



The Messenger

Lenten Greetings!

Once, when I was in college, I was heading home for a long weekend and a friend asked if I could swing by his mother's house to pick up something. He lived just off of my normal route back and forth from home, so neither of us thought it would be a big deal. He sent me directions on how to get to his house, but this was before the days of smartphones and I didn't have a GPS. As I took the side road off my route, I followed the string of text messages he sent and, in the end, I found myself on a dead end with no houses around. The texts, we found out later, were delivered in the wrong order. I had all the directions, but the wrong order, and I ended up in the middle of nowhere. I had the motivation, and I knew where I wanted to go, but when I didn't have the directions in the right order, I was lost. Literally.

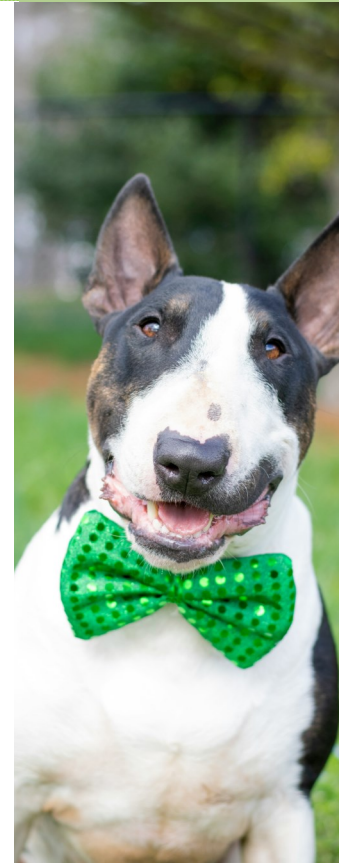
I bring this up because I think it's important to remember that having the motivation, information, and a destination is important, but we also need to remember that any journey worth taking isn't just going to be a made by sprinting in a general direction. Our journey of Lent, and the process that we're starting with David and Joe from JustMOVE this month, are part of getting from where we are to where we want to be.

We can't get from "here" to "there" unless we know where "here" is. Without understanding ourselves - our values, gifts, biases, and practices - it's hard to get to where we want to go, isn't it? We get to do that two different ways this year. Our time in Lent and our time with JustMOVE will be both personal and congregational. We are going to take stock of who we are, what our values and motivations are, and work to remove whatever obstacles, internal and external, that prevent us from being who we'd like to be. We want to make sure that we know who and where we are, so that we can be, in word and deed, the community of faith we have said we're committed to being.

This welcome and this awareness extends in two directions - inward to those who are already a part of St. Peder's and outward to our neighborhoods. I believe that we are called to be a place and people who practice God's love for all. And that, of course, means you, too. You have a place here, as part of God's family at St. Peder's, and I want to help ensure that you and I and everyone we meet can share in the joy we find in each other.

That is our goal at this point in the year and the life of the this congregation. We are on a journey of self-discovery so that we can help others discover for themselves the joy of God's grace. We've got what we need on this journey. All we have left to do is take it.

Peace, Pastor Bryan



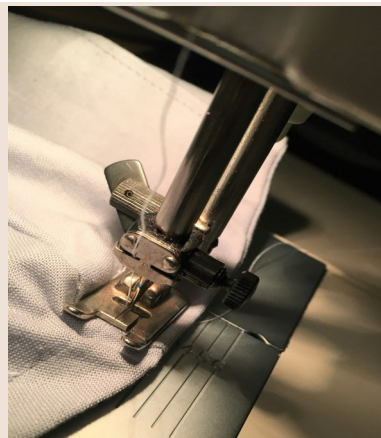
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A Special Thank You

The Quilters would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to **Patricia and Cameron Jamison** for their generous gift of a sewing machine! This new addition to the Quilters Club is modern, up-to-date, and very much appreciated! Stop by sometime and check out not only the sewing machine, but the Quilters projects! They meet every other Wednesday at 10 am. This month they meet on March 6th and March 20th.



Feed My Starving Children

St. Peder's has booked Saturday, April 20th from noon to 1:45 pm at the Eagan packing center for 25 St. Peder's members to prepare food packs specifically designed to reverse and prevent malnutrition in areas of greatest need throughout the world. This is a fun and worthwhile activity for ages 5 and up! Mark your calendars now! Sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Details to follow in the April Messenger and bulletins.



Minnesota Council of Churches

For 19 years, the Minnesota Council of Churches have helped Minnesota Christians get to know their Muslim neighbors through a partnership with the Muslim American Society: Taking Heart Ramadan Iftars. At Taking Heart Ramadan Iftars Muslims and non-Muslims in Minnesota come together for food and conversation. In 2023, over 1000 community members participated in Taking Heart during Ramadan, the month on the Islamic lunar calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink



from sunup to sundown. In 2024, Ramadan falls between March 10 and April 9. Sign up today to observe the prayer, share a meal, and make new friends! Help bring more light into the world by getting to know each other better. Find a Taking Heart Iftar site near you at: mnchurches.org/what-we-do/taking-heart .

2024 Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA Assembly

As Christians, we are called to be different– called to live with gladness, not because we are in denial of the challenges of the world, but because we are loved by a gracious and generous God; a God who also calls us to love the neighbor, following in the generous way of Jesus. This years assembly, entitled “With Glad and Generous Hearts,” will be held on **Thursday, May 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm, Friday May 3rd from 9 am -8 pm, and Saturday, May 4th from 9 am– 11:30 am at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey.** In addition to worship, new synod members and bishops will be elected. All lay and non-voting persons are welcome to attend. For more information, or to sign up for one of the events, please visit the website: <https://mplsareasynod.regfox.com/2024-synod-assembly>.

News from the Office

Synod Assembly Registration

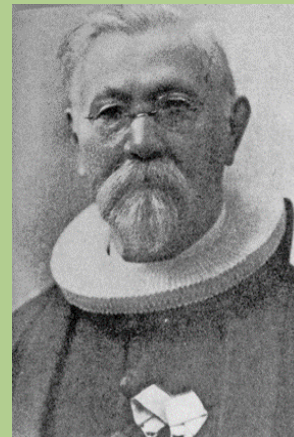
The registration for the Synod Assembly, on May 2-4, is open. If you are interested in attending as a voting member of the congregation, or have other questions about this yearly gathering, please talk with Pastor Bryan.

Lent & Easter

We are planning to share our Holy Week services with Minnehaha Lutheran Church! The plan so far is Maundy Thursday will be at MCLC and Good Friday will be at St. Peder’s. Both services will be at 7 pm.

St. Peder’s 140th Anniversary!

On March 13, 1844, St. Peder’s Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded by men and women of strong convictions from the Grundtvigian movement, centered on rejoicing in the goodness of God’s creation and cherishing the gift of human life redeemed in Jesus. Check out the full history of St. Peder’s since then in the 125th Anniversary booklet available on the table outside the office. If you’d like to participate in a committee to plan events to celebrate this anniversary year, see the sign-up sheet on the same table! *Pictured: Adam Dan, the first pastor to serve St. Peder’s, 1884-1891*



JustMOVE Workshop

As we discussed in our budget meeting, we are bringing in an organization called JustMOVE to help us with our commitment to antiracism and cultural awareness. We will be having a morning workshop on **March 9th from 8:30-12** with Dave Sherer and Joe Davis from JustMOVE. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for the first steps of our work with them as we continue to work for Gospel-centered inclusion, justice, and hospitality.

All ages are welcome! Snacks will be offered before and during the workshop, and lunch will be provided afterwards. This is an important part of our 6 months with JustMOVE and will help set the tone for the rest of our journey together.



Pub Theology for March

This month, Pub Theology will be discussing fasting, which is a faith practice in many different religions. What is the purpose of fasting? What spiritual enlightenment is gained from fasting? What should we be doing during a time of fasting? Please join us for a lively discussion over food and drink (or not!) at **Parkway Pizza at 4359 Minnehaha Ave. Minneapolis on March 11 at 7 pm.** Hope to see you there!



Coffee Hour Causes

Did you know that the money collected as coffee hour donations has a different cause every week? The first week of every month, the money goes to a cause that advances the work of artists within the BIPOC community - this year, the organization is Walker West Music Academy. The second week, the money collected goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which is used in times of urgent need for members and non-members. The third week, the coffee hour donations go to our Youth Fund for expenses related to Confirmation, Sunday School, and other Youth Faith Formation activities. The fourth Sunday, we use those funds to buy coffee for coffee hour itself. And, on the occasion of a fifth Sunday, all those proceeds go into our Special Projects Fund, which goes to reimbursing expenses for projects like the upcoming Codfish Dinner and September's Gather on the Green event. We sometimes joke that coffee and treats after church is the 3rd sacrament of St. Peder's, but it is also a great way to further the work of the church, through both fellowship and ministry.

Volunteer News and Opportunities & Financials

Together in Mission 2024

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

Income

Month of January \$18,250

Year to Date \$18,250

Budget for the month \$23,419

Budget Year to Date \$23,419

Expenses

Month of January \$19,915

Year to Date \$19,915

Budget for the month \$21,932

Budget Year to Date \$21,932

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$0.00

Kith & Kin Fundraiser Musical Show

Kith and Kin is happy to announce that tickets are now available for their season 7 finale- a choral collaboration with local artist Humbird. There will be showings at **4 pm and 8 pm at The Cedar on Saturday, May 4th**. Proceeds from both shows support the vital work of Raices Sagradas, a nonprofit whose mission is to support by providing culturally sensitive professional psychotherapy services to immigrant individuals, couples, and families who have experienced unimaginable pain and trauma. Learn more and purchase tickets at: <http://www.kithandkinchorus.org/>.

Brunch Bunch

Join a Brunch Bunch! What's that? It's a group of 8 people randomly connected based on your top restaurant choices. Pick your top 3 choices and let the Christian Life Committee take care of the details! You are responsible for the cost of your own meal and your transportation (though we encourage carpooling!). The next Brunch Bunch outing will be held right after church on **March 3rd**. Child care will be provided for a free will donation for those participating. Sign up by following this QR code:





MARCH 2024

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 5 pm Codfish Dinner	2 2 pm Fiber Arts
3 9 am Worship with Communion 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	3	4 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	Primary Elections 5 2 pm Chronic Disease Support Group* 6 pm Bible Study	6 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm Soup Dinner 6:45 PM Worship	7 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bluegrass Class*	8	9 8:30 am JustMOVE Workshop 10:30 am Brownies Group*
	Daylight Savings 10 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	11 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	12 10 am Exercise Class* 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	13 5:30 pm Soup Dinner 6:45 PM Worship	14 10 am Exercise Class*	15	16 2 pm Fiber Arts 7 pm Songwriter Showcase
St. Patrick's Day 17 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	17	18 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	19 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	20 9 am Quilters 5:30 pm Soup Dinner 6:45 PM Worship 7:30 pm Council Meeting	21 10 am Exercise Class*	22	23 10:30 am Brownies Group*
	24 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	25 5:45 pm Kith & Kin Potluck & Rehearsal* 7 pm Music & Worship Comm. Mtg	26 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	27	28 10 am Exercise Class* 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship (Minnehaha Community Lutheran Church)	29	30
Easter Sunday 31 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10 am Breakfast 10:45 am Easter Worship	31						

March Volunteer Schedule

March 3rd– Sunday Service

Greeters: Chuck Johnson & Kristi Lahti-Johnson
Ushers: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Acolyte: Isla Wills
Reader: Elizabeth Anderson
Communion Set-Up: Judy Anderson & Dwight Lundeby
Communion Servers: Dan & Karen Vetsch
Communion Bread & Wine: Michael & Allison O'Day
Counters: Jackie West & Shawna Nelsen-Wills
Livestream Technician: Cameron Jamison
LSS Safehouse March 4th: Peter & Sheryl Juhl
Social Hour: Shepherding Group 8

March 10– Sunday Service

Greeters: Julie Ebbesen & Scott Wilson
Ushers: Andrea Wollak & Peter Juhl
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak
Reader: Bob Stanich
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Wendy Legge
Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse March 11th: Tim & Elizabeth Anderson
Social Hour: Shepherding Group 2

March 17– Sunday Service

Greeters: Kristin Lehrstrom & Daniel Peterson
Ushers: Tom Goodoien & Cameron Jamison
Acolyte: Maren Odeen
Reader: Dwight Lundeby
Counters: Terri Vetsch & Sue Nielsen
Livestream Technician: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse March 18th: Wendy & Gordon Legge
Social Hour: Shepherding Group 4

March 24– Sunday Service

Greeters: Eva Tangen & Jeremy Anderson
Ushers: Joe Munnich & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte: Walter Anderson
Reader: Martha Olsen
Counters: Bob Stanich & Sue Schnickel
Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safehouse March 25th: The Gleason Family
Social Hour: Shepherding Group 6

March 31– Easter Sunday Service

Greeters: Liz & Forrest Bentley
Ushers: Steve Austin & Julie Ebbesen
Acolyte: Elena Wilson
Reader: Gordon Legge
Counters: Steve Austin & JeriLynn Young
Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young
LSS Safehouse April 1st: Mark & Jody Jensen
Easter Breakfast: St. Peder's Youth



Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 6th

Greeters: Paul & Michelle Aitchison
Ushers: Karen Vetsch & Sue Schnickel
Shepherding Group 1
Soup Dinner 5:30pm
Worship 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 13th

Greeters: Tim & Elizabeth Anderson
Ushers: Steve Austin & Shawna Nelsen-Wills
Shepherding Group 3
Soup Dinner 5:30pm
Worship 6:30pm

Wednesday, March 20th

Greeters: Paul Odegaard & Christine Soma
Ushers: Jeremy Anderson & John Skraba
Shepherding Group 2
Soup Dinner 5:30pm
Worship 6:30pm

Thursday, March 28

7 pm Maundy Worship at
Minnehaha Lutheran Church

Friday, March 29

7 pm Good Friday Worship

**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.

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