

St Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church
4600 E 42nd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
(612) 722-8000

November 2020
Issue 11

The Messenger

Celebrating Pastor Julie and the Search for an Interim Pastor

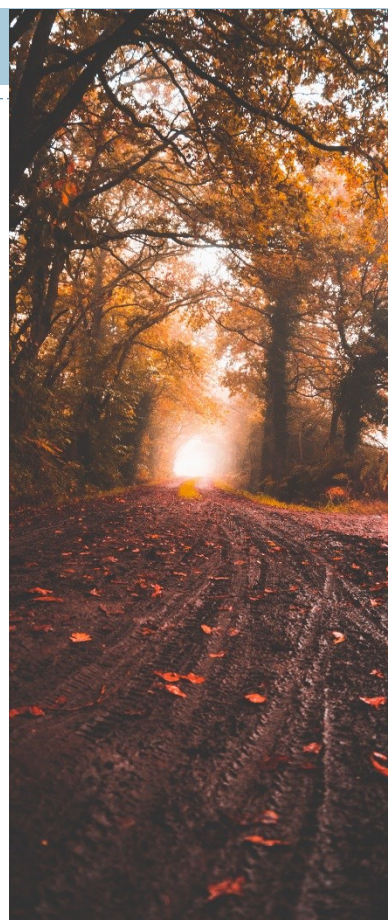
Dear friends,

Hello! I hope everyone is staying healthy and finding ways to stay connected with loved ones. I imagine that many of you have mixed emotions about the news that Pastor Julie Ebbesen is retiring at the end of January 2021. I know that personally I am very happy for Pastor Julie and wish her only the best in her next chapter, but I also feel some sadness to see her leave. Pastor Julie has been with St. Peder's for over 15 years and has been a compassionate and dedicated leader for St. Peder's. She has held true to the spirit and long-standing traditions of St. Peder's, while welcoming new ideas and new individuals and families to our community. She brings faith, hope, and light to those who need it, and is always ready with a listening ear and a word of prayer and comfort when called upon. We will find a time in January to celebrate Pastor Julie and all that she has brought to St. Peder's--it may look a little different given COVID-19, but she will be honored and uplifted for her great service to St. Peder's. Thank you Pastor Julie!

The Church Council is meeting with Pastor Craig Pederson from the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA to discuss next steps in our search for an Interim Pastor and our eventual Call for a new Pastor to lead St. Peder's in the years ahead. We will be creating a special Call Committee. If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please contact shawnanelsen3@gmail.com. The Synod will be a strong partner in helping us navigate the next few months ahead. While change can be difficult, this is a great opportunity to think strategically about what we would like to see from a new Pastor at St. Peder's. How can this change be an opportunity for growth for our church? As we move through the process, I will keep the congregation updated and we will be finding ways to gain your input and feedback. The goal will be to have an interim Pastor in place by the time of Pastor Julie's departure. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Our search will be guided by faith, hope, and strength as we move into a new phase for St. Peder's Lutheran Church. I am thrilled to be able to help lead this process and excited about the possibilities it brings for St. Peder's! Thank you for being a partner on this journey--prayers are welcome for a successful search!

In gratitude,

Shawna Nelsen Wills, Council President



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Safe Gatherings.....	2
Annual Meeting.....	3
Adult Faith Formation.....	4
Support Black Businesses.....	5
Together in Mission.....	6
Volunteer Schedule.....	8



"Rooted in our heritage and embracing the future, we joyfully live the gospel with open hearts, open hands and open doors."

Safe Gatherings Committee Survey & Message

The Safe Gatherings Committee has been meeting on a bi-weekly basis and working hard to research best practices and establish safety protocols and procedures for the possibility of "safe gatherings" at St. Peder's--including in-Sanctuary worship services. The decision to hold in-person services and gatherings sits with the Church Council, but the Safe Gatherings Committee is preparing plans so staff and leadership can best be ready when that day comes. The Committee is made up of a small group of members, including those in the medical and legal profession. They have been called on to develop recommendations not only for Sunday Services, but also for other gatherings such as Bible Study, Sunday School, Social Gathering Groups, and those groups that have used our building in the past for meetings (i.e Girls Scouts, Senior Aerobics, etc.).

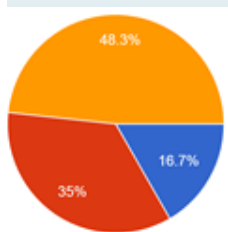
Focusing on guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health, the Safe Gathering Committee is covering all of the bases to provide the Council with considerations for opening the building and resuming activities. **Thanks to those of you who have filled out the Safe Gatherings Survey, it has helped reaffirm the direction that we have been heading in.** (Please see main results below.) Only a very small percentage of respondents felt very comfortable or sure about gathering again in 2020 and a majority would like to see strong safety protocols in place, COVID-19 cases dropping, and/or a vaccine widely available before they would be comfortable attending in-person church again. We were not surprised to see that most people missed in-person services, music & singing, and coffee and fellowship the most (we do have great services, wonderful music, AND the best coffee around!)

The Safe Gatherings Committee is planning on presenting a proposal to the council during the November meeting to consider for making decisions as we are able to resume activities in the building. As we continue our journey through these unprecedented times, please know that your safety is a top priority. We look forward to the day we can gather safely together again at St. Peder's and we'll be ready with smart and researched best practices to put into place! In the meantime, we hope you will join in the virtual services and activities to stay connected in faith and fellowship.

--Safe Gatherings Committee

Results of Congregational Survey

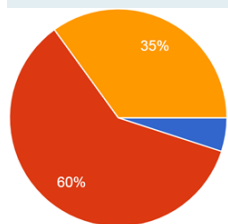
St. Peder's should look to hold in-sanctuary services in 2020.



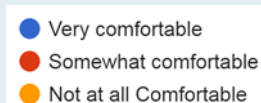
16.7% Yes
35% No
48.3% Unsure



How comfortable are you with the idea of starting to hold in-sanctuary services at St. Peder's (with best safety-practices in place)?



5% Very Comfortable
60% Somewhat Comfortable
35% Not at all comfortable



Results continue on next page

Congregational survey results continued.....

I will be comfortable attending in-sanctuary services at St. Peder's once the following is true (check all that apply):

61.7% Safety protocols are put into place (limited numbers, 6 ft. social distancing established, sanitizing protocols in place, mandatory mask-wearing, no singing, etc.)

50% COVID-19 rates are dropping and an overall positive rate for tests are less than 5% in Hennepin County. (Currently at 7% - at time of survey)

63.3% A COVID-19 vaccine becomes widely available.

3.4% Other

What do you miss most about in-person services at St. Peder's? (check all that apply.)

78.3% In person worship services

76.7% Music and singing

30% Children and Youth Activities

20% Adult Faith Formation

80% Coffee and Fellowship

5% Communion

8.5% Other



Official Announcement.....Annual Meeting Information

The annual congregational meeting to vote on the proposed budget for 2021 will be on **Sunday, November 15 via Zoom at 10:30 a.m.** An invitation to the Zoom meeting will be sent via email closer to November 15.

Because of COVID, the Council has approved a continuing resolution that allows for our congregation to hold meetings electronically to conduct the business usually done at congregational meetings in the sanctuary.

All confirmed members are voting members and are invited to attend.



St. Peder's Member Receives Eagle Scout Award!

Rasmus Gantriis received his Eagle Scout award at a small ceremony on Sunday, October 25 in Mahtomedi. Razy spent many months working on his Eagle rank, and he completed the requirements for Eagle in March of this year. As a part of his Eagle rank requirements, Razy organized a "Toy Drive" service project for the Toy Shelf of North St. Paul. Over the course of his Scouting experience, Razy earned a total of 24 merit badges and tallied 135 total nights of camping. Razy also attended three High Adventure Bases, which earned him the coveted "Triple Crown" Award. Razy is currently a Senior at Mahtomedi High School.

Standard Time Begins November 1...

Set your clocks back an hour when you go to bed **Saturday night, October 31...** it's the end of Daylight Savings Time!



Adult Faith Formation is Back (online)!

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Join us for Faith Formation on Zoom at 11:30am on the following dates:

8 November, 22 November, 13 December

We gather together, sing some songs, watch a video, read the story, and play some games! Our time together lasts between 30 and 45 minutes.

On **December 5** we'll gather on Zoom to record our Christmas pageant for this year. Stay tuned for more information and for the time.



Pub Theology

Join us on Zoom on November 2 for our monthly Pub Theology event at 7pm. We'll be having a discussion about our hopes and dreams for the future of St. Peder's. Make your own pizza and beverage (or have it delivered from a local joint) and join in! To get the link, email Shannon at: faithformation@stpeders.org

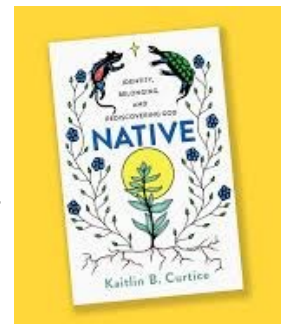
Adult Faith Formation



On **November 8 at 10am** we'll discuss Brené Brown's documentary "The Call to Courage". It's available on Netflix. <https://www.netflix.com/title/81010166> So watch this on your own and then be ready to discuss! *Brené Brown: The Call to Courage* is special about how bravery could arise from engaging with our deepest vulnerabilities. Brené Brown has published TED Talks and books earlier about the subject, and this documentary continues exploring the topic.

On **December 6 at 10** we'll be discussing the book "Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God" by Kaitlin B. Curtice. It is available on Audible as an audiobook.

Native is about identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin Curtice offers a unique perspective on these topics. In this book, she shows how reconnecting with her Potawatomi identity both informs and challenges her faith.



Curtice draws on her personal journey, poetry, imagery, and stories of the Potawatomi people to address themes at the forefront of today's discussions of faith and culture in a positive and constructive way. She encourages us to embrace our own origins and to share and listen to each other's stories so we can build a more inclusive and diverse future. Each of our stories matters for the church to be truly whole. As Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage, she reveals that a vibrant spirituality has its origins in identity, belonging, and a sense of place.

Looking ahead to Christmas...



Unfortunately the persistence of the pandemic will prevent us from worshipping together at St Peder's during the Advent and Christmas season. But, we will have online worship - and we'd love your help in creating meaningful services! A more detailed outline of the December and January worship services will be included in the December MESSENGER.

Meanwhile, here's an invitation to consider:

We'd love to include a video recording of you and/or your family singing a verse or two of a favorite Christmas carol for our Christmas Eve worship. It'll be wonderful to see you and hear you - and it's a way to connect with one another during these winter months! This is not about choral perfection - it's about sharing a song of the season... we hope you'll have fun doing it!

If you're game, please let Pastor Julie know at pastorjulie@stpeders.org. We'll get detailed instructions to you. The deadline for recordings will likely be sometime in early December.

Here's a couple other invitations:

-Do you have a manger scene or creche your family enjoys each Christmas? Send us a photo! We'll start sharing them during Advent.

-Send us a brief video of you or your family sharing a Christmas greeting from home! Something as simple as "Merry Christmas" will be great!

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Julie!

Thanks for participating in our worship life during this COVID Christmas. It won't be the same, but the good news is that not even a pandemic can erase the good news of Christ's birth! We're still embraced by the grace of the Word that became flesh and lived among us - and nothing can change that.



Would you like to receive weekly sermons in the mail?

For those of you who do not have access to online worship, would you like to receive a paper copy of Pastor Julie's sermon in the mail? Every Tuesday, Jeannie sends out copies of that past Sunday's sermon in the mail. Contact Jeannie in the office if you would like to be added to her list. 612-722-8000.

Online Sunday Services



Missed a service? Want to watch it again? You can find all of the services linked on the St. Peder's website or on our YouTube channel!

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP5r4ROb8KPP2H05ggU9AqQ>)

Businesses Owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to Support

We encourage you to share BIPOC owned businesses you know of and/or feedback about our suggestions by sending an email to racialjustice@stpeders.org. Your suggestions will be shared in future Messengers.



Mama Sheila's House of Soul

Owners Sheila and Frederick Brathwaite, 3744 Bloomington Ave S.
(At intersection of 38th and Bloomington) 612-584-3690

Hungry for some comfort food? Eat in or take out at this family-style Soul Food buffet. Mama Sheila's features a variety of Southern classics such as candied yams, red beans and rice, fried chicken wings, and customer favorite mac and cheese. Check out the menu at mamasheilasonline.com

The Good Pet Groomer

Owner Donita Jackson, 25 E. Franklin Ave 612-990-9692

Give your critters a variety of grooming services, from a quick wash and nail-clipping to a more extensive pampering session. Check out available services and costs at the-good-pet-groomer.ueniweb.com

Choose Love Minnesota

This is an online apparel shop started by a local family. Check out the sweatshirts, caps, T-shirts, masks, and more at: <https://chooselovemn.com/> They also offer gift cards.



From the Racial Justice Team

Each month the Racial Justice Team will be sharing some though provoking statements or questions for you to consider. We hope you'll take a few moments and engage your heart and mind while pondering them.

Something to ponder...

- ◇ A time when you felt you were discriminated against or treated unfairly.
- ◇ A time when you witnessed discrimination or someone treated unfairly.

Consider:

- ◇ Who was involved?
- ◇ Who was most hurt by the action or words, and why? How did you feel?
- ◇ Were these moments based on race, gender, religion or some other aspect of identity, or not?
- ◇ Did power play into it? If so, how?



Our Village Reunion Supports Neighbors—Learn More!

Our Village Reunion (OVR) hosts a weekly distribution of non-perishable goods at **First Covenant Church (810 S. 7th Street, Mnpls.)** each **Saturday from 11 am - 3 pm.**

This ministry is a way to support our neighbors and create space for mutual caring, sharing and relationship. OVR expects to serve 200 families on a weekly basis with appropriate protocols for social distancing and mask wearing.

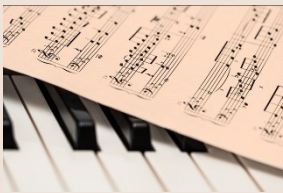
Our Village Reunion is working to meet community needs in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the economic wreckage caused by the pandemic. Our Village Reunion was formed as a place where equally-valued people gather for caring, renewal, and relationship.

To learn more about how to get involved, visit First Covenant's website: <https://www.1stcov.org/village> or contact Jennifer Starr Dodd is the contact and facilitator for Our Village Reunion. To donate supplies (listed under "Needs"), volunteer, or ask questions contact Jennifer at jenniferstarrdodd@gmail.com You can also call 612-332-8093.

The products in the list below are needed for the weekly distribution. Make a one-time contribution or make a commitment to contribute specific household items on a monthly basis.

- Body Soap, Shampoo
- Hand Soap
- Baby Products
 - Diapers (in all sizes)
 - Formula, Wipes, etc.
- Maxi Pads
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent
- Cooking Oil

Music News



Terrance Olson, Organist & Choir Director, is no longer employed at St. Peder's. We thank him for his nearly three years of service and wish him well in his future endeavors. The Personnel Committee and Church Council will be discussing the next steps and timing related to hiring these positions in the new year. In the meantime, if you would like to provide music for any upcoming services, please contact Pastor Julie.

Together in Mission 2020

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 through the 9th month of 2020. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who'd like to see it.

Income

Month of September	\$ 20,853.81	Budget for the month	\$ 22,916.66
Year to Date	\$ 155,702.86	Budget Year to Date	\$ 206,250.02

Expenses

Month of September	\$ 31,731.75	Budget for the month	\$ 24,001.51
Year to Date	\$ 210,987.90	Budget Year to Date	\$ 216,013.47

Mission Support to...

Minneapolis Area Synod	YTD	\$ 10,500.02
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Volunteer Schedule for November and Early December

LSS Safehouse Schedule

November 2: Daniel Peterson & Kristin Lerstrom, John & Doreen Skraba

November 9: Bill and Judy Anderson

November 16: Kristi Lahti Johnson & Chuck Johnson, Bethene & Eric Hunsberger

November 23: Pat & Cameron Jamison, Alice Bekke

November 30: Bob Stanich & Jeanne Schleh

December 7: Craig & Marcia Rocheleau, Dwight & Kari Bullard

On-Line Reader Schedule

Would you like to volunteer as an "Online Reader"? Contact Jeannie in the office to be added to our "Online Reader Volunteer" list. You will need to be able to record yourself.

November 1: Bruce Simpson

November 8: Elizabeth Anderson

November 15: Shawna Nelsen

November 22: Judy Hogan

November 29: Lisa Rovick

December 6: John Geroux

Meals on Wheels November Update

Just a reminder....St. Peder's is scheduled to deliver meals the **week of November 9th**. Volunteers, if you have a conflict or question, give Sonya Clementson, our Meals on Wheels coordinator, a call. She can be reached at 612-721-4125.



Look for Information about Gift Sunday via Email Soon.....

We're hoping to have Gift Sunday again this year on December 6. But, we're waiting for agencies to determine their holiday needs and distribution opportunities.

We're hoping to have information to share before mid-November, so hang in there!

If we do collect gifts and/or gift cards and cash donations this year, we'll have "drive through" delivery at St Peder's on December 6... hours to be announced.

Thank you, St Peder's folks, for your great generosity year after year! Please take note of the opportunity this year to donate to the PCYC Children's Gift Sale as indicated in the article in this newsletter (see next page).



PCYC Children's Gift Sale Needs Our Help!

by Kristi Erickson



Every holiday season for 55 years, PCYC, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, has transformed its campus into a gift store where up to 650 North Minneapolis youth shopped for gifts for up to five family members. Our church has participated in the PCYC Children's Gift Sale for over 30 years. This year, as you might imagine, they had to reimagine this event.

First and foremost, PCYC staff, board and community members considered the safety of children and families in North Minneapolis, where COVID-19 continues to take its toll at a more aggressive pace. They considered the logistics of sorting gifts, creating the "holiday store," and the advisability of gathering hundreds of volunteers to assist with the event. After contemplating many options they decided to scale back this year to be safe. Instead of the in person sale they will distribute gift cards to PCYC youth and families who can use them as they wish and in a way that will bring them joy.

To do the reimagined event, they need our help!

In the past we collected gifts but this year we can donate to the Reimagined Children's Gift Sale DONATE BUTTON on their website at giftsale@pcyc-mpls.org or by check to PCYC at 2210 Oliver Ave N, Minneapolis MN 55411. (Please write Gift Sale 2020 in the memo line.) Financial contributions of any amount welcomed. PCYC will be collecting funds until December 8th.

PCYC is looking forward to December 2021, when they can imagine safely welcoming hundreds of children and families to PCYC's 57th Annual Children's Gift Sale in the new Capri Theatre.

For questions about PCYC or the event go to <https://pcyc-mpls.org/gift-sale-2020/> or call St. Peder's member, Kristi Erickson at 612-823-2273.

The Virtual Walk to End Hunger

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, high rates of job losses and unprecedented economic uncertainty, we are seeing the rates of food insecurity rise. Right now, 1 in 8 Minnesotans are experiencing hunger. In 2019, it was 1 in 11. Your participation in the Walk to End Hunger is more important than ever before.



Join us from home on Thanksgiving Morning at 10am for the Virtual Walk to End Hunger. The Virtual Walk to End Hunger will include a 30 minute program focusing on hunger in Minnesota, an introduction to our partner organizations, entertainment, cooking segments, activities and more! "The Kids Table", a children's focused program will immediately follow the Walk to End Hunger virtual event with entertainment and activities for the kids at home. For more information visit <https://event.walktoendhunger.org/event/wteh2020/>

Register now! Ask your family and friends to help you raise money for the 1 in 8 Minnesotans struggling to put food on the table! Give back, before giving thanks!

**St. Peder's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

St. Peder's 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.



Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Julie Ebbesen

pastorjulie@stpeders.org

Director of Outreach and

Faith Formation: Shannon Kearns

faithformation@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell

office@stpeders.org

Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking

bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Caretaker: Jim Austin

Sound Engineer: John Geroux III (volunteer)

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PLEASE
PLACE
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