

The Messenger

From the Pastor....

Greetings in the name of Christ!

I say it every year, but I really, honestly, can't believe we're in December again. December feels significant, doesn't it? It's the last month of the year, and at times it feels like the whole year has been building up to it. And when the month does show up, there's this really interesting series of paradoxes. The nights are getting longer and the days shorter as we approach the winter solstice, yet we cram as much as we can into the month. As Christians, we look forward to the birth of Christ but also go through the pregnant waiting of Advent. In some ways, the pace of the world speeds up and becomes nearly frenetic. In other ways, there is a collective breath-taking and reflection on the past year.

I think that it's important to honor both sides of these experiences. This time of the year can be very demanding on our time and energy and sometimes we don't have the energy it demands. And this can be for a lot of different reasons – losses throughout the past year, mental or physical health issues, balancing busy schedules, financial strain, or any number of other situations. If you find yourself in this situation, you may find that our Longest Night Service to be the worship service for you (more info on page 2).

And, in spite of all this stress, there is also an incredible joy. As Christians, we are celebrating the birth of Christ. It's easy to skip to the later part of the story – the healings, the teachings, and his death, burial, and resurrection - but let's not skip ahead too far. This day, this birth, marks something so important to our lives as Christians. The birth of Jesus marks the in-breaking of God into the world and the way in which God does this is remarkable. Instead of being born in a successful family within a powerful country with the means to obtain power or prestige, Jesus was born to a working-class family, in a small, occupied nation, and attended to by shepherds smelling of the flock. Instead of being greeted with a royal decree and medical care, he is greeted by the sounds of livestock and bands of cloth. This birth puts on full display the love of God for all people, not just those who have the power, wealth, or status the world craves so much. If God would choose to do it this way, if God would become one of us in this way, then surely none are excluded or disqualified from God's love and presence.

This carries forward into our day. We may be going through different situations that the people Jesus's day would never imagine (heck, we're going through things that most people 10 years ago wouldn't have imagined). But we trust that, no matter what we go through, we walk through this life and its many ups-and-downs with the Savior who be born in a manger. We are accompanied by a God who knows the pain and joys of this life and would gladly, lovingly, enter into them with us.

A child is born and they will call him "Emmanuel", which means, "God with us." What a promise!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Bryan



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Worship Schedule for December

December 4: Gift Sunday

9 am Worship Service w/
Holy Communion
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Adult Faith Formation
Bring your unwrapped gifts for Emma Norton Services and Division of Indian Works. See page 4 for more information.

December 11: Sunday School Christmas Program, Advent Event

9 am Worship Service
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Advent Event
Our youth will be doing the ABC's of Christmas during worship! Following worship, we will celebrate our bookkeeper, Deb, who is retiring, and then do an advent craft together!

December 18: Song Service

9 am Worship Service
9 am Youth Faith Formation*
10 am Coffee and Fellowship
10:15 Singing Around the Christmas Tree
Join us for singing around the Christmas tree following worship...all are welcome!

Wednesday, December 21

7 pm: Longest Night Worship Service
See below for more information!

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

2 and 5 pm

December 24th: Danish Christmas Service

3:15
A St. Peder's tradition! Worship will be in Danish.

December 25: Christmas Day

9 am Worship Service

Longest Night Worship:

Wednesday, December 21st at 7 pm

Join us for our Longest Night Worship! The holidays can be fun, but also exhausting. If you're struggling to be "holly and jolly" this year for any reason, we hope you'll join us for our Longest Night Worship on December 21 at 7. During this service, we'll acknowledge the difficulties of the season and the past year while also hearing the hope and promise of Christ's birth with the lighting of candles, hearing scripture, and singing hymn



Confirmation Corner

This month's Confirmation class was about the basics of being a Lutheran. We talked about Martin Luther and his insistence that God's grace was not something you could buy. We also talked about basic tenets of Lutheranism, including that we are saved by grace through faith, that we are both sinner and saint, that God's word contains both law and gospel, and that our vocations are the ways in which we participate in God's work in the world (no matter what our job, age, or abilities are). We also enjoyed some Parkway Pizza and leftover Halloween candy!

Our **December meeting will be at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran, on December 14th at 5:30.**

Upcoming Events and News

Intergenerational Advent Craft:

December 4th

Craft time! On December 4th, following worship (and a little time for coffee and treats), we'll be having an all-ages, family-friendly craft. This year, we'll be making a nativity scene you can carry in your pocket! Not feeling particularly artsy or creative? That's okay! You'll be taught, line-by-line, how to draw these fun, simple pictures. And you'll come home with something you can put out every year when you decorate for Christmas!



Celebrate Deb Wolking During Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 11

Please join us during coffee hour on December 11 to celebrate long-time staff member and bookkeeper Deb Wolking! Deb has served St. Peder's for nearly 10 years and has been a tremendous asset to the church during her time at St. Peder's. Her bookkeeping expertise has helped St. Peder's on many levels and her warm personality is a joy to have on staff. Deb will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her. From budgets, payroll, financial reports, insurance, bill paying, and much more, she kept things running smoothly in the finance area. She was also instrumental in helping secure a PPP Loan for St. Peder's during COVID--providing much-needed resources to keep all of our staff working during a tough time for many churches and organizations. Please join us to give our thanks for nearly a decade served and wish her well in her retirement! Thank you Deb!

Pub Theology: December 12 at 7 pm

We will meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave. All are welcome! This month's topic: *Gift giving or Gift receiving which brings you joy? What is the best gift you have given or received? To go deep - Is the gift of the Christ Child lost during the commercialization of the Holiday season? How do we include all beliefs during the holidays?*

Any questions....please contact
Michael O'Day mloday14@gmail.com
Allison O'Day at madeoday@msn.com



Potluck Wednesdays!

December 14th at noon

Are you feeling potlucky? We're kicking off our monthly potluck lunches again! We'll be hosting them on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at noon (We'll have a brief devotion, a prayer, and then we'll enjoy each other's company and cooking. All are welcome to join in, whether you're working from home, on your lunch break, or retired. Can't stay for all of it? That's fine, too! We'll begin this month, so come hungry and plan to join in on some Christmas carols with Pastor Bryan as the food settles.

Join Christian Life Committee!

Do you like planning events? Do you like to see the community come together for fellowship? Are you looking for a new opportunity for volunteering at church? If so, please join the Christian Life Committee, or should we call it Christian Life after Covid. Please contact Andrea Wollak as she is looking to start up this committee again with some new ideas. Andrea c: 612.5324147 or ahwollak@gmail.com



White Elephant Christmas Party

December 16th at 7 pm

It's Back! St. Peder's White Elephant Christmas Party! This year's White Elephant Party will be held on Friday, December 16 at 7:00. Michael and Allison O'Day will be hosting: 4328 44th Avenue S. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, a favorite beverage, and your most unusable and ugliest wrapped white elephant gift. (After being cancelled for the past two years, we should all have white elephant gifts to re-gift!) RSVPs would be appreciated. Please call or text Allison at 612-839-3054 or Michael at 952-290-6071.



Gift Sunday December, 4 2022



Gift Sunday: Supporting Division of Indian Work and Emma Norton Services

As you do your holiday shopping, don't forget an opportunity we have at St Peder's to share our blessings with others. **This year's gifts will go to The Division of Indian Work and Emma Norton.** Your generosity is received with gratitude by these organizations! **Sunday, December 4th is Gift Sunday when you'll be invited to bring your unwrapped gifts or gift cards forward as we gather them around the altar** (we do not need wrapping paper or ribbon). The Division of Indian work has asked for gifts that are geared towards teens (ideas: skin purifying, brightening masks, boxers, hair dryers, curling irons, Bluetooth headphones, earbuds, pop sockets, t-shirts and sweatshirts and gift cards). We will also be supporting Emma Norton Services. They have requested the following gifts: \$25 gift cards to Dollar Tree, Target, and Walmart, Board games, Sleds, Kid's snow pants, Art supplies/activity kits, Bath & Body Works shower gels/lotions (Please no candles, favorite scents include: vanilla, cherry blossom, coconut, and citrus.) If you are not planning on attending worship on December 4, feel free to drop off gifts in the office the Monday-Thursday before or Sunday, November 27.



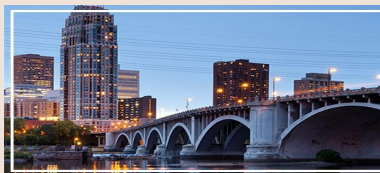
PCYC Children's Gift Sale 2022

The 56th [PCYC Children's Gift Sale](#) is back in person. Our church has participated in the Children's Gift Sale for over 35 years. PCYC, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, is an organization in North Minneapolis which began more than 68 years ago as an outreach ministry by a few Luther seminarians. PCYC's mission is to enrich the skills, prospects and spirit of North Minneapolis area youth and adults, in partnership with families and communities. The **Annual Children's Gift Sale** on Saturday, December 10, 2022, helps to teach children the joy of giving to others. On Gift Sale day, low-income children from North Minneapolis can select up to five gifts for their family members with a pre-purchased ticket. We have the opportunity to participate in this spirit-filled event by purchasing gifts for the sale, volunteering to help sort gifts and set up the week before, as well as help children shop on December 10th. PCYC needs over 3,000 gifts and over 200 volunteers to transform their campus and help over 600 youth shop for their loved ones. PCYC suggests new items valued at \$10-25 for men, women, teenagers, children, and infants. See the Christmas tree outside the fellowship hall for gift ideas. Please place your gifts in the box under our PCYC Christmas tree by Sunday, November 27th, and they will be delivered in time for the sale. Monetary donations are also accepted and used to purchase items for the sale. Your support will make the holiday season brighter for lots of families in North Minneapolis.

For questions about the sale, PCYC, or volunteering for the event, send an email to giftsale@pcyc-mpls.org, call PCYC at 612-643-2092, or call Kristi Erickson at 612-823-2273.

RIH November Update: Mission Possible

by Judy Anderson



RIVERSIDE
INNOVATION HUB

A few nights ago our team met to tackle the next step in the process: a 9-part activity called Mission Possible, which is described as “design thinking for social change.” In a nutshell, our task was to identify a problem in our community based on our explorations over the past year, and then grapple with how we might “solve” it. Over the course of three hours, we reviewed what we’ve learned from talking with and listening to our neighbors and then brainstormed how we might address the areas of desolation in our midst. A theme that kept coming up was “Isolation,” or a yearning for connection. Once we zeroed in on that, we were asked to get specific and come up with a single sentence describing our goal. We decided on:

We want to address isolation in our community by creating space and opportunities for supporting ongoing relationships between our neighbors.

We spent the rest of our time together identifying what resources we have at St. Peder’s to help us achieve this goal, who we would like to collaborate with, roadblocks we might encounter. Our next step will be to begin communicating and sharing our ideas within the congregation.

Book Donations for St. Peder’s Library

We have been swamped with book donations lately but cannot accept all of them. **Please check in the office or in the library for book donation guidelines.** Right now, our priorities are current books for all ages, fiction and non-fiction, especially ones with timely social justice themes and contemporary views of theology and Christian life. Award winners and some best sellers may be great additions to the library. Let us know if you want donated books back if we cannot use them (see form in office and library). Otherwise, we will pass them on, including a free table at St. Peder’s!

Christmas Books

In this season of Advent and Christmas, stop by the library to check out our wonderful collection of adult and children’s Christmas books (including books on family Advent activities) and DVDs! You’ll find some on display in the hall outside the library and lots more on the library table and in the Advent and Christmas bin in the Red Cart. Even if you don’t have the excuse of having a kid in your household, check out the children’s Christmas books—many are beautifully written with gorgeous art, enjoyable by adults as well as children.

Together in Mission 2022

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 2022. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who’d like to see it.

Income

Month of October	\$ 27,920.23	Budget for the month	\$ 22,833.33
Year to Date	\$ 207,914.30	Budget Year to Date	\$ 228,333.34

Expenses

Month of October	\$ 18,223.44	Budget for the month	\$ 23,895.09
Year to Date	\$ 223,024.87	Budget Year to Date	\$ 237,915.82

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod

YTD \$ 10,499.96

Nativity Sets

We plan on decorating the display window outside of Pastor's office with nativity sets! If you would like to lend us a nativity set to use, please leave in the office along with your name on it. We will return in January.



All Are Welcome for Crafts and Conversation

Do you have a missing button that you need to sew back onto a shirt? Then you qualify to join the exclusive-sounding but really-not-at-all-exclusive St. Peder's Fiber Arts group. We believe "arts" can mean a lot of things. Come for good conversation, and bring any kind of hand-craft or mending you'd like to bring along. We'll put on a pot of coffee and pass around a few treats. **We meet on the first and third Saturday of each month, 2-4 p.m.**, in the conference room. All are welcome!

Donations for Quilters.....

The St. Peder's Quilters meet twice a month to lovingly create quilts that are sent to those in need worldwide. They are seeking donations for fabric, either cash donations or gift cards to Joanne Fabrics. Any amount is appreciated!

Mange Tak from the Juhl's!

The worship service we attended on October 30 was so special. Pastor Bryan's sermon was inspirational and memorable, and the organ music, choir anthem, and trumpet playing added so much depth to the service. The coffee hour after the service was a splendid opportunity to connect to many friends and family members. We certainly enjoyed the original song Pastor Bryan created to honor our 90th birthdays. We are long-time members of St. Peder's. Dick was baptized in 1932 and Rita joined the church in 1952 when she enrolled at the U of MN. We both are so very grateful to have St. Peder's Lutheran Church in our lives.

Love to all of you, Rita and Dick Juhl

Community Carol Sing-along with the Roseville String Ensemble

Join us for the return of the Community Christmas Carol Sing-along with the Roseville String Ensemble, **Mon., Dec. 5, 7:30 pm at Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W County Rd. C2, Roseville, MN.** (This is the orchestra that Lisa Jensen and Wendy Legge play in.) The program features audience singing led by Centennial music director Jerry Salitros, orchestral pieces directed by RSE assistant conductor Chris Chelgren, and solos by Concordia University professor Monica Murray. Refreshments follow. The program is free so bring family, friends, neighbors, and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Ralph Reeder Food Bank.



Æbleskive Breakfast 2022

Æbleskive Breakfast was a delicious hit! This annual event is a nod to the Danish roots of our church. We were so happy that friends, old and new, came to join us. As you can see from the pictures below, æbleskive certainly sparks joy here at St. Peder's!

To all the volunteers, people donating supplies, and æbleskiver eaters: Tusind Tak! Thank you! The æbleskive breakfast wouldn't happen without you! It was a terrific time of fellowship and food with members and neighbors.
Gratefully, Lisa, Leslee, and Sue



December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	**Youth Faith Formation is after the Children's Sermon	Events in BLUE are community groups that use the building.		1 9 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	2	3 2 pm Fiber Arts
4 Gift Sunday 9 am Worship with Holy Communion 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 Adult Faith Formation	5	6 10 am Exercise 6 pm Sisters In Crime	7 9 am Quilters	8 9 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	9 Lois Pearson Funeral	10 10 am Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:30 am Brownies
11 Sunday School Pageant 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee and Fellowship 10 am Farewell to Debbie 10:15 Advent Craft	12 7 pm Pub Theology	13 10 am Exercise	14 12 pm Potluck 5:30 Confirmation Class @ Minnehaha Lutheran 7 pm Council Mtg	15 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	16 7 pm White Elephant Christmas Party	17 2 pm Fiber Arts
18 Song Service 9 am Worship 9 am Youth Faith Formation* 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 Singing around the Tree	19	20 10 am Exercise	21 9 am Quilters 7 pm Longest Night Service	22 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir		24 Christmas Eve 2 and 5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 3:15 Danish Service
25 Christmas Day 9 am Worship	26 7 pm Music & Worship Cmt. Mtg.	27 10 am Exercise	28	29 10 am Exercise 4:15 pm Dance 7 pm Choir	30	31 New Years Eve

December Volunteer Schedule

Thank you for sharing your time and talent at St. Peder's! Please try to arrange your own trades. Reminder emails are sent weekly along with contacts for substitutes. If you are pressed for time or have questions, please contact Jeannie in the office: office@stpeders.org or 612-722-8000

December 4, 2022 Holy Communion by Full Table, Gift Sunday

Greeters: Eric and Bethene Hunsberger **Usher:** Mark Jensen and Jim Nelsen **Acolyte:** Isaiah Wills **Reader:** Allison O'Day **Communion Set Up & Clean Up:** Eva Tangen and Phoebe Anderson **Communion Assistants:** Sue Schnickel, Karen Vestch, Shawna Nelsen-Wills **Bread and Wine:** Alice Bekke **Counters:** Annalise Munnich and Judy Hogan **Livestream Technician:** Bruce Simpson **LSS Safe House Dinner for Dec. 5 :** Craig and Marcia Rocheleau and Dwight and Kari Bullard **Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 3**

December 11, 2022, Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Greeters: Dale and Jackie West **Ushers:** John Skraba and Sue Schnickel **Acolyte:** Elliette Wilson **Reader:** Martha Olsen **Counters:** Bob Stanich & Tim Anderson **Livestream Technician:** JeriLynn Young **LSS Safe House Dinner Dec. 12 :** Bruce Simpson and Lisa Rovick **Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 4**

December 18, 2022, Song Service

Greeters: Daniel Peterson and Kristin Lerstrom **Ushers:** Jeremy Anderson and Shawna Nelsen-Wills **Acolyte:** Aemilia Wollak **Reader:** Sue Schnickel **Counters:** Jackie West and Julie Ebbesen **Livestream Technician:** Darrick Jensen **LSS Safe House Dinner for Dec. 19:** Sonja Walker and Joe and Annalise Munnich **Social Hour hosted by the St. Peder's Council**

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, Longest Night Service

Greeters: Darrick Jensen **Acolyte:** Maren Odeen **Reader:** Dan Vetsch **Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch

Saturday, December 24, 2022

2 pm Service: **Greeters:** Steve Wills and Shawna Nelsen-Wills **Ushers:** Joe Munnich and Cameron Jamison **Acolyte:** Isla Wills **Reader:** Judy Hogan **3:15 Danish Service:** **Greeters:** Sue and Al Nielsen **Ushers:** Butch Vossen and Lisa Jensen **Reader:** TBD **5 pm Service:** **Greeters:** Eunice Montgomery and Steve Austin **Ushers:** Wendy Legge and Paul Aitchison **Acolyte:** Maren Odeen **Reader:** Dwight Lundby **Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch

December 25, 2022

Greeters: Jean Evers and Carol Lindstrom **Ushers:** Tom Goodien and Peter Juhl **Acolyte:** Isaiah Wills **Reader:** Shawna Nelsen-Wills **Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch **LSS Safe House Dinner for Dec. 26:** Glen and Martha Olsen and Paul and Michelle Aitchison **No Social Hour**



Livestream Volunteer (2 more volunteers)

A big thanks to our four volunteers who have kept folks connected via our livestream. A few more people to add to our roster would be nice so folks could be on a 6 week rotation for doing this. You do not need to be tech-savvy to do this job.

Update our Outside Church Sign (1 volunteer)

We would love to have a volunteer who could update our outdoor sign as needed. This could be done during the week or on a Sunday after worship. Time commitment would be 3-6 times a year.

Community Volunteer Request

We received a call from a community member who is seeking help for a newly arrived Afghan family who lives nearby and is looking for someone to get them to and from ESL classes. The mom of this family is trying to learn English. If you are interested or have questions, please give Pastor Bryan a call or email (pastorbryan@stpeders.org or call the church at 612-722-8000 Extension 11).

**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. Bryan Odeen

pastorbryan@stpeders.org

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse

mia@stpeders.org

Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell

office@stpeders.org

Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking

bookkeeping@stpeders.org

Caretaker: Jim Austin

**St. Peder's Evangelical
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