

The Messenger

In the Interim: Transition is a Process

-Pastor Eric Luedtke, Interim Pastor

I often wonder what it would have been like to be one of Jesus original disciples. I am amazed when I read Mark 1:16-20, within four short sentences Jesus has four followers and all he says is "follow me and I will make you fish for people." No idea what the "product" of their time together will be, no idea what the "process" will be, they were just compelled to follow Jesus.

I know that would rarely work in today's age. We want to know what we're getting into, and rightfully so. Our time and resources are valuable and we want to be sure we are investing them wisely. That is why the contemplation and patience of being followers of Jesus feels so counter-cultural. As Christians we are called to trust where the Holy Spirit is leading us. As we continue in the Transition Time together as the church called St. Peder, we know the path we are headed toward is calling a new pastor, but the steps to get there don't always seem obvious.

Congregational Gatherings to Help the Transition Team

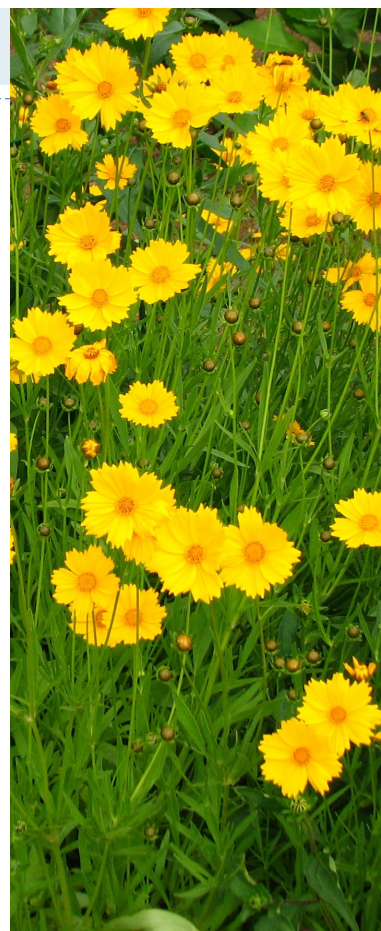
| In Person | Zoom | Topic |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------|
| 10:30 am | 7:00 pm | |
| July 25 | July 27 | History of St. Peder's |
| Aug. 22 | Aug. 24 | My Most Meaningful Scripture |
| Sept. 19 | Sept. 21 | Experiences at St. Peder's |

On Sunday, June 13 we Installed the Transition Team at our outdoor worship service. The team members: Peter Juhl, Lisa Rovick, Judy Hogan, Casey Clementson, Jeanne Schleh, Gordon Legge, Sue Nielsen, Curt Petersen (in absentia, but present in Spirit) were in full voice as they committed to their work ahead. The congregation was in double-full voice (admittedly there were a few more of them) in supporting the work of the Transition Team.

And just what is that work?

In the most concrete terms, the work of the Transition Team is to prepare the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is the document the ELCA uses to match possible candidates for Pastor and for those candidates

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to learn about this congregation called St. Peder's. But to complete that document, the Transition Team will be doing a lot of information gathering – some basic demographic data about St. Peder's and our community; conversation with council about what salary and benefits are available to the called pastor; and hearing from the congregation at large to discover Who We've Been, Who We Are, and Who We Are Called to Be.

That last part is the most critical, and seemingly most ambiguous, part of the process. How do we identify such a thing for a congregation older than any of our lifetimes and longer than any of our memories?

Over the next three months we will offer opportunities to gather as a congregation, both in-person and on Zoom, to share our stories around three specific topics:

1. **The History of St. Peder's.** Join us in conversation as we share a timeline of St. Peder's and place important events in the life of St. Peder's on the timeline. How has our history shaped Who We Are? How does it root us as a faith community? How does our history inform who God is calling us to become in our community?
2. **My Most Meaningful Scripture.** Think about your favorite passage(s) of scripture. What are they? Why are they your favorites? Are they connected to St. Peder's? We'll gather to talk about our rootedness in God's word as a people of faith.
3. **Experiences at St. Peder's.** When you think about St. Peder's Church, what are the events that have happened here that have defined this church for you? As we share these events we'll uncover central themes that are core to this congregation and that define the values that hold us together as a church.

We'll take notes from each of these gatherings and the Transition Team will then work to identify the core themes that emerge from our conversations. What do the stories we share say about us as a congregation? How might they inform what kind of pastor might serve us well into the future? Those themes will help the Transition Team complete the Ministry Site Profile that tells a story of who St. Peder's Lutheran Church is and why our next pastor is called to come and serve alongside us as we follow Jesus through the 21st Century.

You can expect to see an invitation to each of these events as we get closer to confirm the details of our gathering and remind you to be part of this important work of the Transition Team. As always, if you have questions about the process, reach out to members of the Transition Team or Pastor Eric, we want to answer your questions and include the whole congregation in this process.

Quilters are BACK!

The quilters are meeting in person again on the **first and third Tuesday** of the month **from 9 am—noon**. Feel free to drop in and help them create beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No sewing experience required! They take a break for coffee and treats and would love if you joined in!



Sunday, May 30th was Shannon TL Kearns last day at St. Peder's. We are so grateful for his six years of service. Although we are sad to see him go, we are excited for him and his new adventures!

A big thanks to St. Peder's member Gina Sekelsky who designed Shannon's farewell gift...and also to all those who contributed words and phrases to include.

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 continue to gather in-person outdoors for worship at 9 am on the Second and Fourth Sundays of July, and August. 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 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



Hearts and Hammers (aka Paint-A-Thon) Saturday August 7, 2021

6801 Scott Ave N Brooklyn Center MN 55429

Once a year St. Peder's members volunteer to paint the exterior of a home whose owner is not able to do the maintenance themselves and cannot afford to hire a contractor. This service, offered at no cost to the homeowner, restores not only the homes we paint but also the homeowners sense of pride in their property and community. Here are the details for this year:



- Starting time is 8 am or whenever you get there.
- All are welcome. Jobs for everyone skilled or unskilled.
- We'll provide all the tools and equipment you need. If you have a favorite brush or ladder bring it along if you like.
- We will have some water and treats to keep the energy going.
- If you want to help but cannot make it for the Aug.7th date, we have other tasks that need to be done before the event. Powerwashing, minor scraping and a touch of siding repair.

To sign up before Dan calls you - leave a message at the church office or you can contact Dan or Karen Vetsch: 612-721-7385 (call or text) or email at: boodjv@yahoo.com

A Note from St. Peder's Treasurer, Paul Odegaard

Dear St. Peder's community members,

Summer's greetings and blessings of peace to you. I write with a mid-year financial report to provide an update on where we are part way through this fiscal year. With the remarkable effectiveness of the COVID vaccines, and the high likelihood that more normal operations resume later this year, I'm filled with optimism.

Support for St. Peder's this fiscal year has been similar to last year at this point. To date, we've received \$83,149, which is off our projected revenue pace by approximately \$21,000. It is remarkably similar to last year's income at this point (within \$1,500), but this year we do not have the luxury of a PPP loan to assist us in meeting our expected budget at the end of the year. May was the first month of the year that we hit our expected member revenue projection. To date, we've also managed our expenses extremely well, based on our budget of approximately \$120,000, with actual expenses coming in just above \$106,000. That results in an overall projected operating deficit of just over \$7,000 at this point. We are still striving, after careful planning, to succeed on a balanced budget.

I ask today for your continued generosity for St. Peder's. As we look ahead to future outdoor services and the resumption of our regular activities, we will rely on you to maintain our vibrant standing in this community. Please follow up if you have questions or concerns. I'm grateful for your many contributions to St. Peder's.

Best wishes,

Paul Odegaard, Treasurer
paul_odegaard@hotmail.com
651-295-3307



WE NEED YOUR VOICES

Please help us support hymn singing for our virtual worship services. We will help you and your family learn the hymns, if you would like. Make a suggestion for a favorite you already know and could sing together. Contact Leslee Nestingen for more details: lesleenesting@mac.com or 612-910-0595

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

We would love to include you in worship, either with a few others or for a solo. Please contact Leslee Nestingen (contact information above) or Lisa Rovick (Music & Worship committee) lprovick@stkate.edu or 612-716-4418

Volunteer Schedule for July

LSS Safehouse Schedule

July 5: Terri Vetsch and Dan & Karen Vetsch

July 12: Sue & Al Nielsen

July 19: Liz & Forrest Bentley

July 26: Hung & Shelly Brown Ton and Sue Schnickel



On-Line Reader Schedule

July 4 : Julie Ebbesen

July 11: Shawna Nelsen-Wills

July 18: Dan Vetsch

July 25: Jasper Gantriis

****Can you usher on July 11 or July 25th? If so, please contact Jeannie Farrell in the office or Lisa Jensen.**

St Peder's Selected as Learning Partner with Riverside Innovation Hub

By Karen Vetsch - excited member of the learning team

As Pastor Eric has mentioned in the June Messenger our church has joined in a two year learning opportunity with the Riverside Innovation Hub, an initiative of the Christensen Center for Vocation at Augsburg University. This will involve 5 dedicated people (1 staff / 4 members)



from St. Peder's as the core team. Team members will be identified in the coming weeks. This program starts mid July 2021, with introductions and placement of cohort groups with the other 10 churches that joined in this learning opportunity. As our team learns and grows we will share ideas, resources, and tools to help St. Peder's church and community learn how we can be neighborly at the corner of E 4600 42 street and our wider neighborhood.

The following is an overview of the learning opportunity from Riverside Innovation Hub:

This partnership will be a significant investment of time, energy and people power. We believe that this investment is worthwhile and needed in order to engage the call to be neighbor today. These next two years will be an apprenticeship in learning how to be and become a public church. A public church is a local congregation active in mutual relationships with its neighborhood and neighbors in ways that promote the well-being and thriving of the larger community. This looks like neighbors experiencing "good news" - Christ's love, resurrection, hope, reconciliation - in ways that truly matter to their daily lives. A public church does this together in its location so its people can also learn to do this in their locations of family, neighborhood, work, etc. The team you build will explore the artforms of the public church framework, learning how to do the work of being neighbor in your location. Your team will participate in large group learning events digging deeper into the ideas, practical steps and challenges of being a public church. Your team will experiment in its geographic context. Your team will share what you are learning and wrestle with the challenges embedded in this work with a cohort of three other congregations. By the end of our two years together your team will have experience, know-how and imagination to lead your congregation more deeply into its call to be neighbor, in your place.

July Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 4:

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

Sunday, July 11:

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

Sunday, July 18:

9 am Online Worship

Sunday, July 25:

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

Youth Gathering Volunteers Wanted



Did you know the ELCA Youth Gathering is coming to Minneapolis in July 2022? This triennial event gathers high school youth from around the world to

participate in service, worship, and learning opportunities. Minneapolis was set to host the event in 2021, but the COVID pandemic delayed the Gathering for a year - plans are now moving full-steam-ahead for Minneapolis to host the Gathering July 24-28, 2022.

Part of the success of the ELCA Youth Gathering is the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time during the event. And with the event right in our backyard there is no better time to be part of the team that supports the Gathering and gets an inside look at what it's like when 30,000 youth gather in the name of Jesus Christ. Just like the body of Christ, there are roles for various ages and gifts - to learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit this link <https://elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>



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: July 4, August 1**



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.....

You've probably heard of Rosa Parks. You may even know she was credited with refusing to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus in 1955. You may not know that this event helped kick off the Civil Rights Movement and the Montgomery Bus Boycott with the demand that Montgomery busing segregation laws be eliminated. Perhaps you've also heard about Eli Whitney (1765-1825) the African American inventor of the cotton gin. However, you may not know the cotton gin was one of the main inventions of the Industrial Revolution and shaped the economy of the South. And if you've seen the movie Hidden Figures, you know that Katherine Johnson was a mathematician who worked for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 1953, which later became NASA. Katherine became one of the African American "human computers", part of an entire unit of African American women "human computers" at NASA, that did calculations before the invention of computer technology to figure out how to get humans into space. One of the calculations Katherine worked on helped get the Apollo astronauts home from the moon.

These and many other African Americans have played a central role in shaping our nation but they have not consistently been included in our school curriculum and textbooks. The identities of many of the heroes who helped form the American story remain unrecognized, or even actively suppressed. Minneapolis schools have been named after Mary McLeod Bethune, Nellie Stone Johnson, Benjamin Banneker and Richard Green which suggests they've made important contributions but many of us do not know what those contributions are. Frederick Douglass, Matthew Henson, Carter G. Woodson, Percy Julian, or Fannie Lou Hamer are names you may recognize, but you may not know how they have contributed to our story. The year 1619, the Haitian Revolution, Black cowboys, Black Wall Street, the Tulsa Massacre, and the Harlem Renaissance were significant events but you may not know why. Additionally, African Americans developed our system of blood banks and invented the traffic light, fiber optic cable, touchtone telephone, and mobile refrigeration for transportation of frozen foods, among many other products that are essential in our daily lives. And most recently an African American woman was one of the key scientists behind the Moderna Covid 19 vaccine, but we don't know those stories. We have much to learn about who we are as a nation, with a more complete and honest study of our history including contributions of African Americans and other people of color.

Consider:

- ◆ **What is the impact of learning an incomplete and distorted history in school?**
- ◆ **How does a diverse knowledge of history benefit us?**
- ◆ **Why are these stories not taught in schools and textbooks?**
- ◆ **What history related to people of color are you interested in learning more about?**

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



Green Garden Bakery, Heritage Park, Minneapolis, 55411,
<http://www.greengardenbakery.org/> ordersggb@gmail.com

Green Garden Bakery, GGB, is an award winning youth-run business selling vegetable based desserts. They are a group of young entrepreneurs from Heritage Park, North Minneapolis, with the goal of supporting the leadership development, community engagement, and economic mobility of youth in their neighborhood. Youth leaders working at GGB grow vegetables in their urban garden and bake them into healthy vegetable-based desserts such as beet brownies, green tomato cakes, carrot pumpkin bread, lemon zucchini muffins and other seasonal treats. GGB items are suitable for all dietary restrictions including vegan, gluten free and sugar free. All GGB products are sold at "pay-what-you-want" and 1/3 of the profit each month are donated to a local community need, which youth leaders identify. Products can be found at many farmer's markets throughout Minneapolis as well as at festivals, co-ops, and other special events. GGB will be at **Mill City Farmers Market on the Saturdays of June 26, July 24, August 21, and September 4**. Visit their website to learn more about their products including wedding cakes, East African Tea Spice Mix, gift cards and some GGB T-shirts. Orders can also be placed [online](#) with deliveries of baked goods to Minneapolis and St. Paul.

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

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 5th 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 May | \$ 22,168.11 | Budget for the month | \$ 20,833.34 |
| Year to Date | \$ 83,148.80 | Budget Year to Date | \$ 104,166.69 |

Expenses

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Month of May | \$ 23,355.31 | Budget for the month | \$ 24,030.93 |
| Year to Date | \$ 106,458.57 | Budget Year to Date | \$ 120,154.45 |

Mission Support to...

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|
| Minneapolis Area Synod | YTD | \$ 5,833.35 |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|

**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

