

St. Peder's Monthly Messenger

March 2025

Greetings in the name of Christ,

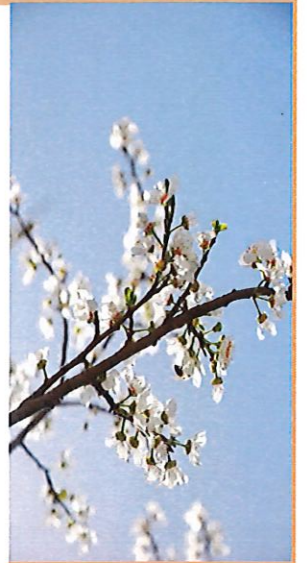
I am a big believer in the power of community. In fact, I believe that the call to community is essential to the proclamation of the gospel. It is essential to Christian faith to be in community with one another. Of course, this can look many different ways – sometimes it will be geographical and physical, other times it will be more remote – but the fact remains that nothing we have learned about God could be learned without the experience of community. Congregations proclaim the gospel to and with each other, through prayer, hymns, reading scripture, preaching sermons, and serving neighbors. The stories within the Bible are written within and for certain communities. The world we inhabit is shared with untold numbers of species, cultures, and individuals. If God has made us to be in community, then it means that we cannot be Christian without it. We cannot be whole by ourselves.

So many of the teachings of Jesus, the letters of the New Testament, the words of the prophet, and the laws of the Hebrew Bible address the needs of community. The words of religion are words of relationships. In fact, even the word “religion” comes from the word that would roughly translate at “reconnecting” (“re”-“ligia”). We cannot speak of righteousness, sin, or repentance (key terms as we approach Lent) without defining them, in some way, in relationship between ourselves, our neighbors, and God.

This is why having an understanding and a healthy practice of community are such a focus for me. This is why we're spending Lent studying the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus speaks very intentionally and extensively about how his followers live with each other in community. We are doing it because without each other, we cannot be whole. Salvation is experienced not just by individuals, but by communities in concrete and mystifying ways.

Despite this, the limits of community are being tested. We are seeing both how fragile and how resilient they can be. We are seeing how fractured and how powerful they are. If we are to survive and thrive as individuals, we must depend on each other and we must build its foundations on something that is strong enough to withstand all the hardships that we face together. None of us can meet all the needs we see around us, but we do not face those needs alone. We have each other. And I'm grateful for that.

Peace, Pastor Bryan



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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.**

Minnehaha Food Shelf Month

This year is the 44th Annual Minnesota Food Shelf month designated by the Minnesota Council of Churches. 1 in 10 Minnesotans is impacted by food insecurity. Help us help the hungry! Any donations in March will be doubled with a \$500 Challenge Gift! Your financial contributions allow Minnehaha Food Shelf to better plan and make bulk purchases of basic, critical items from local food banks.

If you would like to volunteer your time, food shelf doors open every Tuesday from 10 am-3 pm. If you would like to help out, contact foodshelfvolunteers@minnehaha.org to find out more information!



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.

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring! We were able to collect the following amounts:



160 Rolls of toilet paper
37 Bottles of cooking oil
14 Packages of diapers
1 miscellaneous bag of canned goods
\$245 in cash/checks

Way to go, St. Peder's! We are so proud to have such giving members!

2025 Council Members

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Annual Congregational Meeting at the end of January. We accomplished a lot in under an hour: approving the updated constitution and by-laws; approving the new carpeting in the offices, library, and conference room; and electing three new council members to serve three-year terms! We also had the opportunity to thank our outgoing council members: Andrea Wollak, Allison O'Day, and Bruce Simpson. Each of these people brought their own perspective and set of talents to the council and they will be missed.

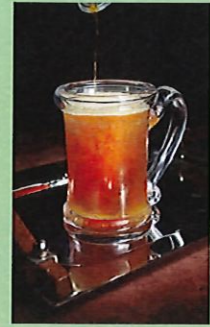
Pictured below is the 2025 Council. Members are Kristi Lahti-Johnson, President; Darrick Jensen, Vice-President; Jessica Geroux, Secretary; Wendy Legge, Treasurer; Albert Veeder; Bob Boyce; Charlie Anderson; Eva Tangen; Gina Sekelsky; Kristi Erickson; and Pastor Bryan. We are excited to have the opportunity to work together to help St. Peder's continue to thrive as a community.

Please reach out to any of us if you want to know more about what the council is working on or if you have something you want to bring to our attention.



Pub Theology

Pub Theology is back in 2025! We will meet at Parkway Pizza, 4359 Minnehaha Ave, on Monday, March 10th at 6:30 pm. The topic for March will be Evangelism. What is working? What isn't? Come and discuss with.



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 simbbr2@gmail.com.



Women of the ELCA– Bold Women's Day 2025

Women of the ELCA celebrate Bold Women's day the first Sunday of March. All Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ are honored. Join them for this year's Bold Women's Day service, taking place on the campus of Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Reverend Babette Chatman and students from the International Women's Leaders program will hold a special worship service in person at Hoversten Chapel, Foss Center on Sunday, March 2nd. If you would like to attend this event and have questions about timeframe, parking, or anything else, please contact Elizabeth McBride at elizabeth.mcbride@elca.org or visit the Women of the ELCA website at <https://welca.org/bwd>.

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 January: \$11,366

Budget for the month: \$27,162

Year to Date: \$11,366

Budget Year to Date: 27,162

Expenses

Month of January: \$31,442

Budget for the month: \$27,162

Year to Date: \$31,442

Budget Year to Date: \$27,162

Mission Support to Minneapolis Area Synod \$0 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!





MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2 pm Fiber Arts
Holy Communion 9 am Worship 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	2 7 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal *	3 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Sisters in Crime** 6 pm Bible Study	4 Ash Wednesday 9 am Quilters 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Ash Wed. Worship 8 pm Choir practice	5 10 am Exercise Class*	6 5 pm & 6:30 am Cod Fish Dinner	7 10:30 am Brownies
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 6:30 pm Roseville Stings Rehearsal*	10 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir practice	11 10 am Exercise Class*	12 11 am Funeral Howie Pearson (Jill Audette's father) 2 pm Fiber Arts	13 10:30 am Brownies 11:30 am Kith & Kin FUN-tensive Rehearsal*
9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship 11 am Caucus Training	14 7 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	15 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Roseville Stings Rehearsal*	16 9 am Quilters 7:30 pm Council Meeting 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir practice	17 10 am Exercise Class*	18 10 am Exercise Class* 7 pm Open Sing Kith & Kin*	19 10:30 am Brownies 11:30 am Kith & Kin FUN-tensive Rehearsal*
9 am Worship 9 am Faith Formation 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	19 11:15 am Meals on Wheels pick-up* 6 pm Kith & Kin Rehearsal*	20 10 am Exercise Class* 6 pm Bible Study	21 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:45 Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Choir practice	22 10 am Exercise Class*	23 10:30 am Brownies 11:30 am Kith & Kin FUN-tensive Rehearsal*	24 10:30 am Brownies 11:30 am Kith & Kin FUN-tensive Rehearsal*
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March Volunteer Schedule

February 2

Greeters: Tim & Elizabeth Anderson
Ushers: Peter Juhl & Cameron Jamison
Acolyte: Phoebe Anderson
Reader: Bethany Albing
Communion Set-Up: Lisa Jensen & Eva Tangen
Communion Servers: Dan & Karen Vetsch
Communion Bread & Wine: Lisa Rovick & Bruce Simpson
Counters: JeriLynn Young & Karen Vetsch
Livestream Tech: JeriLynn Young
LSS Safehouse Feb. 3: Kathryn Jensen, Lisa Jensen & Butch Vossen
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 8

March 9

Greeters: Susan Gantriis & Mark Davies
Ushers: Paul Aitchison & Tom Goodoien
Acolyte: Hattie Odeen
Reader: Martha Olsen
Counters: Annalise Munnich & Judy Hogan
Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse Mar. 10: Peter & Sheryl Juhl
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 1

March 16

Greeters: Karen & Dan Vetsch
Ushers: Tom Goodoien & Peter Juhl
Acolyte: Walter Anderson
Reader: Tim Anderson
Counters: Jackie West & Terri Vetsch
Livestream Tech: Karen Vetsch
LSS Safehouse Mar. 17: Bill & Judy Anderson
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 2

March 23

Greeters: Doreen & John Skraba
Ushers: Tom Goodoien & Jim Nelsen
Acolyte: Fletcher Campbell
Reader: Lisa Rovick
Counters: Paul Aitchison & Terri Vetsch
Livestream Tech: Darrick Jensen
LSS Safehouse Mar. 24: Kristi Lahti-Johnson & Chuck Johnson, Eric & Bethene Hunsberger
Social Hour hosted by Shepherding Group: 3

March 30

Greeters: Andrea & August Wollak
Ushers: John Skraba & Sue Schnicke;
Acolyte: Aemilia Wollak
Reader: John Skraba
Counters: Tim Anderson & Judy Hogan
Livestream Tech: Cameron Jamison
LSS Safehouse March 31: Bob Stanich & Jeanne Schleh
Social Hour hosted by Group: 4



March Worship Schedule

March 2

9 am Worship
10 am Coffee & Fellowship

March 9

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

March 16

9 am Worship
9 am Faith Formation
10 am Coffee & Fellowship
11 am Caucus training

March 23

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

March 30

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:

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Odeen

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PLEASE
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STAMP
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