

# St. Peder's Monthly Messenger

April 2025

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

As we have been spending time in the Sermon on the Mount for Lent, I have been reminded how political this sermon can feel. By "political", I don't mean "partisan". The gospel does not belong to any political party or personality. But anything that affects the way we live, anything that changes or transforms our actions, is political.

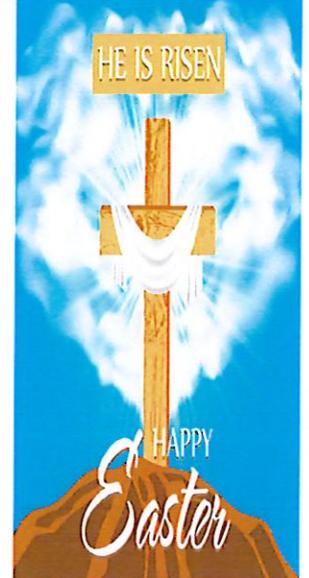
This is probably easiest seen in the times when the Bible grates against our worldview. I've felt it firsthand when the Bible speaks of revenge or redemptive violence, because my general worldview is that violence against another person is an attack on the image of God that other person bears. I've also read articles and listened to interviews in which other pastors are told that they shouldn't preach on certain topics (such as those in the Sermon on the Mount) because they end up portraying Jesus in a way that is too "soft" for their congregation.

That's the thing about the gospel – it always stands on its own. It is always good news, even if it is not the good news we find most comfortable. It never falls neatly into one camp or another. As we read through the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is inviting us to look at more than a this-or-that understanding of the world. He is inviting us to a third way of living, beyond the binary that we often find ourselves pressured to conform to.

And he does this not just with words, but with his life. We see this as he both stands up to the religious elite and still accepts the invitations to dinner. We see this as he takes on the roll of servant, washing the feet of his disciples, and encourages them to find solidarity with all who are held to those tasks. We see this as he forgives and holds accountable. We see this as he chooses to expose the violence of Rome by submitting to it, rather than running from it or fighting against it.

We see all this, and we remember that this is the work we are called to do. As the followers of Jesus, this is the blueprint for how we are invited to live. And we will mess up. We will have to return to God and our neighbors in confession. But we will always be met with forgiveness. The invitation does not expire and your place at the table is not disqualified. The work is not over and we get to do it together. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Peace,  
Pastor Bryan



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### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Attention Kiddos! St. Peder's will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt on **Sunday, April 13th!** Meet in the lounge area after service and Faith Formation (around 10 am). Make sure to bring a bag or a basket to hold all the fun things you will find! Children of all ages are welcome to participate!



### **Blood Drive**

April is National Volunteer Month! St. Peder's is hosting a blood drive with the American Red Cross on **April 23rd from 1pm–7 pm**. The Red Cross depends on the generosity of volunteers to ensure product is available when patients need it. You can help by signing up online and selecting a convenient time to donate. You can register online using this QR code:



We also need Blood Donor Ambassador volunteers! These people are the ones who help enhance the blood donation experience by warmly welcoming guests and providing customer service to the donors. There are 3 shifts available: 12:30-2:30, 2:30-4:30, and 4:30-7:30. If you would like to sign up to be an Ambassador, please contact Sue Nielsen at 612-360-3936 or via email at [suenielsen76@gmail.com](mailto:suenielsen76@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **New Brokerage Firm**

Just an update, St. Peder's is no longer working with Merrill Lynch in a professional capacity. We are currently in the process of finding a new brokerage firm. Until that has happened, please refrain from selling or donating any stock or profits from selling stocks to St. Peder's until a new partnership has been established. We thank you for your help, and we apologize for any inconvenience.

### **Free Concert– Roseville Stings**

Join the Roseville Strings Ensemble for their free spring concert, “Old Music Made New”, on **Sunday, April 13th at 3:30 pm** at Hamline University, Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul. The program includes the Telemann Viola Concerto and music by Mendelssohn, Warlock, and Coldplay. Wendy Legge and Lisa Jensen will be playing this concert. For more information, please visit: <http://www.rosevillestrings.org/concerts>.



### **Danebod Folk Meeting News**

Come and experience the Danish Folk school tradition of a life-long learning at the annual Danebod Folk Meeting, where teachers and students learn from each other! At the 2025 Folk Meeting, to be held August 20-24, professionals and participants will come together for three and a half days of mutual learning. Not only will you hear from experts on topics like finding confidence in today’s news, the health of America’s electrical grid, “de-stressing” in today’s world, examining our federal judiciary, and what it means to “live Danishly” like the “happiest people in the world”, but you will have the opportunity to let your voice , questions, and perspectives be heard! All events, from lectures to leisure, are designed for maximum interaction and engagement. Reflecting on Grundtvig’s goals for life-long learning, we will again offer an afternoon of experiential activity for small groups. Attendees will be able to choose to:

- Join a group to make Danish open-faced sandwiches
- Visit Camden state park for a guided outdoor walk
- Explore your inner artist in an acrylic painting class
- Experience the joy of folk dancing
- Play lawn games like Bocce, Croquet and Kub
- Create new song lyrics to favorite melodies in a song-writing class

For more information or to sign up, please visit [danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://danebodfolkmeeting.org).

## Pub Theology

We will be meeting at Parkway Pizza on Monday, **April 7th at 6:30 pm**. The topic is Martin Luther's wife. Did you know that he found peace from marrying an ex-nun named Katherine von Bora, whom he had helped escape from the nunnery in an empty fish barrel and took her to a refuge in Wittenberg? Join us to learn more about this fascinating story.

## Save the Date– May 3rd

We had such a great time last year with Chef Chris at the Gourmet Dinner that we are doing it again, and adding a cooking class beforehand! This year's **class will be held on May 3rd at 4 pm** here at St. Peder's, and the **dinner will be held afterwards at 6 pm!** This year's menu includes: Appetizers: Shrimp cocktail; GF & Vegan sweet potato canape with pesto; cucumber with goat cheese canape; fig and olive crostini. Entrees: NY Prime cut with bernaise, potato and veg; GF pasta puttanesca with garlic and muffuletta toast; or Chicken breast with mole sauce and rice and vegetables. There will be assorted desserts, some GF choices. Dinner tickets are \$60 each, and \$5 for kids to attend the pizza party. This year's class will include a lesson on basic knife skills. Chef Chris is asking for a free will donation for the 4 pm class before the dinner. Class size is limited, so please register early. For more info, please contact Bruce Simpson at [simbb2@gmail.com](mailto:simbb2@gmail.com).

## Shannon Kearns' Book Launch April 14th

Our own Shannon Kearns will be in town to celebrate the launch of his latest book, "No One Taught Me How to Be A Man", at Moon Palace Books on Monday, April 14th, from 6-7 pm. This is a big event for Shannon! He would be thrilled to have us show up and support him.

For more details, please visit

[www.moonpalacebooks.com](http://www.moonpalacebooks.com). The event is free to attend, but giving the venue an idea of how many people plan to show up never hurts! RSVP on Event Brite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com> and type in Moon Palace Books to find the event. You can also check the bulletin board outside the office for more information.



## 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: \$16,612 | Budget for the month: \$27,162 |
| Year to Date: \$33, 224     | Budget Year to Date: \$27,162  |

#### Expenses

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Month of February: \$20,406 | Budget for the month: \$27,162 |
| Year to Date: \$40,812      | Budget Year to Date: \$27,162  |

**Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod      \$0 YTD**

### April's Featured Library Books

Earth Day is coming up, and the library at St. Peder's is full of beautiful, insightful, and practical books on caring for the creation, suitable for all ages! Check out the display on the table outside the library, and sign one out!



### Helper Thank You

To everyone who helped out at the Cod Fish dinner, from those who brought cupcakes, made the delicious gravy, baked the fish, made the meatballs, served, cleaned, set-up tables, set the placemats and silverware, and did the tremendous amounts of cleaning both before and after the event... thank you! This event is a success every year because of the help we receive from you! And we wanted to give a special thanks to Jim Austin for all his behind the scenes work. We are so grateful for you all!  
-Peter & Sheryl Julh and Sue & Alan Nielsen.





# April Volunteer Schedule

## April 6

**Greeters:** Tim & Elizabeth Anderson

**Ushers:** Peter Juhl & John Skraba

**Acolyte:** Isla Wills

**Reader:** Judy Hogan

**Communion Set-Up:** Judy Hogan & Shawna Nelsen-Wills

**Communion Servers:** Lisa Rovick, Bruce Simpson & Jackie West

**Communion Bread & Wine:** Lisa Rovick & Bruce Simpson

**Counters:** Doreen Skraba & Eva Tangen

**Livestream Tech:** Bruce Simpson

**LSS Safehouse April 7:** Cameron Jamison & Alice Bekke

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5**

## April 13

**Greeters:** JeriLynn Young & Darrick Jensen

**Ushers:** Paul Aitchison & Craig Rocheleau

**Acolyte:** Anders Odeen

**Reader:** Elizabeth Anderson

**Counters:** JeriLynn Young & Bob Stanich

**Livestream Tech:** JeriLynn Young

**LSS Safehouse April 14:** Dan, Karen & Terri Vetsch

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6**

## April 20

**Greeters:** Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen (9 am service)

**Ushers:** Tom Goodoien & Peter Juhl (9 am service)

**Acolyte:** Walter Anderson (9 am service)

**Reader:** Susan Gantriis (9 am service)

**Greeter:** (10:45 service)

**Usher:** (10:45 service)

**Acolyte:** (10:45 service)

**Reader:** (10:45 service)

**Counters:** Eva Tangen & Terri Vetsch

**Livestream Tech:** Darrick Jensen

**LSS Safehouse April 21:** Bruce Simpson & Lisa Rovick

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: YOUTH**

## April 27

**Greeters:** Bethene & Eric Hunsberger

**Ushers:** Sue Schnickel & Peter Paulson

**Acolyte:** Eden Hunsberger

**Reader:** Dan Vetsch

**Counters:** Paul Aitchison & Steve Austin

**Livestream Tech:** Karen Vetsch

**LSS Safehouse April 28:** Liz & Forrest Bentley

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7**



## April Worship Schedule

### April 6

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### April 13

9 am Worship

9 am Faith Formation

10 am Coffee & Fellowship

10 am Easter Egg Hunt

### April 17

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday  
Worship @ Bethel Lutheran

### April 18

6:30 pm Good Friday  
Worship @ St. Peder's

### April 20

9 am Worship

10 am Easter Breakfast

10:45 am Worship

### April 27

9 am Worship

9 am 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 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> 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:**

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Odeen

[pastorbryan@stpeders.org](mailto:pastorbryan@stpeders.org)

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse

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Accounts Manager: Roger Miller

[bookkeeping@stpeders.org](mailto:bookkeeping@stpeders.org)

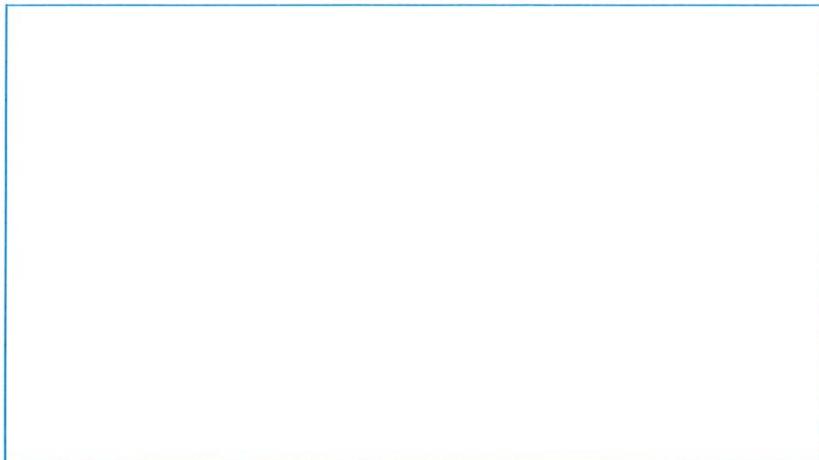
Faith Formation: Sarah Laulunen

[faithformation@stpeders.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeders.org)

Caretaker: Jim Austin

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





All are invited to the annual Easter  
Breakfast

April 20, 10 am

Come support St Peder's youth!

Join us for delicious Omelet sliders, fresh fruit, coffee, juice and of course jelly beans.

The youth will be setting up the fellowship hall, preparing the food & serving you in hopes for your financial support.

Some of the activities the youth are looking forward to:  
Summer church camps, a backyard puppet show & rumors of a mini mission "trip".

By sharing your financial gifts our kiddos will be sprinkled with your love by helping offset the costs of these enriching opportunities.

