

THE MESSENGER

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Occasionally, I'll have people ask me about the tattoo on my right wrist. It is in a conspicuous place. You might catch a glimpse of it during worship, as I raise my hands in blessing or prayer, as we reach out to shake hands, or anytime I have my sleeves rolled up. It's the Greek text of John 1:5: "And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." I was inspired to get it while in seminary, translating the Greek to English for a class, and I was struck by the verb tenses. "Shines" is in perfect tense, meaning it started and will continue indefinitely. But the "darkness" in question did not overcome the light. The darkness is in past tense. It did not, will not, and cannot overcome the light.

I am reminded what a profound truth that is. In this time of year, we experience a lot of darkness, but in experiencing it, the light we see feels all the brighter. A perfect metaphor is the end of our Christmas Eve services, as we sing Silent Night with nothing but the light of candles to illumine our Sanctuary.

The darkness of that room with all the lights off is not enough to stop the light of even a single candle from lightening up the room, even just a little.

What a difference it makes when we learn this is true of all the darkness and despair of our world! The light is winning, even when sometimes all we see are the shadows it casts. The darkness is there, but it doesn't get to define us. When the state of the world feels foreboding or scary, we can trust this. The darkness has not, did not, and cannot overcome the light that is shining into our world and soul. As we gather for worship around the darkest days of the year, we carry with us the light we have received (like the unlit candle tipped over the lit one), into a world that is yearning for this good news. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. Not now. Not ever. Amen.

Pastor Bryan

DECEMBER AT ST. PEDER'S

PUB THEOLOGY

The topic for discussion in December is Christmas traditions. Bring your memories of Christmas traditions from when you were young, traditions you observe now, and what part of your traditions involve memories at a church.

All are welcome to join us for Pub Theology on Monday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. Space has been reserved at Parkway Pizza at 4359 Minnehaha Avenue. Questions? Please contact Allison or Michael O'Day.

THE LONGEST NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE

The Longest Night Worship Service is on December 21 at 7 p.m. This service is for those who struggle around the holiday season, the short days of winter, or are experiencing grief.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 7 - Gift Sunday

December 14 - Children's Program

December 21 - Song Service

December 21 - Longest Night Worship (7 PM)

December 24 - Candlelight Worship (2 PM)

Danish Christmas Eve Service (3:15 PM)

Candlelight Worship (5 PM)



INTRODUCING OFFICE COORDINATOR, FRANCES!

Frances Stevenson joined St. Peder's Lutheran Church in November as our new Office Coordinator. Frances grew up in Minnetonka and was raised in the Episcopal Church. She graduated from Luther College in 2017 and went on to serve in Lutheran Volunteer Corps in the Twin Cities. Frances has a background in journalism and nonprofit communications. She also works for Eden Prairie United Methodist Church as their Administrative Coordinator. She enjoys reading, biking, and spending time with her cat Winnie and her nephew Everett.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND SERVICE

ROSEVILLE STRING ENSEMBLE

The Roseville String Ensemble's annual Community Carol Sing-along concert will be Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 County Road C2 West, Roseville, with guest musicians Saint Croix Acoustic.

This concert is always lots of fun! Admission is free, with a free will offering and a reception after the concert. Please bring a non-perishable item for the food shelf.

REGISTER



A LIGHT IN THE STORM

Thousands of Isaiah and Faith in Minnesota Leaders from across Minnesota will come together on Saturday, December 13, starting at noon, to launch our plan to protect our neighbors in Minnesota against the rise of authoritarianism.

Register to attend via the QR code on the left.

AGATE HOUSING SERVICES

Agate Housing and Services is the Minneapolis nonprofit formed from the merger of St. Stephen's Human Services and House of Charity. They are seeking groups to prepare lunches for our guests at our downtown couples' shelter and the new women's shelter The Valiance. We need folks to make and deliver bag lunches for 50 people. If you're up for it, jumping in one or two times a month with friends, family, or neighbors would be truly amazing. For more information about this or about any of Agate's work to end homelessness, please check out www.agatemn.org/lunch or contact Mike Menner at mike.menner@agatemn.org.



The freeze in government funding for SNAP and other food assistance programs has put many of our neighbors at risk. While Minnesota has engaged emergency funds to keep people fed, there is still uncertainty about how long the government shutdown will go and how long people will be without the assistance they need to feed themselves and their families. We will continue to support Minnehaha Food Shelf and encourage you to do the same.

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ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date for St. Peder's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. All confirmed or adult members are encouraged to attend as we discuss the next year of ministry together.



LIBRARY TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

Do you love books? Would you enjoy spending an hour a month in St. Peder's wonderful library?

Help select and prepare books for shelving, and, if so inclined, learn how to catalog on our great computerized system, LibraryThing. Minor computer skills needed.

ST. PEDER'S ARCHIVES

Did you enjoy the historical confirmation pictures at our most recent Confirmation Sunday? St. Peder's has a storied 140-year-old history which is documented in our archives in documents, pictures and other church records. There were flurries of activity updating the archives for the 100th and 125th anniversaries but little since.

If you like digging into history and finding memorabilia, help us bring the archives up to date so the next generation will know what our congregational life was about. A small group could bring us up-to-date in no time!



WEEKLY PRAYER SERVICE

During these trying times, strength in the community and a sense of comfort are more important than ever. Pastor Bryan will be leading a prayer service on Tuesday nights from 7-7:30 pm. All are welcome to join.

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2026 at a Glance

Events and times are subject to change

January	25	Annual Meeting
February	1	Shepherding Group Sunday
	18	Ash Wednesday - Worship (7 PM)
	25	Soup Supper (5:30) and Lenten Worship (6:45)
March	4, 11, 18, 25	Soup Supper (5:30) and Lenten Worship (6:45)
	6	Codfish Dinner
	29	Palm Sunday
April	2	Maundy Thursday Worship (7 PM)
	3	Good Friday Worship (7 PM)
	5	Easter Worship (9 AM) and Breakfast
May	10	Youth Sunday and Graduate Sunday
June	8	Courtyard Worship and Bike Blessing
July	13	Courtyard Worship and Pet Blessing
August	10	Courtyard Worship and Backpack Blessing
September	12	Gather on the Green
	13	Rally Sunday/Faith Formation Resumes
October	4	Marathon Sunday
	25	Reformation and Confirmation Sunday
November	3	Election Day
	8	Æbleskive Sunday
	22	Budget Meeting
	29	Advent Begins
December	6	Gift Sunday
	13	Children's Christmas Program
	20	Song Service
	22	Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service
	24	Christmas Eve Worship (2, 3:15, and 5 PM)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ONLINE GIVING

During our Budget Meeting, several people at St. Peder's stated they did not see their automatic giving to the church come out of their account during the month of November. We learned that our Vanco account was deactivated at the end of October, so no online payments were withdrawn through Vanco in November.

We had planned to transition to our new online giving platform, Tithe.ly, in the coming months anyway, so at this point the best and fastest way to fix this issue is by following this QR code to make your online offering for November and set up a recurring donation to St. Peder's. When you do so, please note that credit and debit cards have higher fees than ACH bank withdrawals and, if you could, please consider covering the fees to ensure that the whole amount you intend for St. Peder's is received.

TITHE.LY



END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDER

Any financial gifts you would like to claim on your 2025 taxes must be submitted before December 31, 2025. Offerings from the December 29 worship service will be processed before the end of the year. Thank you for your generosity this year!

TOGETHER IN MISSION 2025

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 October: \$8,074.46

Year to Date: \$150,861.98

Budget for the month: \$27,162

Budget Year to Date: \$271,620

Expenses

Month of October: \$21,749.33

Year to Date: \$243,110.04

Budget for the month: \$27,162

Budget Year to Date: \$271,620

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$ 10,000 YTD

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 7 - Gift Sunday, Holy Communion

Greeters: Elizabeth & Tim Anderson
Ushers: Paul Aitchison & Jim Nelson
Acolyte:
Reader: Wendy Legge
Counters: Annalise Munnich

Communion Setup: Judy Anderson
Communion Servers: Dwight Lundebly & Lisa Rovick
Communion Bread & Wine: Judy Anderson
Livestream Tech:
LSS Safehouse Dec 8: Jim & Heidi Nelsen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7

DECEMBER 14

Greeters: Dale West
Ushers: Tom Goodoin
Acolyte:
Reader: Judy Hogan
Counters: Jackie West

Livestream Tech:
LSS Safehouse Dec 15: Allison & Michael O'Day, Jill & Kerry Audette
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8
Faith Formation Volunteers:

DECEMBER 21

Greeters: Stephanie Hawkinson & Meg Petersen
Ushers: Curt Petersen
Acolyte:
Reader: Elizabeth Anderson
Counters: Curt Petersen

Livestream Tech:
LSS Safehouse Dec 22: Michael & Judy Hogan
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1
Faith Formation Volunteers:

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE - 2 PM

Greeters: Jill & Kerry Audette
Ushers: Cameron Jamison & Peter Juhl
Acolyte:
Reader: Jill Audette
Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE - 5 PM

Greeters: Dwight Lundebly
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Reader: Elizabeth Anderson
Livestream Tech:

DECEMBER 28

Greeters: Karen Vetsch
Ushers: Andrea & Jon Wollak
Acolyte: Casey Clementson
Reader: Karen Vetsch
Counters: Paul Aitchison

Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Dec 29: Tim & Elizabeth Anderson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2
Faith Formation Volunteers:

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 7

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship

December 14

9 am Sunday
School Christmas
Program
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship

December 21

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship
7pm Longest Night
Service

December 24

2 pm Festival
Worship
3:15 pm Danish
Worship
5 pm Festival
Worship

December 28

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship



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.

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church 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.



St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA
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Church Staff

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