

THE MESSENGER

IN THIS EDITION

- Gather on the Green
- Fall Volunteer Survey



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 the works of him who sent me 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. To that end, 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 place in culture and in our neighborhood to be a place where people gather, learn, play, hope, and act together. I have wondered how we could use our many assets to not just serve us, but serve 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 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 hopefully find that 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 – together.

Peace,
Pastor Bryan

SEPTEMBER AT ST. PEDER'S

GATHER ON THE GREEN

Join us for Gather on the Green: Community Concert on the Lawn on Saturday, September 12, from 4-7 p.m. on the church lawn. The Classic Big Band will kick off the evening with a 4 p.m. performance, followed by Christopher Roberts performing a mix of covers and original songs.

Pastor Bryan may also join in for a performance. Walking tacos will be available; please bring your own beverages, along with a blanket or lawn chair. All are welcome—invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

A poster for the 'GATHER ON THE GREEN' Community Concert. It features a green and white floral border at the top and bottom. The title 'GATHER ON THE GREEN' is in large, bold, green letters. Below it, 'Community Concert on the Lawn' is in smaller green letters. The date and time 'SEPT 12TH, 2026 | 4-7 PM' and the location 'ST PEDER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 4600 E. 42ND ST, MINNEAPOLIS' are listed. It mentions 'The Classic Big Band' and 'Christopher Roberts' as performers. At the bottom, it says 'All are Welcome - All Ages'.

FALL VOLUNTEER CONFLICT SURVEY

It's time to fill out the 2026 Fall Volunteer Conflict Survey! This survey will ask you which roles you volunteer for and any dates where you are unavailable to volunteer. This will be used to assign volunteer roles and dates for October through December. All volunteers will receive the Fall Volunteer Schedule before October 1.



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

Do you have a love for singing and service? Holy Cross Lutheran Church (1720 E Minnehaha Pkwy) is launching a funeral choir that will rehearse weekly and be available to sing for funerals and memorial services across the South Minneapolis area and beyond. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 1:00-2:15 PM beginning September 8 at Holy Cross. For more information contact Mark Fideldy – admin@holycrossmpls.org.

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

COMMUNITY UPDATES

LONGFELLOW/SEWARD HEALTHY SENIORS

Thank you for welcoming Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors into your church! We are excited to be here in this lovely space.



Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors is a nonprofit organization that provides health, social, and support services to older adults in the greater Longfellow/Seward neighborhoods. Our services include:

- Nurse visits, health screenings and clinics
- Help with household chores
- Transportation to and from medical appointments and polling places
- Assistance grocery shopping
- Delivery from the Minnehaha Food Shelf to qualifying older adults with health limitations
- Friendly visitors
- Help with technology
- Information and referral assistance
- Bilingual Somali/English services
- Diabetes support groups (English and Somali)
- Solos Resource Group
- Art, exercise and technology classes
- Senior Socials and Health Talks
- Social groups

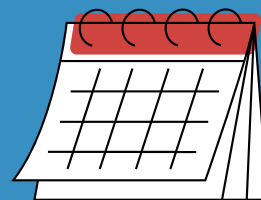
Staff will be here Monday-Thursday between 9:00 and 2:00 pm. Please stop by and say hello! We will be welcoming neighbors with an Open House on Saturday, October 3rd from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Come join us for refreshments, music, games, and to learn more about what we provide to the community!

Sincerely, The Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors staff

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.



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 July: \$20,277.16

Year to Date: \$175,521.80

Budget for the month: \$25,106.17

Budget Year to Date: \$175,743.19

Expenses

Month of July: \$41,602.67

Year to Date: \$167,521.33

Budget for the month: \$25,106.19

Budget Year to Date: \$175,743.33

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

PUB THEOLOGY

Pub Theology is back from a summer vacation! Please join us at Parkway Pizza, 4357 Minnehaha Avenue, at 6:30 on Wednesday, September 9. We will discuss topics for future Pub Theology gatherings, and decide on day, place and time. All are welcome.

Please contact Michael or Allison O'Day with any questions or suggestions.



Open Eye Theater's Driveway Tour puppet show.



Linda Eden, from Bright Stars of Bethlehem, discusses the upcoming Holy Land trip.



A bald eagle lands on the St. Peder's cross.



Volunteers from St. Peder's during the annual Paint-A-Thon.



OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

September

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Election Day	2 9 am Quilters	3	4	5 2 pm Fiber Arts
6 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	7	8 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	9	10	11	12 9 am Confirmation 4 pm Gather on the Green
13 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	14	15 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	16 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	17	18	19 10 am Deaf Blind Club 2 pm Fiber Arts
20 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	21	22 Newsletter Articles Due 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	23	24	25	26 9 am Funeral: Carol Hansen
27 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	28	29 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	30			

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 6

Greeters: Lisa Rovick & Curt Petersen
Ushers: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Acolyte: Hattie Odeen
Reader: Dwight Lundebly
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Curt Petersen
Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen

Communion Setup: Judy Anderson & Karen Vetsch
Communion Servers: Lisa Rovick, Bob Stanich, & Karen Vetsch
Communion Bread & Wine: Allison O'Day
LSS Safehouse September 7: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson, Eric & Bethene Hunsberger
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5

SEPTEMBER 13

Greeters: Susan Gantriis & Lisa Jensen
Ushers: Andrea & Aemilia Wollak
Acolyte: Augie Wollak
Reader: Dan Vetsch
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Lisa Jensen

Livestream Tech: Melanie Carlson
LSS Safehouse September 14: Curt & Meg Petersen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6

SEPTEMBER 20

Greeters: Bethene & Eric Hunsberger
Ushers: Steve Simmons & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte: Elena Wilson
Reader: Lisa Rovick
Counters: Terri Vetsch & Eva Tangen
Livestream Tech: Bruce Simpson

Communion Setup: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson
Communion Servers: Judy Hogan, Bob Stanich, and Bruce Simpson
Communion Bread & Wine: Meg Petersen
LSS Safehouse September 21: Sue & Al Nielsen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7

SEPTEMBER 27

Greeters: Karen & Dan Vetsch
Ushers: Curt Petersen & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak
Reader: Eleanor Auer
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Bruce Simpson

Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse September 28: Terri, Dan, & Karen Vetsch
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 6

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

September 13

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

September 20

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

September 27

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.



St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA
4600 E 42nd St | Minneapolis, MN 55406
tel: 612-722-8000 | stpeders.org

Church Staff

Pastor:

Bryan Odeen | pastorbryan@stpeders.org

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse | mia@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator:

Frances Stevenson | office@stpeders.org

Caretaker:

Jim Austin