

July 2026

THE MESSENGER

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- Welcoming Healthy Seniors
- Faith Formation Updates



Greetings in the name of Christ!

In case you miraculously missed the memo, the United States is turning 250 this month. Independence Day receives a lot of fanfare, with its fireworks, parades, and cookouts. I remember it being one of my favorite holidays as a kid. I loved watching fireworks and the excuse to stay up late.

These days, however, I am worried less about finding a good celebratory firework show as I am worried about having something to celebrate. I am thinking about the state of the world and what sort of country we are passing down to the generations who come after us. A recent Wall Street Journal report shows that a majority of people have lost faith in the American dream. People are concerned that the opportunities and success of the future will be less than now or in the past.

This is difficult information to get. It's a difficult thing to feel. Yet, somewhere in between the bombastic displays of the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the anxieties about the future, there is a truth that can be easy to miss. Whether these are the best of times or the worst of times, our salvation and our responsibilities are the same.

The initial message of Jesus – "The Kingdom of Heaven is near/here" – is as true now as it ever was. God's work is not reliant on a government structure or political party. Often, it happens in spite of it.

Throughout history, Christians have lived in every possible form of government. We've been patriots and protesters, warriors and pacifists. We've survived systemic oppression and persecution. The early church was founded in some of the least hospitable governmental policies imaginable, and yet here we still are. Paul wrote, to the Philippians, that "our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there we are expecting a Savior."

Trusting that our citizenship is in heaven, we look out for others, we build up community, and we keep our eyes open for the work, the love, and the grace of God among us now. Our work as Christians is always and forever for our neighbors and our hope is always in God.

Peace,
Pastor Bryan

JULY AT ST. PEDER'S

THANK YOU FROM LONGFELLOW/SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS

Longfellow Seward Healthy Seniors is excited to be joining you in the St. Peder's church building! We are grateful for all of the hard work your community put into preparing our office space. We provide free services to older adults in the neighborhood, including health screenings, social activities, food support, transportation and more. Come say hello any time!



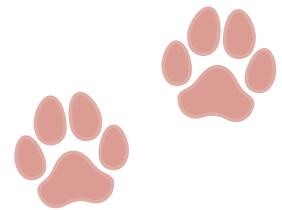
DEMOCRACY DEFENSE TRAINING - JULY 15

Monarca has a democracy defense training in Uptown on Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. This training will focus on current threats being faced, actions that can be taken up to the election and beyond, and ways to stay connected and involved in the work. Register via the QR code.



COURTYARD WORSHIP & PET BLESSING

This month's Courtyard Worship service is on July 19th (weather permitting, of course) and we will be blessing pets! Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friend!



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@stpeters.org.

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COMMUNITY UPDATES

HELP WANTED FAITH FORMATION 2026-2027

We are looking for volunteers to lead and assist our youth.
20 minute class time commitment.
Everyone is welcome whether you're attached to a kiddo or not.

Our theme this coming year is around INTEGRITY and FAITH TRAITS
Our class time should be around 20 minutes and it will begin after the service each Sunday.
Let's call it - Pop up Faith Formation

Volunteering could be minimal or more: pick one Sunday a month, once a year, or anything between.
Watch for the sign up sheet to choose the Sundays that work best for you.

Every Sunday all our youth are welcome to gather together to discuss the kids' sermon about the gospel story. The class will focus on a faith trait related to the story. A summary of integrity/faith traits and suggested activities will be provided. This is a great chance for you to get to know our youth better and guide them in learning about integrity and faith traits.

Just saying ..since the time will be after service the kiddos and you will get treats & beverages in the learning space. We want to try this so the time together can begin right away and nobody feels cheated from coffee hour.

Questions please seek out Pastor Bryan, Kristi Erickson, Karen Vetsch or Gina Sekelsky



Pastors Hans Jorgensen, Bryan Odeen, and Leisl Spitz at the Capitol after the Palm Sunday Procession.



Abram Neumann talking about the ministry of Iglutheca at Pine Ridge.



Six youth and two brave chaperones after returning from the Boundary Waters.

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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 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 April: \$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

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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LOOKING FOR SOME GREAT SUMMER READING IDEAS?

Check out the display case and table in St. Peder's library featuring: member favorites, new acquisitions and a collection of teen and pre-teen book recommendations!



SPECIAL GUEST - JULY 5TH

Haydia Hill, the director of the LSS Safehouse, will be joining us after worship on July 5th to share information about LSS Safehouse, the people they serve, and their needs.

Many of us are involved in bringing meals on Monday evenings and this will be a great opportunity to reconnect to their mission and learn more about the people we have been helping as a congregation.

DANEOD 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

July



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 am Quilters	2	3	4 2 pm Fiber Arts
5 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	6	7 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	8	9	10	11 10:30 am Brownies
12 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	13	14 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	15 9 am Quilters	16	17	18 Newsletter Articles Due 10 am Deaf Blind Club 2 pm Fiber Arts
19 9 am Courtyard Worship and Pet Blessing 10 am Coffee Fellowship	20	21 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	22	23	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	31	

JULY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

JULY 5

Greeters: Curt Petersen & Susan Gantriis
Ushers: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Acolyte: Hattie Odeen
Reader: Susan Gantriis
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Bruce Simpson
Livestream Tech: Bruce Simpson

Communion Setup: Judy Anderson & Lisa Jensen
Communion Servers: Lisa Rovick, Bob Stanich, & Dwight Lundebry
Communion Bread & Wine: Judy Anderson
LSS Safehouse July 6: Sue & Al Nielsen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4

JULY 12

Greeters: Karen & Dan Vetsch
Ushers: Craig Rocheleau & Thomas Goodoien
Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger
Reader: Allison O'Day
Counters: Bob Stanich & Melanie Carlson

Livestream Tech: Lisa Rovick
LSS Safehouse July 12: The Gleason Family
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5

JULY 19

Greeters: Susan Gantriis & Eva Tangen
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Dan Vetsch
Acolyte: Maren Odeen
Reader: Kristi Lahti-Johnson
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Karen Vetsch
Livestream Tech: Melanie Carlson

Communion Setup: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson
Communion Servers: Kristi Lahti-Johnson, Chuck Johnson, & Judy Hogan
Communion Bread & Wine: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse July 20: Kathryn Jensen, Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6

JULY 26

Greeters: Darrick Jensen & Lisa Jensen
Ushers: Marcia & Craig Rocheleau
Acolyte: Elena Wilson
Reader: Eleanor Auer
Counters: Jackie West & Lisa Jensen

Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse July 27: Shawna Nelsen-Wills & Steve Wills
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

July 12

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

July 19

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

July 26

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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Caretaker:

Jim Austin