

THE MESSENGER

IN THIS EDITION

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- SNAP SUNDAY



Hello from the Pastor's Desk!

Back in January, as we celebrated the day and season of Epiphany, I encouraged everyone to pull a Star Word from a basket. These were all mixed up and chosen at random and the idea was that, if you felt a connection to the word, that it could be a guiding word for the upcoming year. I encouraged everyone to put it somewhere that they would see it and be reminded of it – the mirror where makeup gets done, the wallet next to your driver's license, the desk where homework gets done, or maybe just even use it as a bookmark so every time you pick up your book, you're reminded of the word. My word has sat on my desk, under my computer, where I see it often. My word says "imagine".

It has grown on me. We have experienced things so far this year that we could not have imagined. I've tried to imagine what faithful responses God might be calling St. Peder's to next. I've imagined prayers, actions, sermons, communities, and songs. I realize that I spend a lot of my time imagining. But the thing about imagining is that it asks us to take what we know and open ourselves to the possibility (and uncertainty) of the future. Probably the most foundational thing about imagination is that what we are imagining isn't here yet.

This is, I hope, faithful to my call as a pastor and a Christian. In Isaiah 43:19, the prophet makes this declaration from God: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." It seems God, too, is imagining a future which is coming to be. God is preparing a highway through the wilderness and streams in the drought-stricken places of the world. Those ways have to be walked with trust that, even if we don't know the way, that God will walk with us and bring us to the place God is imagining.

As we enter a new season of the year, and maybe new seasons of our lives, I hope we continue to be open to God's imagination and God's call. Our vision of living with open hands, hearts, and doors is not just for our neighbors, but to God and ourselves. Because God is doing new things and we are lucky enough to be a part of it.

So what are you imagining today? I hope you'll let me know.

Peace,
Pastor Bryan

OCTOBER AT ST. PEDER'S

HEALTHY SENIORS OPEN HOUSE

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors is hosting an Open House on Saturday, October 3 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The event will share their new location inside the St. Peder's building with their clients and community.



The St. Peder's community is invited to join and learn more about the organization!

SNAP SUNDAY

St. Peder's and six other local congregations are joining together on Sunday, October 11 for "SNAP Sunday" to raise money for Minnehaha Food Shelf with a goal of \$4,000. 100,238 people in Hennepin County rely on SNAP to help feed their families. As benefits shrink, many will turn to food shelves like Minnehaha Food Shelf to fill the gap.



You can help by giving through a special offering that day, or anytime, at our secure online donation page via the QR code or by going to <https://bit.ly/3JCzVDT>.

FORUM AND Q&A WITH PASTOR ANEGLA DENKER

Shepherd of the Valley Sanctuary is hosting "Christian Nationalism, Violet Masculinity, and How to Build Hope and Resilience," with Pastor Angela Denker on Saturday, October 10 from 9-11 a.m.



During this event, Pastor Denker will explore how American culture and churches have been shaped by the rise of Christian Nationalism, how we got here and how people of faith can build hope and resilience.

Learn more and register for the event at www.sotv.org/event/angela-denker-at-sotv or via the QR code.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE: AEBLESKIVE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars for the annual Aebleskive Breakfast on Sunday, November 8. We will be setting up the Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, November 7. We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, baking, donating ingredients, milk, jam etc., serving and clean up. Please see Sue Nielsen (suenielsen76@gmail.com or 612-360-3936) if you are interested in helping out. Tak!



SAVE THE DATE: PASTA FUNDRAISER DINNER

Join us for a night of pasta, community, and supporting a great cause!

Thursday, October 22, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

New Branches, 5011 31st Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tickets: \$32 (\$37 after October 17) · Kids age 5 and under eat free

Ticket sales open soon — watch for details!

ROSEVILLE STRING ENSEMBLE

Join the Roseville String Ensemble for our fall classical music concert, "Little Suites and Sweet Serenades," on Sunday, October 25th at 3:00 p.m., at Hamline University's Sundin Music Hall, 1531 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul. Lisa Jensen, Wendy Legge, and Lisa Rovick will all be playing in this concert. Admission is free but donations are welcome. For more information, see rosevillestrings.org/concerts/.

CONFIRMATION

We have five 9th-graders affirming their baptismal promises in worship on October 25. They have completed two years of classes studying the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and thinking about how God is working in the world. We are so excited for them, their families, and their sponsors at this milestone!

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

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 August: \$33,010.44

Year to Date: \$207,003.75

Budget for the month: \$25,106.17

Budget Year to Date: \$200,849.36

Expenses

Month of August: \$20,578.03

Year to Date: \$188,121.15

Budget for the month: \$25,106.19

Budget Year to Date: \$200,849.52

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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY AND NEW MEMBER WELCOME

All Saints Sunday is November 1st, so this month we will be collecting the names of those saints in our lives who have died but remain with us in the Communion of Saints. You will be able to find that sign up between Pastor Bryan's and Frances's offices. If you would like to email us names, please email office@stpeters.org.

During that day, we will also be welcoming new members, as we celebrate both the history and the future of St. Peder's. If you or someone you know is interested in joining St. Peder's, please contact Pastor Bryan. We will likely have a new member class toward the end of October before All Saints Sunday.

HOLY LAND TRIP UPDATE

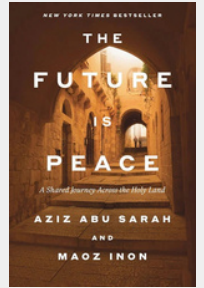
This is the last month to sign up for the trip to the Holy Land. We have spaces open and if you're interested, please contact Pastor Bryan. Please see the next page for some resources that you can use to learn more about the complex cultural and historical situation in the Middle East. Whether you are planning on traveling to the Holy Land or not, these resources will be helpful in understanding the current political and spiritual climate of Israel and Palestine. Pastor Bryan has been assured that the situation is becoming more stable and other groups have taken successful and safe tours in the past few months.

HOLY LAND RESOURCES

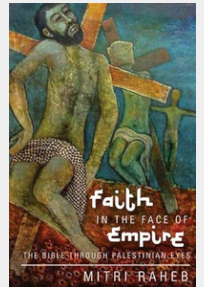
Those who are travelling and those who are interested in learning more about the complex cultural context of the Holy Land are encouraged to read or watch from some of these resources. There are certainly a lot of perspectives and resources on the subject, so this is clearly not an exhaustive list, but it is a good starting point.

BOOKS

“The Future is Peace” by Aziz Abu Sarah and Maoz Inon is co-written by a Muslim Palestinian and an Israeli Jew, both of whom have lost family in the violence that has been endemic to the area. Rather than advocating for vengeance or counter-violence, they are advocating peace. This book is written as a way to tell their personal and national histories side-by-side as they travel side-by-side through the Holy Land, providing important context the current situation.



“Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible through Palestinian Eyes” is by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, who is a pastor and founder/president of Dar al-Kalima University (which those who take the tour will visit). This book unpacks how history of empires has an impact on Christians in Palestine, including how they read and interpret the Bible. Rev. Dr. Raheb has several other books you can read, but this one is an especially good primer on the topic.



VIDEOS

“The Israel-Palestine Conflict Explained in Detail [2026]” from Peace by Peace is a 15-minute video that offers a good broad overview of modern history, including how empires and wars of the 1800s and 1900s, and the fallout of WWII, had an impact on the current relationships between Israelis, Palestinians, and the larger world.



“Rev. Mitri Raheb | Lutheran Theologian | Last Christian in Bethlehem” by Last Christian in Bethlehem is a 5-minute long video by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (mentioned above) that details the situation of Christians living in the Holy Land, who have also been challenged by the current situation.



Thank you to all who came out to Gather on the Green on September 12 to share music and joy in the courtyard!

OPEN HANDS | OPEN HEARTS | OPEN DOORS

October



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 9 am Healthy Seniors Open House 2 pm Fiber Arts
4 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	5	6 9 am Healthy Seniors Line Dancing 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	7 9 am Quilters	8 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 11 am Lis Jorgensen Funeral
11 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	12	13 9 am Line Dancing 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	14	15 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 10 am Deaf Blind Club 2 pm Fiber Arts
18 Newsletter Articles Due 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	19	20 9 am Healthy Seniors Line Dancing 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	21 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	22 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee Fellowship	26	27 9 am Healthy Seniors Line Dancing 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Prayer Service	28	29 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	30	31

OCTOBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 4

Greeters: Susan Schnickel & Paul Aitchison
Ushers: Susan Nielsen & Dan Vetsch
Acolyte: Walter Anderson
Reader: Dave Noren
Counters: Cameron Jamison & Bob Stanich
Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch

Communion Setup: Eva Tangen & Karen Vetsch
Communion Servers: Lisa Rovick, Bob Stanich, Paul Aitchison
Communion Bread & Wine: Allison & Michael O'Day
LSS Safehouse October 5: Bruce Simpson & Lisa Rovick
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1

OCTOBER 11

Greeters: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Mark Davies
Acolyte: Fletcher Campbell
Reader: Judy Hogan
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Judy Hogan

Livestream Tech: Melanie Carlson
LSS Safehouse October 12: Liz & Forrest Bentley
Every Meal October 9: Karen Vetsch
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2

OCTOBER 18

Greeters: Bob Stanich & Jeanne Schleh
Ushers: Andrea, Aemelia, Augie Wollak
Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger
Reader: Bob Stanich
Counters: Cameron Jamison & Paul Aitchison
Livestream Tech: Cameron Jamison

Communion Setup: Judy Hogan & Susan Schnickel
Communion Servers: Judy Hogan, Karen & Dan Vetsch
Communion Bread & Wine: Bob Stanich
LSS Safehouse October 19: Cameron Jamison & Alice Bekke
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3

OCTOBER 25

Greeters: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson
Ushers: Butch Vossen & Joe Munnich
Acolyte: Anders Odeen
Reader: Joe Munnich
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Lisa Jensen

Livestream Tech: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safehouse October 26: Lisamarie & Bryan Odeen
Every Meal October 23: Sue Schnickel
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 4

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

October 11

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

October 18

Holy Communion
9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

October 25

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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