

The Messenger

From the Pastor....

Hello St. Peder's and welcome to February!

This month, we get two pretty distinctive holidays. The first one that comes to mind is, of course, Valentine's Day. The other holiday I'm thinking of, the one that you probably won't get a card or bouquet of flowers delivered for, is Ash Wednesday (this year on February 22). This is the church holiday where people across the world gather together, proclaim a time of repentance, and, as a sign, receive a sign of the cross on their forehead, using the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday palm leaves. This time of repentance is called Lent and it ends with Holy Week, the week of Jesus's betrayal, murder, and resurrection. Those who begin Lent by receiving the ashes hear the phrase, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This act and this solemn phrase can be a bit of a gut punch, because it truly flies in the face of what we often want to do. No one especially enjoys reminders of our mortality and, in my experience, most people would avoid such things as much as possible. Admitting that our lives are temporary goes against nearly every facet of our world, but reflecting on its reality can be a truly freeing experience. If I am dust and I will return to dust, I have choices in front of me. How will I use the time I have left? Will we use it to build others up, to work for the common good, and to share as lavishly as possible the love and resources that God has for this world? Or will we use it as a reason to take, grasp, and hold onto things? Will we use our time on this beloved earth to bless or curse? Will we find ways to express and experience radical and revolutionary love or will we narrow our vision to only that which benefits us?

I know I'm speaking in some pretty hard dualities here and it sounds a little daunting, but it doesn't have to be. The reminder of Ash Wednesday really just comes down to a turning toward God - the word "repent" literally means to change your direction - and learning to consider this world not as something to be conquered, but rather something to be loved. The journey of Lent is a journey to the cross, where we witness God's extravagant and costly love for the world and lay aside anything that would prevent us from joining in God's work. When we receive our ashen cross and are reminded that we are dust and to dust we will return, we are reminding ourselves that this is the time, today is the day, where God is working and today is the day when we can begin again.

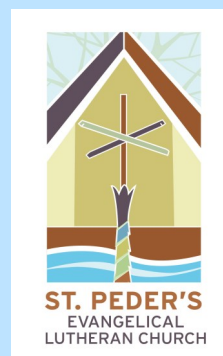
We won't have everything figured out by the end of Lent, we will still come together next year and confess our sin, receive the cross, and hear those solemn words. But we will be changed and we will have new stories of God's redemption and reconciliation. Through our Lenten journey this year, we will be working and learning and repenting together. And we will see God at work and, in the end, we will find the tomb is empty.

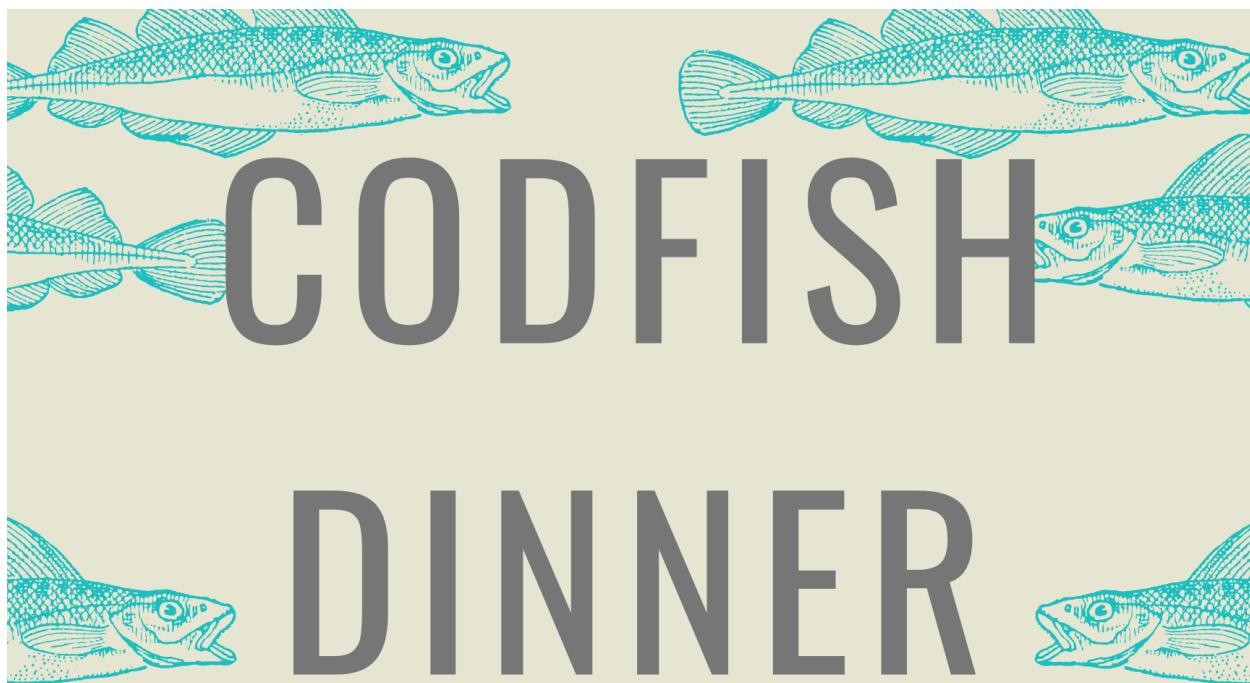
Peace on your Lenten journey, Pastor Bryan



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Cod Fish Dinner	2
Shepherding Group Sunday	3
Pub Theology	3
Potluck Wednesdays	3
Riverside Innovation Hub	4
Worship Schedule	5
Lenten Soup Suppers	5
Library Update	5
Calendar	6
Volunteer Schedule	7





CODFISH DINNER

Friday, March 3, 2023

5:00 pm & 6:30 pm seatings

served with: boiled potatoes & our famous mustard gravy, peas & carrots,
Havarti cheese on pumpernickel, cupcakes & beverages

ADULTS: \$14, KIDS (under 12): \$6

For reservations, please call: 612-722-8000
or email office@stpeders.org www.stpeders.org



ST. PEDER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

4600 E. 42nd St.
MINNEAPOLIS

Reservations for Cod Fish Dinner: Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall and office or you can call or email the office with the following information : provide name or names, how many meatball or cod dinners, seating time preference, and phone number if leaving a message.)

Volunteers Needed for Dinner: This dinner is a success because so many people volunteer and make it happen! If you are able to help with setup, cleanup, serving, cooking, cupcakes, cashier duty, or anything else, please see Sue Nielsen. We hope to see you there! Phone number 612-360-3936 and email suenielsen76@gmail.com

Upcoming Events and News

Shepherding Group Sunday is February 5th

After worship and coffee time, we'll gather into our Shepherding Groups in order to reconnect, make plans for Lenten Soup Suppers (which begin in March, as Ash Wednesday is February 22nd), and other opportunities to connect and serve together. The current Shepherding Groups will remain as they are for this year. If you are not currently connected to a Shepherding Group and would like to be, please let Pastor Bryan know. The lists will be posted on Shepherding Group Sunday and we will have spaces for the groups to meet. The Shepherding Groups are an important part of St. Peder's mission and hospitality ministry. If there have been any changes in your groups, such as new leadership, members that are no longer active, or other things we ought to know, please let Jeannie or Pastor Bryan know.



Monthly Potluck Wednesday! February 8th

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 will 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!

Pub Theology: February 13 at 7 pm

We will meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave. All are welcome! This month's topic: The topic for February will be love in a Christian context. The Bible identifies three kinds of love. How do we express that love in our lives? Can we really love people that we have never met, or those we disagree with? Any questions....please contact Michael O'Day mloday14@gmail.com



Bible Study, Every Tuesday at 6 pm...Upcoming Dates: January 24, 31

Are you ready to dive a little deeper? We will be starting a Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 PM. We will 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, but Bibles will be provided for those who don't.

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>

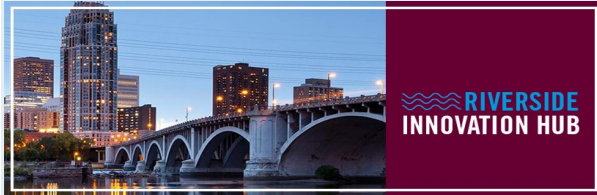
Confirmation Corner

This month, our confirmation class met at St. Peder's and talked about how worship is a guide for Christian life. We discussed how every part teaches us about and helps us practice our faith together, starting from our opening prayer all the way to the sending. The readings, for example, help us understand how parts of the Bible connect to other parts. The offering reminds us about and helps us practice generosity. It's a good exercise to bring home a bulletin and see if you can think of all the ways that each part of worship helps us live out our faith well. After the lesson, we played a game (What Do You Meme: Family Edition) and Phoebe Anderson was a clear winner. **This month, Confirmation will be at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church on February 8th at 5:30.**

Thank You St. Peder's Council Members!

We are grateful to Jeremy Anderson, Paul Odegaard and JeriLynn Young for their service on the St. Peder's Council! Filling their shoes will be Darrick Jensen, Kristi Lahti-Johnson and Bethene Hunsberger - thank you for stepping up to join Council!

Riverside Innovation Hub by Karen Vetsch



The Riverside Innovation Hub, an initiative of Augsburg's Christensen Center for Vocation, works alongside local congregations seeking to become Public Churches. A public church is committed to place based vocational discernment in the public square for the common good.

In other words, our church is pursuing God's call for us to be in relationship with our local neighborhoods in ways that bring flourishing and life.

We started our work in the summer of 2021 and we will be coming to the end of our learning in the summer of 2023. We are currently working on pulling together our current findings to proclaim the work we could do in our neighborhood. The "problem" we are currently working on is Isolation and Disconnection. As we reach out to our members and neighbors we are trying to explain it as: As a congregation, St. Peder is learning to commit to building relationships with our neighbors. We're not doing this because we expect anything from anyone, but rather so we can learn what issues affect our neighborhood, think creatively about how we can use our resources to make a positive difference, and promote a sense of togetherness between our neighbors. As we learn better, we are able to serve better.

As we continue this work we look forward to our next event. A Sustainability Retreat in February, at Mount Olivet Conference & Retreat Center Farmington, MN. We will be gathering with all of the churches involved in this two year session to learn from each other, share our successes along with our struggles. We will continue by evaluating our work and finish off with a learning summit.

2022 Year End Statements

Thank you for your generosity in 2022! Contributions statements were emailed out in January. Those who do not have an email, your statements were mailed to you. Please let Jeannie know if you did not receive your year end statement or if you would prefer a hard copy mailed to your home.

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 12th 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	\$ 26,224.21	Budget for the month	\$ 22,833.33
Year to Date	\$ 250,434.33	Budget Year to Date	\$ 274,000.00

Expenses

Month of December	\$ 20,574.77	Budget for the month	\$ 23,605.09
Year to Date	\$ 261,319.96	Budget Year to Date	\$ 285,126.00

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod

YTD \$ 12,833.28

February Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 5

Shepherding Group Sunday

9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
10 am Choir Rehearsal, Treble Clef Voices
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Shepherding Group Meetings

Sunday, February 12

9 am Worship/ Youth Faith Formation
10 am Choir Rehearsal, Treble Clef Voices
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Adult Faith Formation

Sunday, February 19

9 am Worship/Youth Faith Formation
10 am Choir Rehearsal, Bass Clef Voices
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Adult Faith Formation

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

5:30 Soup Supper
7 pm Worship with Holy Communion
7:45 Choir Rehearsal
7:45 Council Meeting

Sunday, February 26

9 am Worship/ Youth Faith Formation
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Adult Faith Formation

Lenten Soup Suppers

Beginning on **Wednesday, February 22 through Wednesday, April 29th**, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for soup supper from 5:30– 6:30. Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7pm. The following Wednesday worships will begin at 6:45.

Shepherding Groups for Wed. Soup Suppers

Wed, Feb. 22	Shepherding Group 5
Wed, March 1	Shepherding Group 7
Wed, March 8	Shepherding Group 1
Wed, March 15	Shepherding Group 3
Wed, March 22	Shepherding Group 6
Wed, March 29	Shepherding Group 8

News from the St. Peder's Library

Jeanne Schleh

Library Updates

For new ideas on interesting things to read, check out the rotating features in the Gene Paulsen display case (built by Charlie Anderson as his Eagle Scout project). But also check out the shelves for best-sellers, award-winners and a variety of books by local authors (including St. Peder's members). And kids: Don't forget the Red Cart! Interested in helping pick new books, preparing them for the shelves or in learning how to use LibraryThing, our cool computer system for cataloging and entering books? For a commitment of just an occasional hour or two, join the Library Committee! Contact Jeanne Schleh for more information.



Write Your Mini Book Reviews for the Messenger!

In 2023, to highlight some of the great books in our library, we invite you to pick a favorite and write a mini book review (just a paragraph or 2) for the Messenger on why you liked it—and this means kids, too! Email Jeanne Schleh with your reviews—jerebob@aol.com

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Black History Month	1 9 am Quilters	2 9 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance	3	4 2 pm Fiber Arts
5 Shepherding Group Sunday 9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 am Coffee and Fellowship 10 am Choir (Treble Clef Voices) 10:15 am Shep Group Mtgs 4 pm Girl Scouts	6 6:30 Kith and Kin 7 pm Pub Theology	7 10 am Exercise 6 pm Bible Study	8 12 pm Potluck 5:30 Confirmation Class @ Minnehaha Lutheran	9 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance	10	11 10:30 am Brownies 2 pm Beers and Hymns @ Chatter-box Pub
12 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10 am Choir (Bass Clef Voices) 10:15 am Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	13 6:30 Kith and Kin	14 Valentines Day 10 am Exercise 6 pm Bible Study	15 9 am Quilters	16 Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance	17	18 2 pm Fiber Arts
19 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10 am Choir (Bass Clef Voices) 10:15 Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	20 Presidents Day 6:30 Kith and Kin	21 10 am Exercise 6 pm Bible Study	22 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Soup Supper 7 pm Worship with Holy Communion 7:45 pm Council Mtg 7:45 Choir Rehearsal	23 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance	24	25 10:30 am Brownies
26 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 Adult Faith Formation 4 pm Girl Scouts	27 6:30 Kith and Kin 7 pm Music & Worship Cmt. Mtg	28 10 am Exercise 6 pm Bible Study			**Youth Faith Formation is after the Children's Sermon	Events in BLUE are community groups that use the building.

February 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

February 5, 2023 Holy Communion Full Table: Shepherding Group Sunday

Greeters: Paul Odegaard and Christine Soma **Usher:** Butch Vossen and Lisa Jensen
Acolyte: Elliette Wilson **Reader:** Marcia Rocheleau **Communion Set Up & Clean Up:** Dwight Lundeby and Wendy Legge **Communion Assistants:** Tim & Elizabeth Anderson, Bruce Simpson
Bread and Wine: Bill and Judy Anderson **Counters:** Jackie West and Curt Petersen **Livestream Technician:** Darrick Jensen **LSS Safe House Dinner for Feb. 6:** Jim and Heidi Nelsen **Sheridan Story for Feb. 10:** Sue and John Schnickel **Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 2**

February 12, 2023

Greeters: Wendy Legge and Dwight Lundeby **Ushers:** Sue Schnickel and Shawna Nelsen-Wills
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak **Reader:** Tim Anderson **Counters:** Bob Stanich and Sue Schnickel
Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young **LSS Safe House Dinner for Feb. 13:** Allison and Michael O'Day, Jill and Kerry Audette **Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 3**

February 19, 2023

Greeters: Jim and Heidi Nelsen **Ushers:** Sue and Al Nielsen **Acolyte:** Maren Odeen **Reader:** Leslee Nestingen **Counters:** Terri Vetsch and Paul Aitchison **Livestream Technician:** Bruce Simpson **LSS Safe House Dinner for Feb. 20:** Judy and Michael Hogan **Sheridan Story for Feb. 24:** Bob Stanich **Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 4**

Wednesday, February 22, 2023: Ash Wednesday & Soup Supper

Acolyte: Isla Wills **Reader:** Karen Vetsch **Soup Supper hosted by Shepherding Group 5**

February 26, 2023

Greeters: Chuck Johnson and Kristi Lahti Johnson **Ushers:** Peter Juhl and Paul Aitchison **Acolyte:** Elliette Wilson **Reader:** Chuck Johnson **Counters:** Steve Austin and JeriLynn Young
Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch **LSS Safe House Dinner for Feb. 27:** Pete and Sheryl Juhl **Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 6**

Opportunities for Service.....

Accompanist

We are looking for musicians to join our team of choir accompanists. If you play piano and are interested in playing with the choir a few times per year, please let Mia or Pastor Bryan know. We will make sure you have time to prepare and will do our best to ensure that the music will match your skills.

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: March 20, May 22, July 24, September 25. November 20 **Time:** 6-8 pm

Cod Fish Dinner Volunteers...See page 2

Library Committee Volunteers...See page 5

**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

