

# The Friend

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

May 2016

## Who Are We Here For? by Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem

Mark's gospel recounts Jesus gathering a crowd together with his disciples and saying, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it" (Mark 8:34-35)

As folks who seek to be followers of Jesus, we hear these words and give our assent. Living this out, however, is quite difficult. As Carey Nieuwhof reflects, "Our natural drift is to focus on ourselves. Not on Christ. Not on others. The gravitational pull of any church is toward insiders, not outsiders. Left unattended, your church will become a place where the preferences of the members trump passion for the mission."

It's an uncomfortable truth: a faith community is incredibly prone to being self-centered if its members and participants are not intentional about following Jesus' edict to take up their crosses and follow him. Since we do not want to devolve into a club or a clique, it is crucial for St. Philip's to be willing to lose ourselves for the sake of others.

Derek Penwell offers some incredibly helpful questions to keep us focused on that question of who we are here for:

- Have you ever been to a church that spends more time struggling over what to give away than what to keep - that is, it expends more energy on the Outreach Committee than the Property Committee?
- Have you ever been to a church that sees its small youth group not as a disappointment but as an opportunity to offer more focused ministry?
- Have you ever been to a church that views its building as a present to the world and not as a bequest to its members?
- Have you ever been to a church where worship is centered on the gift that is offered to God rather than on what individual participants "get out of it"?



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- Have you ever been to a church in which justice is not just the securing of individual rights but the pursuit of a vision of the reign of God in which there is no justice until it gets extended to everyone?

Might we be brave enough to take some risks so that the answers to all those questions about St. Philip's would be "Yes"? This focus on others - especially those outside the church - is precisely why this congregation exists. We are not here to save our own bacon; we are here to worship, wonder, and work in Jesus' name!

In Christ,

*Pastor Joel*

## **Happy May!** *Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

***Thank you to all who have donated toward our collection for Hope 4 Youth!***

On behalf of the youth, we so much appreciate your partnership in ministry and supporting this important organization in the Anoka community. We look forward to a great summer of service, scripture, adventure, conversation, fellowship and fun! God is leading us in very exciting directions this summer. Check your email and/or Facebook for more information on each event! If you have any questions, please let me know.

### **Middle School Summer Ministry:**

#### ***Service/Fun Days***

July 21 – Feed My Starving Children/Bunker Beach

August 10 – St. Philip's Service/Movie Day

#### ***Bonfires*** (Weather permitting)

June 15, July 20, August 17 at 6:00 pm here at St. Philip's! Join us for s'mores and summer fun!

#### ***Ice Cream with Your Youth Director***

Join me at DQ for some time of connection and ice cream. Sign-up with three of your friends for some delicious summer fun. Check the sign-up genius for more information on the specific dates.

#### ***Camp WAPO***

June 26-July 1, contact WAPO for more information on space availability for our week at camp. You won't regret your decision to come to camp.

### **High School Summer Ministry:**

#### ***Bonfires*** (Weather permitting)

June 15, July 20, August 17 at 6:00 pm here at St. Philip's. Join us for s'mores and summer fun!

#### ***Nashville Mission Trip***

We're going to Nashville! Please continue to pray for us as we journey to Nashville July 9-16, 2016. We have 12 high school youth and 4 adult leaders travelling together. Thanks for all of the congregational support leading up to this trip.

#### ***Middle School Service Day Leadership***

If you're interested in leadership opportunities, talk with Sara about being a leader for our service days.

#### ***Camp WAPO***

June 26-July 1, contact WAPO for more information on space availability for our week at camp. You won't regret your decision to come to camp.



In Christ's love,  
*Sara*



## Summer is Coming Soon! *Amy Morpew, Director of Children & Family Ministries*



**FAMILY**  
MINISTRY

I am getting so excited for all we have in store for the children at St. Philip's this spring and summer. Those with children in Sunday School were mailed a bright yellow summer newsletter in April. In the newsletter you can find all the details, schedules, and registration forms for Art Camp, VBS, Sunday School, and information on our new programs that will begin in May. Additional newsletters and registrations can be found in the church office.

### **NEW! Pray and Play!**

All preschool and younger children (and an adult) are invited to come to St. Philip's playground, listen to a story, learn some songs, and meet new friends!

### **Pray and Play Dates and Times:**

Wednesdays: May 18 & 25    June 1, 8 & 15    July 13 & 20    August 17 & 24 from 10:00 – 11:30 am

**- Come when you can**

**- Invite a friend**

**- No need to register**

**- FREE!**

### **Happy Birthday to Everyone!**

We'll celebrate everyone's birthday in Sunday School especially those with a birthday in the summer! Happy Birthday!

### **Children's May Calendar**

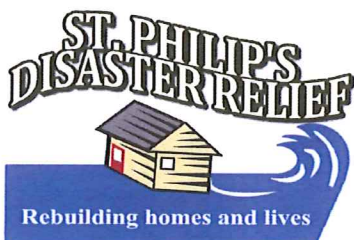
Sunday	May 1	Happy Birthday to Everyone!
Sunday	May 8	Mother's Day Sunday School Event
Wednesday	May 18	10:00-11:30 am - Pray and Play
Sunday	May 22	Last Day of Sunday School
		1:00-2:30 pm - Art Camp/VBS Volunteer Meeting
Wednesday	May 25	10:00-11:30 am - Pray and Play

***Watch for our "Splash into Summer" display in the Narthex for ways you can give, volunteer, and get involved!***

Please contact me with any questions or to have a Summer Newsletter mailed to you.

Peace!

*Amy Morpew*



## **SPDR Weekend Update**

In 2016, many residents in the Front Range area of Colorado are still dealing with the effects of the 2012 High Park Fire and the 2013 Front Range Flooding. A team of 36 will spend the first week in May helping some of these people rebuild their homes and lives.

Follow them through daily updates posted on St. Philip's website at [[www.splcmn.org/spdr](http://www.splcmn.org/spdr)] or on Facebook by searching for St. Philip's Disaster Relief. (A Facebook account is not needed to view SPDR's page.)

***This will be SPDR's fourth trip to Colorado. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated by those on this journey.***

## Library Additions *More New Books!*

Warm weather is on its way, but there's still time to get some reading done before you head off to summer adventures. Come to the church library to look for these new titles.

### FICTION

***Putting Away Childish Things*** by Marcus Borg. Kate is offered a visiting professorship at a seminary. Events lead to a parents' campaign to get rid of her.

***Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse*** by Faith Sullivan. Sullivan is a Minnesota author who writes about the fictional town of Harvestor, MN. In this novel the widow Nell Stillman faces many obstacles but finds strength in lasting friendships and the inner life of the books she loves.

### NONFICTION

***The Warmth of the Heart Prevents Your Body from Rusting*** by Marie de Hennezel. The author, a clinical psychologist, examines the art of growing old, how to avoid depression, stay happy, and live a rich, rewarding, and fruitful old age.

***The Senator Next Door*** by Amy Klobuchar. Minnesota senator Klobuchar chronicles her journey from immigrant grandparents to her rise in American politics.

***We Know How This Ends*** by Bruce Kramer. ALS is a death sentence. When death is a constant companion, your outlook on life is utterly transformed. Journalist Cathy Wurzer helps Kramer write more than a memoir.

***Stitches*** by Anne Lamott. A handbook on meaning, hope, and repair.

***Between a Rock and a Hard Place*** by Aron Ralston. This is the true story of six days of survival in the Utah desert.



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## Come join St. Philip's Lutheran Church on Instagram!

Check-in on the fun photos of the past and present in our community.

Tag your beautiful adventures with church friends and family!

Share your digital artistry with the parish!

#stphilipsfridley

@stphilipsfridley





## Filling the Hole *An Experience from Carol Sack*

Jim and I both visit one of Japan's largest prisons once a month to offer a listening ear to prisoners. Though our normal involvement is done on a one-to-one basis, twice I have been asked to bring my harp to a rehabilitation group for sexual offenders. Although the prison atmosphere appears extremely harsh for the most part, I have been impressed with this program, which meets for 90 minutes, a total of 70 times with the same four or five men. Some people have criticized me for offering prayerful presence in voice and harp for such offenders of society, but my own conviction is that there has been for these individuals some fundamental injury of identity, some tragic demolition of dignity which leads to societal harm, and if that foundational hole can be filled, the source of the violence can be touched and transformed. I realize that my conviction may be naïve and simplistic, but only God knows that, and I feel there is nothing to lose by trying. Thus I accepted these invitations with honor.

As last year, I was told that these men are generally afraid of people they do not know, especially women. Four staff persons and four inmates were present. I introduced myself and briefly explained what I do, visiting patients one-on-one, offering voice and harp at the bedside. I invited all to close their eyes. Without explanation I began to play our simple music, a combination of Gregorian chant, Latin Taize chants and lullabies in various languages. I purposely use unfamiliar music sung in non-vernacular, so as to offer the listener freedom to take whatever heart-journey is necessary. I sense the presence of the Holy Spirit leading them wherever they need to go. In this instance, I particularly felt the effect of the lullabies, and prayed that whatever might have been bereft in their maternal relationships might be offered through God's grace in these moments. After about 30 minutes, the music came to a quiet close and the leader asked staff and inmates alike to share their thoughts.

I was awed by God's movement in their hearts. Our music is so simple, it is clear that this is not a result of musical prowess, rather the sheer grace of God at work. Let me share the response of one of the inmates. Please recall that these were all Japanese men, and that Japan is a country where the Christian population is less than 1%. Also please note that I had explained nothing, and sang in foreign tongues.

The gentleman to my right said, "Before I committed crimes, I used to go into churches from time to time and listen to the music. This music reminded me of those times. I felt like I was back in a church pew. I realized that I need to be in that kind of place. I need to return there. If I were listening to this kind of music and were in the church, I could not commit crimes. I want to start reading my Bible again. We need the love of Christ...."

I sat back, stunned. He went on and on, proclaiming that the church, the Bible and the love of Christ was not only his, but their hope. I felt I was in the presence of an authentic missionary, one who had earned a right to speak with power and with the word of authority. Fortunately I had the restraint not to add my two-cents' worth, but just to let this man, one of them, be my spokesperson.

I was thankful that this man confirmed my original conviction ~ that there is transformative power not only to an individual but to society, when Christ's love is offered right into the hole of any human condition. At least it seemed to be true for this one man. If Jesus leaves the 99 for just the one, it is enough.





## President's Column *Mike Youngberg*

So last month was about planning and looking ahead. This month seems to be about the unexpected. 60° weather one day, 30° the next. I'm not big on April Fool's Day pranks, but this year was a good one. Thursday night late, Friday morning actually, I went to let the dogs out. Imagine my surprise when the deck was covered in snow. It had been over 50° the day before. April Fool on Mike (and a few others I suspect). So much for that bike ride. The refrigerator needs cleaning anyway.

The day is planned, places to go, people to meet. I have my list in hand. Then the phone rings. A friend's car has broken down. Can I come pick him up and give him a ride to work? Lucky thing I'm retired. I can always get back to my stuff tomorrow.

Easter, supposed to pick up mother and enjoy dinner and a relaxing afternoon with brother's family. The phone rings at 6:00 am. Mother has been ambulated to the hospital. Easter dinner - McDonalds take out in a hospital room. Everything turns out OK. Mother resting comfortably at home now. Oh well, we'll see everybody on Mother's Day.

So, what's the point of this ramble. First, that life is good anyway. God has provided, and we have been blessed. Sometimes the problems are real and devastating, but often they are not as bad as we would make them. Even in the devastation, there is often blessing. This is not exactly a new lesson, but I need to be reminded periodically to quit complaining and rejoice.

Second is be flexible. How many times has your day been disrupted, and you've looked heavenward and said, "Seriously, God. Why now?" I'm pretty sure that God's entertainment is whenever we make plans. God has a wonderful way of altering our perspective. We lock ourselves into a plan, and God's response is, "Really, I don't think so. How about this instead?" Planning is important, but so is adaptability.

We encounter God in unexpected places and when we least expect it. The older I get, the more the old adage "Go with the flow" makes sense. My suggestion - make your list in pencil. There's a fair chance you'll wind up changing it anyway. And remember to Rejoice!



### The Finish Line Is in Sight

The effort to eliminate the St. Philip's mortgage in 2016 has seen a tremendous response! Thank you to the individuals and households who have so generously made contributions. Commitments of \$110,350 of our \$120,000 goal have been made. This means we are 92% of the way there and, with your help, we will be able to reach the goal.

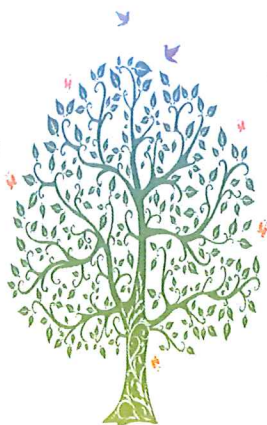
Imagine the ministry God will do through St. Philip's with the freedom we'll experience in 2017 and beyond!

St. Philip's March 2016	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Income	\$219,285	\$215,950
Expense	(\$214,086)	(\$206,149)
TOTALS	\$5,199	\$9,802

## Life Events *May Anniversaries*

Donald & Carol Blair on 5/28/1955 for 61 years  
Clarence & Constance Asche on 5/30/1960 for 56 years  
Donald & Ila Stradal on 5/12/1962 for 54 years  
Thomas & Marlene Schonebaum on 5/19/1962  
for 54 years

Glen & Sandra Byl on 5/22/1965 for 51 years  
Kenneth & Doris Moxness on 5/9/1970 for 46 years  
Edward & Sharon Aune on 5/22/1971 for 45 years  
John & Bonnie Shelton on 5/24/1975 for 41 years  
Ronald & Gretchen Nelson on 5/14/1977 for 39 years  
Michael & Deborah Carroll on 5/19/1979 for 37 years  
Becky & Timothy Tracey on 5/16/1980 for 36 years  
Jon & Mary Johnson on 5/9/1981 for 35 years  
Thomas & Kara Ruwart on 5/15/1982 for 34 years  
Daniel & Patricia Porter on 5/19/1984 for 32 years  
Jonathan & Neoma Haugan on 5/26/1984 for 32 years  
Thomas & Jill Kaufhold on 5/26/1984 for 32 years  
Kamal Tia & Fauzia Shawich on 5/1/1985 for 31 years  
Scott & Sandy Long on 5/18/1985 for 31 years  
Byron & Karen Teska on 5/17/1986 for 30 years  
Tim & Lesli Hanlin on 5/25/1991 for 25 years  
Dan & Lauri Anderson on 5/8/1993 for 23 years  
Dan & Sara Zank on 5/9/1998 for 18 years  
Jeff Thorp & Lesley Prater-Thorp on 5/16/1998 for 18 years  
Mary & Randy Shogren on 5/1/1999 for 17 years  
Sean & Melinda Warner on 5/22/1999 for 17 years  
Dawn & Bradley Wampole on 5/5/2001 for 15 years  
David & Christa Pullen on 5/3/2003 for 13 years  
Adam & Becky Thronson on 5/23/2003 for 13 years  
David & Connie Yerigan on 5/31/2003 for 13 years  
Jake & Cindy Roerig on 5/6/2006 for 10 years  
John & Ann Booker on 5/13/2006 for 10 years  
Shawn & Kari Pederson on 5/28/2006 for 10 years  
Chad & Gina Munsterman on 5/10/2008 for 8 years  
Matthew Johnson & Stephanie Phelps on 5/3/2013 for 3 years  
Daniel & Amy Nelson on 5/4/2013 for 3 years  
Bryant & Melissa Holmstrom on 5/22/2015 for 1 year



## *The St. Philip's Endowment Fund*

Even if you missed the April brunch



You can help grow the St. Philip's  
Endowment Fund!



Be part of St. Philip's mission & ministry  
well into the future with a gift of any  
size, for any reason, any time.

\*\*\*

### *Memorials & Special Gifts*

March gifts were received in memory  
of  
Jean Arfmann, David Eitrheim and  
Mary Riedberger.

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

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

For more information, visit our  
website at [www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org), select the  
Ministries tab and click Endowment. Or  
contact a member of the Endowment  
Fund Committee: Bob Becker, Dana  
Rebelein, Jennifer Prasek, Dick Lekang,  
Joan Kruse, Virg Herrick, Jeanine  
Grandstrand and Ron Ackerman.

## *March Baptisms*

Nathaniel Dean Weber on March 27, 2016



A sincere thank you to all our friends and neighbors at St. Philip's for the prayers and well-wishes for me and my family. I have personally felt the power of those prayers for myself and our son-in-law, Chris Christlieb.

*-Thank you, Sylvia Strand*

Lorraine Harry thanks her friends at St. Philip's and all the congregation for their cards, phone calls, and prayers during her surgery and recovery from colon cancer. Everything was much appreciated and warmed her heart.

*"God Bless You All!"*

*Thank You!*



## 87 Newborn Kits!

The Benevolence Committee was able to stock 87 newborn kits from our generous donations.

Thank you for filling this immense need. These kits will be donated to Global Health Ministries and they will be sent worldwide.

*Thank you, thank you!*



## St. Philip's 20th Annual Garage Sale

It is time to begin thinking about sorting through your household goods that need to be donated to the garage sale! As you do your spring cleaning, start putting your items aside.

The dates of the sale this year are Wednesday July 27 through Saturday July 30, 2016. Drop off of items will begin on July 15.

The garage sale committee will donate \$10,000 of the profits to the mortgage retirement. Charitable donations have yet to be decided, but Doing for Others is a mission of this sale! Thank you for your support of this ministry!

**Start saving!!!**

## Life Enrichment Adult Forums

***There will be LEAFS at  
Christ the King  
Lutheran Church  
on May 2 and May 16.***



Registration forms are available in the church office. For additional information on programs, cost and speakers contact Ron Seekamp [763-571-7824] or Linda Poissant [763-757-1339].







# St. Philip's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Worship <b>9:35 am</b> Adult Forum Sunday School <b>10:30 am</b> Worship Confirmation Sunday	<b>2</b> <b>4:30 pm</b> Chair Yoga <b>5:45 pm</b> Boy Scout Mtg <b>6:00 pm</b> Girl Scout Mtg Mat yoga <b>7:00 pm</b> GA; Gamanon	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together <b>5:00 pm</b> Solid Ground AA <b>6:00 pm</b> Worship Band	<b>4</b> <b>8:30 am</b> WOW & Men's Work Crew <b>9:00 am</b> Quilters <b>10:00 am</b> EA Group <b>1:00 pm</b> Joy Circle <b>6:00 pm</b> Bells of Praise <b>7:00 pm</b> Sanctuary Choir; AA	<b>5</b> <i>Artides due for The Friend</i> <b>7:00 am</b> Men's Book Discussion <b>1:00 pm</b> Lunch Bunch <b>7:00 pm</b> Recovery International <b>7:30 pm</b> AA; Alanon	<b>6</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> EA Group <b>6:00 pm</b> Women's GA	<b>7</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Saturday Evening Worship <b>6:00 pm</b> Saturday Supper
<b>8</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Worship <b>9:35 am</b> Sunday School Adult Forum <b>10:30 am</b> Worship 	<b>9</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Glory Circle <b>1:00 pm</b> Global Health Ministries <b>2:00 pm</b> Lynwood Bingo <b>5:45 pm</b> Boy Scout Mtg <b>6:30 pm</b> Benevolence Mtg <b>7:00 pm</b> GA; Gamanon All-Committee Mtg <b>7:30 pm</b> Parish Fellowship Mtg	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together <b>2:30 pm</b> Heritage Committee Mtg <b>5:00 pm</b> Solid Ground AA <b>6:00 pm</b> Worship Band <b>6:30 pm</b> Property & Grounds Mtg	<b>11</b> <b>8:30 am</b> WOW & Men's Work Crew <b>10:00 am</b> EA Group Woman's Book Club <b>6:00 pm</b> Bells of Praise <b>7:00 pm</b> Sanctuary Choir AA Evangelism Mtg	<b>12</b> <b>8:15 am</b> 55+ Mystery Outing <b>6:30 pm</b> Garden Group <b>7:00 pm</b> Recovery International <b>7:30 pm</b> AA; Alanon	<b>13</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> EA Group <b>6:00 pm</b> Women's GA	<b>14</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Saturday Evening Worship
<b>15</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Worship <b>9:35 am</b> Sunday School Equal Exc. Coffee Sale Adult Forum <b>10:30 am</b> Worship	<b>16</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> Boy Scout Mtg <b>7:00 pm</b> GA; Gamanon	<b>17</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Library Mtg <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together <b>5:00 pm</b> Solid Ground AA <b>6:00 pm</b> Worship Band	<b>18</b> <b>8:30 am</b> WOW & Men's Work Crew <b>9:00 am</b> Quilters <b>10:00 am</b> EA Group <b>6:00 pm</b> Bells of Praise <b>7:00 pm</b> AA Sanctuary Choir	<b>19</b> <b>7:00 am</b> Men's Book Discussion <b>7:00 pm</b> Recovery International <b>7:30 pm</b> AA; Alanon	<b>20</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> EA Group <b>6:00 pm</b> Women's GA	<b>21</b> <b>8:00 am</b> Spring Clean Up <b>9:00 am</b> Comfort & Joy of Quilting <b>5:00 pm</b> Saturday Evening Worship
<b>22</b> <i>Music Sunday</i> <b>8:30 am</b> Worship <b>9:35 am</b> Sunday School Adult Forum <b>10:30 am</b> Worship <b>11:30 am</b> Spring Picnic <b>1:00 pm</b> Artcamp Vacation Bible School Mtg	<b>23</b> <b>1:30 pm</b> Knitters & Crocheters <b>5:45 pm</b> Boy Scout Mtg <b>7:00 pm</b> GA; Gamanon	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Assemble <i>The Friend</i> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together <b>5:00 pm</b> Solid Ground AA <b>6:00 pm</b> Worship Band Global Health Ministries <b>6:45 pm</b> Board of Administration Mtg	<b>25</b> <b>8:30 am</b> WOW & Men's Work Crew <b>10:00 am</b> EA Group <b>10:30 am</b> Pray & Play <b>2:00 pm</b> Global Missions Team Mtg <b>6:00 pm</b> Bells of Praise <b>7:00 pm</b> AA	<b>26</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> Women's Book Club <b>7:00 pm</b> Recovery International Facebook Class for Seniors <b>7:30 pm</b> AA; Alanon	<b>27</b> <b>1:00 pm</b> EA Group <b>6:00 pm</b> Women's GA	<b>28</b> <b>5:00 pm</b> Saturday Evening Worship
<b>29</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Worship <b>9:35 am</b> Adult Forum <b>10:30 am</b> Worship	<b>30</b> <i>Office Closed</i> <b>5:45 pm</b> Boy Scout Mtg <b>7:00 pm</b> GA; Gamanon 	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together <b>5:00 pm</b> Solid Ground AA <b>6:00 pm</b> Worship Band				



# St. Philip's

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## St. Philip's Lutheran Church

*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**