

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

April 2021
Issue 4

The Messenger

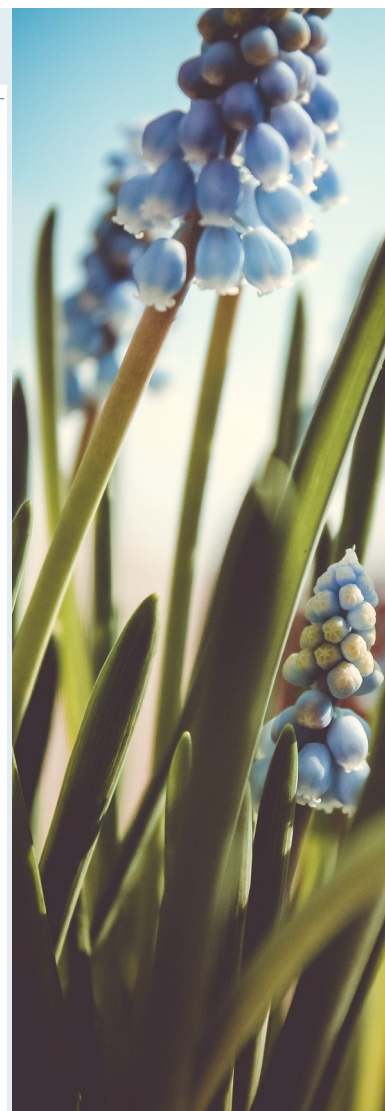
Letter from the Council President

Dear Fabulous St. Peder's Congregants,

Hello and happy spring! For me, the start to spring feels more significant this year than in years past. It's always a breath of fresh air after a cold, long Minnesota winter. However, this year, it feels as though we are coming out of a years-long winter. At our March Council meeting, we reflected on how we had been meeting for one year via Zoom and worshipping online for that same time period. That's a long time to be apart and we miss seeing all of you, worshipping together, chatting in Fellowship Hall over Peace Coffee and treats, hearing kids run through the halls, eating Codfish and Aebleskiver together, and this time of year—waving palm branches on Palm Sunday and then shouting “He Has Risen” together on Easter! Our congregation's strong faith, sense of community, generosity, and care for others has kept us united and I am so grateful to everyone for the ways you have shown up this past year for St. Peder's, our neighbors, and the world.

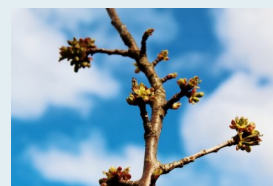
There is light at the end of the tunnel and spring seems like the perfect time for us to set in motion plans toward gathering together again. Our Safe Gatherings Team has created an excellent report and guidelines that you can read on our website by clicking [here](#). With COVID-19 rates under 20 per 10,000 in Hennepin County, and vaccine rates increasing, hope is definitely on the horizon. As Council, we still feel that it is too early to open our doors widely until we see rates continue to decline consistently and more of our Congregation and staff have been vaccinated. (Hopefully all adults will be vaccinated by June!) However, we are welcoming small (ten or under) member groups back into the building with safety and cleaning protocols in place. Please contact Pastor Eric or Jeannie if you wish to utilize the building in such a way. We plan to hold two Outdoor Services in May weather permitting—Youth Sunday on May 16 and a Celebration of Shannon on May 30. Look for more details on this in our May Messenger and other e-mails. We are hoping for additional in-person worship gatherings over the summer and are looking forward to the time we can gather in the sanctuary again. We will of course monitor the data—including the new variants, the COVID rate, vaccine rates, etc.—before we would move to reopen more fully. Keep an eye out for a survey coming soon too to help us gauge where our members stand on reopening as well. We want to make sure that “If we open, people will come!”

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In the Interim by Pastor Eric Luedtke



As I type these words to you, I have been part of the ministry at St. Peder's for just over a month. I've had one-to-one meetings with each council member, staff, and volunteers. I've met some of you "masked and distanced" and some I've seen on Zoom. Some names, past and present, come up time and again as I hear the stories of St. Peder's.

Having been on the many sides of the Interim process through the years, I know that the biggest question that gets asked is "how long will this process take?" to which I point to Matthew 24, "*no one knows the day or hour...*" I've learned from experience that you don't want to rush the process. I also know that the more involved you are in the process, the less we focus on time – what's the saying? "time flies when you're having fun."

If you are asking "how can I be involved in the interim process?" you're in luck, I have an answer to that very question right here – and there is a role for EVERYONE:

Pray. There is no greater gift you can give to this process

- ♦ Pray for St. Peder's Council and their leadership during this time
- ♦ Pray for the Transition Team and Call Committee as they commit to their specific tasks
- ♦ Pray for the congregation, that we would be open to God's leading
- ♦ Pray for the pastor who is coming (yes, God already has someone in mind)

Stay Involved in the life of St. Peder's

- ♦ **Worship** Regularly – this is how we stay connected as a congregation
- ♦ **Read** email, newsletters, and mailed communications. You won't know what's happening if you don't stay informed.
- ♦ Continue your strong **Stewardship** Support. St. Peder's cannot be a church without the volunteer commitment of its members using their gifts and offering their financial support.

Provide Feedback.

- ♦ There will be multiple opportunities for you to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions in both formal and informal ways. Commit to participate in the congregational surveys and conversations as they come up. If you have questions, reach out to a Council Member.

Step-up for Special Projects and Activities

- ♦ Throughout the interim time there will be short-term projects and teams that are needed – if the same people do everything, they'll get burned-out and some things won't get done. If we all pitch-in, we might be surprised what we can accomplish.

Pray – "but pastor you included this above" – Oh, did I? How much prayer is too much prayer? Martin Luther taught that we should begin and end our day, our meals, and any other gatherings in prayer. I leave you with these words that are found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and have become known to some as the "Holden Village Prayer of Discernment"

- ♦ **O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Holy Week 2021

As we continue to gather online, we will be utilizing photographic imagery and video complimented by St. Peder's talented musicians and voices to enter into the story of Jesus from the confusion of the Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday, through the pain of trial and crucifixion, to the joy of resurrection on Easter Sunday. Each worship service will premiere on Facebook and YouTube at the times noted and be available online following(head to our www.stpeders.org to easily find the link). We hope you'll make this part of your worship journey from Lent into Easter – you can even invite friends and family to share in these online worship experiences with you.



Palm Sunday, March 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Jesus enters Jerusalem to cheers of Hosanna! the people are expecting the Messiah to bring change, but Jesus knows they are not expecting what is to come in the week ahead.

Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Jesus gathers with his disciples for the Passover meal where the host becomes servant and sets a new mandate (command) in front of them, "love one another as I have loved you."

Good Friday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Scripture centers our worship and focuses us on the solemnity of Christ's death on a cross. We grieve with Mary and the disciples, but we know this isn't the end of the story.

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

With joyous hymns and acclamation, we celebrate the empty tomb, knowing the Jesus is alive and that we are called to proclaim that Good News through open hearts, open hands, and open doors.

Easter Sunday Zoom Communion, April 4 at 10:30 am

Join us for a Zoom Communion Service and fellowship time on Easter Sunday, April 4 at 10:30am. If you'd like to participate, please plan to join the Zoom meeting a few minutes before 10:30 - have Communion elements prepared in your home for each person who will participate. A small piece of bread or cracker. A small portion of wine, juice, or water. We will join together in the Communion liturgy then together hear the words of distribution, "this is the body of Christ given for you" and "this is the blood of Christ shed for you" at which time we will simultaneously consume the elements in our own homes, joined together using 21st century technology.

Watch for additional communication from Pastor Eric about this plan to offer Communion in this [insert adjective here] time.

All Services will be premiered at the times noted above available at www.stpeders.org, YouTube, and Facebook. Easter Sunday Zoom Communion will be a Zoom link sent in a separate email.



Join Us for Zoom Coffee Hour!

Please join us on the **first Sunday of each month** for coffee hour from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** 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, April 4
Sunday, May 2

Sunday, June 6
Sunday, July 4

Faith Formation

Faith Formation for Adults, April 25th at 10 am



Ideas worth spreading

Faith Formation for adults will take place on Zoom at 10am. On April 25th we'll be discussing the TED Talk [The Symbols of Systemic Racism and How to Take Away Their Power by Paul Rucker](#). Multidisciplinary artist and TED Fellow Paul Rucker is unstitching the legacy of systemic racism in the United States. A collector of artifacts connected to the history of slavery -- from branding irons and shackles to postcards depicting lynchings -- Rucker couldn't find an undamaged Ku Klux Klan robe for his collection, so he began making his own. The result: striking garments in non-traditional fabrics like kente cloth, camouflage and silk that confront the normalization of systemic racism in the US. "If we as a people collectively look at these objects and realize that they are part of our history, we can find a way to where they have no more power over us," Rucker says. (This talk contains graphic images.)

Faith Formation for Kids...



...will take place at 11:30 am on Zoom on **April 11 and April 25th**. We'll read a story, watch a video, and connect with one another!

April 5th : Pub Theology!



Join us **April 5th at 7 pm on Zoom!** Gather together and get the new year started right! Grab a pint (and some pizza) and catch up!



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

Weather permitting you're invited to join in for an Easter egg hunt on the St. Peter'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. Bring your own basket and get ready to collect some eggs!

Volunteer Schedule for April

LSS Safehouse Schedule

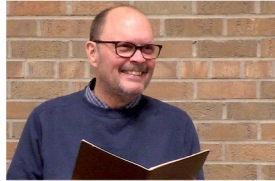
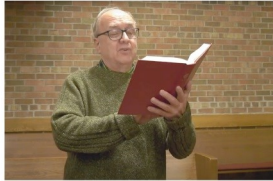
April 5: Denise Logeland and Tom Dennstedt
April 12: Shawna Nelsen– Wills and Steve Wills
April 19: Meg and Curt Petersen
April 26: Kathryn Jensen, Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen



On-Line Reader Schedule

Holy Week Readers: Karen and Dan Vetsch Lisa Rovick, Allison O'Day, John Geroux, Bruce Simpson, Bob Stanich, Wendy Legge, Elena Wilson, Julie Ebbesen
April 11: Judy Hogan
April 18: Elizabeth Anderson
April 25: Shawna Nelsen-Wills

Thank You, St. Peder's Musicians!!



A big thank you to all of our wonderful St. Peder's singers and instrumentalists who have helped us stay connected through music during the pandemic. For those of you who are interested in sharing your musical talents (kids welcome too!!) please contact member Leslee Nestingen.

St. Peder's Singers and Instrumentalists: Dale West-vocals, Lisa Jensen-violin & vocals, Bruce Simpson-vocals, Dwight Lundebj-vocals, Lorie Gleason-vocals, Lahti-Johnson Family, vocals (Chuck Johnson, Kristi Lahti-Johnson, Emma Johnson), Sonja Walker-vocals, Lisa Rovick-vocals, Tim Anderson-vocals, Elizabeth Anderson-vocals, Jill Audette-oboe & vocals, Paul Odegaard-trumpet, Max Vossen-saxophone, Wendy Legge-violin

Synod Assembly Representative Needed

Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly (gathering of voting delegates and rostered leaders from each congregation in our Minneapolis Area Synod) will **be held On-Line this year, April 23 and 24**. This is an opportunity to hear what is happening across the ELCA, with shared ministries in the Minneapolis area, as well as an opportunity to vote on resolutions that shape the shared work of our church.

St. Peder's is allotted two adult representatives. We also can add one youth representative (confirmed to 18 years) We already have one adult volunteer and are seeking a second. Your commitment is to preview the materials ahead of the assembly and attend the Assembly on-line (Friday, April 23, 6-9pm; Saturday, April 24, 9am-1pm).

If you have any questions or are willing to serve in this role, **please email Pastor Eric pastoreric@stpeders.org by April 8** so we can get the group registered in advance of the Assembly.

Church Anew: One Year Changed: Faith in Pandemic



In 2017, St. Andrew Lutheran Church launched Church Anew, a ministry dedicated to equipping church leaders to face the changes needed for ministry today and tomorrow. Most recently, Church Anew launched an evening virtual retreat. With seven-minute talks from faith leaders, activists, artists, and more, we will memorialize the way this moment has shaped us and will continue to influence us.

In this evening virtual retreat format, gather with other people of faith to ponder how we might be moved into a different sort of spirituality this Lent. What have we let fall that we will never pick up again? What practices have emerged that may be meaningful far into the future? If this is truly a humanity-defining moment, what have we learned about our species? About ourselves? About our spirits?

St. Peder's bought access to this virtual retreat for our members. Jeannie will send out the link and password! Please check your inboxes!

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

You Betcha Box Founder, Katie Sterns 1493 Scheffer Ave, St. Paul youbetchabox.com

Thank you to Wendy and Gordon Legge for this suggestion! A box of Minnesota products for those who enjoy cooking, You betcha! And even more special, a box of products made by local black, indigenous, persons of color (BIPOC) makers and chefs. The BIPOC box features a variety of sauces, salsa, chocolate, pancake/waffle mix, wild rice and more. The box also includes profiles for the makers, stories behind the products, recipes and suggested uses. Gordon gifted this to Wendy for Valentine's Day. They suggested it would make a great Mother's Day gift. Shop, read more about the gift boxes, or customize a box [here](#).

Hoyo Somali Sambusa Co-founders, Mariam Mohamed and Matt Glover

9600 Aldrich Ave. S, Bloomington 612-888-4696 hoyosambusa.com

Sambusa, a staple in Somali homes, is a savory fried pastry containing vegetables, meat, and spices. They are delicious! Hoyo, which means "mother" in Somali, is a small local company that makes sambusa and basbaas, a dipping sauce. Hoyo employs Somali women who provide for their families while sharing a bit of their culture with our community. Sambusa is sold frozen in beef and lentil versions and can be found in the freezer aisle at nearby markets including: Eastside Co-op, Longfellow Market, Seward Community Co-op, Wedge Community Co-op. For more [locations](#). Orders of 50 or more can be delivered to your door [here](#). Great for parties, which we hope to be having more of soon!

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...

- Have you ever wondered about the history of the land on which you live? Was the land inhabited before your house was built? Who might have lived there and how did they live? Much of Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as most of Minnesota, were inhabited by Indigenous People before colonization. The two dominant Native Nations in the area were the Dakota and the Ojibwe. They were hunting and gathering cultures. They were also skilled horsemen. But eventually soldiers, fur traders, and European settlers moved into the area.

Consider:

- What happened to the Indigenous People who lived here?
- What is the history of the land and related treaties?
- How did we come to "own" the land? Is the land rightfully ours?

Is it important to recognize and honor the Indigenous People who lived on this land before us? If so, why? And how might we honor and acknowledge them?

If interested, learn more about the Indigenous People of the area at [Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community](#). Identify a bit more about a specific address at [native-land.ca](#). And find suggestions for [honoring native land](#). An additional site is located at: [Honor Native Land: Center for Racial Justice](#). Perhaps this is a project someone may want to pursue for our church.

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 2nd 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 February | \$ 14,686.23 | Budget for the month | \$ 20,833.34 |
| Year to Date | \$ 27,741.88 | Budget Year to Date | \$ 41,666.68 |

Expenses

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Month of February | \$ 21,151.07 | Budget for the month | \$ 24,030.88 |
| Year to Date | \$ 39,328.63 | Budget Year to Date | \$ 48,061.76 |

Mission Support to...

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Minneapolis Area Synod | YTD | \$ 2,333.34 |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|

Danebod Folk Meeting: Save the Date!

The Danebod Folk Meeting Planning Committee is planning a **Virtual Folk Meeting for August 18-20, 2021!** Although we regret not being able to gather in person this year, we discovered through last year's Virtual Folk Meeting that we can still come together for singing, fellowship and life-long learning in a new, imaginative way. Watch for more details. You will need to register for this event and pay a fee as always to help cover costs. You will find all the details about the event, the speakers and topics, and the registration form on our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/danebodfolkmeeting/home?authuser=0>. or call (507) 247-3000.

Healthcare for All Minnesota Invites Your Support!

Healthcare for All Minnesota HCAMN invites you to join us in support of health care access for every Minnesotan from birth to death regardless of their zip code or race. Now more than ever, the pandemic is showing us how the inequities of job dependent health care, racial inequities of health coverage, undocumented residents unable to pay and access care and the personal costs of health care that is just too high. We need to come together to create Minnesota health coverage equity.

Health Care for All Minnesota quarterly meetings are held with dynamic informative speakers and updates. **The South Minneapolis HCAMN chapter has monthly meetings every second Thursday evening at 6:30 PM.** Our meetings are currently held on zoom due to the pandemic will resume at St. Peder's Lutheran Church on 42nd Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota when it is safe to gather in person.

It is easy to join us on our website hca-mn.org and add your information in "Get Our Updates" or, "Join our email list" For more information please contact Carol Engelhart at 612-437-8003, Cherryl Quick at 952-905-0224 or Anne Jones at 612-964-8370.



-Carol Engelhart and Cherryl Quick
hca-mn.org



The flowers that array
the sanctuary were
lovingly given by:



- ♦ Tim, Elizabeth, Peter and Charlie Anderson in memory of Cedric and Gerda Lyon
- ♦ Dan, Karen, Jeremiah, Amanda and Karissa Vetsch in memory of our parents and grandparents
- ♦ Judy and Michael Hogan in honor of Mira Mae Gasaway
- ♦ Michelle and Paul Aitchison in memory of our parents, Tom and Margo Linder and Robert and Marvel Aitchison
- ♦ Lenore Austin in memory of Laurie Austin
- ♦ Martha and Glen Olson in memory of parents, John and Kathryn Olson and Carolyn and Byron Olsen
- ♦ Sue and Al Nielsen in honor of Lis and Iver Jorgensen
- ♦ Juliet and Forest Paulson in memory of Grandpa Gene and in honor of Grandma Marilyn
- ♦ Julie Ebbesen and Scott Wilson and family in memory of our grandparents.
- ♦ Steve and Shawna Nelsen Wills and family in honor of my mom, Nancy Ann Nelsen
- ♦ Beverly Jensen in loving memory of Carl
- ♦ Lisa Rovick in memory of Jim and Joan Peterson, Jacque and Dick Chapman and in honor of Pastor Birgitte Catlin
- ♦ Jeanne Schleh and Bob Stanich in memory of our parents and Robert Parta
- ♦ Leslee, Per, Hans & Rosie Nestingen in memory of Jim Nestingen
- ♦ Bob Boyce in memory of parents Lois and Frank Boyce and friend, Corynne Christina
- ♦ Wollak Family in memory of great grandparents
- ♦ Eric and Bethene Hunsberger

Letter from the Council President (continued from page 1)

Thank you for all you do for St. Peder's! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have thoughts, ideas, or just want to connect at shawnanelsen3@gmail.com or 612-408-2860. I'm excited about moving forward with our Transition Team (see more info on page 5 and in Pastor Eric's "In the Interim" column, page 2) and gathering input from the full Congregation as we move into the spring and summer. *Thank you for considering a leadership role on the Transition Committee or Call Committee.*

We greatly appreciate everyone's generosity this past year that helped us end on budget. We are running approximately \$15,000 below projected income for 2021 to date. If you are able, please consider a special donation for Lent and Easter to help put us back on track! I know Pastor Eric, Shannon, and our volunteer musicians have some exciting surprises for us in the weeks ahead. Please stay safe and know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

In gratitude,

Shawna Nelsen-Wills, Council President

Transition Team Volunteers Needed



As St. Peder's journeys through this Interim time, we are looking for volunteers to serve on two distinct teams – a Transition Team and a Call Committee. Members of each team will serve through the duration of their team's work – likely 5-8 months for each team, maybe 10-20 hours per month. The Transition Team helps identify who the congregation is and what we're looking for in our next pastor. The Call Committee, building on the Transition Team's work, reviews and interviews the candidates, and recommends a final candidate to the congregation.

Right now we are seeking volunteers to serve on the 6-7 member Transition Team. Pastor Eric will coach this team in their work – but the team will need its own Chairperson and Secretary. Good fits for this team will be people with great organizational skills (we'll be organizing congregational feedback opportunities), recruiting skills (we'll need people beyond this team to do the tasks), eagerness to learn, and ability to distill gathered information.

If you want to learn more or the Holy Spirit has been nudging you to serve on the Transition Team, contact Pastor Eric pastoreric@stpeters.org. If you have ideas of other members of St. Peder's who would be good in this role, you should encourage them to serve in this way.

Fond Farewell to John Geroux and Family!

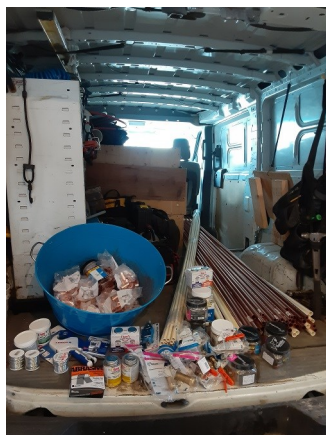
John Geroux has been St. Peder's Sound Engineer for the past ten years. He has been "instrumental" (that pun is for you, John) in recording music for our online services. While we will miss his upbeat personality at St. Peder's, John and Nanette have fun things planned for the future! They bought a resort on the Apple River Flowage in Amery WI, which they have renamed the Cameron Bridge Campground. They are slowly moving in and preparing for the start of the season on May 1st as a campground. Nanette will still work for a few more years, but will help in the summer and their daughters will assist them when able. John said they will be sure to stop in from time to time to visit. We wish John and Nanette all the best and thank John for his many years of service!



St. Peder's Meets the Match!

A big thanks to all the members who donated funds to go towards the purchase of plumbing supplies for low income families in Texas! Dan and Karen Vetsch filled up their van and drove down to Texas to deliver the supplies.

The Vetsch's collected a total of \$3325! St. Peder's members and friends donated \$1,725 with a \$1,000 match for a grand total of \$2725. The Vetsch's also received \$450 to go towards gas and lodging. They purchased \$2010 in supplies: 80 sticks of 10 foot pipe-copper and c-PVC and lots of fittings, tools, solder, and glue. The Vetsch's will either pick up more supplies or give a check for the remainder (\$1315) so New Hope Lutheran can put it towards the greatest needs.



Thank you to all who donated and to Dan & Karen Vetsch for organizing and delivering!

**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

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Caretaker: Jim Austin

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

