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March 2014

# The Friend

*Come as you are to Worship, Wonder, and Work in Jesus' name!*

## Children's Sabbath – March 29-30, 2014

*"Behold, Children are a gift of the Lord." ~ Psalm 127:3*

When the disciples thought Jesus was too tired to bless the children and wanted to send them away, Jesus told them instead to bring the children to him. I well imagine there were smiles and laughter as some of the children sat on his lap and others stood beside him. They talked and he listened. And as they left he placed his hand on each of their heads and blessed them, delighting in their presence.

Children are a gift at St. Philip's, in our homes, neighborhoods, and schools. We rejoice when children are well cared for and treasured, loved deeply by families, friends, and society. Yet we know that is not true for all children – some live in poverty, hungry and homeless; some have no medical care or opportunities for education; some are neglected and abused; some feel unwanted and alone.

*Children's Sabbath* is a time for us to consider how we can help children who are hurting, by raising our awareness to concrete opportunities that will improve the lives of children throughout the world.

Jesus modeled for us God's love for children. We are called to follow his example, not just with our words but with our loving actions on their behalf.

### Children's Sabbath Weekend:

- **Children's Sabbath Weekend Worship**—March 29-30 – Saturday at 5:00, Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30.
- **Day on the Hill** –Thursday, March 13, beginning at 8:30 am at River Centre in St. Paul. Everyone is invited to attend this event sponsored by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (a coalition of Christian, Catholic, Native American, and Muslim faiths). Registration forms are in the office or go to JRLC.org. During the sessions, we will hear about children's issues being discussed in the legislature and how we can be advocates for the children. This information will be shared with the congregation, and those who choose to do so, can send emails or letters to legislators on behalf of the children.
- **Processional offering** at the three services to bring forward items for Newborn Kits. The following items are needed:
  - 36" squares of muslin or sheeting – not necessary to hem
  - Regular size bath towels. New or gently used. No longer than 48" *continued on page 2*

### St. Philip's Lutheran Church

*A member of the ELCA*

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## Children's Sabbath

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- Wash cloths
- Bath size bars of white Ivory soap
- Newborn stocking caps (we have patterns for knitting, crocheting or sewing them)
- Small baby shirt – size 0-3 or newborn (bought or made – we have a pattern)
- Receiving blankets (bought or made)
- Ziploc bags – 2 or 2 ½ gallon
- Cash donations
- **Assembly of Newborn Kits**-All ages invited to assemble kits in Fellowship Hall Sunday, March 30, at 3:00.

- **Food Shelf** – continuing to bring food for the food shelf.

Mark your calendars for Children's Sabbath! If you would like to work with the staff in planning this event and exploring ways to help children, contact Jan Ijahn@spicmn.org or 763.571.1500]. ♦

*“I think that anything that begins to give people a sense of their own worth and dignity is God.”*

~ John Shelby Spong

## Members Donate 26 Books to St. Philip's Library

St. Philip's generous members have added 26 new titles to the Library including *Flora & Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo, (JFIC/DIC) Candlewick, 2013. This book for young people was recently awarded the Newbery Medal for the year's best book for children.

This is Minneapolis writer DiCamillo's second Newbery winner. She also won in 2003 for *The Tale of Despereaux*. Her first novel, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, was a Newbery runner-up. DiCamillo has recently been appointed as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress.

In her latest book, DiCamillo writes about Flora Belle Buckman and her adventures with a squirrel who has superhero powers.

Other notable donations include *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom. (FIC/ALB) HarperCollins, 2013. This story about a small Lake Michigan town that gets worldwide attention when its citizens receive phone calls from the afterlife is on the New York Times best-seller list.

Lovers of historical fiction will want to check out *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini. (FIC/CHI) Dutton, 2013. This is an account of Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley, born a slave, but chosen by Mary Todd Lincoln as her personal dressmaker.

*The Funny Shape of Faith*. (242.02/FUN) Augsburg, 2007, is a devotional book that uses humor to explore the Bible, faith, and Christian living through cartoons, reflections, and prayers.

*Intercessory Prayer* by Dutch Sheets (248.32/SHE) Regal, 1996, shows how God can use your prayers to move heaven and earth.

*Proof of Heaven* by Alexander Eben (617.4 ALE) Simon & Schuster, 2012, tackles the controversial subject of near-death experiences. Scientists (including the author) have argued they are impossible. Then Alexander's own brain was attacked; he survived.

Stop in at the Library soon to find something new and wonderful to read. ♦



# St. Philip's LUTHERAN CHURCH

# March 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	3 9:00 am Foot Works 9:30 am Joy Circle 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:20 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Girl Scouts 5:50 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	4 <b>Friend Deadline</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:00 pm Sharing/Caring Cooks 3:30 pm Homework Buddies 6:30 pm Marriage Prep 7:00 pm Evangelism Committee	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Sharing/Caring leaves 12:00 pm Worship 1:00 pm Lunch 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	6 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	7	1 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 8 9:00 am Marriage Prep Class 9:00 am Youth Carnival 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
9 <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Mentor Meeting	10 9:00 am Glory Circle 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:20 pm Chair Yoga 5:50 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	11 11:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Tuesdays Together 3:30 pm Homework Buddies 4:30 pm Worship Planning 6:30 pm Parish Fellowship 6:30 pm Property & Grounds	12 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 10:00 am Women's Book Club 11:00 am Sharing/Caring leaves 12:00 pm Worship 1:00 pm Lunch 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Garden Comm.	13 10:40 am 55+ Event Old Log Theatre (Almost, Maine) 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	14	15 9:00 am Befriender Training 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
16 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Youth Game Day	17 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:20 pm Chair Yoga 5:45 pm Girl Scouts 5:50 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm "Movie Night"	18 9:00 am Library Committee 11:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:00 pm Baptism Class	19 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 9:00 am Quilters 12:00 pm Worship 1:00 pm Lunch 6:30 pm Confirmation gr. 6-8 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	20 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 1:30 pm "Game Time" 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 6:30 pm North Metro Photo Club	21	22 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
23 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	24 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	25 9:30 am Assemble Friend 11:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Tuesdays Together 3:00 pm Lynwood Service 6:45 pm Board Meeting	26 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 12:00 pm Worship 1:00 pm Lunch 6:30 pm Confirmation gr. 6-8 6:30 pm Worship 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	27 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	28	29 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
30 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am First Communion Class 3:00 pm Assemble Newborn Kits	31 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	<b>Wednesdays in Lent</b>  Beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 5) we will offer Lenten Worship at Noon and 6:30 pm (Confirmation grades 6-8 participate in the 6:30 pm worship during Lent).  A meal will be served at 1:00 pm following the noon worship.				

### A Note from Pastor Joel:

My wife Karen has recently been called to serve as a pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids. It is with great joy and a profound sense of the Holy Spirit's leading that she has accepted this call. Her ministry at Faith will begin on March 9. The reality, of course, is that this will cause some changes in the rhythms of our family's life. Since we are called as spouses and parents as well as pastors, we will work diligently to be faithful in all the roles we inhabit. What this means for St. Philip's is that, particularly in the time when Karen transitions into her new call, I will have to carry more of the load as a parent (which is only fair since Karen has borne a heavier load since I began at St. Philip's). I have switched my day off each week to Friday. I will be available for evening meetings on Mondays, Tuesdays, and some Thursdays. I will also have to pick up our children from school and day care at various times. Thank you for your support and understanding during this exciting time!

## Endowment Fund

**Your legacy – St. Philip's future**

*"Your faithfulness continues through all generations..."*

~ Psalm 119:90

**Please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund**

~~~~~

**January, gifts to the endowment fund were received in memory of:**

Linda Granrose

Jerry Seeman

Gloria Myhra

*Gifts in memory of someone, in honor of a person or special occasion, or just because you care should specify "endowment fund."*

**Thank you for investing in the future of St. Philip's Ministry.**

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Regular monthly or quarterly gifts in any amount add up! Special thanks to those of you who are using the packets of special envelopes available in the office to make regular contributions to the endowment fund.

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**Call for Grant Applications**  
Applications for 2014 grants from the St. Philip's Endowment Fund are due April 15. Application forms and instructions are available in the church office. ♦

*"All who call on God in true faith, earnestly from the heart, will certainly be heard, and will receive what they have asked and desired."*

~ Martin Luther

## Congregation President

Jerry Jensen

I returned from vacation five days before the February 2 Annual Congregational Meeting to discover a voice mail from Pastor Joel asking me to consider being a candidate for President of the congregation. Who me? Did Pastor Joel call the wrong Jerry Jensen? I returned Pastor Joel's call, thought about it, prayed about it, discussed the request with Carole and others and decided to accept the nomination with the understanding that I felt like a "fish out of water" but would do my best.

At the "Souper Bowl" luncheon before the annual meeting I asked for advice from several past presidents and received encouragement and a lot of humorous "advice".

Since elected I have received one e-mail (a nice e-mail) and a request for this article. I also met with Pastor Joel and Past-President Matt Johnson and became familiar with current Board matters.

I appreciate your confidence in electing me to serve as President of our congregation. I will do my best to be a good listener, a good communicator, a good observer, and to help St. Philip's grow in service to our congregation and community.

Board meetings are open to members of the congregation and I encourage anyone with concerns to feel free to discuss them with me or members of the Board. Together and with God's guidance we can all move St. Philip's forward in our mission. ♦

### January 2014

|                | Budget YTD | Actual YTD |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Income</b>  | \$53,441   | \$58,808   |
| <b>Expense</b> | (\$72,041) | (\$76,728) |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | (\$18,600) | (\$17,920) |

## Greetings from Van

Van V. Bredeson,  
Interserve Interim Youth Minister

### Youth Happenings:

**Afternoon of Fun! Game Day at St. Philip's**

**Sunday, March 16 11:30 am 'til 2:30 pm**

**\$5.00 for lunch**

We'll play floor hockey, volleyball and other games to have a great time together. Sign up so that we know how many to plan for. Last minute walk ins are welcome too.

### Interserve Ministries youth ministry update:

The Youth Ministry Transition Team Taskforce has been setting on Values and Goals of youth ministry to help formulate a job description for the staff person in charge of St. Philip's youth ministry. By the time you read this, the hope is that the job description has been passed on for review by the Senior Pastor, Board and HR committees. Posting the position should be happening soon.

### Summer Trips:

**Middle School Students:**

**Summer Festival—July 21-25**

Come to this wonderful Bible camp at college experience.

### High School Students:

**Mission Trip to Kentucky**

**July 26 - August 2**

Black lung disease and mining automation and layoffs have made Harlan County a place of hardship. Come join COAP (Christian Outreach with Appalachian People) in restoring hope to those in need. New home construction or restoration are a big part of how you can help. ♦



### Thank You!

**SACA**—Thank you for your generous donations of \$1,812.33 and for the many donations of food.

**Free to Be** – On behalf of the Free to Be Board of Directors I would like to extend our appreciation to St. Philip's for your cash donations that allows us to continue to help low income families with transportation and car repair.

**Stepping Stone**—We so greatly appreciate the generosity of your congregation and the Christmas gifts that you gave to guests. You'll never know how much your support means! (Stepping Stone is a shelter for homeless men and women). ♦

## Children & Family Ministry

Carly Tappe, Director of  
Children & Family Ministries

### Sunday School Happenings

Our Sunday School students have been busy learning about the life of Jesus here on Earth. In February we heard the story of the Woman at the Well, Jesus healing 10 Lepers, talked about love and started reading some of Jesus' parables.

In March we will continue to read stories about Jesus and start learning more about Holy Week.

### VBS "Sneak Peek" & Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, March 9 we will have a special VBS "Sneak Peek" and Pancake Breakfast. A free will offering will be accepted. All proceeds from the breakfast will help offset the cost of VBS. Festivities will take place in Fellowship Hall, 9:30-10:30 am. Along with the pancake breakfast children and families will get a first look at this year's VBS theme. Everyone is welcome!

### Building Beautification

Thank you for your patience as we continue to paint our education wing to make it a bright, fun, and inviting space for our youngest members and guests. We have gotten a lot done, but we need your help to finish! We will have 1 more "paint party" Sunday, March 2 at 11:45 am (after the 10:30 am worship). Pizza lunch and childcare will be provided. If you can help, please talk to Carly to sign-up.

### First Communion

#### Preparation Classes

At St. Philip's we ask that parents decide when their children are ready for first communion (around 7-9 is an age that parents often choose). A sign your child is ready may be their questions about what is happening during communion in worship, or why we do it. Classes will meet on Sundays, March 30, April 6 and 13, at 11:45 am, after the second service. Parents attend with their children and we'd like you attend all three meetings if possible. First communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 pm worship. Please contact Carly to sign-up or if you have questions. ♦





## St. Philip's Disaster Relief

### Lasagna Dinner and Auction

The annual fundraiser weekend for the Disaster Relief was held in early February and it was a HUGE success. More tickets than in the past were purchased and more auction items were donated. This resulted in more funds raised for the Disaster Relief ministry than ever before.

Also making the weekend successful was special guest Pastor Michael Stadie, the Program Director for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Pastor Stadie preached at all three worship services, led the Adult Forum, and spoke at both seatings of the Lasagna Dinner. Pastor Stadie emphasized the need for volunteers to help disaster victims long after the event is no longer in the news. This is something St. Philip's Disaster Relief continues to do.

If you helped with the setup or serving of the dinner or the organization of the auction, you are St. Philip's Disaster Relief. If you bought a ticket for the dinner or made a donation, you are St. Philip's Disaster Relief. If you donated or bid on an auction item, you are St. Philip's Disaster Relief. If you've supported, encouraged, or prayed for the team members on a trip, you are St. Philip's Disaster Relief.

If you are St. Philip's Disaster Relief you have helped thousands of disaster victims

rebuild their homes and lives over the past years. And because of you, the journey continues – to New Jersey in May.

**Check out a recent Living Lutheran article about SPDR at:**  
<http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran>

### Spring Trip

Hurricane Sandy, a late-season post-tropical cyclone, swept through the Caribbean and up the East Coast of the United States in late October 2012. The storm left dozens dead, thousands homeless and millions without power. Damage in the United States was estimated at 65 billion dollars. According to Amy Pennenga, Disaster Recovery Coordinator with Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, "There are thousands of New Jersey residents who are still displaced from their homes or affected by Sandy's aftermath."

The decision has been made to travel to New Jersey May 3-11 to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Information and registration material will be available at the end of February. Registration closes April 1. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Anderson at [Flooddog97@gmail.com](mailto:Flooddog97@gmail.com) ♦

## Life Events

### Baptisms:

Madison DePoint

### Sympathy:

Carol and Don Blair and their family upon the death of Carol's sister, Fran Olson  
Gary and Sue Ellestad and family upon the death of Gary's mother  
Joyce and Dick Lekang upon the death of sister, Mabel Ellestad  
Tim Hardy upon the death of his sister, Cindy  
Frank Gritti and family upon the death of mother, Doris Gritti  
Rodney and Sylvia Strand upon the death of Rodney's brother, Brian

### Anniversaries:

Timothy & Debra Kidder, 28 years, March 2  
Donald & Joyce Olson, 46 years, March 11  
Ralph & Kathryn Petersen, 47 years, March 11  
Dean & Jeanne Enrooth, 45 years, March 15  
Richard & Leora Carlson, 63 years, March 18  
Ken & Carol Kidder, 42 years, March 20  
Richard & Joan Kruse, 38 years, March 22  
Joseph & Georgene Capra, 23 years, March 23  
Clem & Eva Coverston, 61 years, March 23  
Howard & Shirley Mosman, 58 years, March 26  
Wes & Jeanine Grandstrand, 40 years, March 31

## Events & Opportunities @ St. Philip's

### 2014 Lenten Theme: "Enough"

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5 this year. Our Lenten theme is "Enough," which will help us see how to experience contentment with what God provides for us. We will gather for worship on Wednesdays during Lent at Noon and 6:30 pm to hear how God's Word leads us to discover joy through simplicity and generosity.

A Lenten devotional called "Stewardship Principles" will be available for you as a guide through the season of Lent at St. Philip's. The devotional focuses on the ten stewardship principles that come through Paul's writing to the church in Corinth. Copies will be available at the church.

From "Stewardship Principles": "As baptized members of the boy of Christ, we gratefully confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. We boldly proclaim the gospel as the Word of God. We clearly recognize the gifts that God has first given us through grace, and we joyfully accept our role and responsibility as stewards." ♦

### Festival of Tables

Save the date! Parish Fellowship committee has scheduled the 6th annual Festival of Tables for Saturday, April 5.

Imagine enjoying a delicious luncheon served at one of 25 beautifully decorated themed tables. The entertainment this year is a vintage fashion show: Fashion through the decades: 1900-1950. Please consider decorating a table this year; we have detailed instructions and many ideas to help you. The tickets go on sale mid March and always sell out quickly. Make plans now to attend, host a table or decorate. The proceeds will benefit the SACA food shelf in Columbia Heights. To volunteer please call Julie Small, 763.767.2392, Kathy Swenson, 763.574.9836, or Wanda Benson in the church office, 763.571.1500. ♦

### Befriender Training

**Saturday, March 15 from 9:00-4:00**

All of us at one time or another will reach out to someone who is grieving or going through a difficult transition or who is lonely. What do you say to them? What can you do to help? How can you walk with them during this difficult time? How can you be the human arms and heart of God during this time of pain?

Those are skills that can be learned and practiced at the Befriender Training. We invite everyone to take the training, whether you choose to be a formal Befriender or not. Those who have taken the training have told us how helpful it was. The training is free and lunch will be provided.

Sign up at the table in the Narthex on March 1-2, in the office, or by contacting Pastor Jan at 763.571.1500 or [janh@splcmn.org](mailto:janh@splcmn.org). ♦

### Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

St. Philip's is participating in the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign in 2014! Minnesota FoodShare is a ministry of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. Each March, Minnesota FoodShare directs the March Campaign, the largest food drive in the state, and restocks almost 300 food shelves across Minnesota.

It recruits thousands of congregations, companies, schools and community groups to run local fund and food drives to aid in the effort. Minnesota FoodShare organizes a statewide media campaign to promote food shelf donations. It produces and distributes free promotional and educational resources for food drive organizers and acts as a clearing-house for cash donations and distributes these donations to Minnesota food shelves participating in the March campaign. Throughout the year, Minnesota FoodShare advocates on behalf of hungry families with state and federal lawmakers and educates the public about hunger in Minnesota.

You can take part by bringing in groceries or personal items and placing them in the shopping carts at the church. Another way to participate is through your financial contribution to Minnesota FoodShare. There is an offering envelope included with the March envelopes where you can make your donation through St. Philip's to the March campaign. ♦

### St. Philip's 55+ Retirees

#### Russian Museum, Lunch & Bachman's Floral

**April 10, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm**

Meet at church Thursday, April 10 by 9:30 am. We'll travel by school bus to the The Museum of Russian Art for a one hour walking tour, featuring the art of Eva Levina-Rozengolts. "Reflecting Exile" is a creative response that reflects the artist's painful memories of exile in Siberia during the Stalin era. We'll also enjoy other works of art and the gift shop.

Around 11:40, the bus will take us to lunch at Patrick's Bakery and Café located inside Bachman's bloom-filled greenhouse. Choice of one entrée and beverage (see full description by sign-up sheet). You may be tempted to purchase dessert from this award-winning bakery!

After lunch, there will be a one hour walking, "behind the scenes" tour of Bachman's. We'll see and learn about the history, and visit the design, production, and delivery areas. There will also be time for browsing and shopping. Tour includes walking and stairs.

The cost of \$20.00 per person includes both tours, lunch, and school bus transportation. Sign up in the church office, pay, and select your lunch entrée by Sunday, April 6. Please make (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's. Questions: Retzer's 763.574.9559 or Schonebaum's 763.786.2483. ♦

*"God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.*

~ C. S. Lewis