

St Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church
4600 E 42nd St.
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March 2021
Issue 3

The Messenger

In the Interim by Pastor Eric Luedtke

Dear friends of St. Peder's, as your Interim Pastor I'm planning to take some space in each month's Messenger to let you hear about what I've been up to and what I am learning about the congregation, you can look for this regular section under the title "In the Interim."

It's unusual to be starting any job during this time of pandemic when many are working from home and we are not meeting in person very often. It's doubly-unusual to do so in a church where person-to-person relationships are so central to who we are and what we do. But I can say, I have felt a warm welcome from St. Peder's, the staff, and council members in the short time I've been here. I hope you know how fortunate this congregation is to have this group of leaders working on your behalf.

If I had to summarize my conversations to this point in a few words they would be *energy*, *enthusiasm*, *anticipation*. Allow me to unpack these words just a little bit.

Energy Each St. Peder's staff or member I have met is filled with energy about their role at St. Peder's and about the time of transition that we find ourselves in. When I have asked questions they seem eager and ready to dive in to what lies ahead whether that it is in the coming days, weeks or months. I find this energy infectious and energizing me more with each conversation and interaction I have.

Enthusiasm There is a positive outlook within the people I have met with about the opportunity that is presented to St. Peder's in this time. Recognizing the rootedness and deep roots of this congregation, there is a positive outlook that the congregation is ready for the challenges we will face together and a trust that the Holy Spirit is present in our shared work.

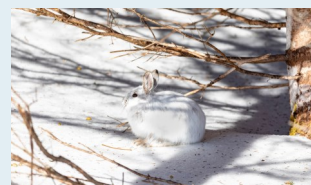
Anticipation We know something good is coming, we can feel it, there is an anticipation that God is about to unleash great things from St. Peder's and the Longfellow neighborhood that we are a part of. We don't necessarily know that looks like just yet, but trusting that Christ walks with us, we feel prepared for what is coming.

"In the Interim" continued on page 9.....



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Remembering Corynne Christina



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Corynne Christina who died on Friday, February 12. A family-only memorial was held on Saturday, February 20th with Pastor Eric Luedtke presiding.

We celebrate Corynne's life and cherish our memories of her trusting in the promise of the resurrection, praying, Grant eternal rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine on Corynne.

Pastoral Care from Pastor Eric

As your Interim Pastor, part of my role is to care for the members of this congregation. I will do my best to reach-out to people when I hear of situations where they might be in need. But I rely on you, the members of St. Peder's, to be my ears to the ground. If you hear that someone in the hospital, or in need of care, don't assume they or someone else has let me know, drop me an email, give the office a call, and share what you know. It is an honor for me to walk beside you in the events of your life, so please don't hesitate to contact me. If it's urgent and you can't find me in the office, text or call my cell phone 510.853.1386 – if you get my voicemail, leave a message and I'll return your call.



[Insert Adjective Here] Time by Pastor Eric Luedtke

Pretty early in our "COVID-response" time (March or April 2020) I was noticing how different people would use different adjectives to try to describe the "time" we were going through. I always felt like those adjectives were never fully adequate to describe what we were experiencing. While they kind of fit, they also kind of (or mostly) didn't. I've always been taught (and believed) that words matter. Around that time I participated in a webinar with Dr. Michael Osterholm who commented on how he doesn't like the phrase "socially distanced" he prefers the term "physically distanced" because he thought, particularly in the work of churches, the worst thing we can do is cut ourselves off socially - telephones, Zoom, and other tools he thought would be critical to our mental health during this time of physical separation from one another and activities that have been critical to our lives. So, I tried to think about how to describe our experience in a way that worked better - enter my phrase "in these [insert adjective here] times" that seemed for me, at least, to encapsulate what many of us were feeling. I started using it with the congregation at Hope and they seemed to resonate with it, so I've continued to use it and I anticipate using it here at St. Peder's as well. Let me know how you might fill in that phrase, but anticipate me regularly talking about [insert adjective here] time.

Finding Pastor Eric

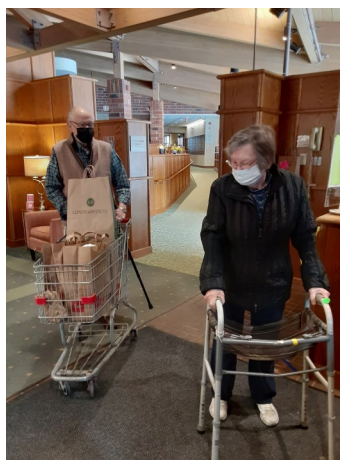
Pastor Eric takes Friday as his day off and most Saturdays are "light-work days." If you have an emergency, you can call or text him at 510.853.1386, calls and texts that are not urgent will be returned on Sunday or Monday.

As we continue to navigate safe gatherings, Pastor Eric is typically in the office on Tuesdays and working from home the rest of the week (planning to transition to being in the office more often as schools return to in-person learning and community restrictions relax). Pastor Eric is open to meeting with members, answering questions, and having conversation. If you want to reach Pastor Eric on days he isn't in the office, email pastoreric@stpeders.org or his cell phone 510.853.1386 are best.



Thank You Members—You are Souper!!

Last month, St. Peder's members collected 130 pounds of food and \$855 in donations for the Minnehaha Food Shelf during the "Souper Bowl of Caring", which took place on Sunday, February 7th. A big shout out to St. Peder's member, Karen Vetsch, who organized this event!



Pastor Eric and Social Media

Social Media has become a part of many of our lives. We can debate its pros and cons, just as we can debate the pros and cons of most any topic or issue. As your Interim Pastor, I want to offer insights into how I use Social Media in my personal and professional life so that you can know what to expect. Yes, you can find me on Facebook and Twitter, who knows, I might even join one or more of the other evolving platforms in the future. If you see my account on these platforms it is my personal account, it reflects me, Eric Luedtke, a dad, homeowner, hockey lover, pastor, Christian, and many other hats. I offer my personal insights and react to things from my personal perspective. I do not claim to speak on behalf of anyone other than me. If you want to send me a friend request or follow me on social media, you are welcome to do that, I will accept that request from you. I will not however proactively seek out members of St. Peder's to follow you or invite you to be my follower. I hope this makes sense and if you have questions about my position on this, you're always welcome to call or email me and I'm happy to talk with you about it.

Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation: *Judas and the Black Messiah*

On **March 14th** we'll discuss *Judas and the Black Messiah*. This film is a 2021 American biographical drama about the betrayal of Fred Hampton (Daniel Kaluuya), chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party in late-1960s Chicago, at the hands of William O'Neal (Lakeith Stanfield), an FBI informant. The film is directed and produced by Shaka King, who wrote the screenplay with Will Berson, based on a story by the pair and Kenny and Keith Lucas.



Judas and the Black Messiah premiered at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival on February 1, 2021, and was released in the United States by Warner Bros. Pictures on February 12, simultaneously in theaters and digitally on HBO Max. The film was lauded by critics, who praised King's direction, the performances, and its timely themes. For his performance, Kaluuya was nominated for Best Supporting Actor at the Golden Globes and Screen Actor Guild Awards.

Faith Formation for Kids...



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

March 14

March 28

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

March 1st : Pub Theology!



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



Congratulations Shannon and Ashley!

Shannon Kearns and Ashley Hovell were married in a private ceremony officiated by Adam Rao on Saturday February 13th. From Shannon: "As we considered the ongoing Covid pandemic and whether or not it would be safe to gather as we had planned in May, and we weighed one of Ashley's closest friends not being able to attend in May because of a job opportunity, we decided to jump on an open day and just go for it! This past year has taught us time is precious and that waiting until there is a "perfect moment" isn't necessary. We took a lot of precautions and had Ashley's family and my best friends joining in via Zoom. We were thrilled to be able to celebrate our relationship. We still plan on having a larger gathering to celebrate more fully when it's safe to do so. Thank you all for the prayers and well-wishes."

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...

The system of white privilege has afforded White people access to opportunities while denying the same opportunities to so many others. As White people who acknowledge that racism is a problem, we can make a commitment and effort to use our privilege and take specific actions to lift up others. We can become an ally in the struggle for racial justice and stand beside people of color. Being an ally is an ongoing process in which someone with privilege and power seeks to learn about the experiences of a marginalized group of people, gain empathy for their challenges, and build relationships with that group. The role of an ally includes:

- Seeing racism and naming it.
- Educating ourselves about systematic racism and the effects of oppression.
- Listening to, reflecting, and respecting those who are directly affected by racism.
- Standing beside those who have lived the experience of racism and allowing them, the experts, to lead.
- Boosting the voices and work of the oppressed rather than speaking for them.

Consider:

We are each at varied places in our awareness, knowledge, and comfort level relating to racism. What steps might I take to move from bystander to ally?

- Acknowledge racism exists
- Gain awareness of my own implicit biases
- Read a book to learn more about racism and its impact on people of color
- Check my privilege, my perceptions, my behaviors as I try to work in alliance with people of color
- Call out inappropriate comments or actions when I witness them
- Engage in activities with people of color which allow me opportunities to listen and learn from their experiences

Are there other actions I am taking as an ally?

And if I am not yet ready to become an ally, what might be preventing me from stepping out of the bystander role and into the ally role?



Online Sunday Services

Missed a service? Want to watch it again? You can find the services linked on the St. Peder's website: www.stpeders.org.



Easter Egg Hunt: April 18th at 11:00am

Weather permitting you're invited to join in for an Easter egg hunt on the St. Peder's lawn! This will be a wonderful way to see each other safely and connect a bit! We'll keep social distance and everyone will be masked. If the weather is bad, our back up date will be on April 25th. Stay tuned for more details!

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



SHIRO'S
african boutique

Shiro's African Boutique

Owner Mary Kuria, a native of Kenya, 612-532-7312

Shiro's offers a variety of products made by independent artists from Kenya, fairly purchased to sustain the artists lives. These handmade products include jewelry featuring recycled, traditional materials such as coconut shells, beadwork, various woods, bones, banana fiber and horn; accessories such as belts, waist beads, scarves, clutches and bags; small household items such as candle holders, batik and canvas art; and placemats and greeting cards. Products can be viewed and purchased at Mississippi Market Co-ops (nearest: 1500 W 7th, St. Paul, 651-690-0507) or online at shirosafricanboutique.com

Café Racer Kitchen Owner Luis Patino,

<http://www.caferacermn.com/>

2929 East 25th Street,

Seward area of Minneapolis 612-2808-1695

Café Racer began as a food truck offering Latin American cuisine such as braised pulled pork, arepas, and Colombian street dogs with trimmings. They currently offer breakfast/brunch and lunch/dinner hot and ready to go meals as well as heat and eat meals. The menu includes egg dishes, arepas, white corn masa cakes topped with queso cotija and house made jam, roasted pulled chicken, roasted vegetables, plantains, yuca frita and more, plus desserts. Check out the menu [here](#). Orders can be placed online or by calling 612-208-1695.



Recognizing that food inequities are a reality in our community Café Racer offers a Break Bread meal available at no charge which can be ordered when calling. Additionally they offer monthly Break Bread meals the last Monday of the month. If you would like to make a donation to the Break Bread Free Meal effort, please click [here](#).

A Heart Full of Love and Gratitude



I just wanted to take a moment and try and express my thanks to you, people of St Peder's, for so many things: the opportunity to see so many of you on the Zoom Farewell, the lovely words and thoughts and memories you shared in many ways, the cards and gifts, the video greetings, and so many other things over the years we joyfully served the gospel together with open hearts, open hands, and open doors! My heart is full - and I treasure all you've given me not just in these last days, but throughout the 15 plus years we shared.

Be assured I carry you with me in my heart and prayers as I adjust to retirement (I feel like I'm on vacation...) and as you live out your months of transition with the Interim Pastor and eventually a newly called pastor!

May God's grace uphold you and Christ's love embrace you and the Spirit's power guide you!

Peace be with you as we enter these weeks of Lent,
Pastor Julie Ebbesen

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 1st 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 January	\$ 13,055.65	Budget for the month	\$ 20,833.34
Year to Date	\$ 13,055.65	Budget Year to Date	\$ 20,833.34

Expenses

Month of January	\$ 18,177.56	Budget for the month	\$ 24,030.88
Year to Date	\$ 18,177.56	Budget Year to Date	\$ 24,030.88

Mission Support to...

Minneapolis Area Synod	YTD	\$ 1,166.66
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-In the Interim, continued from page 1

In the coming weeks and months we'll have some time as a congregation to share stories, remember our history, and prayerfully consider where God is leading us. I hope that as a member of St. Peder's you are excited to be a part of this interim process. Please know that we want to hear from each of you through this time. As your Interim Pastor I will be reaching-out to have conversations with you, we'll look for ways to capture group voices too. And please know that you are welcome to reach-out to me as well - I'm ready to listen.

Easter Memorial / Honorary Plant Order and Pick Up



Easter plants may be ordered to decorate and beautify our sanctuary for our online Easter Services. Since worship is pre-recorded, **you will be able to pick up your flower orders on Saturday, April 3rd from 10-12** and enjoy the blooms in your home on Easter!

*****Orders need to be at church by Tues., March 9.**

Pay two ways:

-Online: Go to www.stpeders.org and click on "Donate", scroll down to "Events and Payment" Pay your total order amount here. Write "flowers" in the text box. Send Jeannie an email with the information below (what flowers you are ordering/who they are in memory or honor of)

-Mail in the form below: Please complete and mail to the church office along with payment. Jeannie will be taking orders up until March 9th, so be sure to allow plenty of time for your payment and form to arrive in the mail. Checks can be made out to St. Peder's.

Your Name: _____

(Please circle): In Memory of OR In Honor of

Please write as you would like it to appear. Thank you.

	PRICE EACH	NUMBER ORDERED	TOTAL
Easter Lilies	\$9.00 X _____	= _____	_____
Mums	\$9.00 X _____	= _____	_____
Hyacinth	\$9.00 X _____	= _____	_____
Hydrangeas	\$15.00 X _____	= _____	_____
GRAND TOTAL			_____

Please check one:

I will plan to pick-up my flowers on Saturday, April 3 between 10:00 am—noon _____

I would be happy to have my flowers donated to a local organization _____

(any flowers still here after noon will be donated)

Volunteer Schedule for March

LSS Safehouse Schedule

March 1: Anne & Nick Legeros, Peter & Sheryl Juhl

March 8: Tim & Elizabeth Anderson

March 15: John & Nanette Geroux

March 22: Mark & Jodi Jenson

March 29: Lori Gleason and Deb Zabloski



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.

March 7: John Geroux

March 14: Allison O'Day

March 21: Bob Stanich

March 28: Jasper Gantriis

Lent Series - Power of "TO": Weekly Wednesday Series Continues

Lutherans, along with many Christians, enter the season of Lent with the powerful words "from dust you have come, to dust you shall return." These words bring front and center the reality of our finitude, something that most Americans work hard to deny in their daily lives. But more than the dust, there is that pesky word "to" that represents the journey of our lives.

As we consider the realities of the last year in our lives, we recognize that these [insert adjective here] times of the COVID-19 Pandemic have changed our lives in myriad ways. In this season of Lent, we take time to name and grieve the losses that we have experienced in this time, but to also hold to the promise that in Christ our losses and even deaths are not the final word.

Join us on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesdays during Lent for an interactive time of prayer, naming our grief and struggles during this [insert adjective here] time, and proclaiming the hope of the resurrection. Prepare a candle in your home near your computer, and join us for this time of worship each week.

Jeannie will send out the Zoom link via email on Tuesday mornings. Occasionally emails from St. Peder's will end up in your "Promotional" folder on your email, so check there too if you do not see it in your primary inbox.

March 3: Anticipatory Grief – a future we don't look forward to.

Have you ever felt the pain of grief over something that you know is coming in your life? A loved one gets a terminal diagnosis, the divorce papers have been drawn up, a best friend is moving across the country. What does it say about our relationships and our lives that we feel now for something that will happen (or not happen) in the future?

March 10: Complicated Grief – when we just don't understand why we're grieving.

We all know grief doesn't always make sense. It strikes us at times when we least expect it, in ways we are unprepared for. Sometimes our grief seems misplaced or disproportionate. It doesn't change the reality that it is grief.

March 17: Cumulative Grief – it just keeps piling up.

"I'm just waiting for the other shoe to drop." We know those scenarios and if the past months have taught us anything it is that events that cause grief don't wait for us to finish processing previous grief-events to strike. How do we support each other when everything seems to be crashing in around us.

March 24: Disenfranchised Grief – when we're told we just can't.

Has someone ever told you to "just get over it" or "be happy it's not worse" or "you don't have it so bad"? Grief can be exacerbated when those we love tell us we shouldn't be grieving. Just because others "have it worse" doesn't mean our grief isn't real. How do we grieve without debating whether our grief is worthy?



**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:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Eric Luedtke

pastoreric@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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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

