

St. Peder's Monthly Messenger

December 2024

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Immigration has been a contentious issue in our politics, especially in the past few election cycles. It's a complex issue, with many moving parts and a lot of mixed feelings. This is nothing new. There are several passages that name immigrants, in addition to other vulnerable groups, as people that followers of God should care for (Matthew 25, Romans 12, Hebrews 13, Leviticus 19, James 2, and Deuteronomy 10 to name a few). In addition to the scriptural attention, St. Peder's recognizes that we started as a community of immigrants. Some of us are, in fact, naturalized citizens born in other countries. Given this background, I am hoping to see our congregation think deeply about the topic of immigration in the next few months. Through the ELCA's AMMPARO network and resources, we will be considering the complex topic of immigration and deciding what we are willing to do to care for people. AMMPARO is an acronym for "Accompanying Migrants and Minors with Protections, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities", as well as the Spanish word for "protection" (amparo).

You might be wondering why we'd be doing this now, on the edge of a busy Advent and Christmas. It might not be festive, but it is scriptural. Before the nativity scene, the story of Christmas starts with a displaced family. All of Israel was shaken up by the Roman emperor's demand of a census. The story of Jesus's birth is built upon a family forced from their homes and seeking refuge. The family of Jesus needed help, and they took it in whatever form it was offered, even if it meant Mary giving birth "away in a manger". In this context, I've heard people say things like, "If I were there in Bethlehem, I would have opened my doors. I would have helped." If you find yourself thinking this, I hope you'll be part of these conversations. Because we have a chance now to decide how we will respond to the needs of the world.

As we anticipate the birth of Jesus, I hope that we will use the love we have for him to care for others. As Christ, born to vulnerable people, cares for us, we are called to care for vulnerable people. And the story of Christmas is one that calls us to look in unexpected places, among often overlooked people, and see God there. I hope you'll be part of this process as we await, together, the birth of our Savior and care for our neighbors.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Bryan



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Nativity Scene Holiday Display Case

Do you have an interesting or special nativity scene that you would like to share? St. Peder's is looking for several nativity scenes for the display case outside of Pastor Bryan's office. If you have a set that you would like to share, bring it with you to Sunday services or stop by the office during the week to drop it off. We will display it throughout the holiday season along with the name of the donor. They will be returned to their owners in January.



AMMPARO Conversations

As mentioned in the cover letter, we are going to be spending some time in December and January looking at both what the Bible tells us about caring for our immigrant neighbors and looking at the complex system of immigration in our country. We will be reading stories, having conversations around personal experiences and theology, and finding ways to respond as individuals and as a congregation. Much like the pre-election conversations that happened, it will be completely voluntary to be part of these discussions, but we hope you will participate as much as you are able so we can learn and grow well together. We will use our regularly scheduled Bible Study on **Tuesdays at 6 pm** for parts of this extended conversation. There are 6 parts to the Bible Study, so the dates of them will be **December 3rd, 10th, and 17th, and January 7th, 14th, and 21st**. If you can't be there for all of them, that's okay. Just join in the ones you missed. And if you would like to take part in the Bible study but can't make it to the Tuesday night Bible Study, you can watch the study online at tinyurl.com/2bmlxrn4. We will also be having conversations following worship, hopefully with some special speakers. Stay tuned for



more information on those topics and conversations. And, in the meantime, you can learn more about the ECLA's AMMPARO initiative by reading more at tinyurl.com/2y88q2zd.

Christmas Sing-Along on December 9th!

Join the Roseville Strings for their free annual Christmas sing-along at 7:30 pm on December 9th at Centennial United Methodist Church at 1524 W. County Road C2 in Roseville. They will sing carols with choir director Logan Combs and Lisa Jensen on the piano. There will also be some holiday orchestral music, and special musical guest Sara Pajunen on the hardanger viola d'amore. It will be fun for the whole family!



News from the Office

SMMOW board and committee members

The Southern Minnesota Meals on Wheels Board and Development Committee is seeking your help to invite people to consider becoming SMMOW committee or board members. If you are interested, please look find more information on the bulletin board outside the office.

Thank you

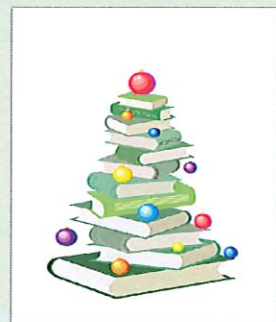
St. Peder's wanted to say thanks to everyone who helped out at the Aebleskive breakfast. Your hard work makes this event possible!

Christmas books available now!

In this season of Advent and Christmas, stop by the library to check out our wonderful collection of adult and children's Christmas books (including books on family Advent activities) and DVDs! You'll find some on display in the hall outside the library and more on

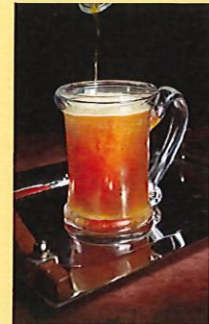


the library table and in the Advent and Christmas bin in the Red Cart. Even if you don't have a kid in your household, take a look at the children's Christmas books—many are beautifully written with gorgeous art, enjoyable by adults as well as children.



Pub Theology

December's Pub Theology will be on **December 2nd at 6:30 pm. We will meet at Parkway Pizza at 4359 Minnehaha Ave.** The topic for December will be devotions. What is a devotion? What does the Bible and our Lutheran heritage tell us about daily devotion? What are good sources for daily devotions?



Advent Worship Schedule

It's hard to believe, but Advent is right around the corner. We are excited to continue many important traditions at St. Peder's. The **Children's Program and Gift Sunday will both be December 8th.** The Song Service will be **December 22nd**, followed by dancing around the Christmas tree. Tuesday, **December 24th** is Christmas Eve and we will have worship services at **2 pm and 5 pm**, with the Danish Juleaften service starting at **3:15**. We will also have Wednesday service using **Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm on December 4th and 11th**, and the **Longest Night service on December 18th at 6:30 pm.** The Longest Night service is for people who are experiencing complicated emotions and grief around the holiday. It's a space to hold both the joy of the day while acknowledging the hard experiences this time of year can hold.

Gift Sunday

We will celebrate **Gift Sunday on December 8**, the day of the Children's Christmas Program. This year our gifts will help stock the pop-up holiday store at Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC), where more than 600 north Minneapolis youth can choose gifts for their loved ones. Children are able to select up to five gifts for their family members, for a minimal fee, with a pre-purchased ticket. PCYC suggests new, unused items valued at \$10-25 for men, women, teenagers, children, and infants. PCYC serves many ethnic backgrounds so gifts that reflect diversity are prized. More specific gift ideas can be found on the Christmas tree outside the fellowship hall. Monetary donations are also accepted and used to purchase items for the sale. Our support will make the holiday season brighter for lots of families in our community.

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 October: \$15,288	Budget for the month: \$25,939
Year to Date: \$272,358	Budget Year to Date: \$259,393

Expenses

Month of October: \$34,008	Budget for the month: \$25,939
Year to Date: \$253,080	Budget Year to Date: \$259,393

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$8750 YTD

Worship Leadership Opportunity

Pastor Bryan is looking for individuals, couples, and families who would be interested in helping the worship of St. Peder's reflect the people of our community. As we roll out the new ways of helping our worshipping community, our first will be writing and leading our Prayers of the People. If you are interested in this, please tell Pastor Bryan. He will be happy to help coach or guide the process, especially as we get started with a new way of saying our Prayers of the People.

White Elephant Party

This year, Chuck Johnson and Kristi Lahti-Johnson will be hosting the St. Peder's White Elephant party! **When: Friday, December 13th at 7 pm**
Where: 4728 1st Ave S, Minneapolis. What to bring: A white elephant gift (no more than one per person, please), an appetizer or dessert to share, and a beverage of your choice. Kristi and Chuck ask that you do not bring any animals (they have enough as it is!) Rummage through your basement or attic and bring your favorite white elephant gift. If you are lucky (get it? Friday the 13th), you may go home with something that is an even greater treasure!





December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Communion 1 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	2 7 pm Jazz band practice	3 10 am Exercise Class* 2 pm Chronic Disease Support Group* 6 pm Sisters in Crime* 6 pm Bible Study	4 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer 9 am Quilters	5 10 am Exercise Class*	6	7 2 pm Fiber Arts
Gift Sunday & Children's Program 8 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 2 pm Seniors for All*	9	10 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	11 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer	12 10 am Exercise Class*	13	14 10:30 am Brownies 2 pm Dance by Lauren
15 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	16	17 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	18 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm Longest Night service Newsletter Articles Due	19 10 am Exercise Class* 7 pm Kith & Kin Open Sing	20	21 10:30 am DeafBlind Club Meeting* 2 pm Fiber Arts
22 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	23	24 10 am Exercise Class* 2 pm Festival Worship Service 3:15 Danish Service 5 pm Festival Worship Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 10 am Exercise Class*	27	28 10:30 am Brownies
29 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	30	31 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study				

December Volunteer Schedule

December 1

Greeters: Dan & Karen Vetsch
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Julie Ebbesen
Acolyte: Maren Odeen Isla Wills
Reader: Dan Vetsch
Communion Set-Up: Judy Anderson & Sue Schnickel
Communion Servers: Wendy Legge, Karen Vetsch & Jackie West
Communion Bread & Wine: Lisa Rovick & Bruce Simpson
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Judy Hogan
Livestream Tech: Bruce Simpson
LSS Safehouse Dec. 2: Sue & Al Nielsen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3

December 8

Greeters: Andrea & Augie Wollak
Ushers: John Skraba & Steve Austin
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak
Reader: Wendy Legge
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Steve Austin
Livestream Tech: JeriLynn Young
LSS Safehouse Dec. 9: Terri, Dan & Karen Vetsch
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4

December 15

Greeters: Sue Schnickel & Meg Petersen
Ushers: Tom Goodoien & Joe Munnich
Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger
Reader: Bruce Simpson
Counters: Cameron Jamison & Sue Nielsen
Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse Dec. 16: Bruce Simpson & Lisa Rovick
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5

December 22

Greeters: Jackie & Dale West
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Peter Paulson
Acolyte: Walter Anderson
Reader: Kristi Lahti-Johnson
Counters: Eva Tangen & Cameron Jamison
Livestream Tech: Cameron Jamison
LSS Safehouse Dec. 23: Liz & Forrest Bentley
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6

December 29

Greeters: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Ushers: Sue Schnickel & Jeremy Anderson
Acolyte: Anders Odeen
Reader: Joe Munnich
Counters: Paul Aitchison & Marcia Rocheleau
Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Dec. 30: Cameron Jamison & Alice Bekke
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7



December Worship Schedule

December 1

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

December 8

Gift Sunday Children's Program

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

December 15

9 am Worship
9 am Faith Formation
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

December 22

Song Service

9 am Worship
9 am Faith Formation
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

December 29

9 am Worship
9 am Faith Formation
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 46th Avenue and 42nd 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.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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