

The Friend

November 2015

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

Live Free by Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

One key idea we have encountered many times already in our journey through The Story is freedom. It is apparent that God continually seeks freedom for humanity and for creation. One of the grandest and most important stories of the Bible is the Exodus, the story of God freeing the Israelites from their bondage to slavery in Egypt.

God, it certainly seems, is in favor of freedom.

Just what freedom means, however, is of the utmost importance. Too often the operative definition of freedom that people have is that I can do whatever I want, whenever I want, however I want, to whomever I want. This is a sadly undernourished idea of freedom and it is a definition that is not in line with God's idea of freedom.

Yet we're sold the lie that living like this will bring us security and happiness. Yet, as Scott Rodin writes, "Everything the world tells us will bring us happiness ends up putting us in bondage. The life we are so frantically pursuing is counterfeit. It is not the life for which we were redeemed in Christ and it will ultimately rob us of the freedom and joy for which we were created."

Our Christian faith leads us to a very different definition of freedom. In John 8, his disciples asked Jesus about freedom. In verse 36, Jesus answered, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Jesus is saying that freedom comes through being identified with him. Instead of the small, selfish definition of freedom so often held up by the world, Jesus offers an expansive picture of freedom: relationship with God, humanity, and creation. Freedom to love and serve. Freedom to laugh and love. Freedom from whatever holds you captive, be it slavery or the bondage to possessions.

So what does it look like to live free?

That's what we'll be looking at for several weeks, leading to our commitment weekend on November 14 & 15. Do we experience God's freedom? And do we respond to God's gracious freedom by acting with generosity and love? Do we live free?

You'll have the chance to, in Paul's words, "take hold of the life that really is life" (1 Timothy 6:19). Letting go and gaining life. Sounds like Jesus' definition of freedom to me.

Pastor Joel



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6th Annual St. Philip's Holiday Market

Saturday, November 7 ~ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Attention shoppers!

During the Holiday Market, Fellowship Hall at St. Philip's will be filled with vendors and crafters displaying a wide variety of unique and interesting items. This annual event offers shoppers a one-stop-shopping opportunity. Invite your friends and plan to attend this fun annual event! Lunch and yummy treats will also be available for purchase!

Proceeds benefit projects at St. Philip's.

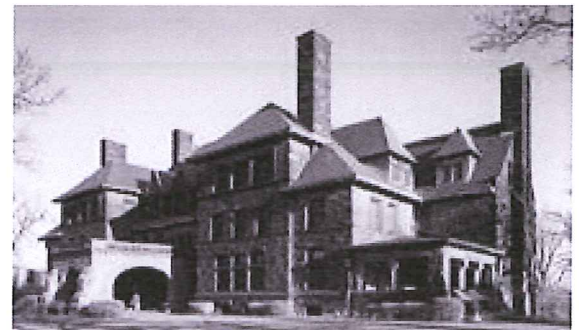
See you there!



*Enjoy God
and You will enjoy Life*

- Marjorie Cidey

55+ Retirees - November Trip *The James J. Hill House & China Chef*



Our journey back in time to 1891 begins at church on Thursday, December 10 at 9:30 am. We will travel by school bus to St. Paul and take a guided tour through the four floors of the James J. Hill Mansion (St. Paul's Downtown Abby).

See where railroad magnate Hill and his wife Mary raised eight of their children in this 36,000 square foot red stone mansion that contains a sky-lit art gallery with a pipe organ, crystal chandeliers, stained glass windows, beautifully carved woodwork and 13 bathrooms! James J. Hill, who was born in Canada, worked his way up to acquire his fortune. We will also get an idea as to how they celebrated Christmas. Note: Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes; an elevator is available or you can walk up the grand staircase.

Following the tour, we will travel to China Chef in North St. Paul for a buffet lunch. They serve a variety of Asian-American dishes; which are non-spicy. 36 years ago, the owner of the restaurant, Tim Tran, fled Viet Nam after the fall of Saigon. He was 17 years old when he arrived in Minnesota. He was sponsored by St. Philip's members. Come and learn more about his journey and success.

The cost of \$20 per person includes bus transportation, tour and lunch. Sign up in the church office by Sunday, November 29. Please make (non-refundable) check payment to St. Philip's Church.

Any questions, call Arlene or Duane Retzer at 763-574-9559.

Blessings to you! *Amy Morphew, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

As I conclude my first month at St. Philip's, I have been reflecting on all the blessings I have encountered in just one short month. Here are just a few of them to share with you.

- Sunday morning smiles and faces getting familiar
- Kids who are so happy to see me!
- Patient parents!
- A wonderful Sunday School staff who have stepped forward
- A church staff who have welcomed me as a part of the "family"
- A congregation whose members have stopped to welcome me so warmly



Thank you to all who have helped (and are still helping) me get settled! I am feeling very blessed and look forward to all that God has in store here at St. Philip's!

We have some exciting things coming up in November and I hope you can join us!

- Christmas pageant music and preparations
- Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 -7:45 pm Family Dinner and Thankful event!
- Sunday, November 29 a Sunday School special event (during Sunday School)

I am searching for...

- Kid's Time volunteers for the 10:30 am service
- Special Event volunteers throughout the year

I will continue to hold you and your families in my prayers! Remember, even in the messy and trial times, to see the blessings!

God Bless!
~Amy

All New Hospitality Ministry!



Are You Gifted in the Art of Hospitality?

If you enjoy welcoming people and helping them feel at home, use your gifts with worshippers and visitors by joining St. Philip's new Hospitality Ministry! With our invitation to "Come as you are to worship, wonder and work in Jesus' name," St. Philip's wants our guests to feel comfortable, included, and at home.

Adults and youth; past greeters and welcome booth attendants; those with a ready smile, all are invited to join the Hospitality Ministry at St. Philip's! Interested? Contact Heather Koshiol [hkoshiol@gmail.com]

Stand on Grace

Walk by Faith

Live in Love

Grace and

Peace be

Yours

in Abundance

~ 1 Peter 1:2

*"This is such
FUN
for my kids
because
I can give
them a
few dollars
and they
can buy
whatever
they want,
without
me having
to tell
them we
can't
afford it."*

~Garage Sale
Shopper

Garage Sale Update

"This is such fun for my kids because I can give them a few dollars and they can buy whatever they want, without me having to tell them we can't afford it." That was one comment from a mother who attends the garage sale each year. She thanked us for doing this because she could afford to shop for items for her home and family. This is, in great part, why we work so hard to have this sale each year! We were able to contribute \$19,000 to benefit St. Philip's and the community.

Here are some of the ways we are able to put these funds to use:

-\$10,000 is being donated to the Building for the Future Fund. Over \$3,300 will go to programs such as Alexandra House, Bikes4Kids, Cub Scouts, Mitten Makers, Coats for Kids, and the Fridley Middle School Reading program. Almost \$5,000 will assist St. Philip's programs such as Heritage Committee, Funeral Committee, WOW and Men's Work Crew, 55+ and <55 groups, choir, and tables for the lounge.

- PALS, an organization working with mentally disabled adults select items to be used for Christmas giving. The adults in their program get to chose items to be given to their families.

- Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Moundsview takes items to be sold at their garage sale, which benefits their small church.

- DAV took the remaining items and sold them, making \$804 which was donated to the Leukemia Society and to the auxiliary, which makes patriotic pillowcases for patients at the Veterans Hospital.

Remaining funds will be used to purchase additional, lightweight tables to replace the old, heavy ones we currently have, making it much easier on all those who have to carry them to and from the building!!

This sale provides a great deal for our church and for the community, as you can see. Please continue to support the wonderful people who work so hard to get items ready for the sale and then to clean up the church after the sale! It is because of them that this is such a success. So, "THANK YOU" to the men and women who worked so hard on this ministry. We appreciate your time and efforts.

Please join us next year. We need a great many hands to make this event happen!!!

Garage Sale Co-Chairs - LaRae Kazmierkoski, Sue Davis, Michelle Angerhofer and Jan Kugler

Bells of Praise - Looking for a few good ringers!



Have some free time on Thursday evenings? Interested in joining the *Bells of Praise*, the St. Philip's Handbell Choir?
We have openings for you!!!

There are only 4 requirements:

1. Ability to read music
2. The need for a new adventure
3. Want to meet new friends
4. Enjoy having fun!!

If interested, just pop into the lounge on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm.
Questions? Dawn Hansen [dawn48@hotmail.com] 763-780-0360



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sunday in early September ice cream sundaes were served to approximately 60 seniors living at The Landmark and White Pine in Fridley.

Dinner was served to approximately 25 residents at Alexandra House and 50 residents at Stepping Stone. Also, walls were painted at both of these facilities, and ceiling tiles and lights were installed at Stepping Stone.

50 craft kits were assembled and delivered to Camp Noah, in St. Paul, along with birthday cards that were colored.

750 sandwiches were assembled, packed, and delivered to The Sandwich Project in St. Paul.

440 pounds of food and \$129 were collected at the Fridley Cub store and delivered to SACA in Columbia Heights.

Again, thank you. Your work, with your 160 hands, impacted thousands.



The Benevolence and Social Committee project "Coats for Kids" with \$1,000 from the Benevolence Committee designation and \$1,500 designated from the Garage Sale, \$250 from Thrivent along with a \$500 donation from the Walmart Fridley location we were able to purchase:

- 100 boys and girls jackets
- 32 snow pants/bibs
- 18 pairs of boy's boots
- 18 pairs of girl's boots
- 50 knit hats
- 29 hooded sweatshirts for middle school

This was a special project and we are so thankful and appreciative of the congregational support for this mission which benefits our local children who are in desperate need of warm outdoor clothing. A note was inserted in the pocket of each coat that said "Given with love from St. Philip's Lutheran Church". We delivered them to three local elementary schools and two middle schools on October 8, ahead of our predicted snow and cold snap.

A big thank you to all who planned and participated!



St. Philip's Disaster Relief
Colorado #3

St. Philip's Disaster Relief Colorado Team #3 spent a week last month in the Fort Collins area, helping those that had been impacted by the 2012 High Park Fire and the 2013 Colorado flooding. They worked rebuilding three homes and the lives of the six people that owned those homes. They also worked at Buckhorn Camp, where the team stayed, that had been impacted by the fire.

A good share of their work was outside and the weather cooperated, so one team was able to do backfilling around the foundation and also install a large amount of siding, soffit and fascia on one home. Another team reconstructed a deck and built a greenhouse at one of the other homes. A deck at Buckhorn Camp was also reconstructed by a small team. At yet another home, one team worked inside tiling the shower and bathroom floor upstairs, while others sheetrocked, taped, and mudded in the basement. Another team worked inside at Buckhorn Camp helping to prepare meals and to paint many of the walls in Elkhorn Lodge. God's work, our hands.

The homeowners were very appreciative of the help the SPDR team members provided. One even served lunch (elk steaks and more) to the team helping him. One couple, who lost their home in the fire, gave those that helped them a book of photos and also a photo DVD showing their home before the fire and their rebuilding progress. In a short amount of time, the SPDR team members were able to make a difference in the lives of these people that have gone through so much.

The journey continues...back to Minot.

President's Column *Ron Ackerman*

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

-Ron
Ackerman

The Fall Season is upon us. This season at St. Philip's has been very busy and productive. This year, St. Philip's was able to purchase and donate over 100 coats, boots and gloves to five schools: Fridley Middle School, Hayes and Stevenson Elementary's, North Park Elementary, and Columbia Academy Middle School both of Columbia Heights. Three ladies from the congregation spent a day purchasing, sorting and delivering the Coats for Kids ministry. The schools are very appreciative of receiving such donations. We don't realize how many kids come to school without winter coats, caps, and gloves. St. Philip's graciously donated about \$2,700 from Benevolence and the Garage Sale. Walmart, seeing the large purchase, added another \$500. If you would like to see some of the pictures, look at the St. Philip's Facebook page.

The Columbarium is off and running. Over 20 members have purchased niches. The ground breaking ceremony was held October 11. This is a very key event in the history of St. Philip's. The Columbarium Committee has done a great job in planning and bringing a Columbarium to fruition. As I mentioned before, a Columbarium is the 21st Century version of the Country Church with a Cemetery adjacent. As time goes on, the congregation of St. Philip's should be very proud and enjoy a lot of comfort from the serenity and landscaped gardens as they remember family and friends.

The Story has definitely brought excitement and enthusiasm to St. Philip's. The fact that the same message is used in the sermon and adult forum, confirmation and Sunday School brings it all together. You see people entering and leaving the church carrying The Story in their hands. Also it is used by many Bible study and discussion groups. St. Philip's is regenerating with a new spirit!

You have probably have seen the many construction activities at the church. Caused by the hail storm this summer, over \$97,000 of damage was identified. The Property and Grounds Committee gave a brief update at a Forum, showing what has already been accomplished and what work still needs to be done. The Building for the Future campaign was embraced very favorably by the members of St. Philip's. It is entering the final year of a 2 year plan. We are still in need of funds to complete many of the planned maintenance updates. Unfortunately, you never ever complete everything, there is always a need in such a large church.

The Disaster Relief Team returned from another very successful mission in Colorado. Thanks to all the members and non-members of St. Philip's who help with this very important activity. Not to sit idle, the team is planning a trip to Minot before the end of the year. If you have never been on one, ask some of the people who have, and consider joining the team.

~Ron

Faith is like Wi-Fi, it's invisible but has the power to connect you to what you need.



Shout-Out

*(n.) Slang. A public expression
of thanks or gratitude.*

The Shout-Out Place!

THANKS TO KAY HANSEN FOR HER LONG TIME
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

*Our many thanks to
Kay Hansen who has volunteered her services
providing Communion Servers, Lectors, and
Assistants to the Pastors for many years.*

~ Anonymous

If you would like to give a Shout-Out, email [info@splcmn.org]

Life Events

November Anniversaries:



Phoebe & Tyler Jensen on 11/2/2013 for 2 years
John & Juanita Vaala on 11/2/1963 for 52 years
Bob & Joyce Johnson on 11/3/1956 for 59 years
Karie & Lynn Bergeron on 11/4/1989 for 26 years
David & Dawn Fennig on 11/4/1967 for 48 years
Dana & Sonja Menard on 11/4/2006 for 9 years
Jorge & Kellie Bernal on 11/6/2010 for 5 years
Jantima & Jon Retzer on 11/10/1992 for 23 years
Jennifer & Mark Steffen on 11/11/2000 for 15 years
Ernest & Lorraine Harry on 11/12/1955 for 60 years
Jackie & Loren Erickson on 11/14/1998 for 17 years
Gilbert & Mary Haugan on 11/15/1996 for 19 years
Chuck & Sue Kempf on 11/16/1985 for 30 years
Joe & Paula Gonsior on 11/17/1990 for 25 years
Carolyn & Charles Kennedy on 11/17/1973 for 42 years
Brian & Misty Gilbertson on 11/20/1999 for 16 years
John & Sandra Hahn on 11/22/1969 for 46 years
Janet & Vincent Lanners on 11/22/1958 for 57 years
Kathy & Merle Fischer on 11/25/1978 for 37 years
Karla & Ronald Ackerman on 11/26/1966 for 49 years
Robert & Sheryl Froiland on 11/27/1963 for 52 years
Ann & Samuel Garbow on 11/28/2002 for 13 years
Michelle & William Hatten on 11/28/1998 for 17 years
Grace & Paul Wilson on 11/28/1959 for 56 years
Charles & Janet Scovill on 11/29/1969 for 46 years
Camilla & Kenneth Mueller on 11/30/1957 for 58 years
Gerald & Virginia Olson on 11/30/1968 for 47 years

Baptisms

Quinn Caroline Burton on September 20
Grace Marie Alexandra Gredzens on October 10
Zeke Oliver Anderson on October 11

Sympathy

To the friends and family of Nancy Matter upon her death on September 3

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Giving thanks by thanking The Giver.

Share your God-given gifts
to enable the present
and future ministry
of St. Philip's;
Preaching, teaching, and
meeting the spiritual and
physical needs of
God's people wherever
they are found.

Memorials

September contributions were
received in memory of
Art Warner and Marybelle Johnson

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].
Select "Ministries" and then "Endowment".

Thank you for your support.

St. Philip's September 2015

Income

Budget YTD

\$565,941

Actual YTD

\$580,396

Expense

(\$601,070)

(\$591,932)

TOTALS

(\$35,130)

(\$11,536)

Greetings!

Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Greetings! My how time flies. We've had a great start to the Confirmation ministry year and our launch of our new High School Peer Ministry. Confirmation has been going well with our new structure! A special thanks to all of our wonderful small group leaders and to Jan Retzer who has been providing dinners for us each Wednesday night. We welcomed a great group of 6th graders into our Middle School Ministry this year and they bring an exciting energy to Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings! It's been a great start!

In the end of September, we spent two days training for Peer Ministry with the National Director, Lyle Griner. What is Peer Ministry? Well, here's a little bit more about it.

Welcoming. Peer Ministry is about learning how to welcome others not only into our ministry but into our lives in and out of the church. How are we welcoming others into our families? Our groups of friends? Our ministry? We are in the process of shifting our mindset to being ministries instead of groups. Groups can sometimes feel closed off and uninviting, whereas ministry sounds inclusive and open to all. We will be exploring how we interact with new members of our ministry, how we invite them to be a part of what God is doing here and how we get to know them.

Helping. Peer Ministry is also about helping. We are exploring how to better help each other not only through good listening skills but beyond that. What if someone shares something with us that is unsafe? Who should we tell? What if we helped instead of telling others what they should do? The story of the Good Samaritan shows us what it means to help others - even if we may not get along with that person or even if we aren't the most popular. Helping shows us how to be courageous and committed friends.

Listening. Being a good listener takes a lot of practice. There are skills involved in knowing how to listen, what questions to ask and even how to help when the moment is right. We learned a great skill for getting to know others - WHEAT. The acronym stands for where, hobbies, events, acquaintances and travel. These are all great topics for conversations when you're getting to know someone new!

This is just a glimpse of the Peer Ministry Leadership curriculum that we will be exploring this year and in years to come. We had a great weekend together with the youth and leaders of Nativity Lutheran Church of St. Anthony. Thank you to all of the youth and leaders who participated in this wonderful weekend! Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue to journey in ministry together here at St. Philip's and in our schools, families, friendships and in God's world.


Summer Ministry Opportunities!

We have A LOT of exciting summer ministry opportunities in the works for our Middle and High School students! Stay tuned for more information regarding camp and mission trip ministry opportunities for the summer of 2016!

God is doing some AMAZING things here at St. Philip's! It's been great to see the energy, excitement and engagement from the entire community with The Story. There's something wonderful about our entire community being on the same page each week - literally.



Blessings in your ministry ,
~Sara

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	2 1:00 pm Joy Circle 1:30 pm Chair Yoga Genealogy Small Group 6:00 pm Christian Yoga Worship Band 7:00 pm GA Gamanon Befrienders	3 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA	4 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	5 <i>The Friend Article Deadline</i> 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Recovery International Dennis Ministries 7:30 pm AA and Alanon	6 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	7 9:00 am Holiday Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 9:00 am Glory Circle Community Footworks 1:30 pm Chair Yoga 2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo 6:00 pm Worship Band Yoga; Girl Scout Mtg HR Committee Mtg 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon All Committee Mtg 7:30 pm Parish Fellowship Mtg	10 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:30 pm Heritage Mtg 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:30 pm Garden Mtg Property & Grounds Mtg Garden Group	11 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 10:00 am EA Group Women's Club 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Evangelism Mtg	12 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 10:00 am Youth Ministry Network 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	13 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	14 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
15 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Equal Exchange Coffee Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	16 1:30 pm Genealogy Sm. Group 6:00 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA Gamanon	17 8:30 am Assemble <i>The FRIEND</i> 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues Together 3:00 pm Endowment Mtg 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA	18 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	19 1:30 pm Game Time 3:00 pm SS+ "Hairspray" 6:30 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA Alanon	20 1:00 pm EA Group Library Mtg 6:00 pm Women's GA	21 9:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting 4:00 pm Book Fair 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
22 7:45 am Book Fair 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	23 1:30 pm Knitters and Crocheters 6:00 pm Worship Band Girl Scout Mtg 6:30 pm Boy Scout Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon GA	24 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:45 pm Board Mtg	25 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 10:00 am EA Group 2:00 pm Global Missions Mtg 6:00 pm Parish Thanksgiving Pie 6:30 pm Confirmation Sm. Group 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	26 <i>~Thanksgiving~</i> OFFICE CLOSED  7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA Alanon	27 <i>~Thanksgiving~</i> OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	28 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Confirmation/HS Hour Adult Forum: <i>The Story</i> Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	30 6:00 pm Worship Band 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	1 December 9:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA	2 8:30 am Men's Work Crew & WOW 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 <i>The Friend Article Deadline</i> 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	5 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship



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St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

www.splcmn.org • info@splcmn.org

Phone: 763-571-1500 • Fax: 763-572-2292

Church Staff

Joel Wight Hoogheem, Senior Pastor

JoelWH@splcmn.org, ext. 112

Mollie Dvorak, Associate Pastor

MollieD@splcmn.org, ext. 110

Jeannine Arcand, Office Manager

JeannineA@splcmn.org, ext. 104

Amada Márquez, Publications and Membership Coordinator

AmadaM@splcmn.org, ext. 101

Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

SaraQ@splcmn.org, ext. 108

Amy Morphew, Director of Children & Family Ministries

AmyM@splcmn.org, ext. 107

Eva Jensen, Visitation Ministry Leader

EvaJ@splcmn.org

Emily Thomas, Worship Band Director

EmilyT@splcmn.org, ext. 106

Stephanie Phelps Johnson, Sanctuary Choir Director

StephanieP@splcmn.org, ext. 106

David Geslin, Organist

DavidG@splcmn.org

Jerry Salitros, Bookkeeper

JerryS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Katie Swenstad, Full-Time Custodian

KatieS@splcmn.org, ext. 109

Michelle Hill, PT Custodian

Board of Administration

BOA@splcmn.org

Ron Ackerman, President

ron.ackerman@comcast.net

Mike Youngberg, Vice President

zubazwizard@gmail.com

Howard Thompson, Treasurer

howard_thompson@comcast.net

Angela Anderson, Secretary

bargela@msn.com

Gary Blomster

garyblomster@comcast.net

Phyllis Ehlers

lpehlers@gmail.com

Dawn Hansen

dawng48@hotmail.com

Brad Heitland

heitland@gmail.com

Kathy Pullen

kathyfpullen@gmail.com

Val Sperry

sperryvs@aol.com

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**