

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

December 2020
Issue 12

The Messenger

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

In a year when our usual plans and routines for the holidays are disrupted, may you find space and time to reflect on the embodiment of God's eternal love born as a gift for all creation. May the love and peace and grace of the Christ child fill you with hope now and in the coming year. Be assured that you are held firmly in the embrace of the One whose birth we celebrate - and that nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Blessed Advent and Christmas to each and every one!
St. Peder's Staff

Pastor Julie Ebbesen Shannon Kearns
Jeannie Farrell Deb Wolking Jim Austin



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

Faith Formation

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Join us for Faith Formation on Zoom at **11:30am on December 13th.**

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.

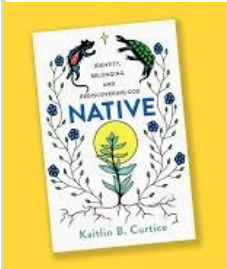
Pub Theology

Join us on Zoom on **December 7** for our monthly Pub Theology event at 7pm. Make your own pizza and beverage (or have it delivered from a local joint) and join in! Bring a question to throw out to the group! To get the link, email Shanon at:

faithformation@stpeders.org



Adult Faith Formation: December 6th



On **December 6th 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.

Christmas Pageant December 13 at 9:00am online!



Do Not Be Afraid! Our Christmas pageant this year will be a video presentation and include a lovely retelling of the Christmas story. You can tune in on our St. Peder's website OR Facebook page. An intergenerational pageant featuring children, youth, and adults from St. Peder's. Join in for this fun and lovely pageant Sunday!

A Note from Pastor Julie:



As the COVID-19 virus surges, we are taking some extra precautions at St Peder's to protect our staff - and any who enter the building. When Jeannie is in the office, if you should need to drop something off at church, there will be a cart outside the office door for your use. This will help us practice good physical distancing. As always, you must wear a mask when entering the building. Thank you all for your cooperation. Stay safe. Stay well.

A Word from Rita Juhl...



While going through some music folders, I came upon a copy of a hymn called "Peace and Love" which was written by the St. Peder's Junior Choir in 1973. The words of the hymn are very meaningful, and the tune is lovely. This was written by the whole group of children in the choir, and I am impressed with the hymn that they, as a group, wrote. If anyone would like a copy of the hymn (it is two pages long), I will be happy to make copies and send them to anyone who would like to have a copy. You can get in touch with me and I will send the copy to you either by email or U.S. Postal service, whichever you wish. My Gmail address is rrjuhl@gmail.com and my phone no. is (612) 729-2058.

All the best, Stay safe, and stay well. *-Rita Juhl*

Gift Sunday is Coming December 6!



And there's a special treat!

You're invited to bring your gifts for Division of Indian Work toy distribution to St Peder's from **Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6.**

This year, because of COVID-19, we will NOT be collecting gifts for the Center for Victims of Torture, however you may contribute a gift card that will be sent to their social workers to distribute to clients.

Gifts needed this year are books, games, toys and stuffed animals for kids of varying ages. Please do not wrap the gifts.

On December 6, you will be able to drop off your gifts in the narthex – or someone will come to your car (parked on 42nd St) to receive your gifts.

And because we won't be able to gather on Song Service Sunday, the Council will be providing individually wrapped kringle for you to take home and enjoy!

Please enter the church by the front door - and wear your mask and remember that we're still keeping our distance physically from one another.

If you'd like to provide a gift or two but cannot drop off the gifts, please email Pastor Julie at pastorjulie@stpeders.org so we can make other arrangements.


Thank you all for your generosity in this annual project! As you might imagine, needs are greater this year – and all gifts are greatly appreciated!



Online Worship for December...

December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent
December 13 – Sunday School Christmas Pageant
December 20 - Song Service, 2020 style!
Zoom Coffee Hour at 10:30 a.m. (link will be sent via email)
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
Danish Service will be available online, too!
December 27 – Synod Worship, Bishop Svennungsen Preaching

More information about the holiday services will be shared via email blasts, so look for those to come as December progresses. You can find all of the services linked on the St. Peder's [website](#) or on our [YouTube channel](#)!



We Need Your Voices for our Christmas Worship Services!



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 is December 15.**

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.

Reminder PCYC Children's Gift Sale Needs Our Help!

PCYC's 2020
Reimagined
Children's Gift Sale



The Children's Gift Sale includes the gifts we donate each year for the star tree. In the past we collected gifts but this year, due to Covid 19, PCYC has asked us to donate money which they will use to purchase gift cards for distribution to PCYC youth and families who can use them as they wish for the holidays. Donations to the "Reimagined Children's Gift Sale" can be made at the DONATE BUTTON on the PCYC website at pcyc-mpls.org/gift-sale-donation 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. Deadline for donations is **December 8**. Thank you for your generosity! For questions about PCYC or the event go to pcyc-mpls.org/gift-sale-2020 or call Kristi Erickson at 612-823-2273.

Volunteer Schedule for December and Early January

LSS Safehouse Schedule

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

December 14: Bruce Simpson and Lisa Rovick

December 21: Sonja Walker & Joe and Annalise Munnich

December 28: Glen and Martha Olsen & Paul and Michelle Aitchison

January 4: Terri Vetsch & Dan and Karen Vetsch

January 11: Sue and Al Nielsen

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.

December 6: John Geroux

December 13: Christmas Pageant

December 20: TBD

December 24: TBD

December 27: Synod Service

January 3: Allison O'Day

January 10: Dan Vetsch

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 10th 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 October	\$ 54,576.95	Budget for the month	\$ 22,916.66
Year to Date	\$ 210,279.81	Budget Year to Date	\$ 229,166.68

Expenses

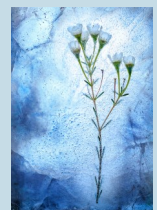
Month of October	\$ 30,320.96	Budget for the month	\$ 24,001.51
Year to Date	\$ 241,308.86	Budget Year to Date	\$ 240,014.98

Mission Support to...

Minneapolis Area Synod	YTD	\$ 11,666.69
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End of Year Offerings.....

All offerings must be **postmarked by December 31 in order to be credited to the 2020 contributions**. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



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



Gear Bags Plus, owner Reckie James, 651-276-3050

This could be a great Christmas gift! The Bag Guy sells a variety of high-quality gear bags, backpacks, tactical bags, utility bags and more. Check out his website at gearbagsplus.com Gift cards are also available.

The Peach Eatery owner Allena Dancer

Community Commons at Mall of America (238J South Avenue) and pop up locations, which can be found on Facebook www.facebook.com/thepeacheatery, 612-547-9665 This comfort/soul food restaurant was closed as a result of Covid 19 earlier this year but opened a pop-up restaurant at the Mall of America which serves a yummy menu of pound cakes and peach cobbler. Order by phone (above) or online. To learn more check out this recent article <https://spokesman-recorder.com/2020/11/09/black-business-spotlight-peach-eatery/>



Twiggy Fresh owner Umar Ahmed

Community commons at Mall of America, 238 South Avenue Here's a great stocking stuffer! Twiggy Fresh is an eco-friendly oral care brand that supplies toothbrushes made of bamboo and natural nylon bristles, reducing plastic pollution caused by the millions of toothbrushes discarded each year. Alongside the toothbrush Twiggy Fresh offers Miswak, a traditional chewing stick, a twig commonly used around the world for dental care. Learn more about owner Umar Ahmed, the toothbrushes, and Miswak, and order at www.twiggyfresh.com.

From the Racial Justice Team

Thanks for Voting! Due to your participation Minnesota had a record voter turnout as did the country.

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...

- ◇ Advantages based on my gender, race/skin color or some other aspect of my identity.
- ◇ Limitations based on my gender, race/skin color or some other aspect of my identity.

Consider....

- ◇ What are some advantages of your gender? Skin color?
- ◇ What are some limitations of your gender? Skin color
- ◇ How does gender/skin color work for you? Against you? How does that make you feel?

Address Update for Lenore Austin...

For those of you who received a paper copy of the St. Peder's directory, please update Lenore's address :

4300 West River Parkway Apt #163
Minneapolis, MN 55406. Thanks!

"Greening" Your Holiday

This Holiday Season, like the rest of 2020, will be a unique experience. While many of us mourn the "pause" placed on traditional events, we also have an opportunity to create new traditions. Please consider making some of your new traditions "green."

Gift Giving:

- ◇ Give sustainable gifts. This includes items that are designed to last longer, be fashionable for a longer period of time, made of natural materials, etc.
- ◇ Look for items with less packaging. Packaging makes up the majority of household waste. By reducing packaging (much of which is not recyclable) you greatly reduce your environmental footprint. Recycle paper packaging. Plastic packaging that stretches when pulled can generally be recycled at plastic bag recycling sites.
- ◇ Give experiences. This could include gift cards to restaurants and theaters, or home-made gift cards for family adventures such as a skiing or skating outing. A nice by-product of experience gifts is you can support local small businesses.

Decorating:

- ◇ Make your own decorations from items found in nature or around the house.
- ◇ Consider switching to LED bulbs. LED Christmas lights use light-emitting diodes, rather than filament to produce light. While LED lights cost more, they are more efficient, durable, and longer-lasting than fluorescent incandescent lights. They also don't get hot to the touch, so they're a lot safer.
- ◇ Use a timer on your lights to save energy. And, with timers you can set your lights to be on when you awaken or when returning home from a long day. Good news for December's late dawns and early sunsets!

Gift Wrapping and Cards:

- ◇ Consider making your own wrapping from newsprint, grocery bags, old art projects, etc. We frequently use re-usable decorative tins (such as cookie tins) and fabric ribbon to wrap gifts.
- ◇ Foil, cellophane and plastic-coated wrapping paper, as well as paper with glitter, cannot be recycled. A rule of thumb is that if you scrunch the paper, and it stays scrunched in a tight ball, it is paper-based and can be recycled. Remove bows and ribbons before recycling.
- ◇ Consider using e-cards. While it is nice to get an actual card (perhaps more so in 2020 – and USPS could use the help), some people might appreciate a "no waste" e-card.
- ◇ Greeting cards with glitter, metallic accents or plastic cannot be recycled and should be placed in the trash. Photo paper greeting cards also cannot be recycled curbside. Recycle envelopes (remove any foil inserts first). No need to remove the stamps from the envelope. Look for cards made from recycled paper.

The links below contain added information and tips. Contact Judy Hogan at:

2judyhogan@gmail.com with questions. Blessings for your holiday season!

<https://www.paperrecycles.org/media/blog/paperrecycles-blog/2018/12/20/holiday-recycling-done-right/>

<https://www.minnpost.com/environment/2019/07/your-very-specific-twin-cities-recycling-questions-answered/>

<https://onetreeplanted.org/blogs/stories/sustainable-holiday-ideas>



**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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Church ELCA
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Minneapolis, MN 55406

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E-mail: office@stpeders.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

