

THE MESSENGER

IN THIS EDITION

- Upcoming Events
- Courtyard Worship Photos



The dog days of summer are here. As I write, we're in the middle of a heat wave that has sent the heat index well over 100 degrees. The Boundary Waters have been closed down due to forest fires, and our air quality is poor. It feels almost apocalyptic, if I'm being honest, to be informed about the state of the world. Our headlines are filled with floods, fires, wars abroad, and shootings domestically. It's difficult. This is true and the work we are called to do as a congregation of Christ's Church remains the same. Our mission to "joyfully live the gospel with open hands, open hearts, and open doors" continues. Martin Luther is often credited with saying something like, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." And Jesus said, in John 9:4, we must work "while it is day."

So, while we can read the headlines with despair, we can also think of the future with hope. We are still here, so we can still do something. And I have been spending a lot of time imagining what we might do as a community of faith to be good neighbors in these days. We have a unique chance to be a place where people gather, learn, play, hope, and act together. I wonder how we could use our many assets to not just serve us, but the world.

To that end, I am asking for your help and your opinions. I want to know what you think!

I am proposing that we take time during August to dream a bit about what we could do in the coming months and years and, in September, we will do some voting. I want us to think about what the Holy Spirit is bringing to our big collective heart. Perhaps we will feel inspired to do something with our big yard or our building. Maybe there is a skill set here at St. Peder's that could be leveraged to create opportunities for relationships, justice, and community to thrive. What is the "apple tree" that we want to plant in the coming months and years that will grow to produce fruit for the next generation? We will find out together.

If you have ideas, please email me or call me and let me know. There will be opportunities to write down ideas throughout the next month and then we will prayerfully consider what we want to focus on. Whatever we do, I know that we will do it the same way we have done things throughout the last 142 years – in community with God and each other.

Peace,
Pastor Bryan

AUGUST AT ST. PEDER'S

MYSTERY LOVES COMPANY BOOK FAIR - AUGUST 8TH

Sisters in Crime is an international and inclusive group of authors writing mystery, crime fiction, thrillers, and suspense. The local chapter of Sisters in Crime is one of our building tenants and will be holding a book fair here at St. Peder's on Saturday, August 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event features 25 local mystery authors available to chat with you and offer their books for sale. All are invited.



BRIGHT STARS OF BETHLEHEM - AUGUST 9TH

Linda Edens from Bright Stars of Bethlehem will be joining us August 9th to discuss the upcoming trip to the Holy Land. Please join in on the conversation, whether you're able to go in January or not, and learn about the exciting opportunities we have to learn, travel, and experience solidarity with the people of Israel and Palestine.



COURTYARD WORSHIP & BAG BLESSING - AUGUST 16TH

This month's blessing might come at the dismay of our students because it means that school is right around the corner. We will be blessing backpacks (and briefcases and whatever else you use to carry your workload) at our Courtyard Service on August 16.



BRING YOUR IDEAS!

As Pastor Bryan talked about in his cover letter, he is looking for your ideas! We have a lot of energy, imagination, and wisdom at St. Peder's and, throughout August, we want to know what you're thinking. Specifically, we want to know what you think St. Peder's could do or focus on next year. What are ways we could be a good neighbor? How can we encourage and support folks around and within our community? Where might the Holy Spirit be leading us to serve, learn, lead, and grow? There will be an easel in the Fellowship Hall to collect your ideas and thoughts and, in September, we will start to vote on what you think we are being called to as a community.

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

COMMUNITY UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE: GATHER ON THE GREEN

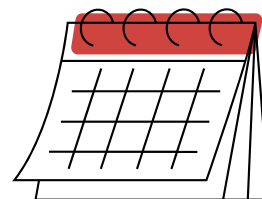
Community Concert on the Lawn at St. Peder's on Saturday, September 12, from 4-7 p.m. Enjoy music from The Classic Big Band and Chris Roberts, a singer-songwriter living in Rochester, MN. This event is open to all ages. Bring a lawnchair or blanket and join us at Gather on the Green!

If the weather is inclement we'll move inside. More details coming soon.

CONFERENCE ROOM USE

St. Peder's welcomed Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors to our building in June. They are renting the two classrooms on the bottom floor to use as their offices. They will also, on occasion be using the conference room.

This will require us to coordinate use of that space between church business and activities and the needs of Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors. If you plan to use the conference room, please reach out to Office Coordinator, Frances at office@stpeders.org.



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. 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

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 May: \$34,931.47

Year to Date: \$132,566.72

Budget for the month: \$25,106.17

Budget Year to Date: \$125,530.85

Expenses

Month of May: \$25,296.52

Year to Date: \$128,361.97

Budget for the month: \$25,106.19

Budget Year to Date: \$125,530.95

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

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD - WELCOME FUND

In spring 2025, the Minneapolis Area Synod passed a resolution to create an immigration task force and fundraise to support immigrant communities. With generous donations from members and churches in the Synod, and across the country and world, the fund raised more than \$270,000 and distributed nearly \$200,000 by the end of April. Those funds were especially vital during the height of Operation Metro Surge when many of our immigrant neighbors and community members were sheltering in place. Funds have been used to provide mutual aid, training and education, and to support advocacy efforts in more than 25 faith communities across our synod.

St. Peder's contributed to the Minneapolis Area Synod Welcome Fund.

HOLY LAND TRIP UPDATE

It sounds as though the Holy Land trip is a very real possibility. Sami, our guide, has reported that multiple trips have happened in the past months, with more coming this year, that have been safe and successful. Pastor Bryan has invited Linda Edens, who works for Bright Stars of Bethlehem, to join us on August 9th for a presentation and Q&A session for anyone who has questions.

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 goal 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!

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

TIM BARRICK PHOTOS

On June 21st, St. Peder's was joined by Tim Barrick Photography during our courtyard worship service and bicycle blessing. Tim is documenting LGBTQ+ affirming congregations across the country. Below are a selection of the photos Tim took in June!



OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

August



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2 pm Fiber Arts
2 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	3	4 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	5 9 am Quilters	6	7	8
9 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	10	11 Primary Election Day Bible Study & Prayer Service canceled due to polling.	12 5:45 pm Driveway Tour	13	14	15 10 am Deaf Blind Club 2 pm Fiber Arts
16 9 am Courtyard Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	17	18 Newsletter Articles Due 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	19 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	20	21	22
23 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	24	25 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	26	27	28	29
30 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	31					

AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2

Greeters: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson
Ushers: Dan Vetsch & Lisa Jensen
Acolyte:
Reader: Bob Stanich
Counters: Marcia Rocheleau & Darrick Jensen
Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen

Communion Setup: Judy Hogan & Steve Simmons
Communion Servers: Bob Stanich, Bruce Simpson, & Peter Juhl
Communion Bread & Wine: Lisa Jensen
LSS Safehouse August 3: Daniel Petersen & Kristin Lehrstrom
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8

AUGUST 9

Greeters: Lisa Rovick & Curt Petersen
Ushers: Curt Petersen & Craig Rocheleau
Acolyte:
Reader: Judy Hogan
Counters: Marcia Rocheleau & Melanie Carlson

Livestream Tech: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safehouse August 10: Bob Stanich & Jeanne Schleh
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1

AUGUST 16

Greeters: Forrest Bentley & Melanie Carlson
Ushers: Craig Rocheleau & Steve Simmons
Acolyte: Walter Anderson
Reader: Martha Olsen
Counters: Steve Austin & Bruce Simpson
Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch

Communion Setup: Eva Tangen & Karen Vetsch
Communion Servers: Dwight Lundebry, Karen Vetsch, & Bruce Simpson
Communion Bread & Wine: Butch Vossen
LSS Safehouse August 16: Kathryn Jensen, Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2

AUGUST 23

Greeters: Steve Simmons & Allison O'Day
Ushers: Lisa Jensen & Peter Juhl
Acolyte: Fletcher Campbell
Reader: Susan Gantriis
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Lisa Jensen

Livestream Tech:
LSS Safehouse August 24: Michael & Judy Hogan
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3

AUGUST 30

Greeters: Liz Bentley & Martha Olsen
Ushers: Dan Vetsch & Curt Petersen
Acolyte: Anders Odeen
Reader: Bruce Simpson
Counters: Jackie West & Karen Vetsch

Livestream Tech: JeriLynn Young
LSS Safehouse August 31: Bill & Judy Anderson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

August 9

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

August 16

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

August 23

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

August 30

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

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.



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.



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Church Staff

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Jim Austin