

St Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church
4600 E 42nd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
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Issue 4

The Messenger

Letter to Congregation from Council President

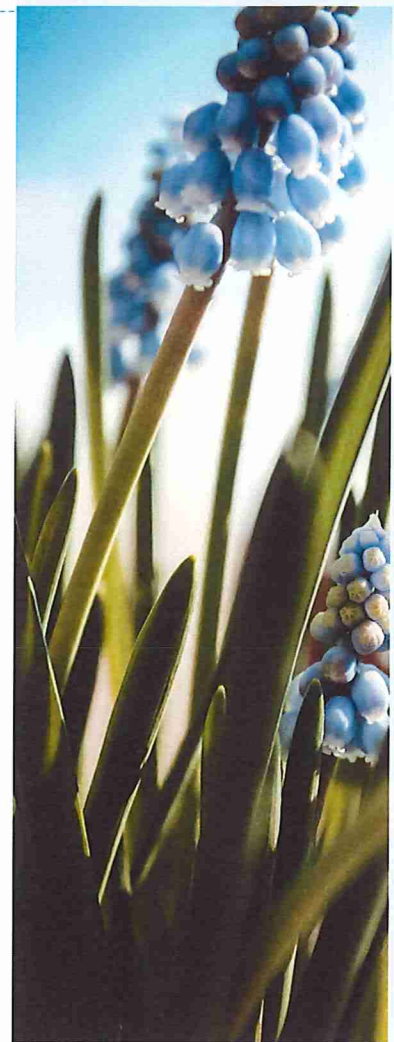
Dear Members of Saint Peder's,

Greetings! When I envisioned serving as your new Council President back in February, I imagined the world a little differently. I imagined seeing many of you on Sundays and Wednesdays throughout lent and having the opportunity to talk with you and hear about any dreams or concerns you had for our church. I imagined getting to know members I didn't know well, and deepening relationships with those I had. I looked forward to worshiping together and continuing to teach Sunday School to our incredible children and youth! I have definitely had to change that vision for the time being—and do feel a little forlorn that one of our first actions as a new Council was to basically shut down the church.

However, what we have learned in the last two weeks, is that you can't shut down our church—especially not St. Peder's Lutheran Church! Our community is strong, committed, faithful, and deeply compassionate. Pastor Julie and staff are doing an amazing job of keeping us connected through virtual church services, caring e-mails for families and the entire congregation, and phone calls to those most isolated or in need. Shepherding Groups have stayed connected and our service work and social ministry work continues through Meals on Wheels and emergency grants to local organizations on the front lines during this crisis. (We are making emergency grants to Minnehaha Food Shelf and Community Emergency Services to start.)

We are reminded now more than ever that God is with us always and that we can call on him from wherever we are—be it at church, home, or a walk through the neighborhood. The Church Council continues to meet virtually and we welcome your ideas, questions, and concerns. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. While in-

(Letter to Congregation, continued on page 2)



**St. Peder's has
suspended all worship
services and gatherings
through April. Updates
will be sent via email and
snail mail and can also be
found on our website:**

www.stpeders.org

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person connections need to halt for the time being so we can do our part in flattening the curve and keeping everyone safe, we can still stay connected virtually. Please feel free to reach out to me at shawnanelsen3@gmail.com or by phone at 612-408-2860—for Council matters or simply to connect to say hello if you are craving human connection. (This social distancing has been difficult for extroverts like me!)

These are certainly unprecedented times that will continue to change the future - yet St. Peder's has remained constant as a source of faith, hope, and love in a time of uncertainty. When we are able to gather again safely, I look forward to celebration filled with love, laughter, music, and joy!

To ensure that we are able to stay strong as a congregation and continue to help our neighbors in need, please continue to send in your weekly or monthly donations or move to an online giving format through Simply Giving. To set up online giving, head to our website, www.stpeders.org and click on "donate". If you are able to give more or give earlier in the year, please do so to help us bridge the inevitable gap. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing generosity—both financially and through your care and concern of others! Together in (virtual) community, we will stay strong and faithful together.

In gratitude,
Shawna Nelsen-Wills

Thank you!!!!

To everyone who brought cupcakes, set tables, made the delicious gravy, baked the fish, made meatballs, served, cleaned up and welcomed our neighbors to St. Peder's Annual Codfish and Meatball Dinner.....
Tusind tak! Thank You!

We are so grateful!

Pete and Sheryl Juhl & Sue and Al Nielsen

A note from the office:

Greetings Members! I just want to let you know that I will be checking emails from home as we "shelter in place". If you do not have an email, but need to reach me, you are free to call my cell: 651-808-7579.

Thank you! Jeannie



St Peder's Prayer Chain.....

a way to connect during this time of distancing!

St Peder's prayer chain is a collection of folks who offer prayers for specific requests as they are made known. During this time of separation from others, it continues to offer a way to connect not just to God but to our neighbor.

If you're not currently one of the folks participating, you're certainly invited to add your name and email to our contact list. Just email Pastor Julie at pastorjulie@stpeders.org or Karen Vetsch at boodiv@yahoo.com to become of the prayer partners.

Also, if you have a prayer request for you or your family or a friend or neighbor, please contact either Pastor Julie or Karen Vetsch.

From Shannon Kearns, Director of Faith Formation and Outreach

In these unprecedented times we find ourselves in I keep thinking about what it means to continue on even as things shift and change. What does it look like to be wise and cautious while also not allowing our lives to come to a grinding halt? How can we build in spiritual and other practices that will keep us grounded and sane? This is especially important for parents who are juggling their own mental and spiritual health and shepherding their families.

Here are some thoughts:

- 1: Be patient with yourself and cut yourself some slack. It doesn't have to be perfect. It won't be perfect. Just do the best you can.
- 2: Encourage everyone in the family to practice kindness. For some families this is a lot more togetherness than you might be used to. People will get on each other's nerves. Encourage kind words whenever possible.
- 3: Even if it's not perfect, try to build in some routines and touchstones. Can you do one thing the same every day? Can there be a family check in? A story before bed? A daily walk? Routines help to ground us.
- 4: Make some plans for the future, even if it is unknown. Dream together about what friends you want to see when the time of quarantine is over. Think about places you'd like to visit. Talk about what you want to do this summer or next school year.
- 5: Learn something new. Use this time to try out something you've always wanted to learn. Take a course online. Make a YouTube video. Start a family TikTok.
- 6: Love each other.

Here are some resources that might be helpful:

A podcast for kids: **Coronavirus For Kids, And The Science Of Soap** https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/but-why-a-podcast-for-curious-kids/id1103320303?i=1000468353110&ck_subscriber_id=136889632

And from the folks who created the Lenten booklet, they are offering a FREE weekly faith formation resource for families. All you have to do is sign up: https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve?ck_subscriber_id=136889632



Flowers for Easter

Because we will not be gathering for worship onsite on April 12, we will not be ordering the plants we usually do. For those of you who have ordered already, you can leave your flower money in the church's flower account until Christmas and use it to order poinsettias - or you can request a refund - or you can allow us to use that money to purchase flowers for our first festive celebration of Easter worship when we gather together again. We will not have the usual plants for you to take home, but will decorate the chancel with the floral signs of new-life and print the list of those in whose honor or memory the gift is given. Please contact the church office to let Jeannie know your wishes. You don't have to decide right away - take your time!

**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:

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Caretaker: Jim Austin

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PLACE
STAMP
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