

# St. Peder's Monthly Messenger

January 2025

Hello from the Pastor's Office!

In the midst of all of the busyness of December, the new year can feel a bit like putting on a new pair of shoes. There is something exciting about it, but it also doesn't fit quite right yet. There is, of course, the malaise of putting away the holiday decorations and putting away the gifts. But there is often more than that. Like any big event, holidays do have a certain amount of introspection and processing that happens afterward. Perhaps this year, the holiday season felt different and, whether you know the reason why or not, it's left you with some questions. Maybe the heartfelt gift didn't land quite right, or the gatherings didn't go quite as expected. Maybe it's something else entirely.

It's important to remember that every year is different. Even if there are traditions that carry over from one year to the next, things will feel different because we are different. This past year has changed us in ways that we might not even be aware of yet, and that changes the way we experience things. And this can lead to a sense of grief or complicated feelings. But if the promises of Christmas mean anything at all, they mean that we worship a God, we follow a Christ, who knows and experiences those things with us. The story of Jesus's birth is the story of a God who refuses to remain aloof or detached, and that brings a sense of hope.

God loves you so much that God would give up choose to be a part of this world with us. And the manner that God joins us tell us that God is never far from what we experience. Jesus was born as we were, knew what it was like to be hungry and full, happy and sad, alone and in community. Jesus knows what it's like to grow up and, like we have experienced, what it's like to be changed by those experiences. And God remains committed to that. God has not given up.

Whether things went perfectly this past year or everything fell apart, God was with you. And the same is true for 2025. And just as God is with you, we are with each other. We will continue to work and learn, to comfort and challenge, and to experience this big, beautiful, messy world with each other as a community committed to God's good news. I know that God loves you and is with you. And I'm grateful we get to be in community with each other.

Peace, Pastor Bryan



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## Blood Drive

You've seen the news... blood is in short supply. Minnehaha Communion is hosting a blood drive on **Thursday, January 23rd from noon to 6 pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Ave S.** They are looking for donors and volunteer helpers from St. Peder's. Sign up to donate at [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsors=MinnehahaLuth](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsors=MinnehahaLuth). The next drive will be in April. Contact Sue Nielsen with questions at 612-360-3936.



## 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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/2y88q2zd).

### **Pub Theology**

Pub Theology will be holding it's first session of the new year on **Monday, January 13th at 6:30 pm at Parkway Pizza at 4359 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis, on Monday, October 7th at 7 pm.** The topic this month will be "Resolutions". Come join us for a timely and interesting conversation. If you have any questions, please contact Allison or Michael O'Day at [madeoday@msn.com](mailto:madeoday@msn.com)!



### **Twelfth Night Party**

Bruce Simpson and Lisa Rovick are cordially inviting you to their 33rd Annual (2nd since Covid!) Twelfth Night Party! This open house event will take place on Saturday, January 4th from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm at 2220 25th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Bring a plate or bottle to share, bring a smile and good cheer! Children welcome! Casual dress. Please call Lisa (612) 716-4418 or Bruce (612) 296-9244, with questions.

### **News from the Office Annual Meeting**

This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 10:30 am immediately after coffee hour. There will be organized activities for the children during the meeting so adults with young people in their homes may attend.

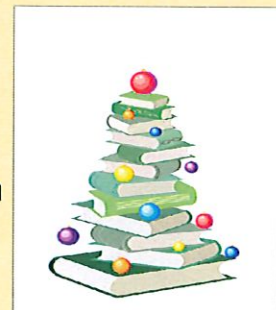
### **Thank You**

St. Peder's wanted to offer a warm thanks to all volunteers that helped with Gift Sunday, the Children's Program, Wednesday Advent Services, Song Service, and Christmas Eve.

### **St. Peder's library**



Make sure you check out our library for Christmas and Advent books and DVD's while they are on display for the season! This material is suitable for all ages and can be found on the table in front of the library and on the red cart!



### **New Church Organ**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, the congregation voted to purchase a new digital organ. This will be installed by the first Sunday of January. Thank you to everyone that has donated so far! We haven't raised the total amount to cover this purchase yet, so if you would like to donate, please mark our contribution specifically to the Organ Fund. Thank you!



### **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.

***As of the printing of this month's Messenger, I have not received the financial statements for November. Please check the bulletin board outside the office within the next week to find this information.***

### **Save the Date**

We would like to invite the members of St. Peder's, along with their friends and family, to a gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Chris Johnson for a fundraiser called, "The Chef's table". This event will take place here at St. Peder's on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. More details to come, so keep watch on the bulletin board outside the office!



## January Volunteer Schedule

### January 5

**Greeters:** Darrick Jensen & Leslee Nestingen  
**Ushers:** Craig Rocheleau & Andrea Wollak  
**Acolyte:** Aemilia Wollak  
**Reader:** Bethany Albing  
**Communion Set-Up:** Chuck Johnson & Kristi Lahti-Johnson  
**Communion Servers:** Judy Hogan, Tim & Elizabeth Anderson  
**Communion Bread & Wine:** Curt & Meg Petersen  
**Counters:** Jackie West & Tim Anderson  
**Livestream Tech:** Darrick Jensen  
**LSS Safehouse Jan. 6:** Michael & Judy Hogan  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8**

### January 12

**Greeters:** Darrick Jensen & Sue Nielsen  
**Ushers:** Peter Juhl & Tom Goodoien  
**Acolyte:** Hattie Odeen  
**Reader:** JeriLynn Young  
**Counters:** JeriLynn Young & Terri Vetsch  
**Livestream Tech:** JeriLynn Young  
**LSS Safehouse Jan. 13:** Tim & Elizabeth Anderson  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1**

### January 19

**Greeters:** Casey Clementson & Ben Campbell  
**Ushers:** Tom Goodoien & Paul Aitchison  
**Acolyte:** Fletcher Campbell  
**Reader:** Sue Schnickel  
**Counters:** Sue Schnickel & Steve Austin  
**Livestream Tech:** Cameron Jamison  
**LSS Safehouse Jan. 20:** Wendy & Gordon Legge  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2**

### January 26

**Greeters:** Scott Wilson & Julie Ebbesen  
**Ushers:** Peter Paulson & John Skraba  
**Acolyte:** Elena Wilson  
**Reader:** Chuck Johnson  
**Counters:** Annalise Munnich & Doreen Skraba  
**Livestream Tech:** Bruce Simpson  
**LSS Safehouse Jan. 27:** The Gleason Family  
**Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3**



### January Worship Schedule

#### January 5

9 am Worship  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

#### January 12

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

#### January 19

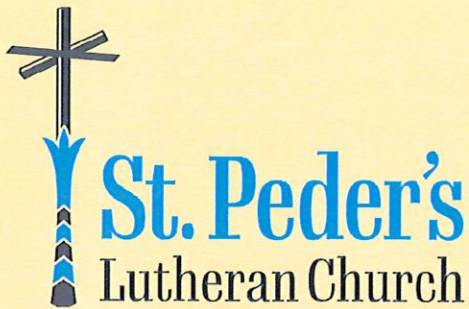
9 am Worship  
9 am Faith Formation  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

#### January 26

**Annual Meeting**  
9 am Worship  
9 am Faith Formation  
10 am Coffee & Fellowship  
10:30 am Annual Meeting

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 am Quilters	2 10 am Exercise Class*	3	4 2 pm Fiber Arts
5 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	6 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study 6 pm Sisters in Crime*	7	8	9 10 am Exercise Class*	10	11 10:30 am Brownies*
12 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	13 7 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	14 10 am Exercise Class* 12 pm Potluck 6 pm Bible Study	15 9 am Quilters 7 pm Council Meeting	16 10 am Exercise Class*	17	18 2 pm Fiber Arts Newsletter Articles Due
19 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	20 7 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	21 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	22	23 10 am Exercise Class*	24	25 10:30 am Brownies*
26 9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am Annual Meeting	27 6 pm Kith & Kin Potluck Rehearsal *	28 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	29	30 10 am Exercise Class*	31	



## 2025 at a Glance

Events subject to change

January	26	Annual Meeting
February	9	Shepherding Group Sunday
March	5	Ash Wednesday– Soup Supper (5:30) & Worship (7 pm)
March	7	Codfish Dinner
March	12, 19, 26	Lenten Worship– Soup Supper (5:30) and Worship (6:45)
April	2, 9	Lenten Worship– Soup Supper (5:30) and Worship (6:45)
April	17	Maundy Thursday Worship (7 pm)
April	18	Good Friday Worship (7 pm)
April	20	Easter Worship (9 am and 10:45) and Breakfast (10 am)
May	11	Youth Sunday and Graduate Sunday
June	15	Courtyard Worship & Bike Blessing
July	20	Courtyard Worship & Pet Blessing
August	17	Courtyard Worship & Backpack Blessing
September	13	Gather on the Green
September	14	Rally Sunday/Faith Formation Resumes
October	5	Marathon Sunday
November	9	Aebleskive Sunday
November	30	Advent Begins
December	7	Gift Sunday
December	14	Children's Christmas Program
December	20	Longest Night Worship (7 pm)
December	21	Song Service
December	24	Christmas Eve Worship (2, 3:15 & 5)

**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:**

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

