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St. Philip's Lutheran Church

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Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria
Ministers: All members of the Parish

Friend deadline: 1st Tuesday of May (5/6) for June/July Friend
E-mail typed copy to: nancyln@splcmn.org (250 word max)



The Friend

May 2014

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

After Easter: The Great Permission

by Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

Many of us carry around a few "back pocket" Bible verses. That is, we have at least a few verse of Scripture memorized so we can call on God's Word when we need to hear a word of comfort, encouragement, or promises. John 3:16, Philippians 4:13, and Psalm 23 are great examples of this.

My guess is that many of us have Matthew 28:19-20 tucked away in our memories even if we don't know the reference. Jesus said to the disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This passage is known as "The Great Commission," the point at which the risen Jesus gives the charge and calling to his disciples to spread the resurrection news in word and deed. This commissioning is not limited to that group gathered around Jesus' presence on that day in Galilee. These words are addressed to all people who gather around Jesus' presence in any space and time, including you and me!

Within Jesus' words of the Great Commission comes something that simply cannot be overstated: **permission**. Jesus tells his followers that they have been enabled by God to go out and love and

serve the world. He does not establish a system or a hierarchy, he simply says, "Go!"

Bob Sitze offers these words of encouragement: "The biggest 'permission'? You get to stand alongside all the rest of us – we're called 'the church' – and work with other asset-gifted people to do together what you could never accomplish alone. In the church, you get supported and loved and encouraged. You are forgiven. You learn to forgive..." When we receive God's permission, we are empowered to move forward in faith!

Now, here's a challenge: What would our life as a congregation be like without the word "need"? Try catching yourself when you start saying, "Someone needs to..." or "You need to..." Don't just use a synonym; saying "Someone has to..." is cheating! Yes, this proves to be a difficult exercise, but how might we envision congregational and community life without that word? I suggest we might start seeing more and more of God's abundance.

This is the dynamic Luther Snow describes in his book, *The Power of Asset Mapping*, when he compares the "Negative Cycle of Recruitment" with the "Positive Cycle of Affinity."

This is how he defines the Negative Cycle of Recruitment – and see if any of this

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**After Easter:
The Great Promise**
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sounds familiar: "There is a task in the congregation that people think is difficult or distasteful, so not many people volunteer to serve on that committee, and all of the work falls on a few shoulders. As a result, the task seems more difficult, people drop off the committee, and the work falls on fewer shoulders, and the cycle continues."

This cycle is perpetuated by needs-based thinking and it is a tiring endeavor. Perhaps the question that is rightly asked at this point would be: If nobody wants to do this, should we keep doing it? It's important to ask that question because there is another way!

It's the Positive Cycle of Affinity: "Two people in the congregation discover that they share a common interest of affinity in some activity. They decide to combine their talents to work together on that activity. Other people see that these two people are having fun, so they want to get involved, too, and they see ways to contribute their own talents. With more people involved, the activity becomes more successful, which creates new possibilities for more people to contribute, and the cycle continues."

In the permission of God's grace, we can see how energy and enthusiasm increase and multiply in the Positive Cycle of Affinity. In many ways, it is the "So What?" of Easter. Jesus rose, so what? Well, we are saved and called – commissioned – to live out our faith as God has gifted us so we can have a positive effect on the world around us.

So that's why we go, why we move forward in faith: because we have a great God who has provided abundantly for us, who has given each one of us incredible gifts and abilities, who gives us permission to use those gifts, and who promises to be with us every step of the way! ♦



"Within Jesus' words of the Great Commission comes something that simply cannot be overstated: permission."

Children & Family Ministry

Carly Tappe, Director

Praise the Lord! After a long, cold, snowy, winter, SPRING seems to have finally arrived!

Sunday School Update

In April all our Sunday School children explored Holy Week and celebrated Easter! Children did a great job singing in worship on Palm Sunday and celebrating Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

Our last day of regular Sunday School will be Sunday, May 18. All the Sunday School children ages 2 - grade 5 will be singing at the 10:30 am worship that day. There will be an all church picnic after worship also.

Sunday School registration forms for the 2014 - 2015 Sunday School year will be mailed out in June.

A Big Thanks to all of our wonderful Sunday School, Kid's Time, and Nursery volunteers who helped out this year. Your time and dedication to the children of St. Philip's is a true blessing!

Summer Worship, Nursery, & Children's Education

Starting on May 25, we will begin our children's summer ministry schedule. At St. Philip's we welcome children and families in worship each week. We encourage you to take this time to worship together and experience the wonders of worship as a family. Kid's Time and nursery care will continue to be offered each Sunday at the 10:30 am service throughout the summer.


Would you like to take a Survey?

There will be a short survey for families with young children on survey monkey in May. This survey will help us improve our ministry to best meet the needs or the families at St. Philip's. Watch the weekly emails for the survey link. Your input is valuable and very much appreciated!

Volunteer

As you register for Vacation Bible School and fill out your Sunday School Registration forms for next year don't

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 MAY 2014						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	2 5:30 pm Small Group Book Club	3 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
4 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	5 9:30 am Joy Circle 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:20 pm Chair Yoga 1:30 pm Geneology 5:45 pm Girl Scouts 5:50 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts	6 Friend Deadline 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:00 pm Sharing/Caring Cooks 3:30 pm Homework Buddies 7:00 pm Evangelism Committee 7:00 pm Sharing & Caring Mtg.	7 8:30 am Work Crew WOW 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Sharing/Caring leaves 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	8 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	9	10 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
11 Mother's Day 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 7:00 pm Mentor Meeting	12 9:00 am Glory Circle 9:00 am Foot Works 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 Benevolence 7:00 pm All Committee 7:00 pm So Write!	13 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 3:30 pm Homework Buddies 4:30 pm Worship Planning 6:00 pm Parish Fellowship 6:30 pm Property & Grounds	14 8:30 am Work Crew WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am Women's Book Club 6:30 pm Garden Committee 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	15 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 9:30 am 55+ to Hindu Temple 1:30 pm "Game Time" 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 6:30 pm North Metro Photo	16 5:30 pm Small Group Book Club	17 8:30 am SPLC Clean Up Day 9:00 am Comfort & Joy Quilting 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
18 Music Sunday 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Spring Picnic	19 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:20 pm Chair Yoga 1:30 pm Geneology 5:45 pm Girl Scouts 5:50 pm Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm "Movie Night"	20 9:00 am Library Committee 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:00 pm Baptism Class	21 8:30 am Work Crew WOW 9:00 am Quilters	22	23	24 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
25 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Brunch 10:30 am Worship	26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	27 9:00 am Assemble Friend 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 3:00 pm Lynwood Care Center 6:45 pm Board Meeting	28 8:30 am Work Crew WOW 6:00 pm Blessing of the Animals	29 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion	30 6:00 pm Small Group Book Club	31 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper

Children and Family Ministry
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forget to prayerfully consider being a volunteer. There are long and short term volunteer opportunities. Here is what one Sunday School teacher had to say about being a volunteer this year:

"I truly enjoy all of my volunteer roles. I believe that if I lead by example, my children will become wonderful volunteers one day. I live by and love the quote: "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." I have been an active volunteer at St. Philip's for 10 years now. I couldn't imagine not being involved in one way or another." ~ Connie Y.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Family Service Opportunity

We have another Family packing event planned for Saturday, May 10, 2 - 4 pm at the Coon Rapids location. Packing is suggested for children in grades 1 and up. Due to FMSC adult to child ratio policies, each child must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Carly to sign up!

Come take a walk on the WILD side!

Vacation Bible School registration is now open! Download a brochure and registration form by visiting our website, www.splcmn.org/family/summer.

Weird Animals VBS will be hosted at St. Philip's June 23-27, 9:00-11:30 am for children ages 2.5 (by March 1) - completed grade 5. At Weird Animals, kids will learn about some of God's most creative creations! They'll participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, experience cool Bible adventures, meet Bible Memory Buddies to remind them they are one of a kind, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. This is a free community event for all St. Philip's members and guests. Don't forget to bring a friend! A free lunch will be served 11:30 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Thursday provided by Fridley Public Schools.

Carly Tappe, Director of Children's Ministry
763.571.1500 ~ carlyt@splcmn.org. ♦



Join us for Vacation Bible School!
June 23-27
9:00 -11:30 am

Endowment Fund

Your Invitation

What? St. Philip's Endowment Fundraiser brunch of sausage, French toast,* fresh fruit, cereal, orange juice, milk and coffee

Why? To celebrate the vitality of the St. Philip's Endowment Fund and its importance for present and future ministries; to learn about and support the fund

When? Sunday, June 1, 2014, between services

Where? Fellowship Hall

Please join us for food, fellowship and an opportunity to support the Endowment Fund, St. Philip's savings account to assure the continuation and vitality of St. Philip's ministry.

Contributions in any amount are appreciated.

*Gluten-free muffins available for those who cannot eat wheat products

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**April gifts were received via the regular giving envelopes and in memory of:**

Sue Hierlinger  
Doris Gritti  
Gordon Johnson

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March 2014

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Income	\$165,684	\$195,169
Expense	(\$210,755)	(\$212,887)
TOTALS	(\$45,071)	(\$17,718)

Congregation President
Jerry Jensen

Carole and I recently returned from a one week vacation in Arizona where we visited Sedona, Phoenix and Tucson. It had rained a couple inches two weeks previously and much of the dessert was in beautiful spring bloom. We enjoyed a week of perfect temperature, blue skies, scenic views and fragrant flowers.

Although the desert is beautiful there are a variety of prickly cacti and slippery shale rocks which can make for prickly painful encounters as well as falls and scrapes. There are also populations of scorpions, snakes, lizards, fire ants, coyotes and havalinas which are large hairy wild pigs with a reportedly mean disposition. We personally encountered all of these yet they did not detract from our vacation experience.

In the Genesis creation narrative it states after each of God's creations, "And God saw that it was good". One could view each of these desert creations as pleasant or unpleasant. In reality they are like everything in life. God's creations are neither perfectly pleasant or unpleasant. Everything in life is not usually clearly black or white so we must learn to appreciate the pleasant and unpleasant in all things.

Returning to Phoenix from Tucson we had to detour from the Interstate to an alternate route due to strong winds and blinding dust storms on the Interstate in areas where there was agricultural land and where the brush had been cleared. The alternate route worked beautifully and we were able to reach Phoenix and return to MN without a problem.

Being a good Christian is somewhat like driving on the Interstate of Life. We would like to put our Christian life on cruise control however we have to adapt our route due to dust storms, road condition changes, weather changes, accidents, detours, mechanical problems and other unexpected happenings. Over the years we at St. Philip's have likewise adapted our ministry to our changing environment.

Going forward we must continue to adapt to the road conditions and make adjustments to our route. I know we are a strong congregation and that we can continue to find our way to do God's work along our Interstate of Life. I hear that Highway 65 through Fridley is going to be torn-up this summer for road construction. Wouldn't you know! ♦

"We would like to put our Christian life on cruise control however we have to adapt our route due to dust storms, road condition changes, weather changes, accidents, detours, mechanical problems and other unexpected happenings."

Easter Greetings From LCCN, Bille, Nigeria

St. Philip's received the following greeting by email from our companion congregation in Bille, Nigeria on Good Friday, April 18, 2014. Mr. Clement Dah continues to be our contact from the Bille church.

Dear members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Fridley

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shed his blood to redeem us. We send our Easter greetings to all of you at St. Philip's.

As we commemorate the ushering and death of our Lord on the cross; this has reminded us that:

- His blood that he shed, which binds us together and we become friends and family.
- We are partners in order to be workers in His vineyard.
- This partnership has not only united us coworkers in the vineyard, but there are many legacies that will serve as historic events that St. Philip's Lutheran Church had planted here.

Happy Easter! God's Blessings.
~ Clement B. Dah for LCCN Bille



St. Philip's Disaster Relief

"Team New Jersey" leaves on May 3 to help with the rebuilding efforts that are still very much needed after Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast in October of 2012. This is the 50th SPDR trip since its beginning eight years ago. Also, sometime mid-week in New Jersey, SPDR will pass a milestone mark of 20,000 hours worked. Read the daily blog from New Jersey at www.splcmn.org/spdr and please keep these team members in your prayers:

Eric Abrams	Tim Hardy	Demaris Nelson
Carol Anderson	Gary Johnson	Sue Rosholt
Mike Anderson	Renee Johnson	Bob Saunders
Randee Arfmann	John Katerberg	Lindy Saunders
Smiley Brandt	Elaine Kuntson	Tim Solberg
Gidget Brooks	Dave Landrus	Marie Teeter
Diane Campeau	Chad Leon	Howard Thompson
Jackie Campeau	Michelle Loken	Ann Westby
Butch Eaton	Spence Minear	Dawn Young
Don Foss	Myron Nash	Richard Young
Wes Grandstrand	Thelma Nash	Mike Youngberg

Also, don't forget the fundraiser at Applebee's in St. Anthony. All day on Thursdays, 15% of your guest check will be donated to SPDR if you present the Dining to Donate flyer to your server. Flyers are available in the church office, on the Welcome Cart, and on the SPDR bulletin board. ♦

Summer Ushers Needed!

Summer is just around the corner, and we are asking for people to serve as ushers at the Sunday Worship services. Ushers are needed during July and August for the 8:30 service, and June, July, and August for the 10:30 service.

We are looking for men, women, youth and families to sign up. Duties include passing out bulletins, collecting the offering, directing people forward to communion, and picking up items left in the pews after worship. Ushers are asked to be at church 25-30 minutes prior to worship. If you currently serve as an usher, please volunteer to help during the summer.

Check your calendar and contact the church office, 763.571.1500. Let them know your availability to help out as an usher this summer. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Richard Young
Usher Coordinator

*"Compassion will
cure more sins than
condemnation"*

~ Henry Ward Beecher

Events & Opportunities @ St. Philip's

Worship DVDs Available

A DVD of the 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday worship is available through the church office for one dollar. All sermons are available on the church website. ♦

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch we will meet there the 1st Thursday, every-other month, at 1:00 pm at the Old Country Buffet, 6540 University Ave., in the Holly Shopping Center, in the party room. Our first Lunch Bunch will be Thursday, June 5, 1:00 pm. Don't arrive early, as the Senior Citizen discount of \$7.99 begins 1:00 pm. Hope to see you there! ♦

Meals on Wheels Thanks

"We exist temporarily through what we take but we live forever through what we give" (unknown)

Thanks to all who gave of their time delivering *Meals on Wheels* March 24-28: Meredith & Larry Hille, Marlene & Bob Eidem, Ann Westby, Bobbi Tuey, Roger Musolf, Ellen Raeker, Gidget & Ed Brooks, Sandy Nelson, Dallas Hanson, Camilla & Ken Mueller, Earl Hatten, and Thelma & Myron Nash. We deliver *Meals on wheels* next May 27-30 at 11:30; no meals delivered May 26. ♦

Youth Plant Sale Coming!

Plants from Waldoch's Nursery will be sold at the annual Youth Plant Sale fundraiser on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18. See you then! ♦

Graduation Recognition Sunday

Join us for cake and punch on Sunday, June 1 and congratulate our graduating seniors. ♦

Newborn Kits

Thank you all for your generosity! We put together 166 kits and we will also be sending a check to Global Health Ministry to help pay for shipping the kits. What a blessing these kits will be to those who receive them. ♦

Life Events

Baptisms:

Grayson Vetvick
Vincent Huseth
Sierra Sasse

Sympathy:

Howard and Shirley Mossman upon the death of Shirley's sister, Elaine Hakala
Diane & Jim Lundeen on the death of Diane's aunt, Donna Elson
Sue, Chris, & Nathaniel Neisen on death of sister and aunt, Deb Nelson,
Mark & Eva Jeppson on the death of Mark's brother Gordon

Anniversaries:

Wayne & Gloria Wellan, 57 years on May 1
David & Christa Pullen, 11 years on May 3
Daniel & Amy Nelson, 1 year on May 4
Dan & Lauri Andreson, 21 years on May 8
Jon & Mary Johnson, 33 years on May 9
Ken & Doris Moxness, 44 years on May 9
Donald & Ila Stradal, 52 years on May 12
John & Ann Booker, 8 years on May 13
Tom & Kara Ruwart, 32 years on May 15
Becky & Timothy Tracey, 34 years on May 16
Byron & Karen Teska, 28 years on May 17
Scott & Sandy Long, 29 years on May 18
Michael & Deborah Carroll, 35 years, May 19
Daniel & Patricia Porter, 30 years on May 19
Tom & Marlene Schonebaum, 52 years, on May 19
Edward & Sharon Aune, 43 years on May 22
Glen & Sandy Byl, 49 years on May 22
Adam & Becky Thronson, 11 years on May 23
John & Bonnie Shelton, 39 years on May 24
Jonathan & Neoma Haugan, 30 years, on May 26
Thomas & Jill Kaufhold, 30 years on May 26
Donald & Carol Blair, 59 years on May 28
Shawn & Kari Pederson, 8 years on May 28
Clarence & Constance Asche, 54 years on May 30
David & Connie Yerigan, 11 years on May 31

*"The greatest
compliment that
was ever paid me
was when one asked
me what I thought,
and attended to
my answer."*

~ Henry David Thoreau

CLEAN - SORT - DONATE

St. Philip's 18th Annual Garage Sale
July 30 - Aug. 2, 2014