

# The Messenger

## St. Peder's Welcomes Pastor Bryan Odeen

Hello!

The Odeen family is getting so excited! We can't wait to get to know you in the coming months and I wanted to take a little time to introduce our family to you.



Pastor Bryan grew up in Wisconsin. He went to Wartburg College (u-rah-rah-rah) and studied music therapy. He worked for a few years in hospice care as a music therapist before feeling a call to ordained ministry. He went to Wartburg Seminary and graduated in 2018. During seminary, he had the chance to work at churches in Cedar Falls, IA, Mason City, IA and Warren, IL, and has served as Associate Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Osage, IA since 2018. He enjoys running, bike riding, songwriting, reading, and spending time reading aloud (usually Harry Potter) with his family.

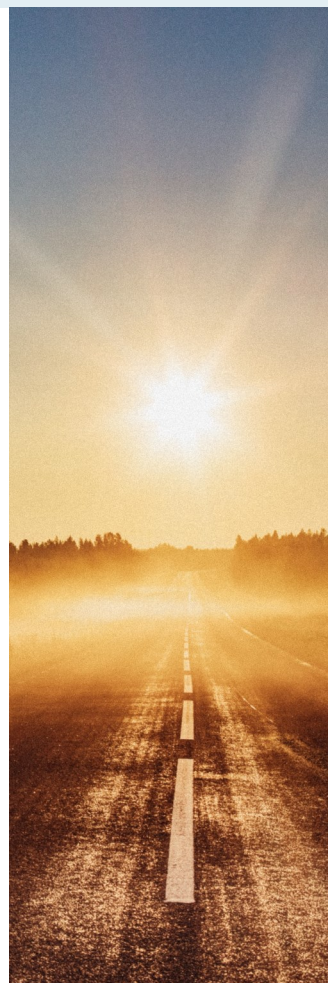
Lisamarie grew up Lutheran and jokes her Danish family had been Lutheran since Martin Luther found his hammer! She has always worked outside the home, mostly in the nonprofit space, but has also held management jobs within event planning and hospitality businesses. Her hobbies include reading and discussing a good book, strong coffee, caring for her (many) indoor plants, baking and sharing sourdough bread, and cross stitching.

Maren is 10 and is almost always found with a book in her hands. She is also a very talented singer and actress. She plays piano (along with her siblings) and recently started the French horn. Her Hogwarts House is Hufflepuff and she wants to be a music teacher when she grows up. She's a very caring friend and will miss her Iowa friends very much.

Hattie is 8 and she is the most science and math oriented of our troupe. She loves to learn about nature, enjoys working on craft projects, and is the only 8-year old we know who has considered a career in chemistry.

Anders is 7 and is every bit of a 7-year old boy. He enjoys superheroes, playing frisbee, collecting Pokémon cards, and asking every dogwalker he sees if he can pet their dogs. He's very kind and is great at getting to know people.

That's us! The big thing we're looking forward to this fall is our first family trip to Disney (and Harry Potter World) and, of course, getting to know St. Peder's and the Longfellow neighborhood better. We are eager to get to see more of what God is up to and to settle into our new home. See you in August!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In the Interim	2
Potluck Farewell	2
Book Party	3
Paint-a-Thon	3
Flat Jesus	5
Puppet Show	5
Together in Mission	5
Meet and Greet	5
Calendar	6
Volunteer Schedule	7



## In the Interim by Eric Luedtke, Interim Pastor A Final Prayer

Dear friends in Christ, we've come to a point that we all knew was coming when I started. I will take my leave from you, and you will welcome Pastor Bryan Odeen as your new pastor. As the philosopher Seneca once said, "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

I pray that you will welcome Pastor Bryan with the love and acceptance that you have shown me these past 18 months. I pray that you will share with him the timeless influence of NFS Grundtvig on this community. I pray that you will let him challenge you as you have let me challenge you. I pray you will continue to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in your words and actions.

In a short 18 months we have gotten to know one another and shared life together and we now part ways. As part of my role as Interim Pastor, I intentionally step out of your lives to make room for you to build relationships with Pastor Bryan so that he can encounter life with you and be the spiritual leader that you call on for whatever celebrations and challenges you experience.

Yes, we may encounter one another at Target, or a Synod gathering, or a local restaurant, and I will be glad to greet you in those places and learn of what God is doing among the people of St. Peder's. I have no doubt that this congregation will grow in ways that none of us has yet imagined and that each of you has a part to play in that journey.

*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.*

## Potluck

**Farewell Celebration & Potluck  
for Pastor Eric  
Sunday, July 31 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.**

Pastor Eric has been a wonderful Interim Pastor for St. Peder's for the past nearly 18 months. He guided the congregation through a robust transition team process and the creation of a site ministry profile, helped the Council navigate challenging issues and welcomed people back into the building safely, participated in the Riverside Innovation Hub's work and connected with new neighbors, welcomed a new music leader, introduced the Flat Jesus campaign, led engaging and meaningful worship services for all ages, and much, much more! To thank him and celebrate his time with us, we will be holding a potluck brunch on **Sunday, July 31 following our service from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** Bring a favorite dish to share or just bring yourselves! A sign-up sheet will be available in the office so you can see what others plan to bring (and ensure not everyone is bringing a jar of pickled herring.) Please join us for this special celebration and send-off. Thank you, Pastor Eric, for all you have done for St. Peder's!



## Still time for some great summer reading!

Check out the Gene Paulsen display case in the St. Peder's library for a wide variety of current and classic books for all ages!

## Join Shannon on August 17 for Book Launch and Farewell!

Since our beloved former Director of Faith Formation Shannon Kearns left us in May 2021, he's been busy with theater, writing—and moving from Minnesota to rural southeast Kansas!

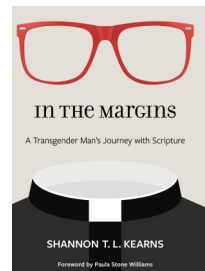


He is especially proud of his writing in the past year, and his book, “In the Margins: A Transgender Man’s Journey with Scripture,” is about to be re-released by Eerdmans, a major Christian book publisher. To celebrate this momentous event, St. Peder’s is sponsoring a book launch party, in collaboration with Moon Palace Books, here at the church on **Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Program starts at 7pm.** Please come to congratulate Shannon and to have one last chance to visit with him in person!

This special evening will consist of storytelling and reading from the book, as well as time for Q&A. We’ll also hear music from Kith + Kin Chorus, an uncommon choir in the Twin Cities, which strives to build community, spread joy and give in service to others through harmony (and which has been using St. Peder’s for its rehearsals). After the program, there will be a reception and book signing.

In the Margins weaves stories from Shannon’s life into reflections on well-known biblical narratives—such as Jacob wrestling with the divine, Rahab and the Israelite spies, Ezekiel and the dry bones, and the transfiguration of Jesus. In each chapter, he shows how stories have helped him make sense of his own identity, and how those same stories can unlock the transformative power of faith for those willing to listen with an open mind and stand alongside him in the in-between. The book demonstrates the unique and vital theological insights transgender Christians can provide the church.

In the Margins is available for pre-order now, wherever books are sold, for \$19.99, but Moon Palace has offered **St. Peder’s members a bulk rate of \$17 per copy for those who sign up in the office no later than Wednesday, August 3.** (Advance sales before the official release date of August 9 will help Shannon a lot!). We will be using this book for a book study in the fall, and Shannon has agreed to join us by Zoom for the first session. Sign up today to get your discounted copy, come August 17 to get your book signed, and finish it before the book study begins!



So that we can plan refreshments, please register for the book launch event (it’s free!) on the sign-up sheet in the office or here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-the-margins-book-release-and-signing-tickets-352167832467>

## Save the Date!! Hearts & Hammers / Paint-A-Thon



**Aug 6th, 2022  
8 am - 3pm**

**HELP....  
We are doing 2  
sites this year**

### Start our day at 8 am

5125 - 44th Avenue South 55417 -Stucco Garage  
Homeowners Gerald (90) & Irene (85)

### Second site starting around 11:30am

Paint trim & soffits, freshen up yard, stain deck rails  
4706 E 42nd Street 55406

**Any questions please contact  
Dan or Karen Vetsch**

612-227-2780 (Dan) 612-721-7385 (Karen)

[boodjv@yahoo.com](mailto:boodjv@yahoo.com)

Dear St. Peder's Members & Friends,

Greetings! It was wonderful seeing so many of you in church and at the Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, July 10. We missed those of you who couldn't be there, but know that you were with us in spirit.



**I am thrilled to announce that our members voted unanimously to call Pastor Bryan Odeen as our next Pastor of St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church.** See page one for more information and photos of Pastor Bryan and his family. We had a very thorough and thoughtful process that led us to this decision, and I am so grateful and excited for this next chapter for St. Peder's.

Pastor Bryan Odeen has many strengths, but here are just a few that stood out to the Call Committee:

- ability to connect with all people across generations
- experience and enthusiasm for faith formation and working with children and youth
- engaged and calm demeanor
- love of worship & ability to preach in a very accessible way
- passion and interest in social justice, and
- talents in and passion for music!

**I want to give a huge shout-out and thanks to Pastor Eric Luedtke for his leadership and guidance through this time of transition for our church.** He has been a tremendous asset to St. Peder's and I can't thank him enough for his leadership, kindness, patience, guidance, and for being the perfect interim Pastor for St. Peder's. You will be missed Pastor Eric and we wish you all the best! Come celebrate and say farewell during a special potluck on his last Sunday, July 31 following service. (See more info on pg. 2.)



I also want to thank our Call Committee for their dedication, thoughtfulness, energy, and unique perspective that each member brought to the process. Special thanks to Co-Chairs, Andrea Wollak and Christine Soma, and to members Carol Lindstrom, Amanda Vetsch, Sue Nielsen, Tim Anderson, Michael O'Day, Craig Rocheleau, and myself.

I also want to thank the Transition Team and all who participated in our listening sessions and offered their prayers, etc. during this time. This work was critical to the creation of our Ministry Site profile and highlighting the values most important to our members.

I know that all of you will help provide a warm welcome for Pastor Bryan and his family to our church community! The Odeen's will be living in the parsonage and look forward to getting to know St. Peder's and the neighborhood.

Join us for a special Meet & Greet on Sunday, August 14 following service. His first Sunday leading worship will be the following Sunday, August 21. We are planning a special installation Sunday and celebration for September when more people are back in church following summer vacations.

Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to St. Peder's. Our future is bright and all of you play a key role in the life and vitality of our church. Please reach out anytime with questions or to connect at [shawnanelsen3@gmail.com](mailto:shawnanelsen3@gmail.com) or 612-408-2860.

With deep gratitude and excitement,  
Shawna Nelsen-Wills—Council President





## Adopt a Garden!

***Thanks to everyone who has volunteered...we appreciate all the wedding and watering and planting!***

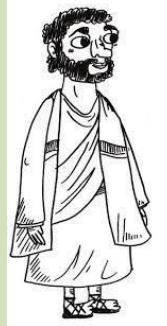
Whether you are a master gardener or just beginning to dig in the soil, St. Peder's invites you to adopt a garden bed at church. There are garden beds of different sizes around the church building...front gardens facing south, west side, courtyard, container gardens and east garden. Select any section of any garden that fits for you (you don't have to select the WHOLE courtyard!) You could work alone or with a group on your own schedule. Our hope is that you could provide regular weeding and upkeep during the growing season. You can purchase and plant new plants as desired but that is not required. Tools can be available by request.

Questions or to sign up, talk to Sue Nielsen [suenielsen76@gmail.com](mailto:suenielsen76@gmail.com) 612-360-3936



**Meet and Greet  
Pastor Bryan!**

**Sunday, August  
14th following  
worship**



Thanks to everyone who has sent in pictures of their Adventures with Flat Jesus! It is fun to see his travels. We are looking forward to seeing more of your adventures—don't forget to send in your pictures! Email your photos and a brief description of your event (where and what is happening) to Jeannie:

[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)



## **Open Eye Theatre's Driveway Tour Puppet Show! Wednesday, August 3rd at 6pm, Bring a friend**

Join us in our courtyard for this free neighborhood event. All ages welcome! About the play: Tucker is a young boy who needs to go back in time to face a group of neighborhood bullies. How do you go back in time? With a time-traveling robot, of course! Together, Tucker and his robot discover the importance of friendship and the courage to face bullies. Full of surprises, a little danger and some really funny characters. Contains puppetry, live music, and fun for families and children of all ages.

## **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 6th 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 June	\$ 21,198.36	Budget for the month	\$ 22,833.33
Year to Date	\$ 113,872.28	Budget Year to Date	\$ 137,000.02

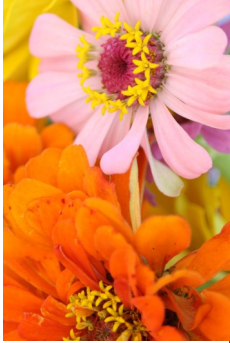
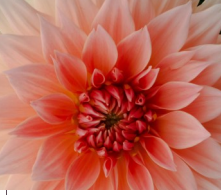
### **Expenses**

Month of June	\$ 19,423.77	Budget for the month	\$ 23,771.75
Year to Date	\$ 121,947.44	Budget Year to Date	\$ 141,872.12

**Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod**

YTD \$ 6,999.98

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9 am Quilters 6 pm: Open Eye Theatre Performance	4	5	6 8 am: Paint-a-Thon 2 pm Fiber Arts
7 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	8 Meals on Wheels	9 MOW Primary Elections	10 MOW	11 MOW	12 MOW	13
14 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10 am Meet and Greet Pastor Bryan	15	16	17 9 am Quilters	18 Newsletter Articles Due 7 pm Book Release Party!	19	20 2 pm Fiber Arts
21 9 am Courtyard Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	22	23	24 7 pm Council Meeting	25	26	27
28 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	29	30	31			



### Volunteer Reminders

Thank you for sharing  
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 Jeannie  
in the church office:

Jeannie:  
office@stpeders.org  
612-722-8000

*We would love to  
have many helping  
hands at this year's  
Paint-a-Thon! We are  
doing two sites this  
year, please see page  
three for  
more information!*



## August Volunteer Schedule

### August 7, 2022, Holy Communion by Full Table

**Greeters:** John and Doreen Skraba

**Ushers:** Craig Rocheleau and Jim Nelsen

**Acolyte:** Alice Petersen **Reader:** Allison O'Day

**Communion Set Up & Clean Up:** Judy Hogan, Sue Schnickel

**Communion Assistants:** Leslee Nestingen, Karen and Dan Vetsch

**Bread and Wine:** Lisa Rovick and Bruce Simpson

**Counters:** Steve Austin and John Skraba

**Livestream Technician:** Bruce Simpson

**LSS Safe House Dinner for August 8:** Jim and Heidi Nelsen

**Social Hour hosted by** *Shepherding Group 2*

### August 14, 2022

**Greeters:** Julie Ebbesen and Scott Wilson

**Usher:** Chris Anderson and Paul Aitchison

**Acolyte:** Elliette Wilson **Reader:** Judy Hogan

**Counters:** Marcia Rocheleau and Curt Petersen

**Livestream Technician:** Darrick Jensen and JeriLynn Young

**LSS Safe House Dinner for August 15:**

Allison and Michael O'Day, Jill and Kerry Audette

**Social Hour hosted by** *Shepherding Group 3*

### August 21, 2022

**Greeters:** Forrest and Elizabeth Bentley

**Ushers:** Tom Goodien and Jeremy Anderson

**Reader:** Tim Anderson **Counters:** Jackie West and Bruce Simpson

**Livestream Technician:** Bruce Simpson

**LSS Safe House Dinner for August 22:** Judy and Michael Hogan

**Social Hour hosted by** *Shepherding Group 4*

### August 28, 2022

**Greeters:** Jim and Heidi Nelsen

**Ushers:** Peter Juhl and Sue Schnickel

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

**Counters:** Annalise Munnich and Paul Odegaard

**Livestream Technician:** Karen Vetsch

**LSS Safe House Dinner for August 29:** Pete and Sheryl Juhl

**Social Hour hosted by** *Shepherding Group 5*

### Pastoral Care Support

As we transition between Pastor Eric's departure and Pastor Bryan's arrival between August 4 and August 11, Pastor Miriam Samuelson-Roberts (Christ Church Lutheran) will be on call for Pastoral Care Support needs of the congregation. If a need arises, she can be reached by phone 612-767-8917 or email: msamuelson-roberts@christchurchluth.org.

Pastor Lissa Kahl will Preach, Preside, and Lead Worship on Sunday August 7 & 14.

**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 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in south Minneapolis.



**Church Staff:**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Eric Luedtke  
Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:  
Mia Kruse  
Office Coordinator: Jeannie Farrell  
Accounts Manager: Debbie Wolking  
Caretaker: Jim Austin

[pastoreric@stpeders.org](mailto:pastoreric@stpeders.org)

[mia@stpeders.org](mailto:mia@stpeders.org)

[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)

[bookkeeping@stpeders.org](mailto:bookkeeping@stpeders.org)

St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church ELCA  
4600 E 42nd St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Phone: 612-722-8000  
[office@stpeders.org](mailto:office@stpeders.org)  
[www.stpeders.org](http://www.stpeders.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

