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The Friend

January 2015

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

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA
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- Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**
- Ministers: All members of the Parish**

Friend deadline:

1st Tuesday of January (1/6) for February Friend
E-mail typed copy to: meganb@splcmn.org (250 word max)

All Things New

by Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

What will the New Year hold for you?

It's an unanswerable question in many ways, since you can't predict the future. Neither can I. But the question can be answered in at least a couple ways. The New Year will hold something new and different for you. That's the very nature of life: change. And, even more importantly, the New Year will be held by God.

That's what I hear Jesus saying in Revelation 21:4, in a picture of the reign of God: "See, I am making all things new." Interestingly, Jesus does not promise "all new things." Instead, Jesus promises renewal, change, and reinvigoration – all done through his gracious activity.

So, what will the New Year hold for St. Philip's? Renewal, change, and grace – just as Jesus promises.

In the life of St. Philip's, we welcome our new Office Manager, Jeannine Arcand, in January. She will be a wonderful team member and a real gift from God for this congregation! Further, 2015 holds great promise as our call process for a new Associate Pastor continues and will reach its culmination. Please keep praying for God to raise up the right leader to come and join the mission and ministry of St. Philip's!

The goal for us as followers of Jesus is to rely on this promise of God making all things new as we seek to be faithful in our lives. We can indeed trust that in this New Year God will continue to provide abundantly for us. We can trust that, even when things are tough, God will work to bring good out of whatever we face. And since Jesus will make all things new (instead of making all new things), we can be secure in who we are – and whose we are.



And for you, I pray that in this New Year your faith is renewed, you experience profound forgiveness, and you shine the light of Christ into the world – as Jesus makes all things new. ♦

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

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Congregation News



St. Philip's Disaster Relief

The annual lasagna dinner and auction fundraiser will be Sunday, February 8, 2015. Tickets for the dinner must be purchased in advance and will be for sale following worship on Sundays in January and also following Saturday worship on January 10. Ticket costs are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5 to 12. The dinner includes salad, lasagna, breadsticks, beverages, and dessert. (Gluten free lasagna will be available.)

As in the past, the auction will be sealed bid with the items on display for bidding after services on Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8 and also at the dinner. This event is the major single source of funding for St. Philip's Disaster Relief. Purchasing dinner tickets, making a monetary donation (if you can't attend), and bidding high on the auction items ensure that the journey continues in 2015. ♦

"The goal for us as followers of Jesus is to rely on this promise of God making all things new as we seek to be faithful in our lives. We can indeed trust that in this New Year God will continue to provide abundantly for us."

~ Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

Meals on Wheels

*"Praise God from whom all blessings, all wonders, all moments, all breaths, all surprises, all glories, all friendships, all kindnesses and all good gifts flow and flow and flow
—Praise God for you!"*
~~~

Thanks to all the gracious people who left the warmth of home to deliver Meals on Wheels in the bitter winter Dec 1-5. They included Meredith and Larry Hille, Roger Musolf and Ellen Draeker, Chuck and Kathy Eichelberger, Earl Hat-ten, Ann Westby, Bobbi and Roger Tuey, Gidget and Ed Brooks, Barb and Lary Johnson, Monica Anderson, Thelma and Myron Nash. We deliver meals again at 11:30 Feb. 2-6.

**Thank you!**  
*From Bob Johnson*

A big thank you to all who sent cards and prayers for me in the past month. It was deeply felt and appreciated! ♦



# JANUARY 2015

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                                                                                                       | WEDNESDAY                                                                                                                                                         | THURSDAY                                                                             | FRIDAY                                                   | SATURDAY                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                   | 1<br>Church Office Closed<br>Happy New Year!                                         | 2<br>6:00 pm Women's GA<br>6:30 pm Small Grp. Book Club  | 3<br>5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship                                                              |
| 4<br>8:30 am Worship<br>9:35 am Adult Forum<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship                                                      | 5<br>9:30 am Joy Circle<br>10:00 am Columbarium Meeting<br>1:00 pm Prayer Group<br>1:30 pm Genealogy<br>Chair Yoga<br>6:00 pm Boy Scouts<br>Girl Scouts<br>Worship Band<br>Yoga<br>7:00 pm Befrienders | 6 Friend Deadline<br>11:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Tuesdays Together<br>3:00 pm Endowment Meeting                                         | 7<br>8:30 am Work Crew, WOW<br>9:00 am Quilters<br>6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation<br>7:00 pm Choir                                                                  | 8<br>12:00 pm 55+ "White Hair ..."<br>6:30 pm Bells of Praise                        | 9<br>6:00 pm Women's GA                                  | 10<br>9:00 am Feed My Starving Children (Family Service Event)<br>5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship |
| 11<br>8:30 am Worship<br>9:35 am Adult Forum<br>Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship<br>7:00 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Meeting           | 12<br>9:00 am Glory Circle<br>1:00 pm Prayer Group<br>1:30 pm Chair Yoga<br>6:00 pm Worship Band<br>Boy Scouts<br>Yoga<br>6:30 pm Benevolence<br>7:00 pm So Write!<br>7:00 pm All Committees Mtg.      | 13<br>11:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Tuesdays Together<br>6:30 pm Property & Grounds                                                       | 14<br>8:30 am Work Crew, WOW<br>10:00 am Women's Book Club<br>5:45 pm Youth Music Ministry<br>6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation<br>7:00 pm Choir<br>7:00 pm Evangelism | 15<br>6:30 pm Bells of Praise<br>North Metro Photo<br>7:00 pm Winter Warm-up Readers | 16<br>6:00 pm Women's GA<br>6:30 pm Small Grp. Book Club | 17<br>5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship                                                             |
| 18<br>8:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Adult Forum<br>Sunday School<br>Equal Exchange Coffee<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:30 am Chili Cook Off | 19<br>Martin Luther King Day<br>1:00 pm Prayer Group<br>1:30 pm Genealogy<br>Chair Yoga<br>6:00 pm Worship Band<br>Boy Scouts<br>Girl Scouts<br>Yoga<br>6:30 pm End of Life Wishes                     | 20<br>9:00 am Library Committee<br>11:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Tuesdays Together<br>6:30 pm Apple iOS Group                             | 21<br>8:30 am Work Crew<br>WOW<br>9:00 am Quilters<br>6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation<br>7:00 pm Choir                                                               | 22<br>6:30 pm Bells of Praise                                                        | 23<br>6:00 pm Women's GA                                 | 24<br>1:00 pm Yoga for piano students<br>5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship                          |
| 25<br>8:30 am Worship<br>9:30 am Adult Forum<br>Sunday School<br>Global Missions Festival<br>10:30 am Worship                         | 26<br>1:00 pm Prayer Group<br>1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters<br>Chair Yoga<br>6:00 pm Worship Band<br>Boy Scouts<br>Yoga<br>6:30 pm End of Life Wishes<br>Boy Scouts Pack 20                            | 27<br>9:00 am Assemble Friend<br>11:00 am Staff Meeting<br>1:00 pm Tuesdays Together<br>3:00 pm Global Missions Mtg.<br>6:45 pm Board Meeting | 28<br>8:30 am Work Crew; WOW<br>6:30 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation<br>7:00 pm Choir                                                                                     | 29<br>6:30 pm Bells of Praise<br>North Metro Photo                                   | 30<br>6:00 pm Women's GA<br>6:30 pm Small Grp. Book Club | 31<br>5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship                                                             |

**Former St. Philip's Members Endangered by Boko Haram**  
*Introduction written by Dana Rebelein*

**Sekenwa and Nuwayina Briska** and their children were members of St. Philip's while Sekenwa earned an advanced degree at Luther Seminary. Some of the children will remember them from Sunday School classes. We received the following letter from Dr. Briska describing conditions under which they are now living in Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Adamawa State is less than one-fifth the size of Minnesota. Some of the towns mentioned in the letter are towns where Mpls. Synod congregations have companion congregations. St. Philip's companion, Bille Lutheran, is also located in Adamawa State.

Please pray that Sekenwa, Nuwayina, Namsy, Sekama, Martin and Namkama Briska will be safe and that peace will return to their lives. ♦

*"Dear Friends,*

*I have sent a brief email last week to few of you and I am glad that you shared it with others. We do not have clear information regarding what the security agents are doing with the insurgences. What we know is that, the insurgences have been dislodged from some of the towns they have captured, such as Gombi, Hong, and may be Mubi and Maiha, we are still finding conflicting stories about Mubi and Maiha. We are not talking about Michika Bama, Gwoza, Uba, Baza and others which are still under the control of the insurgences. In Gombi they have burnt down LCCN Cathedral, EYN church of the Brethren No.1, and Catholic. These must have been carried out by young people from Gombi who knew all these churches alongside the actual Boko Harams.*

*What is happening now, the insurgences have left towns and moved into rural areas like my village and are recruiting more young people into their group.*

*I was told that right now more than forty young people, whether you are a Muslim or a Christian they take you in, all they want is more fighters. As a result, many young people are fleeing into different parts of the country. They threaten them that if they will join them they will be killed. When they recruit young people in any town and village, it is the young people who know everybody, they will continue to kill, force others to join the group. Some of these young people come to and told me these kinds of stories. This breaks my heart, because we do not know when the security agents will pursue these evil people into the bush and chase them out of Nigerian territory. Our people cannot live in peace, they are not safe, their farms are being destroyed, and they burn them down. Right now we would be facing food shortage and many will die as a result.*

*Yesterday I heard that they have captured one village where my Father used to farm; it is from there that they are sending letter of notice of further attacks they intend to carry out upon our people around Gabun area between Ga'anda and Garkida interior. So most of our people live in fear, most of them sleep in the bush and come home by day time. Schools have been closed down, we do not know when they will be opened.*

*Pray for us that the security agents will extend their search and operations into those areas. We hear positive operations going, we pray that the military and all other security agents would continue to carry out such operations until they finish securing the country's borders from hands of this terror group.*

*Boko Haram keep changing their tactics, recently they went into Borno Monday market and killed many people, when we think that things are calm in certain areas they go and strike.*

*Thank you for your continuing prayers and support. You keep us alive and strong through these prayers. " ♦*

**Resolutions**

*Jerry Jensen, Congregation President*

**Have you ever** thought about New Year's Resolutions? I did some research on the internet and found that approximately 45% of people usually make one or more New Year's Resolutions, 40% absolutely never make resolutions and 15% infrequently make resolutions. About 8 - 10% of people are successful in achieving their resolutions. Common New Year's Resolutions are to lose weight, become more fit/exercise more, save more/spend less, spend more time with family/friends, enjoy life more/be more positive and quit smoking. There appears to be a religious origin in Babylonian and Roman cultures where people made New Year's Resolutions to their gods.

I never make a New Year's Resolution as it seems to me like someone trying to do something by themselves at the beginning of the year. I guess I don't know why people feel they have to get more dedicated and try to increase their efforts to become a better person ONLY at the beginning of the year.

I feel that I am always trying to become a better person and that I don't need to do it by myself ONLY at the beginning of the year. I believe God is with me throughout my life. However, I lose sight of certain areas at times and need to rededicate myself to those areas with God's help. I always remember two Bible verses which help me rededicate myself. One is "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) and "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

At St. Philip's I would like to see us rededicate ourselves this year to the Healthy Church Team goals of becoming a church that is inspired and enthusiastic about bible study, a church where people openly and comfortably talk about their faith with one another, a church where our daily lives clearly reflect our Christian faith, a church that lives and gives abundantly in response to God's abundance and a church that embraces and engages the changing neighborhood and community.

Looking at the scale this morning I realize that it is also time for me to rededicate my self in another area—AGAIN. ♦

| November 2014  |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | Budget YTD  | Actual YTD  |
| <b>Income</b>  | \$699,900   | \$699,872   |
| <b>Expense</b> | (\$724,462) | (\$756,460) |
| <b>TOTALS</b>  | (\$24,562)  | (\$56,588)  |

*"I feel that I am always trying to become a better person and I don't need to do it by myself ONLY at the beginning of the year. I believe God is with me throughout my life."*

~ Jerry Jensen

*"Thank you for your continuing prayers and support. You keep us alive and strong through these prayers."*

~ Sekenwa Briska

## Events & Opportunities @ St. Philip's

### Mark Your Calendars!

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 1  
at 11:45 am

#### 55+ Retirees ~ "Memory Lane"

Join us as we celebrate an early Valentine's Day, with music that will bring back memories! Meet in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 12th at 1:30 p.m. We will be entertained by "Memory Lane", a musical duet.

Steve Kovacs & Julie Esterley of "Memory Lane" will sing smooth classical music by Nat King Cole, Gershwin, Frank Sinatra, Eva Cassidy and Diana Krall. Come and enjoy their delightful banter as well!

Following their performance, pie and coffee will be served. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Sign up in the church office by Sunday, February 8th. Please make your (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's. Come alone or treat a friend!

Any questions, contact Schonebaums (763)786-2483 or Retzers (763)574-9559 . ♦

#### Via de Cristo Weekend

Via de Cristo is a spiritual retreat that will strengthen and renew your faith. It is designed to bring you a new awareness of living in God's grace. You will live in community with other Christians from Thursday evening until Sunday evening. Activities include worship with communion, singing, listening to talks, reflecting, laughing, sharing, eating and sleeping. The next set of weekends will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mound. The dates are January 22nd – 25th for men and January 29th – February 1st for women. Now is the time to submit your application. Contact Dan or Jackie Campeau at: jackie.campeau@hotmail.com or call 763-574-0875 for an application or more information. Application deadline is January 6th, 2015.

More info is on the Via de Cristo's website: [www.mnviadecristo.org](http://www.mnviadecristo.org) ♦

#### Chili Cookoff Competition

The Healthy Church Team & the Worship, Music and Arts Committee are sponsoring a Chili Cookoff Competition on Sunday, January 18th at 11:30. Come and judge the entries—it will be a perfect way to warm up from the inside out!. Please contact Diane Felton at 763-360-4133 or at dianekfelton@yahoo.com, if you are interested in participating. ♦

#### End of Life Wishes

How do you want to live? Exploring "End of Life Wishes" is as much about living as it is about dying. Come explore this serious issue in a fun and interesting way. The sessions will begin Monday, January 19, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Lounge. Feel free to contact the facilitators, Jane Hokenstrom (janehokie@q.com) or Lynette Thompson (Gardener772@comcast.net). ♦

#### Winter 2015 Christian Yoga

Classes resume on Monday, January 5, 2015 and run for 9 weeks, ending on Monday, March 2. Chair Yoga is at 1:30 p.m. and is a 45 minute class. Cost is \$40 for any 8 of the 9 classes (or \$5 per drop-in). In this class, participants do yoga poses while seated on a chair and use a chair to assist with balance and standing poses. Mat Class is at 6:00 p.m. and is a one-hour class. The cost is \$50 for any 8 of the 9 classes (or \$7 per drop-in). In this class we include stretching, flexibility, balance, core, strength, standing poses and relaxation, with modifications offered for taking poses to a deeper level.

Clothing should be comfortable to allow for unrestricted movement, and the only items needed for class are a yoga mat (optional for chair class) and a bottle of water. In Christian Yoga, we bring our focus on the Lord with scripture reading and prayer, and use Christian and inspirational music throughout class.

Contact Sue Montague by phone (612-532-4682) or Becky Becker (763-913-4059) with questions. ♦

## Life Events

#### January Anniversaries:

*Victoria & Kitah Emmanuel on 1/1, married 22 years*  
*Timothy & Tonya Schweppe on 1/1, married 21 years*  
*John & Josephine Riley on 1/5, married 54 years*  
*Dane & Dena Froiland on 1/10, married 11 years*  
*Steve & Lynn Britven on 1/11, married 29 years*  
*Larry & Marie Teeter 1/12, married 13 years*  
*Dennis & DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15, married 15 years*  
*Steven & Gail Olson on 1/16, married 24 years*  
*Roger & Sandra Goman on 1/26, married 52 years*  
*Richard & Laurel Harris on 1/27, married 53 years*  
*Ronald & Marlene Hirth on 1/28, married 54 years*  
*Kermit & Frances Hollen on 1/30, married 55 years*

#### Sympathy:

*Vaness Menard and family upon the death of Ralph Menard*  
*The family of Doris Thomasson upon her death*

#### Baptisms:

*Rylee Marie Boss on 12/21*

## Mitten and Hat Makers

### Update

**Congratulations, sewers!** So far in 2014, you have made just over 300 items that have been donated to 8 local schools and other non-profit organizations that help children and/or families in need. To meet the needs, many will continue to sew throughout this school year. Also having a supply on hand for October 2015 would be appreciated. A question concerning whether sewing these items is cost effective over buying them has been asked. Jan Spitzer is a pro at watching for sales. Example: Fleece on sale for \$1.50 a yard plus she had a 15% off coupon- total spent: \$34.45, which at regular price would have been \$121.82.

A special THANK YOU to an anonymous donor who gave us many yards of beautiful fleece this past year.

For fabric, patterns, or questions, contact Arlene Hamernik, 763-571-6091 (eahamernik@gmail.com) or Jan Spitzer 763-786-2016 (janspitzer1@yahoo.com) ♦

## Endowment Fund

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund  
From an acorn to an oak tree,  
From a mustard seed to a huge bush,  
From your contributions of any size to a great work for Christ!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Memorials

In November, 49 contributions were received in memory of Betty Sonnenberg, Larry Pray, Anna Mae Feigal & Lyle Elverud.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Legacy

Patty Kondziolka made a legacy gift!

\*\*\*\*\*

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 the website at [www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org). Select the "Ministries" tab and click "Endowment." ♦

## Thank You

We want to thank Pastor Joel for the great funeral service and all the church members, church staff, friends, etc., that prayed and supported our family during Ralph's sickness and funeral.

*The Menard Family: Vaness, Dana and Julie.*

*“With this new year, new experiences will happen in each of our lives. We are in the midst of a shift in our youth ministry because the Holy Spirit is leading us on a new path and God is calling us to something new.”*

~ Sara Quarberg

## Greetings from Sara

Sara Quarberg

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

**A new year** is upon us! Where has the past year gone? With this new year, new experiences will happen in each of our lives. We are in the midst of a shift in our youth ministry here at St. Philip's. We are shifting because the Holy Spirit is leading us on a new path and God is calling us to something new. Will things be different? Yes. Will there still be familiar parts in this ministry? Yes. I want you all to know that this shift is very intentional. We have been having conversations with youth, parents and others in the community surrounding a couple questions. What is Youth Ministry? Where do you feel the Holy Spirit leading you and this community? Above all, I want you to know that the Youth Ministry of St. Philip's will shift in a direction of being a ministry that is the result of a shared vision. We're all in this together, right?! I want you to know that I'm here for you and I'm intentionally working on your behalf. There has been much prayer surrounding this process and I'm excited to continue to see where we're being led.

So, with that, please share your hopes, dreams and thoughts with me – all of you. I also want to hear your concerns, fears and worries. We are all a part of this body of Christ together! I'm excited about what God has in store for this community and for the youth of St. Philip's. We've shifted Confirmation a bit in the past few months to hopefully be something that is more engaging and that allows our youth to see how God is active in their lives not only inside of St. Philip's, but in their schools, families, relationship and in God's world. We love your questions and your thoughts! You all have so much to offer this community. Thanks for all that you bring here.



Look for more information regarding summer 2015 coming soon! We will be trying some new experiences that will hopefully allow for more students to find a place to explore service and God's Word this coming summer. We are in the midst of something new, but something very exciting, too. Hold on for the ride, encourage your students to join in and we'll continue to listen to God together as we continue to discern where God is leading us.

We want to extend a HUGE thanks to all who supported the youth through the Poinsettia fundraiser and bake sale. Thank you for investing in the faith life of another child of God. This is, by far, one of the most rewarding investments any of us could make. Thank you!

Blessings to you all in this New Year! ♦

## Children & Family Ministry

Carly Tappe, Director

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!”*

Happy New Year!

### **Sunday School Happenings**

In December all our Sunday School students celebrated Advent and heard the story of Jesus' birth. They also spent time preparing for the Christmas Pageant. A big thank you to all the families that participated in the pageant.

In January we journey into the New Testament and learn more about Jesus' life here on earth.

Students in grades 1-5 will continue to work on weekly Bible Memory Verses along with learning the books of the Bible with a special song.

### **Discovery Worship**

This fall students in Grades 1-5 started to help plan and implement different parts of our new worship experience called Discovery Worship. Discovery worship will take place the 3rd Sunday of the month and make children and youth an integral part of worship as they plan the different parts of the worship service.

### **Feed My Starving Children Family Service Opportunity**

Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to join in the fun on Saturday, January 9 from 9:00 – 11:00 am at Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids to pack meals. Please sign-up by emailing Carly at [carlyt@splcmn.org](mailto:carlyt@splcmn.org).

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

The Souper Bowl of caring is children and youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

This year St. Philip's is joining in that fight against hunger. This year the Super Bowl will be played on Sunday, February 1. To help prepare for the SOUPER Bowl, St. Philip's will be collecting cans of soup the weekends of January 25 & February 1. Our goal is to collect 500 cans of soup. All are invited to participate! Please help us in our fight against hunger by donating cans of soup! ♦



## Fill The Bowl

### Global Mission Festival

**St. Philip's** has an opportunity to help "fill the bowl" for hungry people at the annual Global Mission Festival, January 24-25. One in 9 people in the world do not have enough to eat. That's 800 million people that go to bed hungry. Actually that's an improvement over previous reports of 1 in 8 people being hungry. 165 million children under the age of 5 are stunted because of malnutrition and poor health.

The good news is that much is being done to combat hunger. On January 24 and 25, children, youth and adults of St Philip's will have opportunity to learn more about how the ELCA Hunger Program provides food for those in need. Together we also will help "fill the bowl."

The Global Mission Festival will include the following on the weekend of January 24-25:

Worship will focus on ways we feed the hungry, The annual Global Mission Offering will be designated for ELCA Hunger, an intergenerational event will be held in the Fellowship Hall from 9:35 to 10:25. (This will be the adult forum for the day)

Already, beginning in Advent the Sunday School children have been filling piggy banks with their offerings to "God's Global Barnyard" for ELCA Hunger. Youth of the congregation, in addition to their participation in the Global Mission Festival, will be using piggy banks for their donations and will join other church groups in February for a 30 Hour Famine including volunteering at "Feed My Starving Children."

But what about our annual offering to support our companion congregation in Nigeria? Because of your generosity during the past years, there are enough funds available to continue support without an additional offering. We are able to meet our commitments to projects we share with the Bille congregation. THANK YOU! For the year 2015 we are contributing:

Salary for Evangelist Pius Kasuwa, doing outreach in a remote village: \$1,200.00

Salaries for teachers' aids in the Nazareth Nursery School: 1,250.00

Scholarships for secondary students: 1,200.00

The Bille congregation also supports these projects with finances and is responsible for over-seeing their implementation.

So this year too, we are invited to continue to give generously - instead of for Bille, to ELCA Hunger. Join in the activities to "Fill the Bowl." ♦

## Call Committee

### December Updates

#### December 15

**Those of you** who have been looking for an update about the Dec. 15 meeting haven't found anything until now. The reason: the meeting was cancelled due to a rash of flu that took out members of the committee. A meeting was held on Dec. 29, and we will hopefully get much of the work done on the Ministry Site Profile. ♦

#### December 1

**During their second** meeting, the Call Committee spent considerable time going over the material which will be part of the Ministry Site Profile. We discussed altering the presentation format so that it isn't merely a series of questions and answers about St. Philip's. Numbers and statistics are useful, but certainly not a complete picture. The document which candidates will have access to will be done in narrative form and will include graphics and color. Fortunately, the committee has among its members people who are good at such things.

We also spent a good deal of time discussing our own individual thoughts on what some of the congregation's needs are right now. We then discussed some of the attributes which we thought might be good in a new Associate Pastor. Time was spent looking at Pastor Joel's skill set and how we can complement and augment it. A couple of general things have arisen in our conversations. The new pastor should be willing and comfortable working with ministries that go outside the congregation itself since that is a major part of the mission of SPLC. Also, to work intergenerationally, bridging between the various constituencies within and around SPLC. At this point everything is part of the conversation, including such things as age, gender, experience, and previous calls.

Later in December, the congregation will be asked to supply input about perceived needs of the congregation and desired skills/aptitudes for a new pastor. This will likely be done in the form of boards which will be set up on Sunday where members will have an opportunity to select priorities from provided lists. There will also be a chance to make comments.

We plan to have the Ministry Site Profile drafted by early - mid January. We are hoping that we can then schedule our congregational conversation with the Bishop late in January. Once that document has been given to the Bishop's office, we wait for a list of recommended candidates and begin the interview process.

As always through the process, members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to contact any member of the committee to have a more in-depth conversation. ♦

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, [splc2015call.wordpress.com](http://splc2015call.wordpress.com)

Members of the committee: Katie Bergeron, Leif Ronken, Cody Retzer, Gina Paton, Heather Koshiol, Mike Youngberg, Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem ♦

*"Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."*

~Proverbs 22:9

*"We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans ..."*

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer