



The Messenger

Greetings siblings in Christ,

Since our start with JustMOVE in March, I've been trying to keep my eyes open for the various ways diversity exists around me. This has proven to be harder than I anticipated. I grew up in a time in which "colorblindness" was the preferred way to interact with folks who might be different than me. In a world that is so often polarized, it can feel rather inclusive to take this stance. As a result of this, minimizing differences has been my default way of interaction with folks who look, speak, live, vote, and believe differently from myself. The rationale is that if we emphasize the things we have in common, then we would all get along. It has been what I've spent much of my life doing, but now I'm trying to explore other ways of seeing the world.

It has been an intentional shift in perspective for me to try paying attention to the diversity around me. One thing that I am trying to learn and appreciate is that diversity can take a lot of forms, not only skin tones and country of origin. It is present all around us and can be a very concrete way in which we encounter God in the world. Christianity has a solid tradition of this in the form of idea of Imago Dei, or the Image of God, mentioned in the first creation story in Genesis 1:27. Humanity bears God's image and the fact that each human being is unique tells us that God is both particular and multicultural.

The challenge of seeing others through this lens of "divinely inspired diversity" is more than accepting that people are different. It means adapting to this reality not only to survive, but thrive, and this process of adapting reflects so many parts of scripture. Women were the first carriers of the good news of Christ's resurrection. One of the first Christian baptisms in Acts is an Ethiopian eunuch. Early Christians developed a reputation for a radical care of others and for seeking out and including those who had been cast aside. Learning to see difference, accepting and adapting to it, is a form of faithfulness.

As we continue to go through this process with JustMOVE, it's important to remember that this invitation and challenge of recognizing diversity includes the ways in which your God-breathed identity reflects God's image. Because you, the authentic real you that God loves, are also part of God's diverse creation. You carry with you a way of seeing the world, a way of experiencing God, that you can share. And you, just as you are, are already part of this process of reconciling and redeeming the world. Ultimately, recognizing diversity and appreciating it is also the process of recognizing God in ourselves and leaning into all that God has for us.

Peace, Pastor Bryan



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Adopt a Garden

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body but the soul."

~Alfred Austin



Last year, I wrote this with snow piles at the end of my driveway which were over my head! This year, maple trees at the Arboretum were tapped to make maple syrup the end of January and the spikes pulled by March 10. Its been a very different winter for us in Minnesota. The last couple of years, we have been able to work together to garden around St. Peder's. The courtyard has a new hosta bed and the front gardens have had an overhaul. We have landscaping plans now and we can continue our work on our church properties. If you are looking forward to playing in the dirt this year, St. Peder's would appreciate your help in the gardens. There are garden beds of different sizes around the church building; front gardens facing south, west side, courtyard, container gardens and east garden. Select any section of any garden that fits for you (you don't have to select the WHOLE courtyard!) You could work alone or with a group on your own schedule. Our hope is that you could provide regular weeding and upkeep during the growing season. You can purchase and plant new plants as desired but that is not required. Tools can be available by request. If you adopted a garden bed last year and want to keep working that one, let me know. We will again have time after church on select Sundays to garden and share a lunch. Our Sunday work days are May 5, June 9, July 14, and August 11. If you have questions or would like to sign up, talk to Sue Nielsen at suenielsen76@gmail.com or at 612-360-3936.

Gardening Talk with Cynthia Hammel

Speaking of gardening, St. Peter's will be hosting an event on **Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 am** with Cynthia Hammel to discuss ways to make your yard and garden more creation friendly. Cynthia is a Master



Gardener and has been for over 20 years. She keeps up with new advances and facts that scientists discover regarding soil and the interactions of different habitats. Join us after worship to hear this expert speaker share her knowledge with us. All are welcome.

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).

News from the Office

Kith & Kin Fundraiser Musical Show

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

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.

Pub Theology

Come join the group at **Parkway Pizza on Monday, May 13th at 7 pm** to discuss women's rights and the Bible. The New Testament offers passages suggesting spiritual equality and roles for women in early Christianity. In contrast, the Old Testament reflects a patriarchal structure but also includes strong female figures like Deborah and laws that provide protection to women. Let's explore these topics.

Summer Kick-Off Picnic

The Faith Formation Committee will be hosting a picnic on Sunday, May 12th immediately following services. Stay tuned for more details!



Council & Committee Spotlight: Faith Formation:

This month, I will be sharing with you some reasons to be connected with our young folks at St. Peder's. I believe it takes a village to raise a child, and the future belongs to our youth. Life can be hard and confusing at any age, but it can also be fun, scary, indestructible, daring, isolating and exciting. Having a good community behind our kids will help them along their path. It seems to me that growing up these days, our youth have different tough issues to navigate than I did growing up.

Being accepted into the life of a younger human is very rewarding. While interacting with children, you see their energy, courage, hope, problem solving skills, less biases, and much more inclusivity. My hope is for our youth to understand that St. Peder's cares. I want them to know we are interested adults that see them and will listen. I love to hear their ideas and thoughts on how we can work on being better humans. While working with Faith Formation, I find these ways to get to know our youth better, and encourage you to use these tips to build your own connections:

- Ask questions about their interests.
- Find out something that brings them joy or frustration.
- Be mindful as they age through the school years.
- Participate in an activity with them.
- Support them in their interests and activities.

At St. Peder's, we have always supported and cared for our youth. Here are some specific ways to build relationships with them:

1. Participate in intergenerational events
 - The first such event is May 12th, the Summer Kick Off Picnic
2. Volunteer one Sunday as a helper for Faith Formation
3. Come to the neighborhood puppet show this summer on Aug 15th at 7 pm which will be hosted outside in the church's courtyard.
4. Learn about our youth's trips this summer, including:
 - BWCA with Wilderness Canoe Base, from June 16-20th
 - National Youth Gathering, from July 16-20th
5. Get interested: ask how was school? What sports are you playing? How did your dance recital go? What instrument do you play these days? Do you have an upcoming vacation? Do you have a pet?

If you're interested in getting involved with Faith Formation please contact me at 612-721-7385 or Boodjv@yahoo.com.

Karen Vetsch

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 March: \$33,250	Budget for the month: \$24,273
Year to Date: \$125,077	Budget Year to Date: \$71,115

Expenses

Month of March: \$21,389	Budget for the month: \$22,618
Year to Date: \$69,950	Budget Year to Date: \$73,893

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.

May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
			9 am Quilters	1	10 am Exercise Class*	2	3	2 pm Fiber Arts	4
Cinco de Mayo 5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10:30 am Brownies Group*		
9 am Worship 10am Coffee & Fellowship		10 am Exercise Class** 2 pm Chronic Disease Support Group** 6 pm Sisters In Crime** 6 pm Bible Study	10 am Exercise Class**						
Last Day Faith Form. 12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10:30 am Deaf/Blind Meeting 2 pm Fiber Arts 3 pm Nan Braismeister funeral		
9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship		10 am Exercise Class** 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	10 am Exercise Class**					
Youth Sunday 19	20	21	22	23	24	25	10:30 am Brownies Group*		
9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am Caring for Creation with Cynthia Hammel		10 am Exercise Class** 6 pm Bible Study		10 am Exercise Class**					
26	Office Closed 27	28	29	30	31				
9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation 10am Coffee & Fellowship	7 pm Music & Worship Comm. Mtg	10 am Exercise Class** 6 pm Bible Study		10 am Exercise Class**					

May Volunteer Schedule

May 5

Greeters: Kerry & Jill Audette
Ushers: Butch Vossen & Lisa Jensen
Acolyte: Maren Odeen
Reader: Marcia Rocheleau
Communion Set-Up: Sue Schnickel & Eva Tangen
Communion Servers: Leslee Nestingen, Paul Aitchison & Elizabeth Anderson
Communion Bread & Wine: Curt & Meg Peterson
Counters: Marcia Rocheleau & Paul Odegaard
Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young
LSS Safehouse Dinner for May 6: John & Doreen Skraba
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5

May 12

Greeters: Julie Ebbesen & Scott Wilson
Ushers: Steve Austin & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte: Elena Wilson
Reader: Chuck Johnson
Counters: Steve Austin & Doreen Skraba
Livestream Technician: Cameron Jamison
LSS Safehouse Dinner for May 13: Bill & Judy Anderson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6

May 19

Greeters: Eric & Bethene Hunsberger
Ushers: Joe Munnich & Karen Vetsch
Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger
Reader: Bob Stanich
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Curt Petersen
Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safehouse Dinner for May 20: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson, Eric & Bethene Hunsberger
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7

May 26

Greeters: Paul Odegaard & Christine Soma
Ushers: Jeremy Anderson & Cameron Jamison
Acolyte: Walter Anderson
Reader: Alice Petersen
Counters: Bob Stanich & Eva Tangen
Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Dinner for May 27: Bob Stanich & Jeanne Schleh
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8



May Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 5

Cinco de Mayo

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, May 12

Last Day of Faith Formation

Intergenerational Picnic

Mother's Day

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, May 19

Youth Sunday/

Recognition of Graduates

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, May 26

9 am Worship

9 am Youth Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 am Caring for Creation

**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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