

# The Messenger



## In the Interim: Why Are We Here?

By Pastor Eric Luedtke, Interim Pastor

I have an incredible memory for useless information. High in that category is the number of movie quotes – and thus scenes – lodged in my brain. One such scene is in the 1985 film *Spies Like Us*. Dan Aykroyd and Chevy Chase play two unlikely spies who find themselves in Russia. Chase's character gets caught by the Russian Highway Patrol who begin questioning him, "Why are you here?" In typical Chase comedic fashion he delivers the response, "Why am I here? Why are you here? Why are any of us here?"

In the movie it's an insignificant quote or scene, but it's a line that sticks with me because it's a question that we all find ourselves asking all of the time. In fact, Pastor Rick Warren has sold millions of books and associated resources that aim to help people discover how to live a *Purpose Driven Life*. The goal of the book is to help Christians discover why God has put us on the earth and how we can live into that purpose.

Organization after organization have put hours and hours into developing mission, vision, and value statements that help point their organizations in a unified direction to accomplish a unified goal. Several years ago St. Peder's was one such organization – leaders of the congregation gathered and developed the mission statement that continues to be used in our congregation: *Rooted in our History and Embracing the Future we Joyfully Live the Gospel with Open Hearts, Open Hands, and Open Doors*.

We find ourselves in the midst of a preaching series using our Mission Statement as the focus for our sermons in these Sundays after Epiphany. As we unpack these words we'll focus on the Biblical foundations and ways God is calling us forward as a congregation to live into these words that we speak each week in worship. I pray this focus will reinvigorate us as a congregation to live out who God is calling us to be in 2022 and call us forward with enthusiasm to loving our neighbor.



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**Faith Formation: Bible Study, Genesis - Belonging to God's Good:  
A Series of Studies Created by Church Anew**

**Sunday Feb. 6th 10:15 am Format TBD (via Zoom or in person)\***

Our first session will be on Leaving Eden (Genesis 3) Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson reflects on the importance of boundaries, the dangers of striving for perfection instead of being satisfied with 'enough,' and how God pushes us out of Eden and into the real world — to relationships and community. The study begins with a 15 minute video following up with discussion questions.

A little info about Church Anew:

St. Andrew Lutheran Church Eden Prairie, MN launched Church Anew, an ecumenical ministry dedicated to equipping church leaders to face the adaptive changes needed for ministry today and tomorrow. Church Anew offers dynamic learning opportunities to ignite faithful imagination & sustain inspired innovation.

Questions? Please contact Karen Vetsch, Michael O'Day or Allison O'Day.

*\*If you do not have email, but want to know if this will be in person or virtual, call St. Peder's that week and press '8' for Worship Times. We will update the message to also include Bible Study.*



**Pub Theology**

Come and join in a lively discussion, good food, and your favorite beverage at Pub Theology!

We will meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Avenue, on  
**Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00**

**February's topic for discussion is:**

What does it mean to love our neighbor? How do we love our neighbors, especially those that seem to be working so hard to earn our contempt?

Contact Allison O'Day or Karen Vetsch with questions!

**Paint the Parsonage!**

Are you still interested in seeing the inside of the parsonage? Couldn't make the last volunteer dates? Join a group of us to refresh the interior walls & ceilings of the parsonage. Water and snacks provided. No experience needed. We'll supply the equipment/tools. Questions? Seek out Dan or Karen Vetsch 612-721-7385  
boodjv@yahoo.com

**February 7th Monday 5 -7pm**  
**February 26th Saturday 10 am - 2 pm**  
(If needed, future dates will be scheduled)



## Shepherding Group Sunday is February 20th

### (Please note date change)

After worship and some social time together in the Fellowship Hall, we will gather in our Shepherding Groups to make plans for Lenten Soup Suppers (that begin with Ash Wednesday on March 2) and other service commitments and opportunities. The current Shepherding Groups will remain intact for this next year. If you're not currently assigned to a Shepherding Group, let Pastor Eric know and we'll get you signed up! The Shepherding Group lists will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office – and space assignments for the meetings that day will be posted as well. Thanks for all you do in your Shepherding Groups throughout the year to support St. Peder's mission and ministry! Please let Jeannie know if there have been any changes to your Shepherding Groups (new leader, members no longer active, etc.).



### Soup Supper Survey

Covid has made planning for some of our favorite traditions at church very hard! We sometimes need to go month by month or even week by week. Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2nd, which means weekly Soup Suppers here at St. Peder's. In order to get a better idea of where members comfort levels are, we will be sending out a survey sometime in February - be sure to check your inboxes. If you would like a paper copy sent to you, please let Jeannie know.



### Souper Bowl of Caring

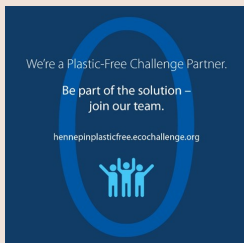
More than 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group. "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat". St. Peder's Social Ministry team is collecting non perishable food, toiletries and financial donations. Our collected donations will be delivered to Minnehaha Food Shelf 3701 E 50th Street Mpls. Drop off donations at St. Peder's. If we are still doing virtual worship, we will schedule a drop off drive in our parking lot. If you would like to make financial contribution, you can mail a check to the address above or donate using this link: <http://www.minnehaha.org/foodshelf.html>

### Save the Date! Blood Drive at St. Peder's

Have you been hearing on the news about a shortage in our blood donation supply? St. Peder's is hosting a blood drive in our Fellowship Hall with the American Red Cross on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**.



More information will be coming for you to sign up for a convenient time. Stay tuned! Questions? talk to Sue Nielsen 612-360-3936 [suenielsen76@gmail.com](mailto:suenielsen76@gmail.com)



## Join the Plastic-Free Challenge

Plastics are problematic for many reasons. They create waste and litter, contribute to climate change, pollute our water, harm wildlife, and have largely unknown health impacts for humans. Be part of the solution by joining the Hennepin County Plastic-Free Challenge!

The challenge is a month-long event starting February 1 to reduce plastic consumption, especially single-use plastics, in ways that fit best in your lifestyle and have the most impact on reducing your plastic footprint. The online challenge has 70 actions you can choose from in seven categories. **St. Peder's is an official Partner in the event.**

Sign up for the on-line event is now open at:  
<https://hennepinplasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>

Join the **"St. Peder's Earth Stewards"** team to encourage others in their efforts and track our collective progress and impact. No need to be a resident of Hennepin County to participate.

Once you sign up, you can browse the categories and actions, mark the actions you already take, and select up to five one-time actions and five daily actions to make progress on during the four-week challenge.

Not excited about an on-line event? We're also planning to have information available during Coffee Hours. Look for updates in the bulletins. For more information contact Judy Hogan or Karen Vetsch.

## 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 12th month of 2021. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who'd like to see it.

### Income

Month of December	\$ 32,414.44	Budget for the month	\$ 20,833.33
Year to Date	\$ 226,979.51	Budget Year to Date	\$ 250,000.00

### Expenses

Month of December	\$ 19,704.98	Budget for the month	\$ 20,730.94
Year to Date	\$ 242,229.88	Budget Year to Date	\$ 264,761.00

Mission Support to...Minneapolis Area Synod YTD \$ 14,000.04



When you purchase coffee from our display  
 you support the coffee we serve at St. Peders  
 AND a community-focused, socially responsible,  
 environmentally conscious organization!



## February Worship Schedule

### February 6

9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion  
10 am Coffee and Fellowship  
10:15 am Bible Study

### February 13

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee and Fellowship

### February 20

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee and Fellowship  
10:30 Shepherding Group Gathering

### February 27

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee and Fellowship

**\*\*Council is continuing to monitor the Covid situation regarding gathering in person. We will notify the congregation via email towards the end of January. For those without email, please call the church and choose option '8' for Worship times.**

## Gently Used Clothing & New Toiletries Drive

Support local Veterans,

Every Third Saturday-ETS Supply Store  
4303 East 54th St. Minneapolis, MN 55417

Since 2008, ETS has distributed over 500,000 items to veterans. Everything from hotel size shampoo, clothing, winter coats, new snow boots. *They accept gently used clothing and shoes. Please no household items.* **Drop items off at church in the designated tubs.** Any questions please contact Karen Vetsch 612-721-7385.

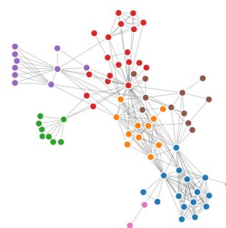
**Supplies in Need:** 2x, 3x, 4x and 5x T Shirts and Underwear, Diabetic Socks, Peroxide, Soft Soap Hand Soap, Mouthwash, Sewing Kits, Muscle Rub/Icy Hot, Hand Lotion, Foot Powder, Baby Powder, Baby Wipes, Q-Tips, Chapstick.

## Connect with Members & Fellow Volunteers Using Instant Church Directory

As many of you know, we have an online and print directory for members. Volunteers positions and contacts are also included. For those who would like a paper copy of the directory, please contact Jeannie in the office. She can leave you a copy to pick up in the office or drop one in the mail.

For those of you who would like to use the online directory via computer, simply go to [www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com) and create a login and password and follow the directions from there (you will need to use the email in the current directory to create a login). To use on your iphone, ipad or kindle, download the app from the App Store (Apple), Google Play (Android) or Amazon's Appstore (Kindle). Next time you need to find a sub for ushering or to track someone down within your shepherding group, everyone's contact info will be easy to find!

**Members, if you have not submitted a picture for our directory or would like to replace your picture with one that is more updated, you can do that online or email Jeannie a picture and she can plug it in for you.**



Feel free to contact Jeannie in the office with any questions!

I'll admit that when Karen Vetsch approached me about being part of the Riverside Innovation Hub team at St. Peder's, my immediate instinct, true to my introverted nature, was to politely decline. But recently I had heard someone pose the rhetorical question, *If your church disappeared, would the neighbors notice?* and for some reason it had struck a chord with me. I kept thinking about it. So when an opportunity was dropped in front of me to help explore this idea of becoming a public church, it seemed like I ought to pay attention.

It turns out that paying attention is a lot of what this work is about, particularly in the first "movement," Accompaniment. This movement is all about listening, tuning in to what our neighbors are talking about, their wants, fears, challenges. What brings them joy. What they are longing for. Being in accompaniment means having a desire to know our neighbor and their stories. The poet Mary Oliver writes: "Attention is the beginning of devotion." We can't be good neighbors if we don't see who our neighbors are.

Over time I've come to think of the question not so much as *would* the neighbors notice if St. Peder's disappeared, but *what* would they notice. Would it matter to them if we weren't there? The truth is our neighbors do notice us. What do they see? What do they know our values to be? Some of them might know us through our yearly Cod Fish Dinner, or as the church that hands out water and treats on Marathon Sunday, or from our deliveries of Meals on Wheels. These are great foundations to build on. The challenge is to be open to the ways we might best expand our relationship with our neighbors. To get out of the four, admittedly comfortable, walls of our building and meet our neighbors where they are at. We are figuring it out as we go along. No doubt we will make mistakes. If we're doing it right, we'll find ourselves in some uncomfortable spaces.

I'm still wrestling with what exactly this work is, and what it might mean for our congregation. But I've come to understand some things that it is not. It is not about filling our pews on Sunday morning or adding to our membership rolls. It's not about fixing people's problems or having all the answers. It is not transactional.

Earlier this month members from our team met with Sheila Foster, Director of Community Involvement at St. Luke's and St. James Episcopal Church in southwest Minneapolis. Her congregation participated in the first two-year phase of RIH, and Sheila is currently serving as a mentor for those of us new to the process. We as a team have been imagining ways that our outdoor space might be used by the community, and Sheila shared some ideas that her church has implemented, like installing benches and a picnic table on their grounds and hosting Ice Cream Sundays, where treats are available on the lawn after a summer service. It's exciting to think about how we could incorporate ideas like these at St. Peder's. But Sheila also told us that their biggest challenge was not jumping into the solutions before first doing this work of listening and learning – of paying attention.

### **Pastor Recommendations Due January 31st**

Are you aware of a Pastor who you think would be a good fit for St. Peder's? As our Call Committee begins their work, If you have pastors you would like to have considered, please fill out a blue form on the counter in the office and leave on Jeannie's desk (or contact Jeannie in the office—she can send you the link to the online form) Please keep your recommendations confidential for the integrity of the pastor's current call.



### **Help Us Stay Connected**

We are so grateful to have the technology to be able to livestream worship and other events from our sanctuary. Big thanks to Karen Vetsch and Bruce Simpson for helping us get things up and running and working through several glitches. Now that things seem to be working, we're looking to add a few more volunteers to our "operator" team - all ages are welcome. You don't need massive technology skills - if you can use a computer and a remote control you are highly qualified, we'll train you on the specifics. If helping us stay connected to those who can't join us in person is of interest to you, please let Pastor Eric know!



### **From the Racial Justice Team**

Each month we 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...**

What are your thoughts on learning about history?

In the beginning of an article by Bryan Anderson, Associated Press - he shares his thoughts to the question- what is critical race theory?

Critical race theory is a way of thinking about America's history through the lens of racism. Scholars developed it during the 1970s and 1980s in response to what they viewed as a lack of racial progress following the civil rights legislation of the 1960s. It centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions and that they function to maintain the dominance of white people in society. The architects of the theory argue that the United States was founded on the theft of land and labor and that federal law has preserved the unequal treatment of people on the basis of race. Proponents also believe race is culturally invented, not biological.

- What are your thoughts on how & what you have learned about history?
- Do you consider your learnings about history well rounded?
- Think of one history lesson you have recently learned.

Reference Article by Bryan Anderson

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/so-much-buzz-but-what-is-critical-race-theory>

# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 First Day of Black History Month 7 pm Pub Theology	2 9 am Quilters	3	4	5 2 pm Fiber Arts
6 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Bible Study	7 5-7 Paint the Parsonage	8	9	10	11	12
13 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	14 Valentines Day 	15	16 9 am Quilters	17 Newsletter Articles Due 7 pm Music and Worship Committee Meeting	18	19 2 pm Fiber Arts
20 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 Shepherding Group Gathering	21 President's Day	22	23 7 pm Council Meeting	24	25	26 10-2 Paint the Parsonage
27 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	28					





Thank you for  
volunteering 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 or con-  
cerns, contact the church  
office or email Jeannie:  
[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)  
612-722-800

## February Volunteer Schedule

### **February 6, 2022 Holy Communion**

**Greeters:** Dwight and Kari Bullard

**Ushers:** Bob Stanich and Joe Munnich

**Acolyte:** Alice Petersen

**Reader:** Judy Hogan

**Communion Set Up & Clean Up:**

Dwight Lundebby and Shawna Nelsen-Wills

**Communion Assistants:**

Elizabeth and Tim Anderson, Peter Juhl, Wendy Legge

**Bread and Wine:** Michael and Allison O'Day

**Counters:** Cameron Jamison and JeriLynn Young

**LSS Safe House Dinner for February 7:**

Jim and Heidi Nelsen

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 3**

### **February 13, 2022**

**Greeters:** Bill and Judy Anderson

**Ushers:** Peter Juhl and Craig Rocheleau

**Acolyte:** Isla Wills

**Reader:** Marcia Rocheleau

**Counters:** Bob Stanich and Judy Hogan

**LSS Safe House Dinner for February 14:**

Allison and Michael O'Day, Jill and Kerry Audette

**Sheridan Story for February 18:**

Bob Stanich and Jeanne Schleh

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 2**

### **February 20, 2022**

**Greeters:** Kerry and Jill Audette

**Ushers:** Sue Schnickel and Jeremy Anderson

**Acolyte:** Siri Vossen

**Reader:** JeriLynn Young

**Counters:** Jackie West and Sue Schnickel

**LSS Safe House Dinner for February 21:**

Judy and Michael Hogan, Bev Jensen

**Social Hour hosted by Christian Life**

### **February 27, 2022**

**Greeters:** Nancy and Stephanie Hawkinson

**Ushers:** Peter Paulson and Shawna Nelsen-Wills

**Acolyte:** Eleanor Munnich

**Reader:** Elizabeth Anderson

**Counters:** Terri Vetsch and Karen Vetsch

**LSS Safe House Dinner for February 28:**

Pete and Sheryl Juhl

**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 4**

**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:

Pastor: Rev. Eric Luedtke

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

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:  
Mia Kruse

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

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Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking

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Caretaker: Jim Austin

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ELCA

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

