

The Messenger

A Farewell Message from Shannon



Dear, beloved, St. Peder's people,

In May of 2015 I walked into my new office for the first time and had no idea what the future would hold. Entering a new community is scary. What if you don't understand the norms and the customs? What if you don't get along? What if you make people mad?

Over the past six years as we have journeyed together you have graciously taught me your customs: from snippets of Danish, to my new love of Æbleskiver and to the Grundtvig tradition. We have sometimes disagreed and I am sure that I've made some of you mad. And yet, as I reflect back on the last six years the word that comes through loudest and strongest is love.

You have loved me well and I am eternally grateful for that.

I hope you have felt my love in return. Even as I pushed and prodded, as I exhorted and poked, as I learned and failed in public. This has been such a safe place to minister and I thank you for your trust in me these last years.

Thank you for entrusting me with your children and youth. For inviting me into your lives and your tender moments, for sharing your stories, and your ideas, and your beliefs with me. Thank you, too, for sharing your doubts.

Many of you have asked me "What's next?" And if I've seemed not to answer it's not in the spirit of being cagey, it's because I honestly don't know; at least not in the sense of a next "official" job or ministry. Part of this leave taking was inspired by a deep sense in my soul that I need to be spending the bulk of my energy on creative work. For me, the impulse to write comes from the same impulse that calls me to ministry: The desire to get people together, tell a story, and make meaning together. And from that meaning making to go out into the world and try to make it a better place. It's what we do together in church on Sundays, it's what we do in the theatre; it's the same impulse in both places. I'm feeling called to put more of my energy into those stories. I don't know what will happen career wise. This is, in some ways, a leap of faith.

I do plan to continue my online ministry with QueerTheology.com, cultivating a space and community for LGBTQ+ people, many of whom are still trying to make sense of their faith because of harm they have experienced in the church. I want to carry the love I have found with all of you to them, to assure them there are places where their sexuality and gender identity aren't a hindrance but a blessing to them and their community.

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In the Interim: Transition and Change

Pastor Eric Luedtke

It feels a bit like a broken record to mention the reality that we are living in a time of significant transition and change. Our headlines constantly remind us of the ways our world has been upended. In the life of St. Peder's we've experienced significant staff turnover. Our neighborhoods are fragile as we continue to recover from the unrest of a year ago. In these times we are reminded of God's word through the prophet Isaiah:

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ~Isaiah 41:10

It is important to name the realities that we are facing so that we can do something about them. If we act like the ostrich with our heads in the sand, nothing will get better. But, if we name and face the challenges of our lives then there is hope that something can be done to move forward. It's a lot easier to face the challenges of our world when we recognize that we are not alone in what we face. We have a community of faith, we have our families, we have our God.

It is a real blessing to gather in person for worship outdoors. For the first time in a year or more many of us gathered together in one place as God's people. We are able to engage one another in conversation and SEE the reaction. I've heard time and again how much the children have grown and changed since last seen. It's a good reminder that this is a good time to be God's people.

As summer returns to Minnesota we have also formed our Transition Team that will lead us into the process of discussing who we are as a congregation and what kind of leadership we need to carry St. Peder's forward. These conversations will be rich with story of our rootedness, marked with memories, and fueled by dreams and visions for who we might become. Be watching for opportunities to engage in conversation together and be part of this Transition Team work.

In addition to the Transition Team, St. Peder's was recently invited to participate in a two-year learning opportunity to partner with the Riverside Innovation Hub (RIH) alongside 11 other local congregations. Together we will engage in a process of engaging our neighbors to discover how we might better respond to and participate in the places where the Good News (gospel) is emerging in our community. You'll be hearing more about these opportunities in the coming months as we begin to engage this work.

There's a lot happening at St. Peder's and you are a part of it.

Farewell from Shannon (cont'd)

You all have shaped me in profound ways. There aren't enough words to say enough thank you for the last six years, but know that my heart is overflowing with gratitude for all of you. I will carry your ministry to my spirit with me wherever I go. Know that whatever I do next, you all will have a part in it.

I would treasure your prayers and continued love as we are apart. Know that I will continue to pray for and love you.

With gratitude,

Shannon TL Kearns

Summer Worship Schedule



Recognizing that gathering for worship is central to our life as Lutheran Christians, as summer emerges, we are hoping the weather cooperates so that we can gather in-person outdoors for worship at 9am on the Second and Fourth Sundays of June, July, and August. We ask that everyone wear a mask, even outdoors, out of an abundance of caution. In the case of inclement weather we will notify the congregation by email, sent by 8am on Sunday morning. Bring your own chair or blanket as we gather together.

Throughout the summer we will also plan to post a recorded worship service on Facebook and YouTube that will begin at 9am on Sunday mornings for those who are unable to join us in person or a plan B for days with inclement weather.

We will continue to offer Holy Communion on the First Sunday of each month using Zoom (we will also be streaming the service on YouTube and Facebook beginning in June). You can join this interactive service at 9am using by clicking [here](#).
Meeting ID: 954 3253 5603 Passcode: 775151

Worship Schedule for June, July, and August

- 1st Sunday:** Zoom Worship with Holy Communion, click [here](#) for the Zoom link.
Meeting ID: 954 3253 5603 Passcode: 775151
- 2nd Sunday:** Outdoor Worship, in person (weather permitting)
- 3rd Sunday:** Recorded worship available on our [website](#) or on [St. Peder's YouTube Channel](#) or [Facebook page](#).
- 4th Sunday:** Outdoor Worship, in person (weather permitting)
- 5th Sunday:** (when applicable) - Recorded worship

Thank You Members!

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated items to support our Brooklyn Center neighbors. Together we gathered over 370 packages of goods including 385 rolls of toilet paper and 2050 child diapers, as well as cleaning and personal hygiene items and groceries. Two SUVs full! When we delivered the items to Cross of Glory Lutheran Church on Monday, April 19 we found mostly empty stocks. The church, and their distribution partner CAPI were very, very thankful for our help.

Thanks also to Karen Vetch for stepping in and helping with the delivery.

With gratitude, Judy Hogan



Seeking Audio-Video Volunteer

As you know, after 10 years serving as St. Peder's guru of all things audio and video, John Geroux has stepped into a new adventure. We're looking for a volunteer who would be willing to step in and help with some of our Audio-Video needs. We don't expect you to FILL John's shoes, per se, but we'd love to find someone with an interest in Audio / Video production and a teachable spirit. Primary responsibilities will be to assist setting microphones and capturing video during worship services. Experience with audio and video technology would be awesome, but not required. This volunteer should be comfortable using computers, video cameras, and microphones or be willing to learn. If you're interested in helping St. Peder's in this way or if you have additional questions, please contact Pastor Eric at: pastoreric@stpeders.org

Survey Says ...

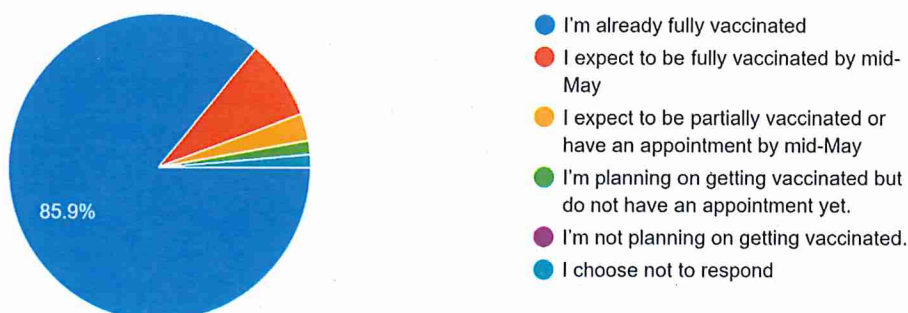
Results of the Spring Return to Worship Survey

Thank you for those who took the time to participate in our Spring Return to Worship Survey. We had 76 responses which provides Council with concrete feedback on how comfortable our congregation is to return to in-person gatherings.

From the survey, nearly all adult respondents are already vaccinated or plan to be vaccinated. From the perspective of many medical officials, this means the St. Peder's community have arrived at "herd immunity" making our ability to gather in person much safer.

Please tell us (if you are willing): Do you expect to have been vaccinated by mid-May?

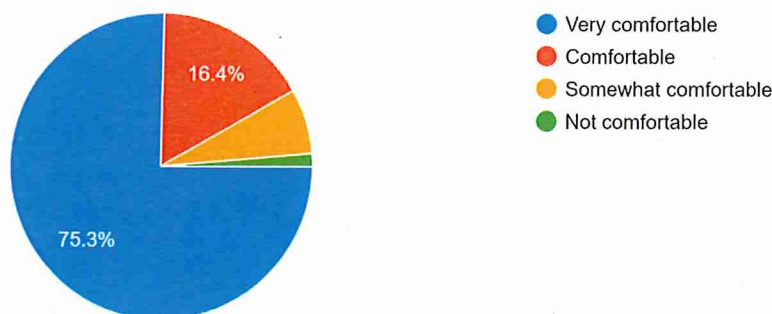
71 responses



Also from the survey, just over 90% of our congregation are comfortable or very comfortable attending Outdoor in-person worship, while only slightly more than 50% would be comfortable or very comfortable attending Indoor in-person worship. This has led to Council decision to not return to indoor worship gatherings just yet.

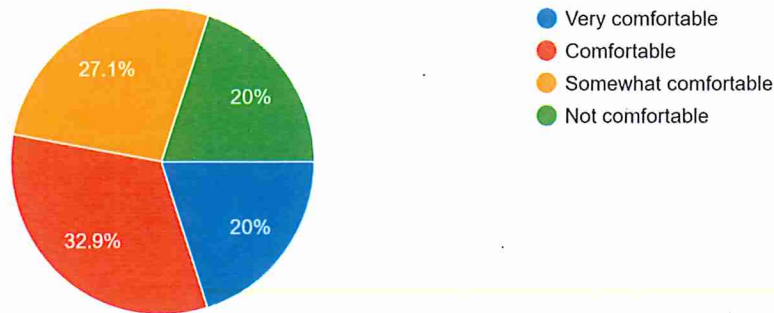
How comfortable would you be attending worship OUTDOORS this summer? (with masks and social distancing required)

73 responses



How comfortable would you be attending worship INDOORS this summer? (with masks and social distancing required)

70 responses



One of the primary comments offered for the level of discomfort around indoor gathering is the limited access to vaccination for children and youth. This was also reflected in the percentage of those with children who are very comfortable with indoor vs. outdoor gatherings for events focused on our children and youth.

With full recognition that some of our members are uncomfortable with (or unable to) participating in in-person gatherings at this time, we will continue to offer online worship options using our website, Zoom, and Facebook.

If you would like to see the full results of the survey, please click [here](#). If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Jeannie in the office and she can send you a paper copy.

While the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health have lifted many restrictions, they have also encouraged businesses and organizations to retain guidelines they feel are best practices for their organization.

The current plan for St. Peder's is that we will continue to limit in-person indoor gatherings to small groups. We will gather for in-person worship outdoors (see schedule on page 3). We are hopeful that with continued decline in COVID case numbers and increased vaccination of all ages, we can safely return to in-person indoor gatherings in the Fall. If you have questions about the survey or St. Peder's response to COVID-19, please reach out to a Council member or Pastor Eric.

Shawna Nelsen-Wills
St. Peder's Council President

Rev. Eric Luedtke
Interim Pastor

Maximizing Your Gift to St. Peder's

Deb Wolking, Accounts Manager

We are very fortunate at St. Peder's to have a membership that gives generously to support our mission. The use of debit and credit cards to make donations continues to grow. These methods are great for the ease and simplicity they provide in making a gift.

We want to make sure people have information regarding the fees charged by the credit card companies and other "middle men" with the goal of making sure you chose the right option for you. We would love to have your gifts to St. Peder's maximized and offer a range of ways to give. In general, fees on credit and debit card transactions run about 2.5% to 3.75% of the amount given, and sometimes more.

Many people are aware of these fees and add an amount to cover their cost. This means St. Peder's receives the full amount of their gift.

This issue becomes most apparent when gifts are essentially passed through St. Peder's to go to other organizations such as the food shelf, or in the recent flower sale. In these situations we pass along the full amount we receive, after any deductions are made.

You can avoid paying transaction fees by setting up your donation to be drawn directly from your bank account. For example, if you are using a debit card to make your gift, transaction fees will be incurred. Setting up the transaction so it is drawn directly from your bank account will result in St. Peder's receiving 100 percent of your gift.

The most important thing is that you set up your giving in a way that works for you. We are grateful for ALL gifts we receive. We want to make sure you have the information so you can choose the giving method you want.

Feel free to contact Jeannie or Debbie in the officer with questions about methods for giving.

Volunteer Schedule for May

LSS Safehouse Schedule

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

June 14: Bruce Simpson & Lisa Rovick

June 21: Sonja Walker and Joe & Annalise Munnich

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



On-Line Reader Schedule

June 6 : Bob Stanich

June 13: Wendy Legge

June 20: Judy Hogan

June 27: Elizabeth Anderson

Ushers:

June 13: TBD

June 27: TBD



Du Nord Foundation Community Market: Volunteer Opportunity

The [Du Nord Foundation Community Market](#) (3140 Snelling Avenue South, Minneapolis) is a community-supported food shelf that is a welcoming place for neighbors to find free, healthy and fresh foods for their table, no questions asked. It's a place where neighbors can help neighbors; a safe place to get groceries, other resources, or a chance to give back in meaningful ways.

To sign up to volunteer, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events at Normandale Wellness Center

For the first time in US history the number of Americans 80 and over is greater than those 2 and younger and the trend is expected to continue such that by 2030 20% of Americans will be retirement age. Congregations that recognize this trend are asking "how might we better serve Seniors and those who care for them in our communities?" Normandale Center for Healing and Wholeness is one organization doing just that. Born out of Normandale Lutheran Church (ELCA) the organization supports caregivers and seniors through a variety of grant-funded programs and workshops. NCHW Executive Director Jennifer Monroe has reached out to St. Peder's to invite us to participate in some of their upcoming events:

June 12, 2021 Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body —Alzheimer's Association

In this workshop we will examine health habits that will keep our brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline. We will discuss the importance of cognitive activity, physical health and exercise, diet and nutrition, and social engagement, and how these activities can affect the aging brain.

August 14th, 2021 Care for Caregiver: Intuitive Writing for Self-Care Wendy Brown-Baez, Creator of Writing Circles for Healing

Writing is a way to experience creative rejuvenation and cultivate inner resiliency. Intuitive writing helps us topay attention to our inner voice, recognize our strengths, and practice self-compassion. Wendy will share asimple technique to get you started. You do not need previous writing experience.

Access all sessions via this Zoom [link](#) Meeting ID: 923 4388 7388 Passcode:17273. More information can be found at the Normandale Center's [Facebook page](#) or contacting the center at info@normandalecenter.org or 952-929-1698

June Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 6:

9 am Online Worship w/ Holy Communion followed by online Coffee & Fellowship.

Sunday, June 13:

9 am Outdoor/In-Person Worship (weather permitting) *Live streamed for those who cannot join in person

Sunday, June 20:

9 am Online Worship

Sunday, June 27

9 am Outdoor/In-Person Worship (weather permitting) *Live streamed for those who cannot join in person

****Please see page 3 for more details.**



Join Us for Zoom Coffee Hour!

Please join us on the **first Sunday of each month** for coffee hour following our Zoom Communion Worship. Bring a cup of coffee or tea and connect with St. Peder's members virtually. Here are the dates for the next few months, be sure to mark your calendar:

Sunday Coffee Hour Dates:
June 6, July 4, August 1



Save the date for Hearts & Hammers (formerly known as Paint-a-thon) for Saturday Aug. 7, 2021. More information to come in July Messenger!

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.....

An anti-racism book for everyone, *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson – The Star Tribune tells us: The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist examines aspects of caste systems across civilizations and reveals a rigid hierarchy in America today. It is about power-who has it and who does not.

An excerpt gives us an analogy: a curtain rises on a stage, actors wear costumes and are assigned roles, the costumes were handed out at birth and cues cast to the roles they are to play and to their place on the stage. The show has been running for centuries. The cast members become associated with their roles - typecast. As an actor, you are told to stick to the script and the part you are cast to play.

The author also discusses at length the caste systems of India and Nazi Germany.

The caste system in America is four hundred years old and persists because we, each, allow it to exist. Isabel Wilkerson ends her book with this statement: A world without caste would set everyone free.

Consider:

- ♦ What have I noticed about the caste system in America?
- ♦ In what ways do my actions allow the caste system to exist?
- ♦ Do I elevate or demean people based on physical traits such as skin color?
- ♦ How can I begin to see past the physical traits and value the character of the person?



Help Us Create New Favorite Hymns!!

It is time to refresh the list of favorite hymns so we can include your favorites in our worship services. Send us as many favorite hymns as you like. **Submission are due June 30th.** The Music and Worship Committee will need to know the following:

Name

First line of hymn OR first line of the refrain:

Season when the hymn is most often sung:

Where the hymn is located (hymnal or other source) or if you know it, the hymn number or where you sang or heard the hymn:

You can submit hymns three ways:

Fill out this form and send it into the office or click on this [link](#) and fill in the form online. Call/email member Lisa Rovick (612-716-4418 or lprovick@stkate.edu), who is on the Music and Worship Committee, and let her know your selections. Thank you!

Support Businesses Owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

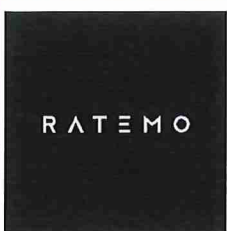
Rebecca's Bakery Owner Teshome Belayneh

2111 E Franklin Ave Ste 2, Minneapolis, near Seward Café 612-455-0236

Rebecca's makes cakes, cookies, and pastries such as ricotta pie, apple turnover, baklava, cream puffs, tiramisu, chocolate mocha cake, vanilla crema cake, pound cake, almond biscotti and much more. Orders for special occasions, weddings, graduations, etc. can be made by phone. Whole cakes and individual pieces can be purchased in the shop along with hot or iced coffee, lattes, espressos, hot chocolate and more. Click [here](#) to check out their menu!

Ratemo Brand Owners Teddy and Katie Ratemo

www.ratemobrand.com



This Minneapolis based company specializes in African bags and accessories. Co-owner Teddy is Kenyan born and American raised. He started the company when he noticed few quality African print bags on the market. Ratemos use bright, eye catching patterns of Ankara and Kente cloth to create backpacks, sling backpacks, bundles, fanny packs, travel pouches and lanyards which can be purchased on their website. They can also be found on Etsy or at local pop-up events around the Metro. See [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for upcoming events.

Himalayan Restaurant Co-owners Naveen Shrestha and Pravin Shrestha

2910 E Lake St, Minneapolis 612-332 0880 www.himalayanmomo.com



Try some authentic Nepalese cuisine, flavors of Nepal, Tibet, and India, at this restaurant which uses local ingredients to serve made-from-scratch Himalyan food with fresh spices. The buffet includes appetizers, vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, salad bar and desserts. Check out the [menu](#) for daal (soup), steamed dumplings with savory filling, chicken or lamb tikka marsala, coconut chicken curry, goat curry and much more. Orders for pick-up can be placed by phone or [online](#), Tuesday-Sunday.

Together in Mission 2021

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 4th 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 April	\$ 16,700.70	Budget for the month	\$ 20,833.34
Year to Date	\$ 60,980.69	Budget Year to Date	\$ 83,333.36

Expenses

Month of April	\$ 19,673.14	Budget for the month	\$ 24,030.88
Year to Date	\$ 83,103.26	Budget Year to Date	\$ 96,123.52

Mission Support to...

Minneapolis Area Synod	YTD	\$ 4,666.68
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**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. Eric Luedtke
Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell
Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking
Caretaker: Jim Austin

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

