

St. Peder's Monthly Messenger

February 2025

Greetings in the name of Christ!

I have said for years that Christianity is inherently political. It is political because anything that transforms the way we live affects the public life of the person who was changed. Christianity is, therefore, political, but it is not partisan. It belongs to neither the Republicans, nor the Democrats, and surpasses both.

Recent events, in our country and around the world, have brought into focus the political implications of Christianity. In doing so, these events also brought to light the existence of some very different ideas on how Christians ought to live, vote, and treat others. Bishop Marriane Budde's sermon during inauguration day, her pleas for mercy for immigrants and people in the LGBTQIA+ community, was met with criticism as people called her proclamation of the Gospel illegitimate and divisive. This is contrasted by a rapidly changing political landscape where the SNAP program, the transgender community's ability to serve in the military, the citizenship of people born in the United States but with parents who are noncitizens, and FEMA aid are all at risk of being eliminated. Both sides of the aisle are claiming to be following God's will.

How are we supposed to navigate these changes and contentions? Who do we listen to? With all the noise and chaos, we each must decide how we will respond and what the grounds are for that response. This is, I believe, the true dilemma of our faith at this point in history. How we collectively and individually orient ourselves toward our neighbors and our God, at this time, will likely have an impact in the health of the Church and politics for generations.

Despite all the hard news, there is good news. The Church has survived this before. The words Jesus spoke, the work Jesus did, and the hope of his resurrection have reverberated throughout history. They still matter. In fact, they may be more important now than ever.

To help us orient ourselves to God's Word and love of our neighbors, I have prepared a Lente series around the Sermon on the Mount. I'm calling it "In The Words of Jesus: A Guide for Life". This sermon found in Matthew is, perhaps, the most concise teaching Jesus offers about how to live. It will comfort, challenge, and inspire us all in different ways. And it will, I hope, give us each the direction and the courage that we already have what we need to make a positive impact on the world in the name of Christ and that God is still at work in the world.

Peace,
Pastor Bryan



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2... Healthy Seniors

Page 2... Souper Bowl of Caring

Page 2... Blood Drive

Page 3... Solos Resource Group

Page 4... Pub Theology

Page 4... Save the Date

Page 5... Financials

Page 5... Annual Cod fish Dinner

Page 6... February Calendar

Page 7... February Volunteer Schedule

Page 7... February Worship schedule

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors

Longfellow/Seward Healthy Seniors is a non-profit, community-based organization serving a diverse population of older adults in the Seward, Longfellow, Cooper, Howe and Hiawatha neighborhoods! Their programs are low-cost or free and can be joined at any time, including Online chair yoga, arthritis exercise programs, and arts and crafts. Below are a few upcoming events for this winter. To register for an activity, please **contact juliaockuly@LShealthyseniors.org or call Julia at 612-729-5799.**

Souper Bowl of Caring

Football/ Diapers/ Cooking Oil/ Toilet Paper/ LXI– what do these things have in common? The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring! Join St. Peder's Youth as they support one of our community resources that is in great need. Donations will be going to the Minnehaha Food Shelf. Help them stock up on their most requested items; Cooking oil, toilet paper, diapers. Bring items for the food shelf by Sunday, February 9th. Place them on the table in the narthex next to the team you want to win. If football isn't your thing, place your items in the Commercials section. No time to shop? Cash or check donations can be placed inside the soup kettle. Please make checks out to the Minnehaha Food Shelf. For questions, please contact Dan or Karen Vetsch.



Blood Drive

St. Peder's will be hosting The American Red Cross for a blood drive here at the church on **Wednesday, April 23rd from 1 pm to 7 pm.** We are looking for volunteers to help with set up, tear down, welcoming donors and providing customer service. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please contact Sue Nielsen. If you would like to donate blood, please go to redcrossblood.org and search by the date in April. A QR code to donate will be made available on the weekly bulletins the closer it comes to the event.

Longfellow/Seward Solos Resource Group

Meetings are on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 11 am to 12:30 pm, Brackett Park Community Room, 2728 S. 39th Ave, Minneapolis.

Solos are individuals who by choice or circumstance do not have the traditional family structure to help support and plan for incapacities and transitions that can occur later in life. The Solos Resource Group was set up to help individuals develop a community of support and to craft a personal plan for the health and well-being, including decisions required for creating a health care directive, power of attorney, and wills. Each month a different aspect of planning will be covered, and at the end of the session there will be time to socialize and share resources. If you feel the term *solo* applies to you, we invite you to join the group!

We ask that participants register in advance for events by **calling 612-729-5799, or by emailing juliaoockuly@LShealthyseniors.org**. Do not hesitate to reach out with questions!

Their mission is to enable community seniors to live independent, healthy and socially connected lives. They have been providing services to seniors since 1994. They serve about 500 seniors annually.

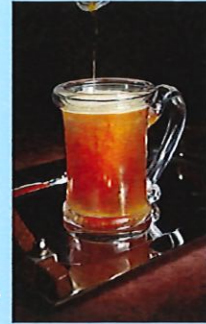
Their programs and services include:

- ◆ In-home nurse visits and foot care
- ◆ Transportation to medical appointments
- ◆ Friendly visitors
- ◆ Household task and grocery shopping assistance
- ◆ Food distribution/delivery
- ◆ Outreach to Somali elders
- ◆ Personal technology assistance
- ◆ Free "Nurse Is In" clinics
- ◆ Monthly senior social and health talks
- ◆ Diabetes support group
- ◆ Fitness classes
- ◆ Art classes
- ◆ Technology workshops
- ◆ Solo Resource Groups
- ◆ Information, referral and advocacy

Event is free, but registration is required.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is back in 2025! We will meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave, on Monday, February 10th at 6:30 pm. The topic for February's discussion is: What are your thoughts on what Heaven is like? The Bible describes a place of prepared mansions. What does that look like for us? Please contact Michael or Allison O'Day with questions.



Save the Date

The Chef's Dinner has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 3rd**, due to scheduling conflicts and inclement weather. In the meantime, enjoy the codfish dinner in March! As for The Chef's Dinner, this year's chef will be leading a class on cooking tools and techniques. He will also give a lecture about "The Five Classic Mother Sauces"- bechamel, velouté, espagnole, tomato, and hollandaise. All people are welcome, regardless of your level of cooking experience! If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Simpson at simbr2@gmail.com



Technology Clinic

Thursday, February 27, 3pm—4:30 pm, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2731 East 31st St. Minneapolis.

Do you have questions about your computer or cell phone? Need help with social media, sharing photos, video chatting, or internet security? Join us for a free technology clinic for older adults! Bring your device, and volunteers will be on hand to help with your questions. Free session, but registration is required.



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 December: \$26,161	Budget for the month: \$25,939
Year to Date: \$310,821	Budget Year to Date: \$285,329

Expenses

Month of December: \$20,551	Budget for the month: \$25,939
Year to Date: \$299,331	Budget Year to Date: \$285,329

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$14,750 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.

Annual Codfish Dinner

St. Peder's Annual Codfish Dinner is right around the corner! This year it will be held on **Friday, March 7, 2025, with two seatings at 5 pm and 6:30 pm.** If you would like to sign up to volunteer with setting up, cooking, serving, or clean up, please contact Sue Nielsen by phone at 612-360-3936 or by email at suenielsen76@gmail.com. Thanks in advance to everyone that makes this event possible each year!





FEBRUARY 2025

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

February Volunteer Schedule

February 2

Greeters: Lisa Rovick & Bruce Simpson

Ushers: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen

Acolyte: Isla Wills

Reader: Bethany Albing

Communion Set-Up: Lisa Jensen & Judy Anderson

Communion Servers: Lisa Rovick, Bruce Simpson & Paul Aitchison

Communion Bread & Wine: Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen

Counters: JeriLynn Young & Shawna Nelsen-Wills

Livestream Tech: JeriLynn Young

LSS Safehouse Feb. 3: Mark & Jodi Jensen

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 4

February 9

Greeters: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson

Ushers: Peter Juhl & Tom Goodoien

Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger

Reader: Lisa Rovick

Counters: Eva Tangen & Bruce Simpson

Livestream Tech: Bruce Simpson

LSS Safehouse Feb. 10: John & Doreen Skraba, Daniel Petersen & Kristin Lehrstrom

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 5

February 16

Greeters: Allison & Michael O'Day

Ushers: Tom Goodoien & Peter Paulson

Acolyte: Elena Wilson

Reader: Allison O'Day

Counters: Julie Ebbesen & Cameron Jamison

Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen

LSS Safehouse Feb. 17: Shawna Nelsen-Wills & Steve Wills

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 6

February 23

Greeters: Doreen & John Skraba

Ushers: Peter Juhl & Jim Nelsen

Acolyte: Eden Hunsberger

Reader: Sue Schnickel

Counters: Jackie West & Bob Stanich

Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch

LSS Safehouse Feb. 24: Curt & Meg Petersen

Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 7



February Worship Schedule

February 2

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

February 9

Shepherding Group Sunday

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

February 16

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

February 23

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.

Church Staff:

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PLEASE
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