



The Messenger



Hallelujah! He is risen!

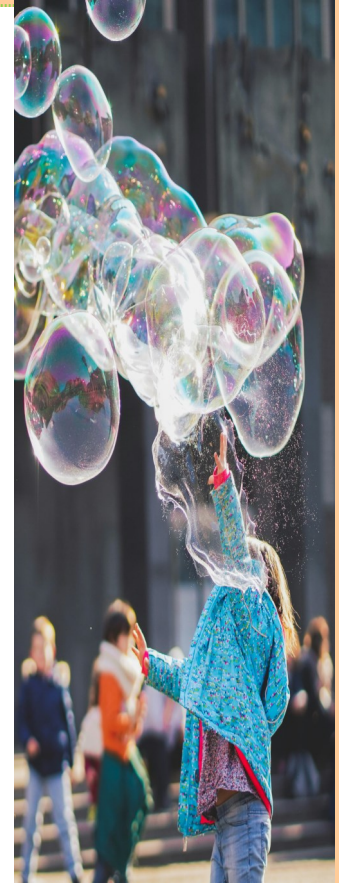
As we move from Lent to Easter, from the cross of Good Friday to the empty tomb of Resurrection Day, I am always so struck by the process we find ourselves in the middle of. Because Easter is both a present reality and a future promise. Our world is not noticeably more whole or redeemed after Easter this year than it was previously. We still find ourselves in the midst of a Good Friday scenario in many regards. Yet, we still got together, welcoming in the light of the Christ Candle, singing hymns of God's victory over death, and hearing the story of that first Easter morning.

This tension between Good Friday and Easter is profound because it is the position we find ourselves in many times in our lives. We spend a lot of our lives in a position like Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Salome, coming to the tombs of our world preparing to grieve. Or maybe the disciples who are locked in a room, fearful and unaware of the eternal life that is already taken the world. Or, possibly, we are like the angel, telling others of what we ourselves have witnessed. Probably, we are all of these and more and we find a beautiful example of this at church - the place where we gather to pay our respects to people we love who have died is also the place where we baptize babies and proclaim God's victory over the grave. The place that holds so many memories of saints who have gone before us is also the place we are working to prepare for future generations.

Each of us find ourselves part of the story now, both as a congregation and as individuals who make it up. The life of God is yours, even while our lives are touched by the cold realities of death and sin. The good news of God is for you, even (maybe even especially) when you receive hard news. We participate in the love, life, justice, and mercy of God even as we search for it.

That is why this day is so important; not because it instantly fixes the world, but because the world still needs to be fixed. The wholeness of God is still good news because we realize exactly how much we need it. In its brokenness, it is still beloved. God is still at work, the work of new life still ripples out from that tomb like a rock dropped into a lake. And that new life will continue to ripple out until all of creation, including you and me, are brought into the fullness of that new life. In the meantime, we sing, we worship, we serve, we gather, we eat, we laugh, we cry, and we wait. Death is defeated. New life is here, and new life is still coming. Thanks be to God. He is risen. He is risen indeed!

Pastor Bryan



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Why we do that

Did you ever participate in an activity at St. Peder's and think, "I wonder why we do that"? Have you ever looked at something new, different, or never changing and think "Who ever made that decision?" If you have asked such questions, you are likely not alone.



This year, we are celebrating 140 years of ministry and the mission of Christ's gospel. Whether you are new to St. Peder's, a long-term member, or somewhere in between (like, maybe only 26 years, like me), there is always an opportunity to learn more about this community that many of us call "home". You may be wondering about how decisions get made for the church. I have the pleasure of introducing the 2024 Church Council! The council is made up of 10 members, elected by the congregation, and Pastor Bryan. We are including a picture of the council so you can put names with faces. Please feel free to reach out to any of us if you have questions. The duties and responsibilities of the council are outlined in the St. Peder's Constitution.

While there are administrative responsibilities and expectations for managing financial and property matters, we also have the responsibility to promote opportunities and activities for all members of the congregation. We are making that one of our areas of focus for this upcoming year. The St. Peder's church council and the committees recognize that, as we move through life our ability, our energy, and even, quite honestly, our interest in participating in many of the activities available at St. Peder's ebbs and flows. During 2024, the council, the committees, and the special events coordinators will be taking the time to talk with you more about what we do and why we do it.

Our intent is to highlight a committee or activity monthly, through a brief article in the Messenger and a quick informative update during one of the services that month. It is a chance to celebrate who we are, to learn more about the heritage of our congregation, and to give anyone interested a chance to consider opportunities for participating in a way that meets them where they are in life.

Peace – Kristi Lahti-Johnson, St. Peder's Church Council President

News from the Office

Pub Theology

This month Pub Theology will be meeting at 7 pm on April 15th at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave. Given the date, the topic will be taxes, money, and faith. In Mark 12:17, it says: Give to Caesar' that which is Caesar's and to God what is God's. What is this verse telling us and what does the Bible say about our relationship with money?

Save the Date

This years Easter Egg hunt will be scheduled for **Sunday, April 14th**, as the first Sunday after Easter will be a Communion service and there will be no Sunday School.

Kith & Kin Fundraiser Musical Show

Kith and Kin tickets are now available for their season 7 finale. There will be showing at 4 pm and 8 pm at The Cedars on Saturday, May 4th. Learn more and purchase tickets at <http://www.kithandkinchorus.org/>.

Special Thanks

To everyone who brought cupcakes, set tables, made the delicious gravy, baked the fish, made meatballs, served, cleaned up, and welcomed our neighbors to St. Peder's for our Annual Codfish and Meatball dinner... it was a huge success thanks to you. Peter Juhl and Sue Nielsen would like to thank everyone for their time and dedication to help make this event enjoyable for all! And thank you to everyone who made Lent and Easter the special time that it was! Between the soup suppers, worship volunteers, and all who attended, this was a special time of prayer, reflection, and celebration.

Thrivent Member Action Grant

Are you a Thrivent customer? Did you know that you have the opportunity to use your Thrivent Member Action Grant to help St. Peder's with activities? We would like to collect a list of members who are with Thrivent and would be willing to provide one or two of their yearly Action Grant to help support St. Peder's activities. Please let the office know if you would like to be added to this list.



St. Peder's Church Blood Drive

The American Red Cross urges people to roll up their sleeves. You don't need a specific reason to give blood, you just need your own reasons. You can help an accident victim, a patient with cancer, or a new mother who needs blood during childbirth. St. Peder's is hosting

a blood drive on **Wednesday, April 24th from 12-6 pm**. To sign up to give blood, please visit: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=stpeders>. They also need Blood Donor Ambassador Volunteers to help welcome people and provide customer service to blood donors in 3 hour shifts from 11:30-2, 2-4, and 4-6:30. If you'd like to be an ambassador, please contact Sue Nielsen at 612-360-3936 or suenielsen76@gmail.com.



Lutheran Social Services of MN – Benefit for Youth

LSS of Minnesota invites you to walk alongside our youth at the 2024 Benefit for Youth. At this dinner you'll learn how Youth & Family Services come together to help build resilience and the perseverance to thrive in what can be a difficult world, particularly for youth who find themselves in circumstances beyond their control. The event will take place on **Tuesday, May 7th. Registration and Social Hour starts at 5:30 pm and Dinner and the Program starts at 6:30 pm**. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online at: lssmn.org (Benefit for Youth– Metro Event Registration).



Join the St. Peder's Team on April 20th!

Using teams of volunteers, Feed My Starving Children prepares food packs specifically designed to reverse and prevent malnutrition in areas of greatest need throughout the world. We've reserved a packing slot for St. Peder's on **Saturday, April 20 from noon to 3:45 pm at the Eagan packing center (990 Lone Oak Road, #136)**.

This is a fun and worthwhile activity for all ages, 5 and up! Sign-up sheet for the St. Peder's team is in Fellowship Hall (please indicate if you need a ride). Sign up and mark your calendars now!



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 February:	\$73,577	Budget for the month:	\$23,423
Year to Date:	\$91,827	Budget Year to Date:	\$46,842

Expenses

Month of February:	\$28,646	Budget for the month:	\$29,298
Year to Date:	\$48,561	Budget Year to Date:	\$51,275

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$2500 YTD

Volunteering Opportunity

The Arc Minnesota is looking for volunteers this summer to work at their Arc Value Village thrift stores. These thrift stores are a revenue generating and public awareness vehicle for The Arc Minnesota, a statewide non-profit organization that works to protect the human rights of people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc helps people navigate systems while working to advance social change centered in justice, equality, and belonging in community. The Arc is looking for volunteers age 8 and older to work 2 hour shifts any day during the week. The hours available are between 10 am and 6 pm. Volunteers between 8 and 15 years old must be accompanied by a parent/adult at a ratio of 6 youths to 1 adult. This is for the safety of all. Some of the tasks would include:

- * Stocking & unpacking clothing/household items on sales floor
- * Organizing/sizing/colorizing/hanging clothing on sales floor
- * Assisting with donation retrieval

The locations looking for volunteers are located in Bloomington, New Hope, and Richfield. Individual and group volunteers are welcome! For more information, please contact Michelle Theisen at 952-915-3670.

2024

APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Easter Monday 1 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	2 10 am Exercise Class* 2 pm Chronic Disease Support Group* 6 pm Sisters in Crime* 6 pm Bible Study	3 9 am Quilters	4 10 am Exercise Class* 7:30 pm Kith & Kin Open Sing*	5	6 2 pm Fiber Arts
7 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	8 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	9 10 am Exercise Class* 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	10	11 10 am Exercise Class* 4:15 pm Dance by Lauren Pictures*	12 4:15 pm Dance by Lauren Pictures*	13 10:30 am Brownies Group* 1 pm Kith & Kin FUNtensive rehearsal
14 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship and Egg Hunt	15 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	16 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	17 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	18 10 am Exercise Class* 7:30 pm Kith & Kin Open Sing*	19	20 2 pm Fiber Arts
21 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	22 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	23 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	24 11 am Blood Cross Drive*	25 10 am Exercise Class*	26	27 10:30 am Brownies Group*
28 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	29 6:15 pm Kith & Kin Dress Rehearsal* 7 pm Music & Worship Comm. Mtg	30 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study				

April Volunteer Schedule

April 7

Greeters: Eric & Bethene Hunsberger
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Paul Aitchison
Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger
Reader: Judy Hogan
Communion Set-Up: Chuck Johnson & Kristi Lahti-Johnson
Communion Servers: Lisa Rovick & Dan Vetsch
Communion Bread & Wine: Dale & Jackie West
Counters: Steve Austin & Bruce Simpson
Livestream Technician: Cameron Jamison
LSS Safehouse Dinner for April 8: Kristin Lehrstrom & Daniel Peterson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1

April 14

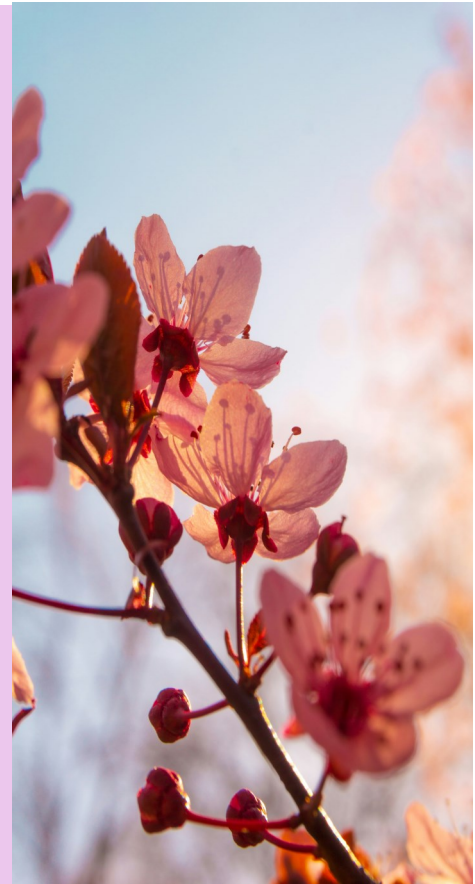
Greeters: Casey Clementson & Ben Campbell
Ushers: Tom Goodoien & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte: Fletcher Campbell
Reader: Allison O'Day
Counters: Terri Vetsch & Paul Aitchison
Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Dinner for April 15: Shawna Nelsen-Wills & Steve Wills
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2

April 21

Greeters: Joe & Annalise Munnich
Ushers: Craig Rocheleau & Shawna Nelsen-Wills
Acolyte: Isla Wills
Reader: Tim Anderson
Counters: Marcia Rocheleau & Tim Anderson
Livestream Technician: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse Dinner for April 22: Meg & Curt Peterson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3

April 28

Greeters: Michael & Allison O'Day
Ushers: Sue & Al Nielsen
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak
Reader: Bob Stanich
Counters: Bob Stanich & Sue Schnickel
Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safehouse Dinner for April 29: Kathryn Jensen, Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4



April Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 7th

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, April 14th

9 am Worship
9 am Youth Faith Formation
10 am Coffee & Fellowship and Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 21st

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

Sunday, April 28th

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 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.

Church Staff:

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

