

The Friend

December 2015

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

Advent by Pastor Mollie Dvorak

I have never been good at waiting, and perhaps now I am more aware of it because I now have a greater sense of how quickly time moves. Whatever the reason, I now find myself looking anxiously at my watch anytime I am forced to wait- Waiting for an appointment, waiting at a stoplight, even waiting for water to boil.

Why is waiting so difficult? Sometimes it is the uncertainty; we want to know what is coming, and the longer we are in the dark, the higher our anxiety level becomes. But this is not always the answer, because we are often even more impatient when we know what is coming.

As we enter into the season of Advent, we begin our journey toward Christmas. All around us, the world is gearing up for quite the celebration. It is hard to resist taking part in the frenzy, especially with our impatient natures. And yet, the season calls us to a different kind of waiting - not a crazed rush toward an end, but an eager looking forward.

I remember as a child waking up early on Christmas morning, knowing that I would have to wait until the rest of the family was awake before I could rush to the tree to see what had been left there. I still wake up early almost every Christmas, but something has changed. I now love that time just before everyone else is up, when I plug in the lights on the tree, and sit. It may be the one time of year when I enjoy waiting! It is not only the anticipation of the fun that will soon come; it is also the great love that fills the room, the memories of Christmases past and the expectation of future joys together that make my Christmas morning waiting such a wonderful time.

If only I could hold on to that contentment the rest of the Christmas and Advent seasons - or the rest of the year, for that matter! Instead, I am constantly in motion, headed toward the next event, working on the next responsibility, trying to find the right answer to the next question. It must have been something like that for the early Christians as well, because Paul's first words to the church at Corinth are about waiting. Paul reminds them in 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 that the day of Jesus is coming and that they should stop worrying because they have everything they need to make it to that time. "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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*"All God's
gifts are right
in front
of us as
we wait."*

~ Pastor Mollie

The Corinthians were eagerly looking forward to the event we are now awaiting-the coming of Christ. The good news that Paul shared with them is just as true for us today: we are not only waiting for God, we are also waiting with God.

Have you noticed that when someone else is waiting with you, it makes the delay a little less tedious? Having a friend to talk with as you wait for your name to be called in the doctor's office eases the tension, and sharing your hopes with a coworker about a plan at work can add joy to your excitement. Waiting, like many other things in life, is something that is often best endured in the company of others.

We are not waiting hopelessly in this world for the coming of Christ. Instead, we have been given all the supplies we need for the journey. All God's gifts are right in front of us as we wait. More important, our faithful God is with us in the wait. God will "strengthen you to the end." God offers us the company that makes waiting easier because God has called us "into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." That, after all, is the promise of Advent. Christ is coming - Emmanuel, "God with us." We must grab hold of that promise.

~Pastor Mollie



Youth Group Christmas Bake Sale

Sunday, December 13

After Worship at 9:35 am and 11:35 am in the Narthex

All proceeds go directly towards paying for our transportation and adult leaders to the Summer 2016 Milwaukee Mission Trip



The Shout-Out Place!

A Shout Out to Stephanie Phelps Johnson and David Geslin!



Shout-Out

(n.) Slang.

*A public
expression
of thanks
or gratitude.*

The Sanctuary Choir has a long tradition of thanking Stephanie and David for their work with us by giving them a Christmas gift. As our director and accompanist, they give so much to our music program and we all greatly appreciate the talents they share with us! For Christmas 2009, Stephanie and David asked the choir to sponsor a child through *Compassion International*, as their gift. We applied for a child in need and received the portfolio of a young boy in Indonesia. Reza Toar was 7 years old when we began our sponsorship in March of 2010. He will be 13 on his birthday December 5, 2015! Through sponsorship, these children have the opportunity to hear the gospel and learn about Jesus, to receive an education, to be healthy, to develop self-confidence and social skills. Due to the continued generosity of Stephanie and David, the Sanctuary Choir has been blessed to be a blessing in the life of Reza.

Thank You Stephanie and David! ~The Sanctuary Choir

If you would like to give a Shout-Out, email [\[info@splcmn.org\]](mailto:info@splcmn.org)

The Story of Christmas! *Amy Morpew, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

This is my favorite time of year! I love all the shopping, gatherings, food and gifts... But, what really makes this time special to me is when I can watch children share the true story of Christmas! For many, this is a time of magic and wonder and maybe, they see the real reason we celebrate this holiday every year! This is also one of my favorite times in working with kids and the church... The Christmas pageant! The Sunday School Children are all busy learning the music (They sound great!) and preparing for a great season of worship!

We hope you will join us as we lift up our voices and share the story of the birth of Christ to all!



Sunday School Schedule for December:

Sunday School will meet on December 6 & 13
(these dates include Pageant Music practice)
Saturday, December 19 at 8:30-10:00 am ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL REHEARSAL
Saturday, December 19 at 10:00 am Prelude Player Practice
Sunday, December 20 at 9:35-10:35 am ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL REHEARSAL
Sunday, December 20 at 10:35 am **Christmas Pageant Worship**
Sunday, December 20 at 11:30 am **Christmas Pageant Reception in Fellowship Hall**
Sunday, December 27 at 9:35 am Special Sunday School Event!



"The Story of Christmas!"
A Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20
10:30 am Worship
Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall



Donations are needed for Pageant Sunday: (please bring donations in prior to Sunday, December 20)

We are looking for the following DONATIONS ...

- A bag of oranges
- Two dozen Christmas (or other) cookies
- A bag of cheese sticks
- Two gallons of apple cider
- A bag of pretzels

(Cookies and cider are for the reception. All other items are for the children to have between the services)

Holiday Family Night!

Please join us as we gather for food, carols, and crafts: help kick off the Christmas week!

Wednesday, December 16 from 6:30-7:45 pm

Dinner included! Sign up on the wall in the Sunday School hallway

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### **Mark your 2016 Calendars!**

Summer 2016 Kick off Event (Sign up for camp, VBS and other summer events!)

Sunday, January 24 all morning long! Watch for more details to come!

God Bless!

*~Amy*

*It is  
more  
blessed  
to give  
than to  
receive.*

*~Acts 20:35*



*“Only they  
asked us to  
remember  
the poor, the  
very thing I  
was eager  
to do.”*

*Galatians 2:10*

## **Christmas Giving**

*An opportunity to Give More & Love All*

Take a tag from one of the Christmas Giving trees, buy the gift noted on the tag, attach the tag to the gift, and return it unwrapped to the box beneath the tree. The Christmas Giving Trees are located in the alcove near the church office.

*This year we will give gifts to the following organizations:*

### **Plymouth Christian Youth Center**

*Due Date - December 6*

A program to enrich the skills, prospects, and spirit of North Minneapolis youth and adults.

### **Alexandra House**

*Due Date - December 12*

This program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Anoka county. Their free services include 24 hour emergency shelter, support services, and advocacy to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

### **CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Program)**

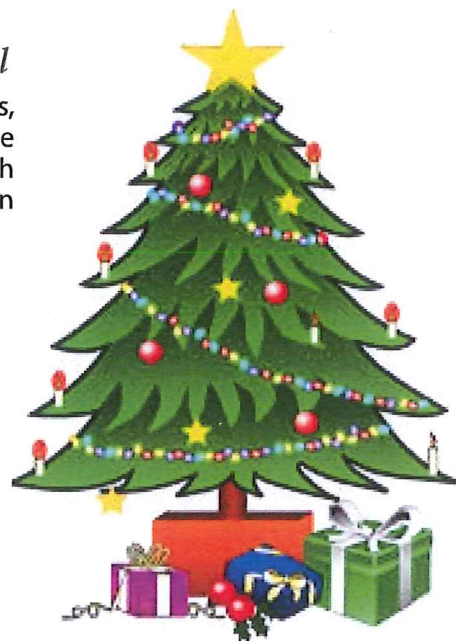
*Due Date - December 13*

A local food shelf

### **Lynwood Health Care Center**

*Due Date - December 14*

Sign up to give a gift to a resident by putting your name next to a resident's name. Purchase the gift listed, wrap the gift, put the resident's name on the package, and return to the box in the Narthex.



### **Stepping Stone, Homeless Shelter in Anoka County**

*Due Date - December 18*

The program helps homeless single adults transition to permanent housing and independence. Label the gifts for a man or a woman.

### **SACA (Southern Anoka County Assistance)**

Local food shelf and The Fridley Infant, Toddler & Teen Program

This program offers childcare, parenting classes, and support to teen parents pursuing their education.



## **Lunch Bunch**

Don't forget the Lunch Bunch will gather on Thursday, December 3 at 1:00 pm at the Old Country Buffet in the Holly Shopping Center in Fridley. It's best to not arrive early in order to receive the Senior discount for only \$8.56 including tax and beverage. This is a time for great food and camaraderie. We meet every-other 1st Thursday, same time, same place, so be sure to mark your calendars (next gathering on Thursday, February 4, 2016).

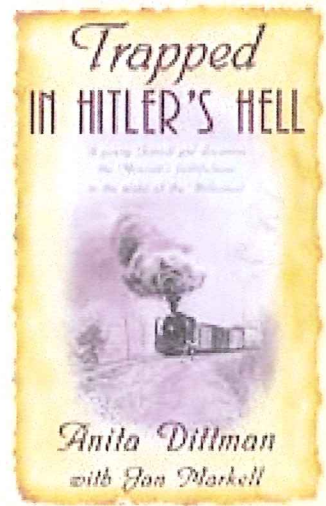
Hope to see you there!!!



## 55+ Retirees - January Event

### *Holocaust Survivor Anita Dittman*

Join us, as we start the New Year, with a special presentation from Holocaust survivor and author, Anita Dittman of "Trapped in Hitler's Hell". Meet in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 14 at 1:00 pm, to hear her personal story. Anita was just a little girl when the winds of Hitler and Nazism began to blow through Germany. By the time she was 12, the war had begun. Abandoned by her father when he realized the price of being associated with a Jewish wife and family, Anita and her mother were ultimately left to fend for themselves. Anita's teenage years were spent fighting for survival yet learning to trust in the One she discovered would not leave her. Anita will share with us the miracles the Lord performed during her twelve and a half years of persecution under the Nazi regime. She arrived in America in 1946. Following her presentation, pie and coffee will be served and signed copies of her book will be available for \$10.



The cost is \$5 per person and includes the presentation, pie and coffee. Sign up in the church office starting December 11 through Sunday, January 10. Please make a (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's. This is a good time to invite and treat a friend!

If you have any questions, contact Retzers at 763-574-9559 or Schonebaums at 763-786-2483.

*"I believe in the sun even when it isn't shining. I believe in love even when I am alone. I believe in God even when he is silent."*

Written on a cellar wall in Cologne, Germany during the Holocaust



### Minot, ND Trip #8

A chance meeting (or was it?) between a St. Philip's Disaster Relief team member and Pastor Krueger of Our Savior Lutheran Church and Hope Village of Minot, ND resulted in a request for SPDR to return to Minot, for the eighth time, to help a financially struggling family that was still living in a FEMA trailer over four years after the Souris River flood.

The 23 members of this team spent from two to eight days (and almost 1100 hours) working in this home. Windows were installed, walls were framed up, the exterior was wrapped, roof work was done, and the house was almost completely wired, insulated, and sheetrocked on the main level and partially done on the upper level. Two more volunteer groups are scheduled to continue working on this house and it should be ready for the family to move in before Christmas.

Thank you to the Minot team members -many who had returned from the Colorado rebuild trip only three weeks prior to this trip. And a huge thank you to the members and friends of St. Philip's who contributed over \$3000 to be used for building supplies for this home and also donated food and household supplies that filled nine Cub boxes. You brought this family hope as their journey and ours continue.

## President's Column *Ron Ackerman*

*"St. Philip's  
is  
regenerating  
with a  
new  
Spirit!"*

-Ron  
Ackerman

The holiday season approaches; however, with the beautiful early November weather, it doesn't seem like it. Since my last writing, we have had a very busy month: Pastor Mollie's Installation, Confirmation, Columbarium Ground Breaking, Holiday Market, Disaster Recovery trips to Colorado and Minot, Trunks and Treats, getting the church ready for winter, completing the hail damage repair, Stewardship Kickoff – and the list goes on. The various committees have been very busy with their activities too. The Benevolence Committee has had a number of projects and solicited members for ideas on where to give funds. This ministry has reached to help many people we have never touched before.

Fridley also passed a Referendum to put additional funding into the schools. Fridley Schools are facing the same problem that St. Philip's had, neglected maintenance projects without any money available to do them. Like St. Philip's, the Referendum is trying to address that shortcoming. The community of Fridley stepped up, just like our congregation did with Building for the Future. City residents take a lot of pride in the school, just like our congregation does in our church. It shows that people really care and understand the problems at hand. We should all feel very proud of that ownership.

It is the time of year where we are looking for leaders for next year. We are in the process of selecting a Nominating Committee, some of whom were voted on at last year's Annual Meeting. The committee will review the open positions on the board as well as the various committees. We are trying very hard to rotate leadership so that new people can serve and bring new ideas and energy to St. Philip's. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, let me or other board members know.

The church continues to have a new look, depending on the season. Many of the members in St. Philip's put a lot of effort into making the church look festive and friendly. We have had the Fall Season decorations, inside and out, and are moving to the Christmas Season. Adding the flowers, pumpkins, wreaths, and flags really make the church warm and welcoming. Thanks to everyone who helps with this effort.

If you go to the church, the parking lot has a number of cars and a lot of hustle and bustle inside, both during the day and in the evenings. Come and see!

*~Ron*

| St. Philip's | October 2015 | Budget YTD  | Actual YTD  |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | Income       | \$629,649   | \$641,649   |
|              | Expense      | (\$668,201) | (\$660,326) |
|              | TOTALS       | (\$38,552)  | (\$18,677)  |



### Save-The-Date

February 21, 2016

St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR)  
Annual Lasagna Dinner and  
Silent Auction Fundraiser.



## Life Events

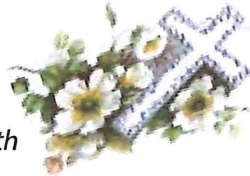
### *December Anniversaries:*

Rodney & Sylvia Strand on 12/6/1969 for 46 years  
Thomas & Karla Blomberg on 12/10/1977 for 38 years  
Kevin & Karen Burkey on 12/11/1993 for 22 years  
Steven & LaVerne Poniatowski on 12/12/1981 for 34 years  
Donald & Charlotte Fauteck on 12/14/1957 for 58 years  
Charles & Bunny Nara on 12/14/1969 for 46 years  
Steven & Lynn Holter on 12/19/1970 for 45 years  
Douglas & Sandra Rudolph on 12/20/1969 for 46 years  
Douglas & Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974 for 41 years  
Heather & Jeffery Stokes on 12/21/2005 for 10 years  
Kenneth & Cynthia Knoepke on 12/22/1973 for 42 years  
Lee & Margo Tech on 12/26/1970 for 45 years  
Scott & Trisha Wehr on 12/28/1998 for 17 years  
Burton & Judith Ferrier on 12/30/1961 for 54 years  
Roger & JoAnn Kaye on 12/31/1949 for 66 years



### *Sympathy*

To the friends and family  
of Barb Pogulis upon her death



*St. Philip's invites you to attend*

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The St. Philip's Christmas Concert

Featuring:

*Sanctuary Choir, Worship Band,
and Bells of Praise*

*Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 pm
All are welcome!*



Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Look back

to those who nurtured your
faith from birth to the present.

Look around

at what your church is doing
for you, for those in need in
your community and in places
far beyond our borders.

Look ahead

to what you can do to make
sure the ministry of St. Philip's
continues in the future.

***Support the St. Philip's
Endowment Fund.***

Memorials

*A substantial gift was received from
the Kurtz/Moss Fund for St. Philip's in
memory of Sanford "Sandy" Moss*

Thank you to all who support the
St. Philip's Endowment Fund.

Gifts in memory of someone, to
celebrate a special occasion, or in
simple gratitude, should specify
"Endowment Fund."

For more information on the St. Philip's
Endowment Fund, visit [\[splcmn.org\]](http://splcmn.org).

Select "Ministries" and then
"Endowment".

Thank you for your support.

Greetings!

Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

"I think God really shows us the importance of all ages and stages of our lives. Sure, we don't hear too much about Jesus' life as a child or teenager, but he lived those years and they mattered."

~Sara Quarberg

December is upon us and it's busy already! Each year I try to remind myself to not get caught up in the business of the shopping season, to spend more time with those that I love, and to find ways to give of my time to others. Each year, I think I do a little bit better but I know I have a lot of work to do. We see and hear the phrase "Jesus is the reason for season" a lot this time of year and I'm reminded of what Jesus exemplified in his time here on earth. I'm reminded of the work that Jesus did, the relationships that Jesus built, and the teachings that Jesus taught. How incredible is this that our God who loves us so much would humble Gods very self enough to become human?! But even more so that God chose to enter this world as an infant – completely vulnerable and reliant upon others. I think God really shows us the importance of all ages and stages of our lives. Sure, we don't hear too much about Jesus' life as a child or teenager, but he lived those years and they mattered.





This holiday season, I'm grateful for the lives of all people in this community. I'm especially grateful for the hearts and minds of the young people I have the privilege of engaging in ministry with on a weekly basis. These young people are doing amazing things, asking deeply profound questions, and building relationships rooted in their faith. They are engaging in service opportunities involving hunger and homelessness. They are spending time together wrestling through what it means to be a Christian. They are learning all about the stories of the ordinary and unordinary people that God has worked through in the Bible through *The Story* and how those stories relate to their story. And they are doing it genuinely and authentically to who they are as individuals.

None of this could happen without everyone in this community. We have 6 awesome small group leaders who help lead Confirmation and Peer Ministry on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings! We couldn't do it without them. We have an amazing family who prepares dinners on Wednesday nights. There are countless people who donate their time, money, and resources to support the ministry of these young people. Thank you! Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts to provide funds for camp and our summer mission trip. The goal of these efforts is to not only provide these ministry opportunities during the summer but to also build relationships. Each fundraiser we do is focused on creating community throughout the process. The Youth Committee has chosen to focus on doing a few very well and intentionally, instead of focusing our entire ministry around fundraising. You will notice some changes in our fundraising efforts and we are excited about them! Please ask me or anyone on the Youth Committee if you have any questions!

Thank you, again, for your generous and prayerful support of the ministry of the youth of St. Philip's! We are incredibly excited about what God is continuing to do through each one of the young people here at St. Philip's.

Blessings in your ministry,
~Sara

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | | 1
9:45 am Staff Mtg
1:00 pm Tuesdays Together
5:30 pm Solid Ground AA | 2
8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew
9:00 am Quilters
10:00 am EA Group
6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir | 3
1:00 pm Lunch Bunch
6:30 pm Bells of Praise
7:00 pm Recovery International
7:30 pm AA Alanon | 4 The Friend Article Deadline
1:00 pm EA Group
6:00 pm Women's GA | 5
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship |
| 6
8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour
Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i>
Sunday School
10:30 am Worship | 7
1:00 pm Joy Circle
1:30 pm Genealogy Group
2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo
6:00 pm Girl Scout Mtg
6:15 pm Worship Band
7:00 pm GA; Gamanon | 8
9:45 am Staff Mtg
1:00 pm Tuesdays Together
2:30 pm Heritage Mtg
5:00 pm Solid Ground AA
6:30 pm Parish Fellowship Mtg
Property & Grounds Mtg
Garden Group | 9
8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew
10:00 am EA Group
Women's Club
6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
Evangelism Mtg | 10
7:00 am Men's Book Discussion
8:45 am 55+ James J. Hill Event
6:30 pm Bells of Praise
7:00 pm Recovery International
7:30 pm AA; Alanon | 11
1:00 pm EA Group
6:00 pm Women's GA | 12
8:00 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Christmas Kinshoppe
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
6:00 pm Saturday Supper |
| 13
8:30 am Worship
9:30 am - Sunday School
Confirmation/HS Hour
Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i>
9:35 am - Bake Sale
10:30 am Worship
11:35 am - Bake Sale
4:30 pm Christmas Concert | 14
9:00 am Glory Circle
2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo
6:15 pm Worship Band
7:00 pm GA
Gamanon | 15
9:00 am Library Mtg
9:45 am Staff Mtg
1:00 pm Tuesdays Together
5:00 pm Solid Ground AA
6:45 pm Board Mtg | 16
8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew
9:00 am Quilters
10:00 am EA Group
6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir | 17
1:30 pm Game Time
6:30 pm Bells of Praise
7:00 pm Recovery International
7:30 pm AA Alanon | 18
1:00 pm EA Group
6:00 pm Women's GA | 19
9:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship |
| 20
8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Equal Exc. Coffee Sale
Confirmation/HS Hour
Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i>
Sunday School
10:30 am Worship & Christmas Pageant
11:30 am - Reception | 21
1:30 pm Genealogy Small Group
6:00 pm Girl Scout Mtg
6:15 pm Worship Band
6:30 pm Boy Scout Mtg
7:00 pm Gamanon; GA | 22
8:30 am Assemble <i>The FRIEND</i>
9:45 am Staff Mtg
1:00 pm Tuesdays Together
5:00 pm Solid Ground AA | 23
8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew
10:00 am EA Group
2:00 pm Global Missions Mtg
6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir | 24 ~Christmas Eve~
2:00 pm Worship
4:00 pm Worship
7:30 pm AA Alanon
10:00 pm Worship | 25 ~Christmas Day~ OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 am Worship
 | 26
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship |
| 27
8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour
Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i>
Sunday School
10:30 am Worship | 28
6:00 pm Worship Band
7:00 pm GA; Gamanon | 29
9:45 am Staff Mtg
1:00 pm Tuesdays Together
5:30 pm Solid Ground AA | 30
8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew
9:00 am Quilters
10:00 am EA Group
6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir | 31 ~New Year's Eve~
7:30 pm AA Alanon | 1 January
~New Year's Day~ OFFICE CLOSED | 2
5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship |



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A member of the ELCA

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Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack

Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

The Friend deadline:

5th of the prior month

E-mail typed copy (250 word max) to: **AmadaM@splcmn.org**