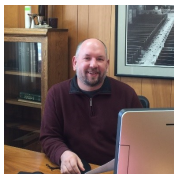


The Messenger



Belonging

By Pastor Eric Luedtke, Interim Pastor

A friend of mine recently sent a reflection on his experience of attending an Anime (Japanese film animation) conference with his 12-year-old. He shared how this seemed to be a gathering of people that society might otherwise call *outcasts* but in this place and time they all belonged.

When we're honest, we spend a lot of energy trying to *belong*.

In high school I played football – maybe more accurately I lettered as a benchwarmer. I had played golf inconsistently. I was part of the Spring play my Senior year. When I'm honest, those were all attempts to try to belong to something, to find my place. Also when I'm honest, even though I was welcomed into those spaces I never truly belonged – I didn't connect on a deeper level with any of the people that I spent time with in those spaces.

But there was another place I spent a lot of time during my high school years, the church. The youth group at my church growing up felt a bit like what my friend described in the anime convention – a place for what society might call *outcasts* but in that space and time, we all belonged. Some brought musical gifts, some were funny, some were good athletes, but we checked all of those identities at the door and entered a time and space where we could just be ourselves.

We recently had our Shepherding Group Sunday at St. Peder's. We lamented that we didn't use our groups to their full potential to stay connected these past two years as COVID disrupted our lives but our conversation quickly moved to how we might stay better connected to one another.

Shepherding Groups give us a structure to remind ourselves that we belong. These groups give us a manageable number of connections that we can be accountable to on a regular basis. Whether a Shepherding Group meets monthly for a pot-luck or commits to being together in worship on a regular basis, staying in contact with one another reminds us that we aren't alone. These groups give us a small group of people that we can reach out to if we are in need and they are also a way that we notice if someone is missing for a time giving us a cue to check on them.

(continued page 3)



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Lent 2022: The Masks We Wear

Throughout the last two years we've been wearing masks to protect ourselves and others from the spread of COVID-19. But there are other masks we use for ourselves and others, not physical masks, but metaphorical ones. Some of these masks help us but many times they hide our true selves from one another.

During the Wednesdays of Lent we will be examining some of these masks as the theme for our worship services. **We'll gather in the sanctuary at 7pm for worship (live stream options for those who aren't able to physically join us).** We will use the Holden Evening Prayer service to guide us through our evening as we consider the ways our masks can both help and hinder as we interact with one another.

****See Page 6 for our Lenten Meal Plan**

March Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 2: Ash Wednesday

7 pm Worship w/ Holy Communion

March 6

9 am Worship w/ Holy Communion

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

10:15 am Bible Study

Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30

7 pm Lenten Worship:

Holden Evening Prayer

March 13

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

10:15 am Bible Study

March 20

9 am Worship

10 am Coffee and Fellowship

10:15 am Bible Study

March 27

9 am Worship

10am Coffee and Fellowship

10:15 am Faith Formation/Book Study



Pub Theology

Come and join in a lively discussion, good food, and your favorite beverage at Pub Theology! We meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Avenue.

March 7th at 7 pm

Topic for discussion is:

Many religions (Christian and non-Christian alike) prohibit the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Why? And why do Lutherans not prohibit imbibing? Pub theologians are asked to research the reasons why alcohol is prohibited in a particular religion, and to share their findings with others at Pub Theology.

Questions? Contact Allison O. or Karen

Paint the Parsonage!

March 19th from 9 am—1 pm

Couldn't make the last volunteer dates? We hope to be wrapping up all of the painting that was needed on the main floor and upper bedrooms. 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



First Communion

Pastor Eric will be offering a First Communion Class during Lent.

If your child is interested in receiving their first Communion or if they have received Communion but want to learn more about what we as Lutherans believe about Communion, **let Pastor Eric know by Sunday, March 13** and we'll schedule a time for the class based on availability of those planning to participate.

The class will last two hours and should be attended by your child and at least one parent. We'll plan for children to receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday (April 14, 7pm) for those that are available.

Not sure if your child is ready for first Communion – chat with Pastor Eric. Generally if your kids are asking about Communion or paying close attention when we celebrate Communion, they are ready.



Faith Formation Bible Study Series: BELONGING TO GOD'S GOOD A Church Anew Study on Genesis

Many of us recall that "In the Beginning ... God created ... and called it good" but sometimes how we learned Biblical stories or remember Biblical stories doesn't reflect that goodness. In BELONGING TO GOD'S GOOD we receive teaching via video from local pastors who reframe the story for us, then as a group we discuss and reflect what we have learned.

March 6, 10:15am

Episode 2: The Breath of God (Genesis 4:1-16) Cain & Abel - there are two brothers who have very different relationships with the land. One is connected; one is consumed. **Written by Rev. Tyler Sit**

March 13, 10:15am

Episode 3: The Water of Life (Genesis 6-9) The Flood Story - Humanity turns inward and forgets about its relationship to the Creator and all living things. **Written by Deacon David Rojas Martínez**

March 20, 10:15am

Episode 4: Trusting God's Provision (Genesis 12: 1-9) God calls Abram and Sarai - In this study we will consider times when God called you to a new place and how you can deepen your roots in the places you call home. **Written by Christine Belfrey**



This year St. Peder's members collected 60.2 pounds of food and \$112 in cash donations for Minnehaha Food Shelf. Thank you!!!

Save the Date!

Blood Drive at
St. Peder's
Tuesday, April
19, 2022.

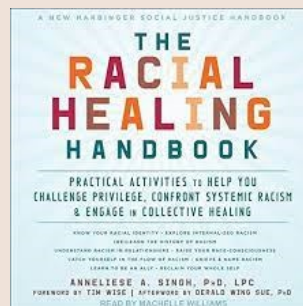
(Cont'd from page 1)

At our Shepherding Group Sunday gathering, the people who attended committed to each other that they would reach-out to at least one person in their group to check-in and see how they are doing. If you weren't at the gathering, I invite you to do the same. Look up the phone number of one person in your group that you haven't talked to in a while and give them a call – or drop them an email – put a postcard in the mail. It only takes a few minutes and a small commitment to remind someone that they belong as part of the community of St. Peder's.

Faith Formation / Book Study: March 27th 10:15 am

Chapter 4 - Grieve and Name Racism. The chapter begins - As you learn about the history of racism and the effects racism has on your life and the lives of others, you are going to experience many feelings related to grief. Taken out of The Racial Healing Handbook by Anneliese A. Singh. PhD LPC

For this gathering we will talk about how each of us has learned to grieve. What did we pick up from our culture and our social norms? What are the 5 stages of grief and how do we apply them to racism? It has been said - In order to heal you need to work through the feelings. Please join us in conversation. You do not need to read the book in order to join in the discussion. Any questions please reach out to Karen Vetsch boodjv@yahoo.com



March 19th is National Quilting Day!

Last month we were celebrated and blessed the fruits of our quilter's labor! The beautiful quilts that adorned the pews were made by a faithful group of sewers and pinners (no sewing experience is needed to join this group!) and sent to Lutheran World Relief, who then distributes the quilts worldwide. In the past twelve years this group has donated over 161 quilts! If you are interested in joining or learning more, talk to Sonja Clementson or Dwight Lundebly. You can also donate fabric (drop off in the office and Jeannie will make sure the quilter's get it). The **group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month.**

Welcome New Renter Kith and Kin!

You may notice the lights are on and cars are in the parking lot on Monday evenings now. We recently welcomed a new renter, Kith and Kin Chorus! To read more about this "uncommon community choir", check out their website: www.kithandkinchorus.com



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 1st 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 January	\$ 16,234.55	Budget for the month	\$ 22,833.34
Year to Date	\$ 16,234.55	Budget Year to Date	\$ 22,833.34

Expenses

Month of January	\$ 19,387.62	Budget for the month	\$ 23,605.07
Year to Date	\$ 19,387.62	Budget Year to Date	\$ 23,605.07

Mission Support to...Minneapolis Area Synod YTD \$ 1,166.66

Thank You St. Peder's Earth Stewards! By Judy Hogan

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Hennepin County Plastic-Free Challenge (St. Peder's was a Presenting Partner of this event) . As of February 19, we had 24 members on our team "St. Peder's Earth Stewards." Combined, we avoided 34 lbs of packaging waste, picked up over 100 pieces of litter, consumed 22 zero-waste meals, and saved up to 31 lbs of carbon dioxide from being discharged into the air. And, we're only about 70% finished with the challenge. Many hands make light work! Look for information about the actions we took to achieve these results at coffee hours later this month.



Scam Alert!

It appears that someone is attempting to pose as Pastor Eric in sending text messages to the congregation seeking immediate responses and likely financial assistance. Scams like this happen from time to time to attempt to take advantage of unsuspecting people. Your best course of action is to simply ignore them.

Things to watch for in scam emails

- spelling of names are inaccurate
- phone numbers don't match
- email addresses are incorrect (emails from St. Peder's will come from stpeders.org)
- poor grammar
- unusual or unexpected requests

Always know that if Pastor Eric has a specific urgent need he will reach out by phone to connect with you. If it is a need for the whole congregation to help with, it will come through our usual email and snail mail channels.

If you have any question about a message you receive, please contact the office or Pastor Eric directly to verify the need before responding to a text or clicking on a link.

2022 Easter Flower Order: DUE March 21st

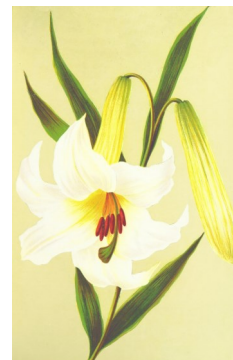
Easter plants may be ordered to decorate and beautify our sanctuary for our online Easter Services. Please fill out the form below and mail in to Jeannie. Forms can also be found at church. Click this [link](#) to pay online (best to do this from a laptop or pc). Checks can be made out to St. Peder's. **Jeannie will be taking orders until March 21st, so be sure to allow plenty of time for your payment and form to arrive in the mail.**

Your Name: _____

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

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

	Price Per Plant	Qty.	TOTAL
Easter Lily	\$12.00		
Mum	\$12.00		
Daffodil	\$6.00		
Hydrangea	\$ 20.00		
GRAND TOTAL			





March Update for Riverside Innovation Hub by Allison O'Day

Karen Vetsch, Judy Anderson, Lisa Rovick, Pastor Eric and I make up St. Peder's cohort as part of the Riverside Innovation Hub. As a "neighbor" of St. Peder's, I was particularly interested in the themes and work of the Riverside Innovation Hub (RIH).

We have begun the work of accompaniment: identifying who are neighbors are, and participating in meaningful conversations with our neighbors and listening attentively at community meetings. Some themes have emerged from our conversations and observations.

Early in February our St. Peder's RIH cohort gathered with the other congregations participating in the work of the Riverside Innovation Hub to learn about the next phase of our work: interpretation. What are our most important biblical and theological themes? What connections can be drawn between the themes we heard in accompaniment and our theological themes?

Over the next months we will continue to do the work of accompaniment: observing, listening and discerning. We will be intentional about identifying our biblical and theological themes and weaving connections between them and those we identify as part of accompaniment. As someone who likes to decide on action steps, and implement them, I am beginning to appreciate the thoughtful, intentional, and deliberate work we are doing: creating meaningful connections with our neighbors and bringing church to our neighborhood.

Lenten Meals - "BYOD" Bring Your Own Dinner

As we prepare for Lent, you are invited to gather on **Wednesday evenings at 6pm** for a time of fellowship and breaking bread with one another. In the past we have shared soup - this year we invite you to bring your own dinner for your family. Each week a Shepherding Group will provide beverages and dessert.

Come with your family, your shepherding group, or just see who else shows up.



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

Mind's Eye Comics, owner Eric Childs, 200 E Travelers Trail #105, Burnsville, 952-492-9350
mindseyecomics.com

Childs bought Mind's Eye Comics in 2018 from the retiring owner of 20 years because of his passion for comic books. In addition to comic book classics, Mind's Eye offers graphic novels, covering Black history and independent titles by minority-owned creators and publishers as well as many others. Childs wants kids to see people like themselves represented in books. The shelves contain Marvel Comics of African American superheroes such as Black Panther, Brother Voodoo, Luke Cage and Bishop, and graphic novels about historical figures such as Frederick Douglas, Nelson Mandela, John Lewis, and James Brown, to name a few, as well as many more books, posters, and more. Check out the [website](http://mindseyecomics.com) for weekly new releases and posters, other product tabs are currently being updated.



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...

Reparations means making amends for wrongs and compensating for the abuse or injury. It is an attempt to reconcile with the past between individuals or groups where one has suffered at the hands of the other. Reparations can take many forms such as money, return of rights or property, or giving victims mental health services and/or physical care. Symbolic reparations are also important and can include apologies, public memorials, holidays, commemorations, or consultation with harmed communities.

We have reparations that need addressing. We live on land that was stolen from Indigenous people. Black people have been exploited through our country's history of slavery. More recently Blacks have been denied housing through land covenants and redlining, preventing generational wealth potential and causing a racial wealth gap. There is more and much to be repaired!

Reparations have a long but limited history. The first reparations claim was made in 1783. It wasn't until 1869 that a larger Black led coalition took up reparations and filed a lawsuit in 1915, which was ultimately denied. The reparations movement was renewed after World War II necessitating "both a symbolic apology to recognize the wrongdoing as well as a material shift of resources and goods in order to address the systematic sociocultural racism in America and the mass amounts of inequality that have come from slavery through the present" (Levy Uyeda). Reparations continue to make slow progress.

Consider:

Our church and many of our homes are located on Indigenous land. Some of our homes were held in land covenants and people of color have been denied access to homes in many areas of our city. We sing Negro spirituals (the preferred term for this music in Black communities) in our church services.

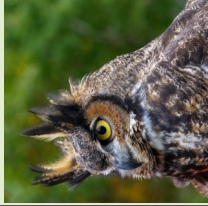

- ⇒ Do we pay royalties for the Negro spirituals as we do for sheet music?
- ⇒ What other ways are we harming people of color?
- ⇒ Who is responsible for the reparations?
- ⇒ What actions as a church or as individuals can we take to begin to make amends, repair the harm of stolen land, address the impact of slavery on the condition of life in today's America, acknowledge the use of Negro spirituals?
- ⇒ What could grassroots reparations look like?

References:

Levy Uyeda, Ray. "When Reparations Grow From the Grassroots." YES Magazine, Winter 2022, No.100. <https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/a-new-social-justice/2021/11/15/reparations-grassroots-stepping-up>

LeMoult, Craig. "This church is paying 'royalties' when it sings spirituals composed by enslaved Africans." GBH News, 11/16/2021. <https://www.wgbh.org/news/>

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 First Day of Women's History Month	2 Ash Wednesday 9 am Quilters 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Worship w/Holy Communion	3	4	5 2 pm Fiber Arts
6 9 am Worship w/Holy Communion 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Bible Study	7 7 pm Pub Theology	8	9 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Worship	10	11	12 Set your clocks ahead tonight!
13 Daylight Savings Begins 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Bible Study	14 Meals on Wheels	15 Meals on Wheels	16 Meals on Wheels 9 am Quilters 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Worship	17 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Articles Due 7 pm Music and Worship Committee	18	19 9 am Parsonage Painting 2 pm Fiber Arts
20 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Bible Study	21	22	23 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Worship	24	25	26
27 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 Faith Formation/Book Study	28	29	30 6 pm Lenten Dinner 7 pm Worship 7:45 Council Meeting	31		

March Volunteer Schedule



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 concerns, contact the church office or email Jeannie: office@stpeders.org
612-722-8000

Wednesday, March 2: Ash Wednesday:

7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion

Usher: Sue and Al Nielsen

Acolyte: Alice Petersen **Reader:** Elizabeth Anderson

Communion Set up and Clean Up:

Sue Schnickel and Dwight Lundeby

Communion Assistant: Paul and Michelle Aitchison

Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch

Bread and Wine: Paul and Michelle Aitchison

Sheridan Story, Friday, March 4: Sue and John Schickel

Sunday, March 6, 2022: Holy Communion by Full Table

Greeters: Paul and Michelle Aitchison

Usher: Peter Juhl and Lisa Jensen

Acolyte: Isaiah Wills **Reader:** Kristi Lahti-Johnson

Communion Set Up & Clean Up:

Eva Tangen and Phoebe Anderson

Communion Assistants:

Dwight Lundeby, Bob Stanich, Wendy Legge

Bread and Wine: Beverly Iverson-Bedford

Counters: Annalise Munnich and Eva Tangen

Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson

LSS Safe House Dinner for March 7:

Tim and Elizabeth Anderson

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 5

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Greeters: Dwight and Kari Bullard

Ushers: Lisa Jensen and Paul Aitchison

Acolyte: Siri Vossen **Reader:** Max Vossen

Counters: Steve Austin and Karen Vetsch

Livestream Technician: Karen Vetsch

LSS Safe House Dinner for March 14:

Wendy and Gordon Legge

Sheridan Story for Friday, March 18: Sue and Al Nielsen

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 6

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Greeters: Tim and Elizabeth Anderson

Ushers: Sue Schnickel and Wendy Legge

Acolyte: Eleanor Munnich **Reader:** Joe Munnich

Counters: Annalise Munnich and Bruce Simpson

Livestream Technician: Bruce Simpson

LSS Safe House Dinner for 21: Mark and Jodi Jensen

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 7

Sunday, March 27, 2022,

Greeters: Eva Tangen and Jeremy Anderson

Ushers: Shawna Nelsen-Wills and Mark Jensen

Acolyte: Isla Wills **Reader:** John Skraba

Counters: Cameron Jamison and Shawna Nelsen-Wills

Livestream Technician: JeriLynn Young and Darrick Jensen

LSS Safe House Dinner for March 28: The Gleason Family

Sheridan Story for Wednesday, March 30:

Dwight Lundeby and Karen Vetsch

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group 8

**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

pastoreric@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

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

