



# The Messenger

Siblings in Christ,

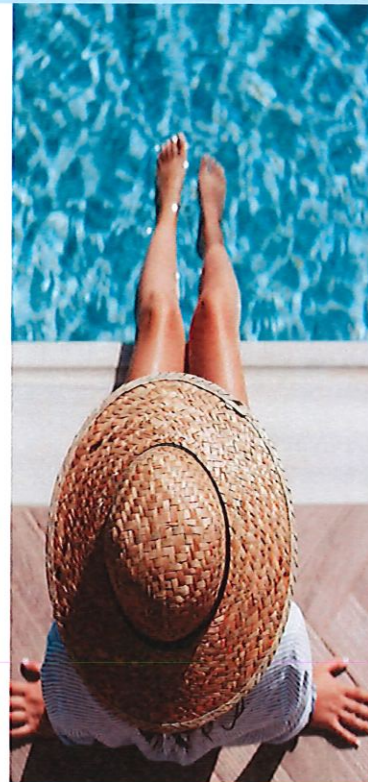
It's no mystery that we are living in tense times. We have had wild and unpredictable weather. We have seen assassination attempts on presidential candidates during an already volatile campaign season. We have seen shootings here in the Twin Cities. That's just a sliver of everything that is happening around the world and within our own personal lives. The temperature is rising, both on the thermometer's outside and the collective anxiety we have as a culture, and I find myself asking, "Where is God in all of this?"

The problems we face often feel too big to ignore and too deep to root out. Yet, I am convinced that we, as people of God, are still called to respond to what we see in the world. As Jesus sent out disciples in Mark 6, I believe the Holy Spirit is still sending us out to be part of God's work in the world. Like those gathered-and-sent disciples, we are not called to go alone and that, I believe, is key. Whatever happens, whatever we encounter, we are not alone. Above all else, remember that. Forces of sin try to divide us, but God has gathered us together and is gathering together all things. In essence, we are living in Advent times, where we anticipate what God is doing by participating in what we believe it will be now.

As we anticipate God's action, I believe it is appropriate for us to be able to gather, share our concerns, and consider how we can offer spiritually informed responses to our political realities. Our salvation and gospel-fueled call to action does not change based on who is in the Oval Office, even if your preferred candidate wins. To this end, I will be hosting a series of conversations that I hope will give us not only give us space to offer our concerns, but also find spiritual practices that can help us find hope and joy in the midst of everything else that is happening. More information on timing will be coming soon.

These conversations will likely be difficult and may be political, in that they affect our public life, but they will not be partisan. God does not operate on the two-party system that our government does, and we will not be using these conversations to debate policy, candidates, or political platforms. Instead, we will look at how we can organize, find hope, support our neighbors, and practice resilience in the face of forces that try to divide. And we will pray, including a prayer service, adapted from The Healing of the Nations liturgy we used in Lent, which will happen on November 4th. Things are tense. But, as we've seen in our lessons in July, Jesus is in the boat and God will never stop entering the places of hurting in our world. That's a promise.

Peace, Pastor Bryan



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### **Gather on the Green– Saturday, September 14th**

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, so feel free to contact us to make sure we don't double up on items. We also need



volunteers for the event, so if you would like to help out, please scan this QR code and sign up for what you'd like to do. We need assistance with set-up, kitchen things, check-in, security, drinks, the silent auction monitor, and tear down. Children are welcome to help out, too!

### **Council & Committee Spotlight: Building Committee**

*During 2024, we have committed to share some information with you each month about St. Peder's Council and Committees. This month we are focusing on the Building Committee. Learn more about this group!*

The Building Committee has several responsibilities, with Jim Austin, our custodian, keeping the building working and up-to-date. As a committee, we look to find areas that need printing or repair at the church as well as the parsonage, grounds, and parking lots around the building. Lately, we have been working with volunteers to help maintain the lawn and garden spaces around these areas. Recently, we have hired a concrete company to build pads for bike racks. We are also having a damaged tree removed at the parsonage. In the coming months, we will be studying our energy use to find ways to cut down on our gas and electric consumption.

Sincerely,

**Bruce Simpson**

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

It's August and our Courtyard Worship blessing on August 18th is for backpacks. This just doesn't have to be backpacks for our students! Bring to worship your briefcases, messenger bags, or anything else you regularly carry. We'll pray for the work and lessons they carry as we transition from summer to school schedules again.



### **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 distribution date.



### **News from the Office**

#### **Prayers \*by\* the People**

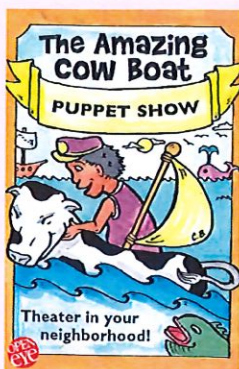
We want your prayers and voices in worship! Starting in September, we will be asking people to write prayers and pray for them for our Prayers of the People in worship. This can be done by families working together, individuals, or friends who want to write together. On August 18th, we'll have training after worship. The prayers will generally consist of a few sentences on 6-7 different subjects and do not have to be written in flowery or overly religious language. We would love to have our Prayers of the People truly reflect the concerns and desires of our congregation. Contact Pastor Bryan if you are interested or have questions.

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

Mark your calendars now for **Sunday, September 15th**— 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.



## 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!*

## OutFront Minnesota Gala 2024

Set in the heart of the historic Gateway District– the birthplace of the city's LGBTQ+ community– OutFront Minnesota's annual gala at The Depot Minneapolis brings together the strongest supporters to celebrate the many stories behind their movement– and to build a foundation for the work ahead. From underground to out and proud, Minnesota's LGBTQ+ movement is shaping the national narrative on equal rights. This event offers numerous naming and sponsor recognition opportunities, unique guest experiences, and a party for 500+ guests celebrating this community that you don't want to miss!

The event is scheduled for **Thursday, August 29 at The Depot Minneapolis, 225 3rd Ave. S.** The evenings schedule is as follows:

- 6 pm– Cocktail Reception
- 7 pm– Dinner and Burlesque show
- 8 pm– Gala program with keynote speaker Dr. Eric Cervini
- 9 pm– Night out at The Eagle MPLS

Ticket costs are \$250 for individual regular tickets (\$175 of which is tax deductible) or \$500 for VIP tickets (\$413.62 of which is tax deductible). To purchase tickets, please visit [classy.org/event/outfront-minnesota-gala-2024/e567849](https://classy.org/event/outfront-minnesota-gala-2024/e567849).

Non-profit and community groups may be eligible for discounted tickets. Please inquire at [development@outfront.org](mailto:development@outfront.org). Attire is festive, formal, and fabulous.



## 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.

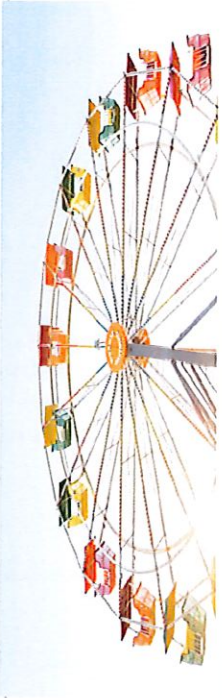
*Due to the unforeseen circumstances of suddenly losing our accounts manager, Susan Shellberg, we were unable to get the Financials for June put together in time for the publication of this month's Messenger. We plan to put out the financials for both June and July in the September Messenger. Please excuse this change in procedure, and we thank you for your understanding.*

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

The folk meeting is truly a liberal arts experience. This year's 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 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 and the Folk Meeting over the years. There will also be a special visit from Dr. Rachele Keck, President of Grand View University. Additionally, the 2024 Danebod Folk Meeting will be live-streaming all of the sessions—lectures, singing, story telling, and morning reflections—for those who cannot attend in person. To register for in person or online attendance, please visit [danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://danebodfolkmeeting.org).





# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 am Exercise Class*	2	3 2 pm Fiber Arts 8:30 am Hearts & Hammers Paint-A-Thon
4 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	5 10 am Exercise Class* 2 pm Chronic Disease Group* 6 pm Sisters in Crime* 6 pm Bible Study	6 9 am Quilters	7 9 am Quilters	8 10 am Exercise Class*	9	10
11 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	12 10 am Exercise Class* 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	13 10 am Exercise Class* 7 pm Council Meeting	14	15 10 am Exercise Class* 7 pm Puppet Show*	16	17 10:30 am DeafBlind Club Meeting* 2 pm Fiber Arts
18 Courtyard Worship 9 am Worship 10am Coffee & Fellowship Newsletter Articles Due	19 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	20 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	21	22 10 am Exercise Class*	23	24
25 9 am Worship 10am Coffee & Fellowship	26 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	27	28	29 10 am Exercise Class*	30	31



# August Volunteer Schedule

## August 4

**Greeters:** Jean Evers & Bob Stanich  
**Ushers:** Sue Schnickel & Shawna Nelsen-Wills  
**Acolyte:** Walter Anderson  
**Reader:** Judy Hogan  
**Communion Set Up:** Eva Tangen & Pheobe Anderson  
**Communion Servers:** Dan Vetsch, Cameron Jamison & Judy Hogan  
**Communion Bread & Wine:** Denise Logeland & Tom Dennstedt  
**Counters:** Marcia Rocheleau & Paul Odegaard  
**Livestream Tech:** Karen Vetsch  
**LSS Safehouse August 5:** Glen & Martha Olsen, Paul & Michelle Aitchison  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 2**

## August 11

**Greeters:** Julie Ebbesen & Scott Wilson  
**Ushers:** Peter Juhl & Lisa Jensen  
**Acolyte:** Elena Wilson  
**Reader:** Dwight Lundebj  
**Counters:** Paul Aitchison & Lisa Jensen  
**Livestream Tech:** JeriLynn Young  
**LSS Safehouse August 12:** Jim & Heidi Nelsen  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 3**

## August 18

**Greeters:** Jill & Kerry Audette  
**Ushers:** Cameron Jamison & Paul Aitchison  
**Acolyte:** Eden Hunsberger  
**Reader:** Rick Johnson  
**Counters:** Bob Stanich & Judy Hogan  
**Livestream Tech:** Darrick Jensen  
**LSS Safehouse August 19:** Allison & Michael O'Day, Jill & Kerry Audette  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 4**

## August 25

**Greeters:** Dale & Jackie West  
**Ushers:** Craig Rocheleau & Al Nielsen  
**Acolyte:** Isla Wills  
**Reader:** Bruce Simpson  
**Counters:** Marcia Rocheleau & Shawna Nelsen-Wills  
**Livestream Tech:** Bruce Simpson  
**LSS Safehouse August 26:** Peter & Sheryl Juhl  
**Social Hour Hosted by Shepherding Group: 5**



## August Worship Schedule

### August 4

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### August 11

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

### August 18

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship  
**Courtyard Worship**  
**Blessing of Backpacks**

### August 25

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

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

Organist/Music Ministry Coordinator:

Mia Kruse

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Office Coordinator: Lyn Town

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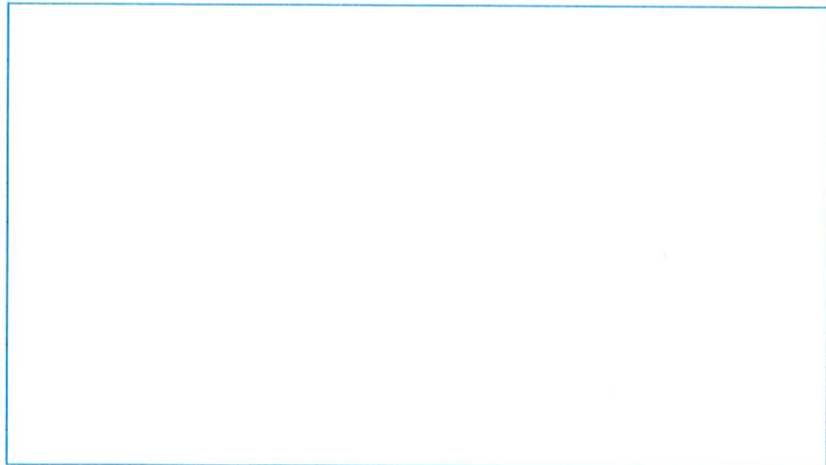
Faith Formation: Sarah Laulunen-Raj

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

Caretaker: Jim Austin

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE





## **How Do We Honor Difference? More on St. Peder's JustMove Initiative**

To honor someone, we sometimes give them an award, toast to them, and celebrate them. More often though, we honor and value people through our way of being in relationship with them. We give them time and space in our lives. We listen. We're present with them. We show up and do what we promised to do with them or for them. We respect them.

We know that at St. Peder's, people have many things in common. We also know that within those commonalities, there's a great diversity of ways that people have experienced the world and gained their own unique perspectives. We don't all have the same experience of family life or mental health, the same income level, the same feelings of identity. How do we honor both the things we have in common and the things that make us different—maybe especially the differences, since that can be more challenging? Are there ways we can give more time and space to each other in our life as a congregation? Ways to listen to the whole range of voices that our church family include? More ways to be present or to lend a hand when something matters to someone else because of their different experiences in life?

These questions emerge from the JustMove process that began at St. Peder's last spring. But these questions are also relevant to other conversations taking place in our congregation in recent years: about racial division and injustice after the murder of George Floyd; about the Riverside Innovation Hub and efforts to strengthen the relationship between our church and our community. We've said we want to bridge divisions and become better neighbors to everyone around us. Joe Davis and David Scherer, the team who created JustMove, have shown us why it makes sense to start by looking within. Because if we can recognize, honor, and value the differences within our own congregation, we'll be better able to recognize, honor, and value diversity in our community, too.

In short, an insight that JustMove has offered us is this: Coming together across differences isn't an issue to be solved, it's a way of seeing and a way of being in the world, and it takes practice.

So how might we practice seeing and honoring our differences at St. Peder's? What if sometimes, our music for worship was chosen by teens and 20-somethings in our congregation? What if the next "intergenerational event" was designed by our 70-, 80-, and 90-somethings around what they'd like to hear from or experience with younger people? What if more of our prayers in worship were written by members of St. Peder's, who could give voice to all their different ways of seeing God and seeing the world's needs? What if some of our readings in worship were chosen or written by our members to tell stories they find meaningful, about people doing God's work in the world right now as peacemakers or healers or teachers? What if more social events were intentionally designed so there's no cost to participate? What if more educational events enabled members to feel they are not alone in facing broken relationships, broken spirits, or broken health?

There are so many what-ifs open to us, so many ways to see and honor and love each other for our differences. What are the what-ifs that you see as possibilities for St. Peder's?

**-Denise Logeland, for St. Peder's JustMove Task Force**



**As the heat of summer comes to full swing, we are looking ahead to some fun end of summer activities and the start of fall. It is wild to believe just how close we are to the start of a new school year already! As we look forward to the next few months, I wanted to make sure to put out some reminders so you do not miss a moment of family fun at St. Peder's!**

**August 25th - We will be preparing to celebrate the legacy and history of St. Peder's Anniversary! We will all spend some time reflecting and sharing stories about St. Peder's around the table as we paint some murals for the church. These murals will be hung up on Anniversary Sunday, but we will spend some time painting and preparing for that celebration. Mural painting will be offered for ages 3-100, and we hope to see you there!**

**September 15th - This will be both our Gather on the Green weekend, as well as our Anniversary Sunday! There will be games, a silent auction, family activities, food, and general merriment!**

**September 16th - Come prepared to remember St. Peder's legacy, see the completed murals being added to the building, and share in celebration as we look toward the next 140 years! This will also be our Annual Rally Sunday! Come prepared to have fun and kick off the new school year!**

**September 22nd – We are so excited to kick off Sunday School classes again on September 22nd! Like last year, the students will stay in worship for all of the first Sunday worship services to that we can all celebrate Holy Communion together. The other weeks, our students will stay in worship for the beginning of worship and pull out for Sunday School following the children's sermon and rejoin families for refreshments following worship.**