



St. Philip's
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St. Philip's Lutheran Church

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Friend deadline:
1st Tuesday of February (2/3) for March Friend
E-mail typed copy to: meganb@splcmn.org (250 word max)



The Friend

February 2015

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

The Freedom of Self-Reflection
by Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

Self-reflection is hard. Really hard. It can be very difficult in worship when we turn our hearts to God to confess our sins and brokenness. It's difficult because confession calls us to examine ourselves and our lives and lay it all before God.

Jesus certainly knew how hard self-reflection was. In the Sermon on the Mount he said, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take that speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3-4). Jesus names the challenge we face: we have the capacity to judge others quickly, but we have a tougher time judging ourselves.

Yet there is great freedom when we take seriously the instruction to engage self-reflection. Part of the freedom is living with honesty and integrity. Another huge part of the freedom is that we worship a God who is always willing to give us another chance. Self-reflection brings clarity of purpose and mind and helps reorient us to God's loving intentions for our lives and for the life of the world.

Certainly self-reflection is an important discipline in our lives as

individuals and it is also crucial to our life as a faith community gathered in the name of Jesus Christ. We are currently engaged in this very process of self-reflection. It's known as the call process for a new Associate Pastor. As we anticipate God leading the right person to us to serve in this vital role, we have the opportunity to claim what we do well as a community and what "logs" we may need to remove from our collective eye.



Being involved in the work of the Call Committee has caused me to reflect about my call to St. Philip's: what's gone right, how I have fallen short, and how God is continuing to guide and lead us all. What I have found incredibly heartening in my own process of self-reflection is two-fold: God's steadfastness and a reaffirmation of the call this congregation has extended to me.

I've gone back to the Ministry Site Profile that was prepared in 2011 by St. Philip's. What most excited me about accepting this call – and what really differentiated St. Philip's from

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“Self-reflection brings clarity of purpose and mind and helps reorient us to God’s loving intentions for our lives and for the life of the world.”

~ Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

the other congregations with which I was interviewing at the time – was this statement of one way St. Philip’s was committed to supporting and encouraging their new Senior Pastor: “Be supportive of the new pastor’s ideas and efforts, and be open to change.” What a beautiful expression of openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit within the life on an established congregation!

I deeply appreciated the congregation’s willingness to express this in 2011 and I hope and pray that our communal self-reflection will lead us to reaffirm this commitment in 2015 as we look to welcome a new Associate Pastor who will bring immense gifts, abilities, talents, ideas, and energy to the life of this faith community.

Discipleship in Lent

This season of Lent (which begins on February 18 on Ash Wednesday), we will be engaging the topic of Discipleship, using both Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s classic book Discipleship to guide our worship and reflections in Wednesday worship at Noon and 7:00 pm.

If you have not read the book, I highly recommend it. It has profoundly shaped the faith of countless Christians, including this one! ♦

In Christ,



St. Philip’s 55+ Retirees ~Daytrippers Theater

Meet at church before 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 12th. We will bus to the DayTrippers Dinner Theater in Bloomington for lunch; at 1:15 we will see “Social Security”; return by 4:30.


The lunch: Buffet style lunch: Select Salads, Champagne Chicken & Pork Stir Fry, Dessert and Beverage.

The play: “Social Security” is the story of two married art dealers struggling with their impossible in-laws. The mother visits her daughter and son-in-law and then doesn’t want to leave. Aging in-laws are said to be funnier, as long as they’re not your aging in-laws! The play is a civilized hoot.

The cost: \$38.00/person includes school bus transportation, lunch and play. Signup by Sunday, March 8th; please make (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip’s. Please pay when signing up.

Please note: Due to limited number of tickets and reduced cost; members sign up prior to non-members.

Questions: Contact Retzers at 763-574-9559 or Schonebaums at 763-786-2483 ♦

		<h1>February 2015</h1>				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Congregational Meeting	2 9:30 am Joy Circle 10:00 am Columbarium Meeting 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm Genealogy Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Worship Band Yoga 6:30 pm End of Life Wishes 7:00 pm Befrienders	3 Friend Deadline 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together	4 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	5 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 1:00 pm Lunch Bunch 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	6 6:00 pm Women's GA	7 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
8 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 4:00 & 6:00 pm SPDR Dinner & Auction	9 9:00 am Glory Circle 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band Boy Scouts Girl Scouts Yoga 6:30 pm Call Committee Meeting End of Life Wishes Benevolence	10 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together	11 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 10:00 am Women's Book Club 6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir Evangelism	12 12:00 pm 55+ "Memory Lane" 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	13 6:00 pm Women's GA 6:30 pm Small Grp. Book Club	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 12:00 pm 30 Hour Famine 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
15 President's Day 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Adult Forum Sunday School Equal Exchange Coffee 10:30 am Worship	16 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm Genealogy Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Boy Scouts Worship Band Yoga 6:30 pm End of Life Wishes	17 9:00 am Library Committee 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Pre Marriage Meeting Apple iOS Group	18 Ash Wednesday 8:30 am Work Crew, WOW 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation 7:00 pm Choir	19 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 6:30 pm Bells of Praise North Metro Photo	20 6:00 pm Women's GA	21 9:00 am Pre Marriage Meeting 11:00 am Boy Scouts Blue & Gold Event 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	23 1:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Worship Band Boy Scouts Girl Scouts Yoga 6:30 pm End of Life Wishes	24 9:00 am Assemble Friend 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 3:00 pm Global Missions Mtg. 6:45 pm Board Meeting	25 8:30 am Work Crew WOW 6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation Family Lenten Service Projects 7:00 pm Choir	26 6:30 pm Bells of Praise	27 6:00 pm Women's GA 6:30 pm Small Grp. Book Club	28 8:00 am St. Philip's Carnival 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship

Call Committee

December & January Updates

“The eye through which I see God is the same eye through which God sees me; my eye and God’s eye are one eye, one seeing, one knowing, one love.”

~ Meister Eckhart

January 19

After having to cancel the Jan. 12 meeting because of flu, the committee met on Jan. 19. Most of the time was spent working on the last element on the Ministry Site Profile, the Commentary. This is really a summary of the church situation. It attempts to draw together all of the statistical and factual elements in a narrative. It also indicates what the congregations perceived needs are. This is the section where we made use of the sticker voting which members of the congregation did the past 2 weeks. The categories which seem to be of most concern are being a good communicator, helping members develop their spiritual lives, work with a variety of groups and serve as a bridge to connect different constituencies, and deal comfortably with conflict resolution.

Our conversation with Bishop Svennungsen is scheduled for Feb. 15 at 11:30, after the second service. Save the date on your calendar. If no problems arise out of that meeting, we will within a day or two submit our final Ministry Site Profile. Once we have done that, we wait for the Bishop’s office to send us a list of prospective candidates. Until then the committee will be working to create an updated version of the Associate Pastor’s job description to make sure it is coordinated with other staff positions. The committee will meet next on Feb. 9. ♦

December 29

At the Dec. 29 meeting the committee was presented with a preliminary draft of the Ministry Site Profile. Sections that are part of the document are Context, Trends, Programs, Goals, Energy, Partnership, Purpose, and Giftedness. Context is about the surrounding community and the challenges to be faced there. Trends in the congregation during the past 3-5 years includes areas like technology/media and competition for time with non-religious activities. Finding a way to present all of St. Philip’s’ many programs short of a 2 page list will be interesting. Goals is about strategic and forward planning. How is it different for a church than for a business? Energy is the things our congregation is currently excited about. Obviously getting a new pastor is at the top of that list, but things like SPDR also make the list. Partnership is how we are involved with the larger church (Synod, National, and worldwide). Purpose pretty much comes down to our mission statement and our church tagline “Come as you are to worship, wonder, and work in Jesus’ name.” Giftedness refers to what we perceive as our greatest assets.

Members of the committee will receive a revised draft before the Jan. 12 meeting, and with luck a final draft will be approved at that meeting. The committee is now actively working on the new Associate Pastor job description. We hope to have that completed by Jan. 26. At services on Jan 10/11 and Jan. 17/18 members of the congregation will have an opportunity for input. Posterboards will be placed in the church, and using stickers, members will select characteristics which they feel are most important in choosing a new pastor. The list of characteristics to choose from will be available prior to the 10th so that people can have a chance to think about it.

We have contacted the Bishop’s office and have arranged for our congregational conversation with the Bishop. Jan. 18 and 25 and Feb. 1 are already taken for significant congregational events. Bishop Svennungsen has agreed to meet with the congregation on Feb. 15 at 11:30 after the second service. Then we wait for a list of candidates. ♦

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact any member of the committee, or you can send your comment/question through the blog site. For updates and information about what the committee is doing and how things are going visit, <https://splc2015call.wordpress.com/>Members of the committee: Katie Bergeron, Leif Ronken, Cody Retzer, Gina Paton, Heather Koshiol, Mike Youngberg, Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem ♦

Roads

Jerry Jensen, Congregation President

As I come to the end of my term as Congregational President some might say I should “Hit the Road!”. That brings up the question as to which road? There are many possible roads to choose from. Some are straight, some are crooked, some have detours, some take us to places we didn’t want to go, some take us to places that are not as anticipated and some take us to places where we want to go.

I always remember Pastor Chick Lane talking about his wish that being a Christian could be like driving south to Dallas on Interstate 35. “You just have to take your Bible and your faith, get on Interstate 35 and go straight south to Dallas (or for us to heaven).”

I once had to decide if I wanted to “hit the road” for my first Disaster Relief Team trip to Ocean Springs, Mississippi. I was not much of a handyman, carpenter, plumber or electrician so I wondered if I might do more damage than rebuilding. I learned however that there was also a free clinic at a local church where I might be able to work. It was still a difficult decision as I would have to apply for and pay a fee for a Temporary Mississippi Medical License which was only available if there was a “State of Emergency” declared by the governor every Friday noon. I would also have to submit copies of my Minnesota Medical License, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drug License, hospital staff appointments, hospital privileges, malpractice insurance with confirmation that I would be covered for volunteer medical activities in Mississippi, any Board of Medical Practice reports, Board Certifications and two letters of recommendation. I would need to be granted leave from work and confirm with my malpractice insurance company that I would have coverage for such a

volunteer activity in Mississippi. The decision to “hit the road” to Mississippi seemed to require an overwhelming effort!

But then I had a conversation with a nurse from our congregation who had gone on a previous trip to Ocean Springs and had worked at the free clinic. She described her work there as “the most meaningful work she had ever done”. What a great recommendation! What a great compass as to which road to take.

The first day the free clinic at the church was closed due to a wedding using the clinic facilities. That day I worked with the other members of the Disaster Relief Team at a damaged house. I found something I could do and didn’t do any damage. The other four days I cared for about 30 grateful patients/day and was very glad I traveled down the right road.

I pray that God will continue to lead St. Philip’s on the right road in calling a new Associate Pastor, supporting future Disaster Relief Team efforts and all other road decisions. I guess it is also time for me to “Hit the Road”! ♦

December 2014		
	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Income	\$805,839	\$801,861
Expense	(\$790,197)	(\$814,282)
TOTALS	(\$15,642)	(\$12,421)

“I pray that God will continue to lead St. Philip’s on the right road in calling a new Associate Pastor, supporting future Disaster Relief Team efforts and all other road decisions.”

~ Jerry Jensen

Congregation News & Events

“Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody’s business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.”

~ Thomas Merton

Lunch Bunch

We will be gathering on Thursday, February 5, at 1:00 pm, in the party room at Old Country Buffet in the Holly Shopping Center. Special Senior discount will be \$8.56, including tax, starting at 1:00 pm, so best to not come early. We will continue to meet on the 1st Thursday of every other month, so mark your calendars. Hope to see you there! ♦

Worship Band Inquiry

The worship band is currently inviting additional guitar players and percussionists to try out for becoming a part of the music leadership on Sunday mornings. We are looking to deepen not only our sound, but also our community of passionate and experienced musicians. Practices are Monday evenings, and recommended commitment would be one to two Sundays per month. For more information or to schedule a practice session with the group, please contact Emily Thomas at emilyt@splcmn.org or call 952-917-9600. ♦

Donation Update

We started collecting cell phones, eye glasses & personal items this past summer. These items are very much appreciated!

Eye Glasses: 152 pair + cases These are given to the Lions Club where they are processed and given to those in need.

Cell Phones: 78 donated Given to a women’s shelter where they can be used for a 911 call or recycled for parts. Remember to delete your personal info before donating.

Personal Items: Approximately 156 lbs. of your “travel” donations were given to the women’s shelter and very much appreciated. ♦

Successful Holiday Market!

Thank you for your support of the November 2014 Holiday Market. There were 46 vendors and crafters and over 600 customers! Parish Fellowship sponsored the event and also sold food all day. Over \$3000 was raised from sales of tables, the cafe, and from the St Philips Crafters. The proceeds went to projects within St Philips. ♦

Life Events

February Anniversaries:

*Daniel & Jacqueline Campeau on 2/1 for 14 years
Aaron & Staci Gondorchin on 2/2 for 13 years
Walter & Dorothy Hansen on 2/2 for 58 years
Cindy & Don Tollefson 2/13 for 28 years
Lee & Deb Lind on 2/14 for 31 years
Richard & Dawn Young on 2/14 for 50 years
David & Yvette Christensen on 2/16 for 24 years
Harold & Barbara Lundberg on 2/16 for 36 years
Shirley & Phillip Eddy on 2/19 60 years
William & Diane Schreier 2/20 for 50 years
Mike & Renee Youngberg on 2/20 for 29 years
Ronald & June Anderson on 2/23 for 58 years
Donald & Susan Davis on 2/23 for 58 years
Christine & Ronald Boettcher on 2/25 for 20 years
John & Carol Crowley on 2/26 for 49 years
Roger & Marlene Sonstegard on 2/27 for 55 years
Chad & Tina Huston on 2/28 for 11 years*

Sympathy:

*The family and friends of Janet Edwards upon her death
The family and friends of Vera Phillips upon her death
The family and friends of Doris Thomasson upon her death
The family and friends of John Helcl upon his death
The family and friends of Sharon Wilson upon her death*

Baptisms:

Elijah Thomas Ball on 1/11

Columbarium Committee

Update

The Columbarium Committee prepared and sent an introductory letter, a survey, and a tri-fold question and answer brochure to all households of the congregation in November, 2014. Joan Kruse, along with other members of the committee, led an adult forum in late November, presenting additional information about possible development of a columbarium at St. Philip’s.

The members of the committee thank everyone who responded in writing to the survey. The results showed there is enough interest within the congregation to pursue the project.

With this first step of approval, the committee chose a vendor for designing and building a columbarium structure. Members of the committee discussed multiple potential outdoor sites for the structure, and agreed on the area by Fellowship Hall’s windows. A proposed design for the columbarium at this site is expected mid January.

Members of the committee will be speaking with the Board of Administration in the next few weeks, requesting approval to move forward with the project. Over the next few months, the committee plans to draft policies and procedures for the columbarium implementation, and provide niche costs to interested members.

Since an outdoor columbarium is being proposed, the City of Fridley must also approve the project. The committee hopes to work through this process as quickly as possible. ♦

Endowment Fund

Each year, grants are awarded for current projects consistent with the mission and vision of St. Philip’s Lutheran Church. Applications should be submitted to the Endowment Fund Committee no later than April 30, 2015, for consideration. Download the application form from the website at www.splcmn.org.

Select the “Ministries” tab and click “Endowment.” Or obtain a form in the St. Philip’s Office. Grants will be awarded in May.

December contributions were received in memory of Jeanne Ingebrigsten, Ralph Menard and Anna Mae Feigal.

An additional testamentary gift was received from Don Breining.

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

Wonder how the Fund operates? How funds are invested? How funds are used? What are the goals and objectives for the fund? Give your questions to the Endowment Fund Committee or bring them to the adult forum April 19th.

Members of the Committee are Bob Becker, Duane Retzer, Ray Olson, Howard Thompson, Dana Rebelein, Jennifer Prasek, Joan Kruse & Dick Lekang. For more information on the St. Philip’s Endowment Fund, visit the website above to celebrate a special occasion, or in simple gratitude, should specify “Endowment Fund.”

For more information on the St. Philip’s Endowment Fund, visit the website at www.splcmn.org. Select the “Ministries” tab and click “Endowment.” ♦

Thank you, from the Alexandra House

On behalf of Alexandra House, I would like to extend my warmest thanks for your contribution of cell phones and many personal care items. For many of the families we serve, the holidays can be an especially difficult and stressful time. Please know that your generosity is helping to make the season brighter for so many. Last year alone, due to the outpouring of support from people like you, we were able to provide shelter services to 580 women and children, 6,000 pounds of food for families in need and hundreds of gifts to make the holidays a little brighter.

Greetings from Sara

Sara Quarberg

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Wow! Here we are in February already!

The youth ministry of St. Philip's continues to move forward as we listen to and follow where the Holy Spirit is leading us. I want you all to know how passionate our young people are about service! Over the past couple months, we've engaged in service on many different levels. Some of our mentor and student pairs spent a night at Feed My Starving children where we participated in packing meals for children in Honduras. It was a very fun and meaningful night together. Our confirmation students have pushed us all into rethinking God's call to us to be missional people. We enjoyed gathering, packing and distributing our homeless care packages! Our Confirmation students packed roughly 150 bags and handed them out in worship. Have you handed yours out yet? Do you have a story to tell about that experience? And, we have young people going out into God's world serving on their own! Whether it's been ringing bells for the Salvation Army, gathering food for the homeless shelter or participating at Feed My Starving Children on their own, they're doing it and doing it well! We have so much to be proud of!

Coming up, we will be participating in a 30 hour famine here at St. Philip's. We will be inviting youth from First Lutheran in Columbia Heights and Nativity Lutheran in St. Anthony to join us as we raise money for the ELCA World Hunger campaign. This will be a fun and meaningful night for all of us. This summer, our youth will have the opportunity to attend Bible camp. St. Philip's will provide a scholarship to each youth who chooses to attend camp! These funds are only possibly through YOUR generosity through our fundraising efforts in the past months! So, thank you for believing in our young people and for your investment in their lives!

“As God continues to lead us and strengthen us in community with one another, I pray that each of us can experience a deepened faith and a deeper sense of why God has called each of us to this place.”

~ Sara Quarberg



In January, our mentors and 9th grade youth participated in a “Faithful Friendship” night where we made tie-lap blankets for our shut-ins. We talked about what it means to have friends who share a common belief in God and how those relationships are different with God's presence. How have you experienced God present in your relationships? We find it meaningful to remember those who are a part of our community who may be absent because of a health reason or limitation.

So, as we continue to journey through this winter, I want to thank you for your support and your interest in the lives of our youth. As God continues to lead us and strengthen us in community with one another, I pray that each of us can experience a deepened faith and a deeper sense of why God has called each of us to this place.

Here are some upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

30-Hour Famine: February 14th-15th
Music Ministry: Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm (6th-12th Grade!)
The Story (High school ministry):
Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm
Green Lake Bible Camp: July 19-24
(Registrations due March 10th!) ♦

Children & Family Ministry

Carly Tappe, Director

1 John 4:19

“We love because he first loved us.”

Sunday School Happenings

After a CHILLY start to January Sunday School is back up and rolling! In January we learned about Jesus' Baptism, heard about the disciples, and Participated in Discovery Worship and the Global Missions Festival.

Each week in Sunday School students from age 2 thru Grade 5 read stories from our SPARK Bible. You can continue to read these stories at home each week and learn more about them by utilizing the weekly Children and Family Ministry updates you receive each week. These weekly emails give you updates as to what we are doing in Sunday School, and usually have a Family Page attached that includes prayers, songs, discussion questions and activities you can do at home each week! If your child is enrolled in Sunday School and you do not receive these emails, please contact Carly at carlyt@splcmn.org to be added to the list.

In February we will continue to hear more about Jesus' life here on Earth. We will hear about the Centurion's Servant, Jesus Healing the blind, The Transfiguration, and the Greatest Commandment.

Lenten Family Service Opportunities

This year during Lent families will have a chance to participate in weekly service projects during February and March. Service Opportunities will be Wednesday Evenings during Lent from 6:15-7:00 pm followed by Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm. Here is an outline of the Service Projects we will be working on.

February 25 – Sandwich Making
March 4 – Filling Birthday Bags
March 11 – Making Tie Blankets
March 18 – Feed My Starving Children (6:00-7:30 pm off site at the Coon Rapids Location)
March 25 – TBD

You can RSVP each week with Carly so we know how much materials we will need for the projects. Watch your weekly email and the bulletin announcements for more information.

First Communion Preparation

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 15, 22, and 29 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 2, at 7:00 pm worship. Please contact Carly to sign-up or if you have questions.

Vacation Bible School 2015

This summer's VBS theme is Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power! Mark your calendar NOW for June 22-26 for an amazing week of VBS! ♦

