

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

February 2021  
Issue 2

# The Messenger

## Greetings from Interim Pastor Eric Luedtke



Greetings in Christ, to you, the church called St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Longfellow neighborhood of South Minneapolis. What an honor to be called to join in the ministry journey of a congregation rooted in nearly a century and a half of ministry engaging the world from our faith in Jesus Christ.

As your Interim Pastor I am called to be among you in a Holy Time. As you say farewell to Pastor Julie, who served this congregation faithfully for 16 years, and anticipate the calling of the pastor who will shepherd you into the years ahead, I am sure you are experiencing a variety of emotions and responses to the work you are called to be about as God's people gathered together – the church! – and that is Holy work for which we are blessed to have one another's support to carry on this journey.

In my discernment of this call to serve at St. Peder's, I recognize the many transitions I have been part of in my own life and how they inform my work as a Pastor. I will spare you the long connected story of how all of these transitions might apply, but will share a bit of my story so you can start to get to know me.

I grew up in Woodbury and attended the church nearest my home, a church that nurtured and empowered me to be a leader and prepared me for a lifetime of using my gifts to live out my baptismal calling as a child of God.

After two years of undergraduate study I took a year away from college to travel with Captive Free, a relational music ministry group based in Minneapolis that afforded me the privilege of traveling throughout Minnesota, North and South Dakota sharing the

*Greetings continued on page 4....*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from Shawna.....	2
Faith Formation.....	3
Racial Justice.....	5
Food Collection .....	6
Together in Mission.....	7
Volunteer Schedule.....	7



Dear St. Peder's Members and Broader Community,

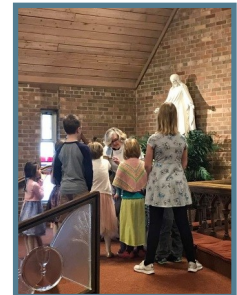
Greetings and thank you to all who joined our Annual Meeting via Zoom or through your prayers and thoughts offline. We are excited to welcome back **Karen Vetsch**, **Sue Nielsen**, and **Jeremy Anderson** to another three-year term on Council. We also welcome **Cameron Jamison** to a one-year term and thank **John Skraba** for his service to the Council the past two years.

Also, a huge congratulations to **Julie Ebbesen**, **Scott Wilson**, and **Elliette** and **Elena** for being this year's recipient of the Jorgensen Service Award. Through serving on Council, leading committees, organizing Easter breakfasts and Easter egg hunts, starring in Christmas pageants, and so much more, we greatly appreciate their service to St. Peder's.

Thank you also to all who participated in honoring and celebrating Pastor Julie as she leaves St. Peder's and embraces retirement. We thank her for her service and wish her Godspeed on her next adventure. I am thrilled to announce our new Interim Pastor—Pastor Eric Luedtke. Please provide a warm welcome to Pastor Eric and his family as we move into this time of transition, growth, and opportunity for our congregation. I look forward to working with Pastor Eric, the Council, and our members and community as we enter this exciting phase of our faith journey. I am always happy to chat—please reach out at 612-408-2860 or [shawn-anelsen3@gmail.com](mailto:shawn-anelsen3@gmail.com) to connect.

In gratitude,

Shawna Nelsen-Wills, Council President



Thank you for all  
your years of  
service and  
dedication  
Pastor Julie!!



You will be  
missed...we wish all  
the best on your  
new journey!



# Faith Formation

## February Adult Faith Formation: February 28th at 10 am via Zoom Book Discussion: *For All Who Hunger* by Emily M.D. Scott.

Emily Scott never planned on becoming a pastor. But when she started a church for misfits that met over dinner in Brooklyn, she discovered an unlikely calling—and an antidote to modern loneliness. “I absolutely devoured this exquisitely written memoir.”—Nadia Bolz-Weber, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Shameless*

As founding pastor of St. Lydia's in Brooklyn, New York, where worship takes place over a meal, Emily M. D. Scott spent eight years ministering to a scrappy collective of people with different backgrounds, incomes, and levels of social skills. Each week they broke bread, sang hymns, made halting conversation with strangers, then did the dishes. In a city where everyone lives on top of each other yet everyone is lonely, these gatherings around a table offered connection and solace that soon would become their lifelines.

When Hurricane Sandy slams into the coast of New York, Scott and her church members are faced with a disorienting crisis. Startled by the impact of the storm on their more vulnerable neighbors, they learn to work alongside one another, bailing water out of basements and canvassing emptied apartment buildings. Every week, they return to those steady, strong tables at Dinner Church. Together, they find community, even in the midst of disaster. Scott discovers how small acts of connection hold more power than we realize in a time when our differences are being weaponized, and learns to create activism and justice work fueled by empathy and relationship.

With tenderness and humor, Scott weaves stories and reflections from the life of her unlikely congregation while articulating the value of church as a place where people can hear not only that they are loved but that they are good.



*For All Who Hunger* is a story about a God whose love has no limits and a faith that opens our eyes to the truth. There's a place for you at the table.

### Faith Formation for Kids...



...will take place at 11:30 am on Zoom on the following dates:

**February 14**

**February 28**

We'll read a story, watch a video, and connect with one another!

### February 1st : Pub Theology!



Join us February 1st at 7 pm on Zoom! ! Gather together and get the new year started right! Grab a pint (and some pizza) and catch up!





continued from page 1.....

Gospel and being welcomed into people's homes. After graduating with a Mass Communications degree from Bemidji State University, I traveled with New Vision, a group similar to Captive Free, but this time traveling the Western United States, Australia, and New Zealand – in this year I had a chance to see the breadth of the Church and begin uncovering some of my pastoral gifts.



I got married to Stephanie in February 1999 – for the next eight years, I worked in a variety of jobs and industries that allowed me time to volunteer in a local church. My day jobs provided skills that I have relied on as a pastor, while my volunteer work in the church fed my passion and my calling. Finally in 2006 a pastor-mentor catapulted me into attending seminary and many of my friends and family acknowledged that “it was about time.”

In 2010 I graduated seminary and began my first pastoral call at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Tennessee now with two daughters as part of our family. In 2013 we moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where I felt at home cheering for my beloved Green Bay Packers and served as Associate Pastor and then Transitional Lead Pastor before accepting the call as Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis in 2018. As you may be aware, Hope Lutheran decided in 2020 to sell their iconic building and many of the members transferred to Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church before dissolving as a congregation, trusting that God's work would continue in new and exciting ways empowered by their bold decisions.



As a resident of Saint Paul, I love being part of a neighborhood that cares for one another and the opportunities that my family is afforded living in the Twin Cities area. I am super excited to be back in the state that made hockey famous so that when I finish odd jobs around the house or cooking a meal for my family, I can fill my free time with all things hockey. My wife Stephanie currently serves as Deacon for Faith Formation and Music Ministry at St. Luke's Lutheran in Bloomington, she also serves the wider ELCA on a number of teams that support congregational leaders and ministries, and because of her penchant for learning she is finishing her Master of Divinity studies at Luther Seminary. My daughters Olivia (12) and Elena (10) love their local schools, participate in Greater Twin Cities

Youth Symphony, and dabble in other activities as their interests dictate (or their parents push them to try something new). As a family we love to travel - Door County, Wisconsin being our go-to get away spot.

I look forward to hearing your stories and discovering together what it means to be church in this Holy time.

- Interim Pastor, Eric Luedtke



## From the Racial Justice Team.....



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

### Something to ponder...

**Racism** is defined as individual- and group-level processes and structures that are used in the perpetuation of racial inequality according to Matthew Clair and Jeffrey S. Denis in *Sociology on Racism*. Systematic racism happens when these structures or processes are carried out by groups with power, such as governments, businesses or schools. **Bias**, differs from racism in that it, is conscious or unconscious prejudice against an individual or group based on their identity.

Basically, racial bias is a belief. Racism is what happens when that belief translates into action. For example, a person might unconsciously or consciously believe that people of color are more likely to commit crime or be dangerous. That's a bias. A person might become anxious if they perceive a black person is angry. That stems from a bias. These biases can become racism through a number of actions ranging in severity, and ranging from individual- to group-level responses:

- ◇ A person crosses the street to avoid walking next to a group of young black men.
- ◇ White man or woman clutches his/her purse or checks wallet as a person of color approaches.
- ◇ A tenant of a business office complex asks a person of color to leave the "tenants only" workout room.
- ◇ A teacher fails to learn to pronounce or continues to mispronounce the name of a student of color after they have corrected the teacher.

(Cory Collins, *What Is White Privilege, Really?*, Fall 2018 from Teaching Tolerance)

### Consider:

1. Do you think the actor thought of themselves as racist?
2. Do you think that what happened to the person of color would have happened had they been white?
3. How do you think the person of color might feel?
4. What biases were invoked in each case and by whom?
5. How did the biases influence the situation for the actor?



### Online Sunday Services

Missed a service? Want to watch it again? You can find the services linked on the St. Peder's website or on our YouTube channel! (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP5r4ROb8KPP2H05qqU9AqQ>)

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



**Smoke in the Pit** Owner and pit master Dwight Alexander  
3733 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis 612-315-3145

This family owned restaurant serves lunch and dinner for take-out or delivery. Find the menu which includes chicken, ribs, pork and catfish as well as sides and deserts by calling the number above or online at [Smoke in the Pit](#).

**Houston White Camden Town** Owner Houston White  
1500 N 44<sup>th</sup> Ave, Minneapolis 612-354-7681

Houston White is a clothing designer from North Minneapolis who founded a barber shop (H. White Men's Room) which has become a gathering place for community building, authentic expression of self, and inclusive celebration of Black culture. Some of his *Black Excellence* products, including a baseball cap and sweatshirt, can be found at the Lake Street Target store or online at [houstonwhite.co](http://houstonwhite.co)

**Target** is celebrating Black History Month in February with products that highlight the heritage, legacy and impact of the black community. The collection is available in hundreds of stores across the country and online, and includes more than 100 items for \$29.99 or less. Click [here](#) and scroll down to see some of the clothing items. Target is also shining a spotlight on products from black-owned businesses such as Lip Bar and Alikay Naturals that are carried in their stores year-round.

## Food Shelf Collection: February 7th

Super Bowl on your mind? How about the Souper Bowl?

More than 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group. "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat".

St. Peder's Social Ministry team is collecting non perishable food, toiletries and financial donations. We are joining the Souper Bowl of Caring teams across the US. Our collected donations will be delivered to Minnehaha Food Shelf 3701 E 50th Street Mpls. Any questions reach out to St. Peder's member, Karen Vetsch.

### **DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS**



**Sunday February 7th 10:30 - 12:30**  
St. Peder's Church parking lot  
4600 E 42nd St. Mpls.

*In honor of Super Bowl LV Do  
you think we can get 55  
donations of food?*

## Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th

Please watch your inboxes for more information about this service!



## St. Peder's library is open!



If there is any plus side to the pandemic, it's that it's a great time to hunker down with a good book, and the St. Peder's library has some fantastic—including very current—titles for all ages. You can get in to the library any time during office hours (generally 9-4 on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons) but call or email Jeannie first). All of the books on race--fiction and non-fiction, adult, teen and children's—are on the library table, and other categories are plainly marked on the shelves. Come masked and stay socially distanced, but chances are you'll be the only one there and can browse to your heart's content!

## Volunteer Schedule for February

### LSS Safehouse Schedule

**February 1:** Dale & Jackie West

**February 8:** Jim and Heidi Nelsen

**February 15:** Allison & Michael O'Day, Jill & Kerry Audette

**February 22:** Judy & Michael Hogan, Bev Jensen



### 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.

**February 7:** Elizabeth Anderson

**February 14 :** Shawna Nelsen

**February 17 (Ash Wed) :** Dan Vetsch

**February 21:** Judy Hogan

**February 28:** Lisa Rovick

## Meals on Wheels Route for St. Peders: February 15, 16, 17 and 18th

## 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 12th 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 December	\$ 42,400.40	Budget for the month	\$ 22,916.66
Year to Date	\$ 276,368.02	Budget Year to Date	\$ 275,000.00

### Expenses

Month of December	\$ 19,877.13	Budget for the month	\$ 24,001.51
Year to Date	\$ 279,590.73	Budget Year to Date	\$ 288,018.00

### Mission Support to...

Minneapolis Area Synod	YTD	\$ 14,000.03
------------------------	-----	--------------

**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 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in south Minneapolis.



**Church Staff:**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Eric Luedtke

Director of Outreach and

Faith Formation: Shannon Kearns

Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell

Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking

Caretaker: Jim Austin

Sound Engineer: John Geroux III (volunteer)

[faithformation@stpeders.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeders.org)

[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)

[bookkeeping@stpeders.org](mailto:bookkeeping@stpeders.org)

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
ELCA  
4600 E 42nd St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
Phone: 612-722-8000  
Fax: 612-722-8068  
E-mail: [office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

