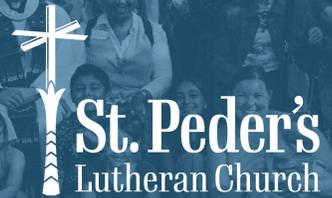


THE MESSENGER

IN THIS EDITION

- Game Night and Chili Buffet
- Community Resource Page
- Codfish Dinner



Hello friends and neighbors of St. Peder's,

I have been trying to put into words everything that we have been experiencing together these days. Since our last writing, we've seen immigration agents take the lives of 2 community members, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, and many people are living in fear that, whether legal or not, they will be the next to suffer at their hands. I have been searching for words of peace and hope, but many of them feel trite in the face of how our community has been targeted and impacted by everything happening around us. In times like these, I am especially grateful for people of faith throughout history who have been a Christian witness against violence, unhealthy use of power, and the types of -isms that lead to oppression of others.

This Lent, we will be hearing from some of them. Our midweek Lenten series will be based around Christian witness and work for the wellbeing of vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized people. We will reflect on their words and their stories and pray for the healing of our world. We will pray for our world and our neighbors and we will be inspired by the words and actions of those who

have come before us. We will read from MLK Jr, Dorothy Day, Zephania Kameeta, Oscar Romero, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer and from scriptures that inspired them. And we will be sent out to be agents of God's love, grace, justice, and mercy into a world that so desperately needs to experience it.

The book of Zechariah has a phrase I have been reflecting on. He calls people who are returning from exile, coming back home from being forcibly removed to a foreign country, "prisoners of hope". When we are in hard times, hope becomes so important to our survival. Hope is not always peaceful. Hope is tenacious and holds on tightly, even when things feel beyond saving. I am a prisoner of hope, because I can't give up the idea that God would be uninterested in all of this. I am a prisoner of hope, because I refuse to believe the world Jesus died to save would be abandoned. As we study today this Lent, I hope we can identify what it is about our faith that draws us forward into the world that God is redeeming.

Stay warm and be safe.
Pastor Bryan

FEBRUARY AT ST. PEDER'S

VALENTINE'S DAY CHEF'S DINNER

Save the Date for the 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Chef's Dinner on February 14 starting at 6 p.m. with dinner starting at 7 p.m. The theme is duets with the menu designed around red and white, food pairings, serenades, and songs to sing together.



SONGWRITER SHOWCASE

The Songwriter Showcase continues on Thursday, February 5 at 7 p.m. Andrea Sorum and Pastor Bryan Odeen.

Come on out to hear and support local musicians and help keep away the post-holiday winter blues!



GAME NIGHT & CHILI BUFFET

St. Peder's members and friends are invited to an intergenerational evening of games and fellowship from 6-8pm on Friday, Feb 6. A variety of games will be available or bring your own favorite game to share. Grab a bowl of chili and settle in for some fun competition! Sponsored by the Christian Life Committee. All are welcome!

PUB THEOLOGY

Join us for Pub Theology on Monday, February 2, at 6:30 at Parkway Pizza. The topic for February is HOPE. Reverend Dr. Mitri Raheb defines hope as "There is a difference between hope and optimism. Optimism is this sentiment that everything's gonna turn out okay, which is very disconnected from the reality that most of us experience. Hope is not a feeling. Hope is what you do. Hope is living the reality and yet investing in a different one. Hope is the power to keep focusing on the larger vision while taking the small, often undramatic, steps toward that future."

What is the difference between faith and hope? How much hope do we have these days?

All are welcome to join in the discussion.

Questions? Please contact Allison or Michael O'Day.

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND SERVICE

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th, where we will be entering into a traditional time of fasting and repentance, and ends with Holy Week's journey to the cross. We will have soup supper at 5:30 p.m. before our Ash Wednesday worship service. This service starts at 7 p.m. (which is different from the rest) because we often have a number of neighborhood guests join us for worship, but not supper.

We will be gathering on Wednesdays from February 25th through March 25th around the Healing of the Nations liturgy we have used in the past few years, where we will pray for our state, nation, and world and hear the stories and lessons from people who have worked for the healing we pray for. We will have soup suppers at 5:30 p.m. each of those days and worship will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Our Holy Week services in the past few years have been done in collaboration with other churches. Last year, we worked with Bread of Life Deaf Church (BOLD) and Bethel Lutheran. We expect this will continue this year and we will likely host Maundy Thursday and travel to Bethel Lutheran for Good Friday. More details will be coming at plans are made between the pastors.

ST. PEDER'S COMMUNITY RESOURCE WEBPAGE

We have put together a new page on our website entitled Community Resources which includes local community partners, service providers, and organizations that we trust. This page will be updated regularly with resources, planned demonstrations, and other ways to get involved and help our local community. Visit www.stpeders.org/communityresources or use the QR code to learn more.



Resource Page

TABITTA KASSEN HELPING UKRAINE

St. Peder's donated \$1000 from Tabitta Kassen to New Vision Renewable Energy to purchase solar light kits to be sent to Ukraine so people can have electricity and light in their homes. Most people (70%) are living in basements with very limited heat, water and electricity. These solar light kits charge a battery that can run a light and charge cell phones for about 25 hours.



SAVE THE DATE - DANEBOD FOLK MEETING

You are invited to join us here on the Danebod Campus for the 80th annual Folk Meeting, August 19-23, 2026. Founded in the Danish folk school tradition of lifelong learning in community, the Folk Meeting attracts interesting people from across the country to a residential living, learning and socializing experience. Treat yourself to a break in August and join your fellow guests for three and a half days of learning, singing, story-telling, socializing, dining, and folk dancing.

Each year our Folk Meeting program seeks to offer a broad liberal arts curriculum. In 2026 you will engage with experts in a “prophecy” of economics, American political campaigns, and learning with Legos. You will have the opportunity to learn about chamber music, Danish author Louis Jensen’s “Square Stories,” and the responsibilities of the Danish Consul in Iowa.

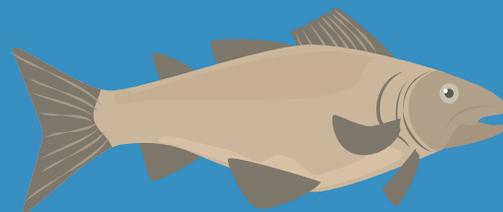
Experiential learning workshops will spur your creative side with options for exploring the arts of paper-cutting, painting, making Danish pastry, writing poetry, savoring the magic of a nature walk, or honing your skills in folk dancing or wood-carving.

If you are interested in learning more about the Danebod Folk Meeting, visit our website at danebodfolkmeeting.org. Registration materials will be available in early May.

CODFISH DINNER

The Codfish Dinner is just around the corner! Join us on Friday, March 6. There are two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sign up to volunteer with setting up, cooking, serving, clean up by talking to Sue Nielsen (612-360-3936 or email suenielsen76@gmail.com) or Peter Juhl (612-889-9816 or email peter.n.juhl@gmail.com).



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.

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MINNEHAHA FOOD SHELF

Minnehaha Food Shelf (MFS) fights food insecurity in their Minneapolis neighborhood by distributing fresh, nutritious food weekly. Founded more than 20 years ago, MFS is run by a coalition of five south Minneapolis Churches: Minnehaha United Methodist, Lake Nokomis Lutheran, Living Table United Church of Christ, Grace Episcopal, and St. Peder's Lutheran. All who visit the food shelf are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

During October and November 2025, Minnehaha Food Shelf served an average of 298 households per week. That's up from the 277 households/week they averaged in September, and up from the 254 households/week they averaged in 2024. Over those two months, Minnehaha Food Shelf served 10,019 people. Breaking that figure down, 4,817 were children (under the age of 18), along with 4,477 adults (ages 18 to 64) and 725 seniors (ages 65 and older). Yes, nearly half of the people they serve are children.

Ticket proceeds from this evening's performance will be shared with Minnehaha Food Shelf. Additional donations are welcome via the QR code below.

MINNEAPOLIS CHOIR COLLECTIVE
Presents:

Ghost Chorales

A concert benefiting Minnehaha Food Shelf

Friday, February 13
White Bear Unitarian
Universalist Church
Mahtomedi, MN
7:00pm

Saturday, February 14
Mount Olive Lutheran Church
Minneapolis, MN
7:00pm

Buy tickets at
minneapolischoircollective.com/buytickets

Minnehaha Food Shelf
Minneapolis

metro regional arts council

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

MINNEHAHA FOOD SHELF - ANNUAL SUPERBOWL OF CARING

Bring a high need item and place it by your favorite team for Super Bowl Sunday on Sunday, February 8.

Check out the easel by the fellowship hall for more information.

High need items include laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, period hygiene, bar soap, and sugar.



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Left: Guest Organist, Dan Vetsch for the December 28th service.

Right: An improptu prayer vigil with neighbors on January 24th after the killing of Alex Pretti.



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.

HOLY LAND TRIP

Pastor Bryan has been in contact with Bright Stars of Bethlehem since the presentation we had with their Executive Director, Tracie Ortman, a few months ago. A few people expressed interested in traveling to see their work. Given the time needed to prepare, the two best options would be early November 2026 or early January 2027.

Given the proximity to the Budget Meeting and holidays, November might be a complicated time for the trip. January 2027 would avoid this and afford those who travel a chance to see Bethlehem still decked out for Christmas. The trip will be a mix of relationship and perspective building through Dar al-Kalima University, cultural trips, and some traditional sightseeing in Israel and Palestine. The trip will be available to anyone connected to St. Peder's, even just by friendship. If you're interested, please let Pastor Bryan know. More Information will be coming throughout the next months.



OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 1 - Holy Communion

Greeters: Doreen & John Skraba
Ushers: Peter Juhl and Jim & Heidi Nelsen
Acolyte:
Reader: Martha Olsen
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Lisa Jensen
Livestream Tech: JeriLynn Young

Counters: JeriLynn Young & Lisa Jensen
Communion Setup: Lisa Jensen
Communion Servers: Paul Aitchison & Lisa Rovick
Communion Bread & Wine: Lisa Jensen
LSS Safehouse Feb 2: John & Doreen Skraba
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7

FEBRUARY 8

Greeters: Darrick Jensen
Ushers: Wendy Legge
Acolyte:
Reader: Allison O'Day
Counters: Darrick Jensen

Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse Feb 9: Shawna Nelsen-Wills & Steve Wills
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8
Faith Formation Volunteers:

FEBRUARY 15 - Holy Communion

Greeters: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Eva Tangen
Ushers: Thomas Goodoien & John Skraba
Acolyte: Walter Tangen
Reader: Judy Hogan
Counters: Jackie West & Wendy Legge
Livestream Tech:

Communion Setup:
Communion Servers: Dwight Lundebly
Communion Bread & Wine: Lisa Rovick
LSS Safehouse Feb 16: Meg & Curt Peterson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1
Faith Formation Volunteers:

FEBRUARY 22

Greeters: Jill Audette & Kerry Audette
Ushers: Paul Aitchison & Peter Juhl
Acolyte:
Reader: Jill Audette
Counters: Steve Austin

Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Feb 23: Kathryn Jensen, Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 1

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship

February 8

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship

February 15

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship

February 22

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
4600 E 42nd St | Minneapolis, MN 55406
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Jim Austin