to Joanne Fabrics. Any amount is appreciated!

Join the Hennepin Plastic-Free Challenge!

We are encouraging people to reduce their use of plastic during February. The registration will go live in January, where you will be able to sign up as part of the church's team, find great ideas to use less plastic, and complete challenges. Sign up and more information can be found at: <https://hennepinplasticfree.ecochallenge.org/challenges/at-home>



Monthly Potluck Wednesday! January 11th at noon

All are welcome to share a meal at our monthly potlucks! Every 2nd Wednesday 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!

Opportunities for Service.....

Rides to Church....

Do you drive past Becketwood on your way to church? Do you have room for a passenger or two from Becketwood? We are compiling a list of possible drivers that Becketwood residents could call on to arrange a ride on Sundays. Becketwood member residents could call people on the list and set up a ride. If you aren't available to drive, the Becketwood resident could call someone else on the list. If you are interested in being a driver, send your name and preferred phone number to the church office or Sue Nielsen suenielsen76@gmail.com 612-360-3936

Blood Drive: Donate Blood or Your Time!

St. Peder's is teaming up with Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church for a blood drive on Thursday, **January 26, 2023**. We are looking for volunteers to give blood and/or assist with registration and monitoring the recovery area. Let me know if you are available to help. There is a link to sign up! This event will be at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55406 from 12noon to 6pm. To volunteer, connect with Sue Nielsen or sign up here:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=MinnehahaLuth>

Grocery Delivery: Volunteer Every Other Month

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 (2121 - 16th Avenue South, Minneapolis) through Community Emergency Services. CES has been working with our neighbors for 50 years. Volunteers should be able to lift 25 pounds. Contact Sue Nielsen if interested in any of the dates below. The residents are so appreciative when they see us.

Contact: Sue Nielsen suenielsen76@gmail.com 612-360-3936

2023 Dates:

Mondays: January 23, March 20, May 22, July 24, September 25. November 20

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Join Christian Life Committee!

Do you like planning events? Do you like to see the community come together for fellowship? Are you looking for a new opportunity for volunteering at church? If so, please join the Christian Life Committee, or should we call it Christian Life after Covid. Please contact Andrea Wollak as she is looking to start up this committee again with some new ideas.

Contact: Andrea (cell): 612.5324147 or ahwollak@gmail.com



Winter Clothing Drive

Brr! It's cold outside! Our most vulnerable population in Hennepin County from birth through the elders are needing of coats, hats, gloves and snow-suits. Calvary Baptist Church on Blaisdell Ave in Minneapolis is sponsoring a Winter Clothing Drive for the Hennepin County Homeless and Highly Mobile Population from birth through adult. Donations can be put in the box in the hallway outside Fellowship Hall through January 22nd.



Thanks to all who donated this past December to our Gift Sunday present drive! We were able to deliver 7 Santa sacks full of gifts and collected over \$750 in gifts cards and cash. These gifts were divided between Division of Indian Works and Emma Norton Services. The PCYC gift sale was also a success! 378 youth were able to select from more than 2,814 gifts as they shopped for their families at the 2022 PCYC Children's Gift Sale! 122 people and organizations in the Twin Cities made all this possible through your donations of time, gifts, and money. Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

Members Shawna Nelsen-Wills and Karen Vetsch loading up the sleigh to drop off donated gifts!



Together in Mission 2022

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 11th month of 2022. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who'd like to see it.

Income

Month of November	\$ 16,223.12	Budget for the month	\$ 22,833.33
Year to Date	\$ 224,137.42	Budget Year to Date	\$ 251,166.67

Expenses

Month of November	\$ 17,720.32	Budget for the month	\$ 23,605.09
Year to Date	\$ 240,745.19	Budget Year to Date	\$ 261,520.91

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod

YTD \$ 11,666.62

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year! 9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	2 7 pm Pub Theology Meals on Wheels	3 Meals on Wheels 10 am Exercise	4 Meals on Wheels 9 am Quilters	5 Meals on Wheels 9 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	6 Meals On Wheels	7 2 pm Fiber Arts
8 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Coffee and Fellowship 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	9 6:30 Kith and Kin	10 10 am Exercise	11 12 pm Potluck 5:30 Confirmation Class @ St. Peter's	12 Annual Reports Due 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	13	14 10:30 am Brownies
15 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 6:30 Kith and Kin	17 10 am Exercise	18 Newsletter Articles Due 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Mtg.	19 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	20	21 2 pm Fiber Arts
22 Annual Meeting 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am Annual Meeting 4 pm Girl Scouts	23 6:30 Kith and Kin 7 pm Music & Worship Cmt. Mtg.	24 10 am Exercise	25	26 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	27	28 10:30 am Brownies
29 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	30 6:30 Kith and Kin	31			**Youth Faith Formation is after the Children's Sermon	Events in BLUE are community groups that use the building.

January 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 Jeannie in the office: office@stpeders.org or 612-722-8000

January 1, 2023 Holy Communion by Full Table, New Year's Day

Greeters: Andrea and Augie Wollak **Usher:** Lisa Jensen and Butch Vossen **Acolyte:** Aemilia Wollak
Reader: Max Vossen **Communion Set Up & Clean Up:** JeriLynn Young and Judy Anderson **Communion Assistants:** Paul Aithcison, Kristi Erickson, Dwight Lundebly **Bread and Wine:** Paul and Michelle Aithcison **Counters:** Terri Vetsch and Shawna Nelsen-Wills **Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch **LSS Safe House Dinner for Jan. 2:** Terri Vetsch and Dan and Karen Vetsch
Social Hour hosted by Shepherd Group 5

January 8, 2023

Greeters: Forrest and Elizabeth Bentley **Ushers:** Craig Rocheleau and Chris Anderson **Acolyte:** Elliette Wilson **Reader:** Joe Munnich **Counters:** Marcia Rocheleau and Bruce Simpson **Livestream Technician:** Darriek Jensen **LSS Safe House Dinner for Jan 9:** Sue and Al Nielsen **Sheridan Story for Jan. 13:** Sue Nielsem
Social Hour hosted by Shepherd Group 6

January 15, 2023

Greeters: John and Doreen Skraba **Ushers:** Mark Jensen and Steven Austin **Acolyte:** Isla Wills **Reader:** Lisa Rovick **Counters:** Steve Austin and Doreen Skraba **Livestream Technician:** Bruce Simpson **LSS Safe House Dinner for Jan 16:** Liz and Forrest Bentley **Social Hour hosted by Shepherd Group 7**

January 22, 2023: Annual Meeting

Greeters: Craig and Marcia Rocheleau **Ushers:** Jim Nelsen and Joe Munnich **Acolyte:** Maren Odeen **Reader:** Wendy Legge **Counters:** Cameron Jamison and Karen Vetsch **Livestream Technician:** JeriLynn Young **LSS Safe House Dinner for Jan 23:** Hung and Shelly Brown Ton **CES Delivery Jan 23:** TBD **Sheridan Story for Jan. 26:** Karen Vetsch **Social Hour hosted by Shepherd Group 8**

January 29, 2023

Greeters: Michael and Allison O'Day **Ushers:** Jeremy Anderson and Cameron Jamison **Acolyte:** Isaiah Wills **Reader:** JeriLynn Young **Counters:** Annalise Munnich and Paul Odegaard **Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch **LSS Safe House Dinner for Jan 30:** Dale and Jackie West
Social Hour hosted by Shepherd Group 1



Livestream Volunteer (2 more volunteers)

A big thanks to our four volunteers who have kept folks connected via our livestream. A few more people to add to our roster would be nice so folks could be on a 6 week rotation for doing this. You do not need to be tech-savvy to do this job.



Thank you! The work of the church wouldn't be done without the work of so many people, many of whom stay behind-the-scenes. We truly appreciate everyone who has made this Advent and Christmas season special, including all the youth, parents, musicians, bakers, servers, readers, and worship volunteers. We honestly couldn't do this without you.

More opportunities for service can be found on page 4...

**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.



Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Odeen

pastorbryan@stpeders.org

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse

mia@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell

office@stpeders.org

Accounts Manager: Susan Shellberg

bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Caretaker: Jim Austin

**St. Peder's Evangelical
Lutheran Church ELCA
4600 E 42nd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Phone: 612-722-8000**

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

