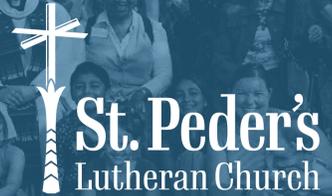


THE MESSENGER

IN THIS EDITION

- Annual Meeting
- Holy Land Trip
- Monarca Training
- Tithe.ly Update



Welcome to 2026!

As we turn the corner into a new year, you may be joining the many people around the world who are working through this transition by making resolutions for the new year. Maybe you've got some changes you're hoping to see in your life, your community, or your family. Maybe you're renewing efforts to kick a habit, lose a few pounds, or get a big project done. We live in a culture and society that often measures itself on growth, progress, and achievement, so it's easy to feel the pressure to do this.

But it's important to remember that progress isn't always measured in personal records or measurable outcomes. This is especially true in our faith. Jesus reminds his audience in the Sermon in the Mount, that we are worth more than what we can earn, drawing from the birds and flowers who are nurtured by God simply for existing. Jesus asks, in Matthew 6:27, who can add even a single hour to their lifespan by worrying.

So while there is something to be said for progress and growth, I want to make sure you hear that your

worth and value is not based on any of the things you'll do (or not do) this year. You are a beloved child of God, worth more than you could ever know to the one who made you and claims you. Whatever resolutions you make for this new year, I hope you make them with this understanding in mind. No matter what happens this year, no matter what distractions or disruptions you face, you do so as person bearing the image and accompanied by the God who made you.

I hope that guides us this year, and shapes the way we see the world. We are a part of something so big and beautiful, we follow a Savior so loving and committed, that we'll never go through anything alone. Whether you reach the end of 2026 with all your goals accomplished or not, you'll go through it all with God beside us and a community around you. In 2026, as always, we are in this together.

Pastor Bryan

JANUARY AT ST. PEDER'S

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER AND UPDATE

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.

On top of regular business, we will be voting to approve an updated budget for 2026 after new information was found following the Budget Meeting in November. This budget will reflect these changes through increases, as our funds were not as low as previous thought.

SONGWRITER SHOWCASE

The Songwriter Showcase continues on January 8th at 7. The performers this month will be Sammie Cohen and Per Andreassen (The Tom O'Bedlam). Come on out to hear and support local musicians and help keep away the post-holiday winter blues!

YOUTH EVENT - SAVE THE DATE

Save the date Monday, January 19 for a youth event! More details to come from Dan and Karen Vetsch for the event - Do What You Want for an Hour! Send your ideas to Dan and Karen.

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND SERVICE

REGISTER



MONARCA TRAINING

Unidos MN will be providing an Upstander Training on January 11, 2026 at 4 PM at Shir Tikvah Synagogue (1360 W Minnehaha Pkwy). During this training, attendees will learn practical skills to keep families safe, how to stand with neighbors against intimidation, and become part of a rapid response network. Register through the QR code or bit.ly/RRST0111.

BLOOD DRIVE

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church is hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, January 22, 2026 from 12 to 6 p.m.

To make an appointment use the QR code or visit redcrossblood.org and enter "MinnehahaLuth" or call 1-800-733-2767.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT



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 interruption in government funding for SNAP and other food assistance programs as well as rising food costs, has put many of our neighbors at risk. We will continue to support Minnehaha Food Shelf and encourage you to do the same.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

At the December meeting, the Council voted to begin partnering with Clergy Financial for our bookkeeping services. St. Peder's has partnered with Clergy Financial for other services in the past and we are confident that the transition will go well.

This does mean, however, that Roger Miller will be done working at St. Peder's at the end of January. Roger came to us at a very fraught time, following the death of Susan Shellberg, and he has done so much to get us on track again. We express our gratitude for his willingness to step in and be our Accounts Manager at a time of transition and for his help in onboarding Clergy Financial.



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. Email office@stpeters.org if you're interested!

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!



TITHE.LY TRANSITION UPDATE

It has come to our attention that some folks are having trouble signing up for ACH withdrawals on the Tithe.ly platform. The problem seems to be in the verification of the account. If you are finding yourself in that position, please contact your bank during their business hours. They are typically the “call center” that is used and give you the authentication code needed to give this way. We appreciate your patience as we continue this transition and don't forget that you can further help and support St. Peder's by making sure to check the box that says “Yes” next to “Cover the fees” and make your donation a recurring gift at the top of the screen.

TITHE.LY



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.

PUB THEOLOGY

Pub Theology is on Monday, January 12 at 6:30 pm at Parkway Pizza R 4359 Minnehaha Avenue.

All are welcome to join!

Questions? Contact Allison or Michael O'Day

Thank you for a wonderful Christmas season filled with joy, music, and dancing around the Christmas tree!



OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

SPRING 2026 SHEPHERDING GROUP SCHEDULE

SUN, JANUARY 4

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 3

SUN, JANUARY 11

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 4

SUN, JANUARY 18

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 5

SUN, JANUARY 25

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 6

SUN, FEBRUARY 1

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 7

SUN, FEBRUARY 8

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 8

SUN, FEBRUARY 15

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 1

WED, FEBRUARY 18

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Shepherding Group: 6

SUN, FEBRUARY 22

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 2

WED, FEBRUARY 25

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Shepherding Group: 7

SUN, MARCH 1

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 3

WED, MARCH 4

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Shepherding Group: 8

SUN, MARCH 8

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 4

WED, MARCH 11

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Shepherding Group: 1

SUN, MARCH 15

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 5

WED, MARCH 18

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Shepherding Group: 2

SUN, MARCH 22

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 6

WED, MARCH 25

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

Shepherding Group: 3

SUN, MARCH 29

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 7

SUN, APRIL 5

EASTER FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: N/A

SUN, APRIL 12

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 8

SUN, APRIL 19

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 1

SUN, APRIL 26

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 2

SUN, MAY 3

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 3

SUN, MAY 10

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 4

SUN, MAY 17

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 5

SUN, MAY 24

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 6

SUN, MAY 31

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 7

SUN, JUNE 7

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 8

SUN, JUNE 14

FELLOWSHIP

Shepherding Group: 1

JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JANUARY 4 - Holy Communion

Greeters: Judy Anderson & Jean Evers
Ushers: Steve Austin & Susan Schnickel
Acolyte:
Reader: Dwight Lundebly
Counters: Terri & Karen Vetsch
Faith Formation Volunteers: Lisa Jensen

Communion Setup:
Communion Servers: Peter Juhl & Susan Nielsen
Communion Bread & Wine:
Livestream Tech:
LSS Safehouse Jan 5:
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3

JANUARY 11

Greeters: Elizabeth Anderson
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Peter Paulson
Acolyte:
Reader: Lisa Rovick
Counters: Elizabeth Anderson & Susan Schnickel

Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Jan 12:
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4
Faith Formation Volunteers:

JANUARY 18

Greeters: Jean Evers
Ushers: Thomas Goodoien & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte:
Reader: Elizabeth Anderson
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Paul Aitchison

Livestream Tech:
LSS Safehouse Jan 19:
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5
Faith Formation Volunteers:

JANUARY 25

Greeters: Darrick Jensen & Wendy Legge
Ushers: Craig Rocheleau
Acolyte:
Reader: Jill Audette
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Doreen Skraba

Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse Jan 26:
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6
Faith Formation Volunteers: Lisa Jensen

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 4

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee
& Fellowship

January 11

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

January 18

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

January 25

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



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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Mia Kruse | mia@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator:

Frances Stevenson | office@stpeders.org

Accounts Manager:

Roger Miller | bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Caretaker:

Jim Austin