



# The Messenger

Summer greetings!

I have been thinking about identity. This is partially because of our work with JustMOVE this year, but also digging into the experience of being part of the community that is St. Peder's. We are each unique, with our own experiences and our own perspectives based on those experiences. We each have our own ways of seeing the world and tackling the challenges that face all of us. And this diversity of experience and thought is a beautiful thing, especially in the Church. In Genesis 2:26-27, we read that God created humankind in the image of God and that all people bear that image. This inborn image of God means that God is experienced in diversity of thought, appearance, and sensation. While this image finds common ground, it also is very particular. It is one of those confounding and liberating "both/and" scenarios that our world is filled with; we are both common and particular. As Margaret Mead said, "Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else."

We might know that, but it is hard to practice. It is easy to think about ourselves as a nameless and faceless piece of a larger whole. It is so easy to think that we are not unique, not special, or, even worse, to understand our uniqueness as a hinderance. I'm not sure why people crave sameness, or we think of ourselves as a homogenous group, but we often do (myself included). We can get caught up in trying to be someone or something else and see ourselves, our bodies, and our thoughts as something to be conquered, rather than loved and valued. Social media, of course, has been blamed for this, but it predates Facebook by generations and centuries. In 1 Samuel, Israel demands that God choose a king for them, rather than judges, because they want to be like other nations. That was thousands of years ago.

Seeing ourselves as beloved image bearers of God is, I think, the first step to truly seeing the beauty in the diversity around us. Even in what we might describe as a homogenous group, each of us is different. Learning to see that difference as not only present, but holy and sacred, is a key piece of seeing ourselves as part of God's story. You are loved now, just as you are, not who you think you ought to be. God made you. God loves you. We start close in, loving our own uniqueness, so we can learn to see others with the eyes of God. This is a challenge, but it is also a promise, that God's love is always with you, no matter what you may go through.

Peace,  
Pastor Bryan



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2... Gather on Green

Page 3... Photo Directory

Page 3.. News from Office

Page 4... Puppet Show

Page 4... Council &  
Committee Spotlight

Page 5... May Financials

Page 5...Hearts & Hammers

Page 6... July Calendar

Page 7... July Volunteer  
Schedule

Page 7... July Worship  
Schedule



### **Gather on the Green**

The Christian Life Committee is gearing up for the second Gathering on the Green, If you have any items you would like to include in the Silent Auction, please reach out to Andrea Wollak and/or Lisamarie Odeen. We are looking for new items as well as adventures and experiences. We would like to make sure we have a variety of items for our Silent Auction, so please let us know early what you would like to donate so we can avoid too many duplicates. We will start collecting the physical items mid-August. Thanks to everyone who chooses to help!

### **JustMOVE Update**

Part of our adventure with Dave and Joe from JustMove is about recognizing the cultural dimensions which exist among people and the diversity within these dimensions. Identifying our own unique characteristics enables us to begin to understand their influence in our interactions and their impact on our relationships. Our identity is based on characteristics from a variety of factors including family background, education, racial and gender identity, religion, age, abilities/disabilities, economic status, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, and our home/geographic roots, to name a few. Each of us has a unique identity which forms the basis for how we function in the world. If we each created a web of similarities among family, friends, and acquaintances, we would find shared traits with a variety of people, but no two webs would be the same. For example, someone with a Norwegian ethnicity may share that heritage with some member of St. Peder's, but not most. Or a person raised in a rural community or a child of divorce will share experiences with some but not all. Each of us has connections to others at St. Peder's, and our wider community, but no two of us have the same connections. We are a potpourri of people seeking to do God's work with open hearts, open hands, and open doors. The goal for our work with Dave and Joe is to learn about cultural competency and awareness. They are helping us understand culture at St. Peder's and how it intersects with visitors, neighbors, and individuals already in our community. By becoming more aware of our cultural similarities and learned biases, we can begin to improve our understanding and interactions with others.

### **St. Peder's Photo Directory**

St. Peder's hasn't had a complete member photo directory since 2009, the 125th Anniversary year, and we hope to remedy that for our 140th Anniversary. Please help us reach our 100% member participation goal by getting a current photo in our digital InstantChurch Directory. You can download the Instant Church Directory app to add your favorite updated photo, or email the photo to Lyn in the office. Even easier, locate button hole volunteer photographers Peter Juhl, Sue Nielsen, or Lisa Rovick during coffee hour any Sunday this summer during coffee hour, and they will take your picture on the spot! We plan to create a paper version of the updated St. Peder's photo directory as well, and are aiming for Rally Sunday as the



### **News from the Office**

#### **Attention Quilters**

The quilters group will not be meeting during the month of July. Sessions will resume on Wednesday, August 7th.

#### **Save the Date!**

Mark your calendars now for **Sunday, September 16th**– you'll definitely want to be here! Not only is it Rally Sunday but our first major 140th Anniversary commemorative event. We are inviting former pastors and their families, as well as pastors ordained at St. Peder's, to be honored and to celebrate their contribution to St. Peder's history. And we will be taking an all-congregation photo– the last one was in 2009! Of course, there will be special food and activities for all ages.

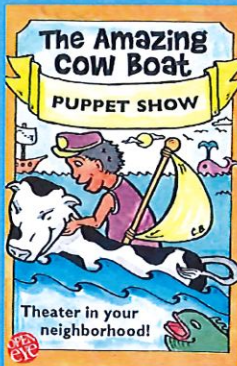
#### **July Garden Day**

Be sure to mark your calendar for our July Garden Day! On **July 14th after church**, we will work on the gardens. Come with or without experience. Gardening tools will be made available for everyone.

#### **Christian Nationalism**

Pastor Rolf Olson will be holding lectures in September on how right-wing politics and Christianity has combined into a new movement that can harm both democracy and our faith, and how these deceptive ideas may affect the upcoming election. More information on bulletin board.

## Driveway Tours Puppet Show Returns!



Join us on **Thursday, August 15 at 7 pm in the courtyard** for Open Eye Theatre's Driveway Tour Puppet show, titled "*The Amazing Cow Boat*". *It's time for Charlie to take a bath! Charlie's imagination comes alive as he pretends he is the captain of a boat that is part cow, part boat, and totally amazing! Together, Charlie and his Cow Boat set sail on a high seas adventure, making friends as they go, all before sailing home to his bathtub before bed time!*

## Council & Committee Spotlight: Fiber Arts

*During 2024, we have committed to share some information with you each month about St. Peder's Council and Committees. While the Fiber Arts group is not an official committee, it is a group that continues to build community here at St. Peder's. Learn more about this group!*

Hello, and welcome to Fiber Arts at St. Peder's! We are a group of people who enjoy doing handiwork, or hand crafting. This includes knitting, crocheting, or cross-stitching. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 2-4 pm in the church conference room. We make a pot of coffee and serve some treats to help get the conversation started. You are welcome to join us and show off what you are creating!

Sincerely,

**Sonya Clementson**

## Danebod Campus 78th Annual Folk Meeting August 21-25

The folk meeting is truly a liberal arts experience. This years series of lectures will feature experts in artificial intelligence, green hydrogen, the problem with war today, and Denmark in global cinema. We will study an epic poem translated into music and dig into current issues such as immigration reform and election integrity. There will also be workshops such as rock balancing, Danish baking, cricket, building your own art Gallery, a Reader's Theatre, and a historic look at the people who built and have sustained Danebod over the years. To register for in person or online attendance, please visit [danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://danebodfolkmeeting.org).

## Volunteer News and Opportunities & Financials

### Together in Mission 2024

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. A detailed financial summary report is available at the church office for anyone who'd like to see it.

#### Income

Month of May: \$21,300

Year to Date: \$168,356

Budget for the month: \$23,973

Budget Year to Date: \$119,361

#### Expenses

Month of May: \$30,580

Year to Date: \$126,105

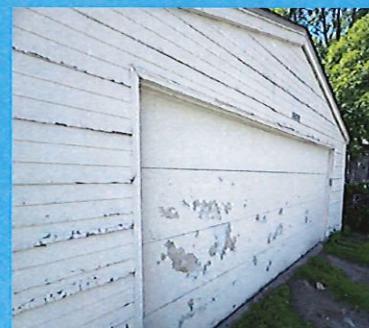
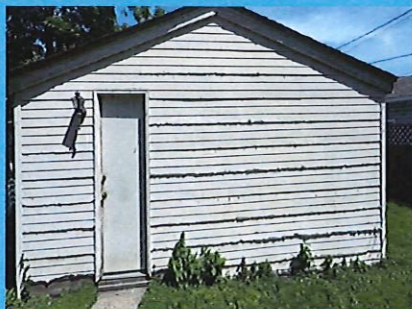
Budget for the month: \$31,122

Budget Year to Date: \$128,473

**Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod      \$7500 YTD**

### Hearts and Hammers

Our annual painting project/community building event will take place this year at **1479 Charles Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104 on Saturday, August 3rd**. We will be meeting around 8:30 am and will stay until the project is complete. The homeowner has requested we paint the garage door and stain their large back deck. The house itself does not need maintenance. To volunteer, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the office, or contact Dan Vetsch at 612-227-2780. If you are not available August 3rd but would like to help, we will have a prep day before the event. Date and time TBD. If it rains on August 3rd, we will move this event to Sunday, August 4th after church.





# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7 pm Play Rehearsal	2 10 am Exercise Class* 2 pm Chronic Disease Support Group* 6 pm Sisters In Crime* 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Play Rehearsal*	3	4 Office Closed Independence Day	5	6 2 pm Fiber Arts
7 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	8	9 10 am Exercise Class* 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	10	11 10 am Exercise Class*	12	13 10:30 Brownies*
14 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	15	16 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	17 7 pm Council Meeting	18 10 am Exercise Class* Newsletter Articles Due	19	20 10:30 am DeafBlind Club Meeting* 2 pm Fiber Arts
21 Courtyard Worship 9 am Worship 10am Coffee & Fellowship	22 7 pm Play Rehearsal	23 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study 7 pm Play Rehearsal	24 7 pm Play Rehearsal	25 10 am Exercise Class*	26	27 10:30 am DeafBlind Club Meeting 2 pm Fiber Arts
28 9 am Worship 10am Coffee & Fellowship	29	30 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	31			

# July Volunteer Schedule

## July 7

**Greeters:** Craig & Marcia Rocheleau  
**Ushers:** Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen  
**Acolyte:** Isla Wills  
**Reader:** Shawna Nelsen-Wills  
**Communion Set Up:** Lisa Jensen & Sue Schnickel  
**Communion Servers:** Paul Aitchison, Chuck Johnson & Leslee Nestingen  
**Communion Bread & Wine:** Denise Logeland & Tom Dennstedt  
**Counters:** Marcia Rocheleau & Doreen Skraba  
**Livestream Tech:** Karen Vetsch  
**LSS Safehouse July 8:** Craig & Marcia Rocheleau  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 6**

## July 14

**Greeters:** Tim & Elizabeth Anderson  
**Ushers:** Tom Goodoien & Paul Aitchison  
**Acolyte:** Walter Anderson  
**Reader:** Tim Anderson  
**Counters:** Cameron Jamison & Darrick Jensen  
**Livestream Tech:** Darrick Jensen  
**LSS Safehouse July 15:** Dale & Jackie West  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 7**

## July 21

**Greeters:** Andrea & Auggie Wollak  
**Ushers:** Peter Juhl & Tom Goodoien  
**Acolyte:** Aemilia Wollak  
**Reader:** Wendy Legge  
**Counters:** Steve Austin & Sue Schnickel  
**Livestream Tech:** Bruce Simpson  
**LSS Safehouse July 22:** Sonja Walker, Joe & Annalise Munnich  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 8**

## July 28

**Greeters:** Michael & Allison O'Day  
**Ushers:** Peter Paulson & John Skraba  
**Acolyte:** Fletcher Campbell  
**Reader:** Allison O'Day  
**Counters:** Jackie West & Curt Peterson  
**Livestream Tech:** Cameron Jamison  
**LSS Safehouse July 29:** Sue & Al Nielsen  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 1**



## July Worship Schedule

### July 7

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### July 14

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship  
Adopt-A-Garden event

### July 21

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship  
**Courtyard Worship**  
**Blessing of the Pets**

### July 28

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

**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.



Want to support our mission to joyfully live the gospel with open hearts, open hands and open doors? Make a donation from your smartphone by scanning the QR code or head to this website: <https://bit.ly/stpedersgiving> Thank you for sharing your gifts.

**Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Odeen	<a href="mailto:pastorbryan@stpeders.org">pastorbryan@stpeders.org</a>
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Accounts Manager: Susan Shellberg	<a href="mailto:bookkeeping@stpeders.org">bookkeeping@stpeders.org</a>
Caretaker: Jim Austin	

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PLACE  
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