

THE MESSENGER

IN THIS EDITION

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- Congregational Meeting
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Greetings in the name of our risen Christ!

I'm ending the season of Lent and entering the season of Easter with a great deal of gratitude. This season is one of hope, a reminder that the tomb does not win. Our lessons in the coming weeks are filled with stories of hope revived, renewed, and unexpected. The women at the tomb become the first evangelists because they showed up at the grave, expecting to find death. Thomas, with his doubts, finds Christ meeting him in his questions. The Early Church finds courage and meaning, even amid oppression and uncertainty, knowing that it will cost them.

And the reason hope can persist is that hope is undeniable and unwavering. Even when one of us loses it, it is not lost. We carry it together. Like Christ, hope arises anew, often in unexpected places. Hope rises because hope is the essence of living. "Hope is optimism with a broken heart," Nick Cave wrote, and that rings true for me. Hope doesn't mean everything will go perfectly, but that God is not finished yet. Our faith itself is built on the foundation of hope, that God can and does save the world despite all that sin does to obstruct it.

The author of Hebrews describes the Christian faith, even in the early days of the Church, as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things unseen."

So as we enter the season of Easter, my prayer for you is that you find your own way to practice and experience hope. I want you to know that you are loved, that the new life of Christ is yours, and that you don't walk through life alone. Even when things feel hard and uncertain, even when our struggles feel certain to win, I want you to remember that Christ is there with you, that we are in it together, and that your hope is not in vain.

Easter reminds us that God is in the business of hope, of new life, of mercy, and of justice. And God will keep it all alive. As people of Christ, we get to both experience it and be a part of it. What a joy it is to be part of it!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!
Hope is risen! Hope is risen indeed!

In gratitude,
Pastor Bryan

APRIL AT ST. PEDER'S

EASTER BREAKFAST

Join us on Sunday, April 5 at 10 a.m. for Easter Breakfast! The breakfast will include delicious omelet sliders, fresh fruit, coffee, juice, and of course jelly beans! The youth will be setting up the fellowship hall, preparing the food and serving you. They will be collecting donations for future youth activities including summer camps, a backyard puppet show and the National Youth Gathering.



EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg hunt will be on Sunday, April 12 after the worship service.

Meet in the lounge after the service and Faith Formation, around 10 a.m. Bring a bag or basket to gather your findings.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately following the service on April 12, 2026 we will be holding a special meeting of the congregation related to the installation of carpeting at St. Peders. We have received an updated bid from the contractor for all three phases of the installation. The bid is significantly less than we had anticipated and as a result, moving forward with all three phases at once is a possibility. We will need approval from the congregation for any increased spending beyond what was budgeted and approved at the annual meeting in January 2026.

ROSEVILLE STRING ENSEMBLE

Please join the Roseville String Ensemble for our spring concert, "Melodies in Bloom," on April 19 at 3 p.m. at Sundin Music Hall on the Hamline University campus, 1531 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul. Lisa Jensen, Wendy Legge, and Lisa Rovick are all performing in this concert.

The concert features violin soloist Grace Abt, winner of the College Strings division of the 2025 Thursday Musical Young Artist Scholarship Competition, who will be performing Bach's E major violin concerto. Free admission and free parking.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS AND SERVICE

MINNESOTA STATE BAND CONCERT

The Minnesota State Band will have its annual spring concert at the Minnesota History Center May 2, 2026. The concert is in the auditorium and many concert goers visit the history center exhibits before or after the concert. These concerts can be a fun way to enjoy music while celebrating our state. The band will have more concerts throughout the summer, including their annual August Como Park concert series.



SAVE THE DATE

Join the St. Peder's team on Saturday, May 16 from 9:30-11:15 a.m. for food packing at Feed My Starving Children. Sign up sheet will be posted soon. This is fun family activity open to all ages 5 and up!



LONGFELLOW SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS

Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors, a neighborhood organization committed to helping seniors stay active and in their own homes, have asked to rent the ground floor of our education wing for offices. The Council has agreed to enter into those lease negotiations. It is a great opportunity for us to share space with a local organization and we will keep you updated on that process.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: BRIAN COYLE CENTER

The Brian Coyle Center (420 15th Avenue South, Minneapolis) is seeking volunteers to welcome community members as they pick up food, help folks carry and load groceries into their cars, and accompany people as they walk or drive back home to ensure the safety and comfort of those who utilize the food shelf.

Shifts are available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from noon to 2:30 p.m. during Food Pantry hours and on Produce Distribution Thursdays three times a month from noon to 2 p.m. They encourage folks to sign up for regular shifts.

Reach out to Frances at office@stpeders.org if you are interested in volunteering and your name and information will be sent to the Brian Coyle Center.

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FINANCIALS - TOGETHER IN MISSION 2026

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: \$25,109.05

Year to Date: \$28,048.48

Budget for the month: \$25,106.17

Budget Year to Date: \$50,212.34

Expenses

Month of February: \$18,943.10

Year to Date: \$40,593.26

Budget for the month: \$25,106.19

Budget Year to Date: \$50,212.34

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$4,000 YTD

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 continues to plan the trip to the Holy Land. A few people expressed concern about safety with the unrest in the Middle East. Sami Khoury, of Sacred Travel Paths, lives in the region and believes that it is still safe to continue to plan the trip. He has worked hard to get a good itinerary together and assures Pastor Bryan that we have until September to register. We will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as needed, with guidance of Sami and his team on the ground.

In the meantime, you can go to <https://sacredtravelpaths.com/stp-067/> to learn more about the trip, which will include stops in Jerusalem, Galilee, and Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. The limit is 21 participants and is open to people not associated with St. Peder's, so if you know anyone who might be interested, invite them along!

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DANEBOD FOLK MEETING - AUGUST 19-23, 2026

One of the foundational tenets of the Danish folk school tradition and the annual Danebod Folk Meeting is that teachers and students learn from each other. At the 2026 Folk Meeting, professionals and participants will come together for three and a half days of mutual learning. You will hear from experts on topics like campaigning American style, literacy and Legos, unpacking a chamber music work, and translations of Louis Jensen's "Square Stories," and you will have the opportunity to let your voice, questions, and perspectives be heard! All events, from lectures to leisure, are designed for active participation and engagement.

Also in the spirit of Grundtvig's goals for life-long learning, we are offering two afternoons of experiential activity for small groups. Attendees will be able to choose to:

- Join a team of Danebod pastry chefs to make almond, cherry, and apricot pastries to serve to all the Folk Meeting participants on Friday after your class.
- Hike at Camden State Park, exploring the history of the park with a park ranger or hike with a local park enthusiast.
- Explore your inner artist in a drawing class. Learn the principles in basic drawing of the human figure; drawing from life with a human model to develop a sense of proportion and feel of movement.
- Experience the joy of folk dancing for the body and soul.
- Explore the hidden depth of your daily life by turning everyday objects, old memories, and forgotten experiences into rich, vivid poetry.
- Try your hand at basic wood carving and learn the Scandinavian figure carving style.
- Participate in the Danish art of paper-cutting, making intricate designs for Christmas and other seasons.
- Hone your skills in chess, from the basics of setting up the board and moving the pieces to playing the Larsen Opening, the Scandinavian Defense, and the Danish Gambit.

Join us on the Danebod campus in Tyler for three days of lively discussions and hands-on learning! Learn more at danebodfolkmeeting.org.

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

April

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	6	7 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	8	9 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10:30 am Brownies
12 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	13	14 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	15 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	16 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18 Newsletter Articles Due 2 pm Fiber Arts
19 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	20	21 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	22	23 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25 10:30 am Brownies
26 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	27	28 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	29	30 7 pm Choir Rehearsal		
			1 9 am Quilters	2 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 7 pm Good Friday Service - Bethel Lutheran	4 2 pm Fiber Arts

APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

APRIL 5 - Easter, Holy Communion

Greeters: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen

Ushers: Peter Juhl

Acolyte:

Reader: Martha Olsen

Counters: Lisa Jensen

Livestream Tech:

Communion Setup:

Communion Servers: Jackie West

Communion Bread & Wine: Jackie West

LSS Safehouse April 6: Terri, Dan, & Karen Vetsch

APRIL 12

Greeters:

Ushers: Thomas Goodoien & Craig Rocheleau

Acolyte:

Reader:

Counters: Paul Aitchison

Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen

LSS Safehouse April 13: Bruce Simpson & Lisa Rovick

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8

APRIL 19 - Holy Communion

Greeters:

Ushers: Paul Aitchison & Thomas Goodoien

Acolyte: Augie Wollak

Reader: Martha Olsen

Counters: Darrick Jensen

Livestream Tech:

Communion Setup: Judy Anderson

Communion Servers: Leslee Nestingen,
Marcia Rocheleau, & Lisa Rovick

Communion Bread & Wine: Judy Anderson

LSS Safehouse April 20: Liz & Forrest Bentley

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1

APRIL 26

Greeters: Jill & Kerry Audette

Ushers:

Acolyte: Walter Anderson

Reader: Jill Audette

Counters: JeriLynn Young & Eva Tangen

Livestream Tech: JeriLynn Young

LSS Safehouse April 27: Wendy & Gordon

Legge

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2

Maundy Thursday

7 pm Worship

April 5 - Easter

Holy Communion

9 am Worship

10 am Easter

Breakfast

April 12

9 am Worship

10 am Easter Egg

Hunt

10 am Coffee

& Fellowship

April 19

Holy Communion

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee

& Fellowship

April 26

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee &

Fellowship

April 3

Good Friday

Bethel Lutheran

7 pm 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

Pastor:

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Office Coordinator:

Frances Stevenson | office@stpeders.org

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