

# The Friend

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

November 2016

## Running with Perseverance

by Pastor Mollie Dvorak

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." -Hebrews 12:1-2*



These verses always speak to me in this time of year as we prepare to celebrate All Saints Sunday. They are the reminder that who we are as a community of faith here and now is but a fragment of God's whole communion of saints. Somehow, for us as humans, it is difficult for us to consider that this "communion" encompasses not only the present but also the past – the multitudes of those who have gone before us! – as well as all who will come after us. This is what we teach and proclaim: that we are all one with God, not because of our own righteousness, but because of Jesus' righteousness – because he was, is, and always will be the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

And because of this good news we dare to lay claim to the promise and assurance of resurrected life that begins in the here and now and continues for all eternity for those who trust and believe in Jesus. So we look forward to sharing together in worship on All Saints Sunday, November 6, remembering not only in honor of those who have died during this past year, but also in celebration of the newly baptized. And on this day of remembering and giving thanks for all the saints, as we gather for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we will also intentionally remember that Christ's Table is much bigger than what we can see. And what we taste and receive here now is but a foretaste of that great banquet that awaits all the sinner/saints 'who run with perseverance the race that is set before them.'

Peace,

*Pastor Mollie*

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*Everyone  
is welcome to  
worship at  
St. Philip's*

## Faith Reflections

*Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

As we are a couple of months into our new Sunday Morning Wonder learning time together on Sundays, I hope and trust that you've grown in your faith and your perspective a bit through the interactions with people of many different ages. The biggest gift for me as a part of youth ministry is what our young people continue to teach me about my faith and my view of God on a continuous basis.



I asked some of our High School youth to answer a few questions regarding their faith to share with our community. Their answers are pretty profound and here they are:

### ***Why is faith important to you?***

"I like to be able to know that I can be myself and be loved by God. It helps me with my relationships with others as well." – *Lauren Young*

"Because faith is like a foundation you build on." – *Katie Manecke*

"Faith is a part of life and if it wasn't here we would live in fear and sin. You never know what you have until you lose it but in Confirmation I decided that I needed to recognize this gift that I couldn't live without.

The importance of faith shouldn't be questioned, but we are allowed to." – *Tori Hatten*

### ***Why is being a part of a faith community important to you?***

"This community is important because it helps everyone grow. The elders will teach the youth and the youth will bring a new perspective that shouldn't be overlooked. All members of the community are important and are like a tree, every branch is important and if one tries to break off the others will continue to support it." – *Tori Hatten*

"Because you are never alone" – *Amber Boettcher*

### ***Who in your life has impacted your faith the most? How?***

"Sunday School leaders, friends, Pastors" – *Amber Boettcher*

"My family because they helped and guided me through my faith journey." – *Katie Manecke*

"My grandparents because they have been part of my faith journey throughout my life. They are good models of faithful people and they show me how to live as God's hands and feet." – *Lauren Young*

"The person who most impacted my faith is Julie Overlie. She taught me how music can express your faith in God and made a new way for me to be involved." – *Tori Hatten*

Look forward to hearing more from our youth in the coming months!

In Christ,

*Lauren, Katie, Tori, Amber, and Sara*

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## Thank You: Your Donations are Appreciated

Starting in 2015 members of St. Philip's have been donating personal travel items, eye glasses, hearing aids, and used cell phones. Since this program was started 467 pair of eye glasses and 21 hearing aids have been donated to the Lions Club. Until just recently all the personal items were donated to the Alexandra House, however, they have changed their policy and accept only full size items now. They directed me to the Stepping Stones, a home for the homeless in Anoka. The total for both of these organizations has been 306 pounds of personal items. Unused cell phones are still accepted and to date 144 phones have been donated. So keep those items coming—they are very much appreciated—thank you! If you have questions, please contact Carol Baumgartner [651-464-6049].



## Holiday Market

Come one, come all! Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm the Fellowship Hall and Narthex of St. Philip's will be filled with vendors and crafters for your shopping pleasure. Food will also be served all day. This event is sponsored by Parish Fellowship Committee, and proceeds will be used for projects within St. Philip's.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

This Thanksgiving season, we ask you to donate the following items to fill 45 Thanksgiving baskets for those in need: canned vegetables, fruit, sweet potatoes, cranberries, soups, boxed stuffing mix, boxed muffin mixes, Jell-O "No Bake" desserts, instant potato mixes, gravy packets, and cash/checks to complete the baskets. Please bring your items to the church office by Saturday, November 19 so they can be assembled on Sunday, November 20. Help fill the cornucopia of others with goodness from the heart!

## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet Thursday, November 3 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm. We will once again meet at Teppanyaki Grill in Fridley. We are able to use the back room and they have offered to take one lump payment for the group. If you would like to be a part of this please bring \$12 cash for the meal including beverage (\$10 without beverage) or a check payable to Mike Youngberg. If you choose to pay with a credit card a waitress can assist you. Any questions please call Renee Youngberg [763-780-6390].

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## Faith, Sexism, Justice; A Conversation about Faith and God

You are invited to take part in a significant conversation in the life of St. Philip's and in the life of our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). "Faith, Sexism, Justice" is a seven-session conversation about important topics in the life of the church. Through your participation, you will be able to provide feedback and insight into the ELCA's work in developing a social statement from the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice.

Each session will include Bible study, prayer, and conversation through a lens of justice surrounding issues of sexism in the church. The study resources state, "Many individuals and their families struggle emotionally, physically, and economically because of the effects of sexism and patriarchy. These forces are personal, religious, social, and economic. As members of the body of Christ that is the church, we are called to help all people live abundant lives that are just and sufficient - lives in which every individual and community is committed to the mutual values of respect, dignity, interdependence, and equity."

The topics and the schedule are as follows:

November 6: Why do we need to talk together?

November 13: What problems do women face, and what does justice require?

November 20: How is sexism personal, and how are we the body of Christ together?

February 5: What does economic sexism look like, and how can we seek equity for all?

February 12: How can we address violence against women and girls?

February 19: Why do words and images for God matter?

February 26: How do we challenge the misuse of Scripture against women and girls?

Each session will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in the Lounge.

Elaine Knutson, Heather Koshiol, and Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem will facilitate these conversations. Please plan on adding your voice to the conversation while listening deeply and carefully to your fellow members of the body of Christ.

## President's Column *Mike Youngberg*

There are lots of things that change our lives. In my case recent changes have been wonderful and pretty easy to deal with. My retirement had been planned for almost two years. Unlike many who retire, I had a pretty good idea how it would go. After all, I was a teacher, and I had been practicing during the summer for thirty years. I felt a little guilty because most of my friends weren't as lucky as I was. (OK, OK, I didn't really feel all that guilty.) Summer vacation now lasts twelve months. It's great. It wasn't traumatic, and I haven't really discovered a down side yet.

Speaking of changes, did I mention that our daughter Corinne (and her husband Leo) made us grandparents and Gloria a great-grandparent. I never could figure out what happened to my father and father-in-law that made them get so goofy with a baby when my kids were born. These were sophisticated, highly intelligent businessmen. I'm still not sure what happens, but it happened to me too. I know what you're thinking, "How would anyone know if Mike got goofy?"

I've also learned that some things don't change all that much. Changing a poopy diaper for example. It comes

back quickly. (The trick is managing both legs with one hand.) It's different now than it was with my own kids. I wouldn't actually say I enjoy changing a diaper, but I don't mind it much. I guess that's perspective. When you have your own children, the emotional changes come with an altering of the physical world you live in. Diapers, feeding schedules, sleepless nights. As a grandparent, it's mostly emotional. And all positive so far.

Renee and I have been blessed. I need to constantly remind myself that God has been very good to me. I praise God for physical blessings and for Jesus on the cross. But it is easy to forget, to get too comfortable. There are those who have not been so fortunate, those whose lives have been changed and not necessarily for the better. The cross calls us to pay it forward or back or whatever direction it is that we pay it - even when we are not feeling particularly blessed. That's when it's the most difficult, but in community we rejoice with each other and carry each other in times of trial. So, in Jesus' name, rejoice in God's many blessings, and reach out a hand to someone in need.

St. Philip's	September 2016	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
	Income	\$594,838	\$574,046
	Expense	(\$614,620)	(\$603,014)
	TOTALS	(\$19,782)	(\$28,968)

## 55 + Retirees *Minneapolis Institute of Art & Black Forest Inn*



500 years ago, Martin Luther took a stand that shook Europe and changed the world! Come and see how. We will meet at church on Thursday, December 8 at 11:00 am. We will bus to the Black Forest Inn for our lunch of authentic German cuisine, served family style. After lunch, a very short bus ride brings us to the Minneapolis Institute of Art to view and tour the Martin Luther: Art of the Reformation exhibition. We'll take a one-hour guided tour of the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation brought to life in a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition featuring astonishing artworks and historical objects, traveling outside of Germany for the first time ever. After our tour you will have one hour of free time. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes!

The cost of \$28 per person includes school bus transportation, the guided tour, and lunch. Signup in the church office by Sunday, November 27. Please make a (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's Church when you sign up. (We are receiving the Thrivent member rate for this tour.)

Note: Due to the low cost, non-members of St. Philip's please sign-up on our wait list. Any questions, contact Arlene or Duane Retzer at [763-574-9559].





## Mortgage Update

The mortgage elimination effort received a very generous response. Between gifts already received and gifts promised throughout the year, St. Philip's will be debt free before the end of 2016. A monthly snapshot of the progress will be printed each month in *The Friend* until it's down to zero! Thanks again to all who responded with such generosity!

Mortgage Balance on January 1, 2016: \$185,840.97

Mortgage Balance on September 30, 2016: \$ 22,693.39



### St. Philip's Disaster Relief *Eureka, MO Trip*

A team of 14 men and 11 women spent the first week in October in the Eureka, MO area doing flood rebuilding work. Heavy rainfall from December 26 through December 28, 2015 led to flash flooding and historic river flooding along the Meramec River with thousands of businesses and homes damaged or destroyed at an estimated cost of over one billion dollars.

The SPDR team was part of a 100-day blitz to get 20 families back in their homes before winter. The team members worked in seven different homes – sheetrocking, taping and mudding, removing and replacing sub-floor, repairing plumbing, installing a door, wiring a home and installing many recessed lights, connecting electrical service, insulating, installing paneling, building a 75' long handicap ramp, and many other tasks.

The team's devotions were centered on tools. Each evening, the group leading devotions chose a tool and reflected on how we and our work are like the tool and what the tool does. We were all part of God's toolbox - used to help those in the Eureka area rebuild their homes and lives.

## Letter from Nigeria, from the Sekenwas

*Excerpts from correspondence from Dr. Sekenwa Briska and his family, Yola, Nigeria, former members of St. Philip's, September 29, 2016*

"Namsy is back to school and doing fine. The rest of the kids - Martin is back to school in Dashen; Sikama has just completed his registration, this weekend he goes back to school; Namkama resumes on October 8th 2016"...

"In August, precisely August 16 - 17, 2016, I had an episode of getting dehydrated over night when I went to University of Jos for moderation of our students' exams scripts. I had four black outs or collapsed four times in my guest room and at the hospital. I was taken to Bingham University Teaching Hospital Jos and was on drip for 48 hours. That was the only medication I received, they had several tests but found nothing. I was discharged after two days. My wife [Nuwayina] had to come down to Jos and we spent 8 days before going to Yola. We thank God for everything. I thought it was time to go. It was all about stress and might have eaten something and had a food poison or so. God is in charge of our lives. Glory be to him. I am very well and healthy going on with my work as expected. Please greet all our friends family. We read about many who have gone to be with the Lord. Our condolences to all of you. We pray for their families and the entire community."

With best wishes and remain blessed.

~On behalf of the Sekenwas~



## Life Events

### *November Anniversaries:*

Ernest & Lorraine Harry on 11/12/1955 for 61 Years  
Bob & Joyce Johnson on 11/3/1956 for 60 Years  
Vincent & Janet Lanners on 11/22/1958 for 58 Years  
Paul & Grace Wilson on 11/28/1959 for 57 Years  
John & Juanita Vaala on 11/2/1963 for 53 Years  
Robert & Sheryl Froiland on 11/27/1963 for 53 Years  
Ronald & Karla Ackerman on 11/26/1966 for 50 Years  
David & Dawn Fennig on 11/4/1967 for 49 Years  
Gerald & Virginia Olson on 11/30/1968 for 48 Years  
John & Sandra Hahn on 11/22/1969 for 47 Years  
Charles & Janet Scovill on 11/29/1969 for 47 Years  
Charles & Carolyn Kennedy on 11/17/1973 for 43 Years  
Chuck & Sue Kempf on 11/16/1985 for 31 Years  
Karie & Lynn Bergeron on 11/4/1989 for 27 Years  
Joe & Paula Gonsior on 11/17/1990 for 26 Years  
Jon & Jantima Retzer on 11/10/1992 for 24 Years  
Gilbert & Mary Haugan on 11/15/1996 for 20 Years  
William & Michelle Hatten on 11/28/1998 for 18 Years  
Brian & Misty Gilbertson on 11/20/1999 for 17 Years  
Mark & Jennifer Steffen on 11/11/2000 for 16 Years  
Samuel & Ann Garbow on 11/28/2002 for 14 Years  
Dana & Sonja Menard on 11/4/2006 for 10 Years  
Jorge & Kellie Bernal on 11/6/2010 for 6 Years



### *Baptisms*

Henry Michael Brooks on September 25  
Phoenix Leon Gascho on October 9

### *Sympathy*

To the friends and family of Jane Hokenstrom  
To the friends and family of Roger Kaye



## The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

"I give thanks to my God  
always for you"

(I Corinthians 1:4)

And for your generous support of  
St. Philip's  
Present and future ministry  
through the  
Endowment Fund  
~

September gifts were received in  
memory of  
Royce Ellestad  
&  
Ken Mueller  
~

Additional gifts were received  
from  
The Estate of Betty Sonnenberg  
&  
The Moss/Kurtz Fund



For more information visit  
[www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org), select the  
"Ministries" tab, and "Endowment," or  
contact a Committee member:  
Bob Becker, Duane Retzer,  
Ray Olson, Howard Thompson,  
Joan Kruse, Dick Lakang,  
Dana Rebelein or Jennifer Prasek.

## Pie Night

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday night, November 23 following Thanksgiving Eve worship. The Parish Fellowship Committee will prepare and serve several different kinds of pie. If you would like to help serve that night, stop by the kitchen before going to worship.

## Book Fair

The annual Book Fair is coming soon! Beautiful new books will be available November 19 and 20 at St. Philip's. There is no sales tax because this is an occasional event. The proceeds from this sale benefit the St. Philip's Library. Mark your calendars and hope to see you at the sale!






# St. Philip's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Library Mtg 10:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	<b>2</b> 8:30 am WOW Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm LifeGroups Middle & HS Ministry Bells of Praise 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	<b>3</b> 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 1:00 pm LifeGroup 7:00 pm Recovery Int'l 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Holiday Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
<b>6</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Sunday Morning Wonder 10:30 am Worship	<b>7</b> 1:00 pm Joy Circle 6:00 pm Worship Band HR Committee 7:00 pm GA Gamanon 6:30 pm Property & Grounds Mtg	<b>8 Election Day</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:30 pm Heritage Mtg 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	<b>9</b> 8:30 am WOW Men's Work Crew 10:00 am Women Book Club EA Group 6:00 pm LifeGroups Middle & HS Ministry Bells of Praise 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	<b>10</b> 1:00 pm LifeGroup 6:30 pm Garden Group Mtg 7:00 pm Recovery Int'l 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	<b>12</b> 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
<b>13</b> 8:00 am Youth Lefsa Sale 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Sunday Morning Wonder 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am LifeGroup Reception	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Glory Circle 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo 6:30 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon All Committee Mtg 7:30 pm Parish Flwshp Cmt Mtg	<b>15</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	<b>16</b> 8:30 am WOW Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm LifeGroups Middle & HS Ministry Bells of Praise 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	<b>17</b> 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	<b>18</b> 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	<b>19 Book Fair</b> 9:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
<b>20 Book Fair</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Equal Exchange Coffee Sold 9:35 am Sunday Morning Wonder 10:30 am Worship	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm GA Gamanon	<b>22</b> 8:30 am Assemble The FRIEND 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Global Health Ministries Worship Band Practice 6:45 pm Board of Administration Mtg	<b>23</b> 8:30 am WOW Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship 8:00 pm Pie & Coffee Reception	<b>24 Happy Thanksgiving ~ Office Closed ~</b> 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA 	<b>25 ~ Office Closed ~</b> 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	<b>26</b> 2:00 pm Márquez & Simula Wedding and Reception 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
<b>27</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School No Sunday Morning Wonder 10:30 am Worship	<b>28 Articles due for January issue of "The Friend"</b> 1:30 pm Knitters and Crocheters 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	<b>30</b> 8:30 am WOW Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm LifeGroups Middle & HS Ministry Bells of Praise 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir			



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**Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**

**Ministers: All members of the Parish**

### *The Friend* deadline:

November 28, 2016 for the January 2017 Issue

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