

# The Friend

## Mission:

*God calls us to receive and share God's love and grace with all people.*

## Vision:

**With God's help, we will be joyful, compassionate and generous as we worship, grow and serve in community.**



*- from the Staff at St. Philip's.*

*Pastor Christine, Pastor Mollie, Pastor Margie,  
Jeannine, Amada, Jerry, Tony, Connie, Jennifer, Rick,  
David, Katie, and Michelle.*

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# GROW

## December Events You Don't Want To Miss!

### *Advent Wednesdays*



November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20

***Wednesday evenings for food, fellowship, and hymn sing.***

6:00 pm - Dinner followed by an all congregation craft, game, or activity

6:40 pm - Head into the sanctuary for hymn singing

Come join us in the season of Advent as we wait in anticipation together!

### *Christmas Pageant*

***"The Not-So-Silent Night"***

Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 am Worship



### *Bake Sale*

Support our youth going to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas in June of 2018

Sunday, December 10 following the 9:30 am Worship



### *Christmas Concert*

***"Sweet Peace"***

Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 pm

### *Christmas Worship Schedule:*

Christmas Eve Worship - Sunday December 24 - 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship - Monday, December 25 - 9:30 am Worship

New Years Eve Worship - Sunday December 31 - 9:30 am Worship



## Supporting Our Youth

### *Tory Pluckeck, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

As many of you know, St. Philip's high school youth are heading to Houston, TX this summer to gather with 30,000 Lutheran youth and adults from around the country for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The gathering is a unique, life-changing opportunity for our youth to experience the whole church and what we are capable of as a community united in Christ. It challenges participants to be a witness to others, to practice discipleship, and to strive for justice and peace. Days are spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship. Young people grow in their faith while being challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

The youth of St. Philip's headed to the gathering are not able to do this alone! The support, prayers, and accompaniment of the entire congregation is needed to make this a successful experience. The youth will be hosting various fundraisers throughout the year asking members to partner through financial support and provide an opportunity to connect and learn about how they are being called to encounter Christ in Houston. Each month we will be having a cinnamon roll fundraiser, so be on the lookout for those!

December 10, the youth will be organizing a bake sale for the congregation! Make sure to stop by and get some baked goods (lefse, anyone?) for the holidays by supporting our youth!

## Stars And Songs *Connie Yerigan, Director of Children & Family Ministries*



It's pageant season! Many "stars" will be born as the children help us to remember the one who was born under that bright shining star, so long ago.

The Christmas pageant this year is titled, *"The Not-So-Silent Night"*. Join us on December 10 at 9:30 am as our children sing songs and tell the story of the night Jesus was born.

In the weeks leading up to the pageant, the children, their families, and all members of our congregation are invited to participate in Advent themed activities each Wednesday after dinner.

*Blessings and Peace to you this season and always!*

### **December 2017**

3 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)

8:45 am Pageant Rehearsal

6 – Advent Activities & Pageant rehearsal

Dinner: Sloppy Joes

10 – Christmas Pageant Day! Rehearsal at 8:45 am.

Pageant during 9:30 am worship

13 – Advent Activities

Dinner: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

17 – No S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)

20 – Advent Activities

Dinner: Meaty Chili

24 – No S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)

27 – No Children's Ministry Night

31 – No S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)

## President's Column *Mike Youngberg*

Well, we've entered into it -

### *Halloweenthanksgivingchristmas,*

or *Hallothanksmas* for short. Survived part one, Halloween. I learned long ago not to buy anything I don't like to eat just in case I have to finish it myself. Bought enough Tootsie Rolls for hundreds. Had fifteen. The sugar high will last until next summer. And I'll weigh 300 pounds. I tried to stuff the Thanksgiving turkey with Tootsie Rolls. Wife stopped me. Probably a good thing.

Hosted the crowd on Thanksgiving. It used to be easy and predictable. Kids would be there, brother-in-law and his family, grandma and grandpa. Now I need a schedule and a calendar. Kid #1 is in California. Plane ticket for the week of Thanksgiving was four times as much as for the week before. So Thanksgiving started on the 13th. Thanksgiving for Kid #1 done by the 19th. Kid #2 and family were with us last year. This year they're with husband's family. We'll miss Grandkid's first major family

feast with teeth. Hopefully someone will take a picture. We get them for Christmas though. Gifts probably more fun than food anyway. Brother-in-law's kids are older now, scattered, in college, and with friends. Grandma will be there, but for several years now we've missed Grandpa. It's not simple anymore. Everyone has somewhere to be next. Now, holidays have to be scheduled. Who will be where and when. And when do they have to leave to get to their next event.

All that said, *Hallothanksmas* has gone as well as could be expected. Got to see everyone and everyone is healthy. Can't ask for much more than that. There is much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. We are in Advent now. The beginning of a new church year. A reminder that Christ has come and lives among us. May the blessings of the season be abundant in your lives. And if you're one of those for whom this is a difficult time, may God give you strength to manage.

St. Philip's 2017	Actual October	Actual YTD
Income	\$95,183	\$624,395
Expense	(\$64,231)	(\$645,543)
TOTALS	\$30,952	(\$21,148)

## Lighting The Way For A Call Committee *The Transition Team*

The Transition Team (Carol Anderson, Bob Becker, Bryant Holmstrom, Heather Koshiol, Jennifer Prasek, and Tom Young, guided by Pastor Christine) has talked with community members to learn more about how God is at work in the Fridley area. These conversations are providing insights as the Team prepares a "Ministry Site Profile" (MSP). This extensive document describes St. Philip's community and its mission and vision; the MSP

will serve as a tool for the future Call Committee (to be elected at the February 4 Annual Meeting) in selecting Senior Pastor candidates.

At its next meeting, the Team will develop a plan for St. Philip's congregation members to provide input to help discern the traits and gifts our Senior Pastor will need in order to help St. Philip's follow God's call into the future.

## 2017 Contribution Deadline

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind the deadline to drop off 2017 contributions is Friday, December 29 by 1:00 pm in the church office. If you prefer to mail in your offering, it must be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 31. Per IRS guidelines,

envelopes postmarked after this date will apply to 2018. Stock gifts should be in the works by December 15. Thank you for your generous and faithful donations to St. Philip's Church.

## St. Philip's invites you to attend

The St. Philip's Christmas Concert

### *"Sweet Peace"*

Featuring:

Sanctuary Choir, Worship Band,  
and Bells of Praise

Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 pm

All are welcome!

Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall



## 55+ Retirees *Roe Family Singers and Pie*



Start the New Year with toe-tapping music from the Roe Family Singers and pie! Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 18 at 1:30 pm for a one-hour musical performance.

The Roe Family Singers are a husband, wife and

another family member. They are a "Good-Time, Old-Time" band with a mix of original music and contemporary takes

on old-time, traditional, and gospel tunes. The kind of music they play is all about community and togetherness. It truly is "family" music. Following their performance, pie from Bakers Square, will be served.

The cost is only \$6/per person. Sign up in the church office by Sunday, January 14. Please make a (non-refundable) check payable to St. Philip's. This would be a great time to invite a friend! If you have any questions, contact Tom Schonebaum [763-786-2483].

## Staff Transition *A Fond Farewell*

Being a part of the staff and member of St. Philip's has been a wonderfully rewarding experience. Some times when I realize that I am leaving I get a lump in my throat because in the three years we have been attending St. Philip's we found a church home and were able to get married here. My husband Frost and I were in the Sanctuary Choir together, made coffee for Sundays, started the <55 group, participated in the Blessing of the Animals, helped with brunches, dinners, and lunches and enjoyed playing music at a few summer Worship services and once in the Sanctuary.

I would love to list all the names of the people who have welcomed us into their church home and into their hearts but the list would be too long for a 250 word article in *The Friend*. :)

I would like to thank you all for being our church family and for offering a hug during stressful wedding planning, busy bulletin times of the year, and for being a fun staff to work with. I will miss St. Philip's in more ways than one. With the fondest thoughts I say good bye and God bless you.

# SERVE

## Global Mission Festival *Save the Date - YAGM*

SAVE THE DATE – YAGM at St. Philip's January 21, 2018  
Pronounced yay-gum, YAGM is the acronym for Young Adults in Global Ministry, an ELCA program which sponsors Lutherans from 21-29 years of age to spend one year abroad in mission work.

St. Philip's 2018 Missions Festival will feature Kurt Hellmann, a dynamic young man from Minnesota who recently participated in the program. Kurt has wonderful stories of his experiences to share during and between services, and will explain how St. Philip's youth and other

young people we know can apply to serve as missionaries for a year.

*Do not say you're only a boy, for you shall go to all to whom I send you and you shall speak whatever I command you. – Jeremiah 1:7*



## A Letter From The Sacks *ELCA Missionaries in Japan*

*November 1, 2017*

*Dear Friends in Christ:*

*We are always thankful for your support of us as missionaries through the ELCA. We appreciate your ongoing prayers and financial support on our behalf.*

*Here's a message to say to you: as a missionary "overseas" I can see that you also, equally, are missionaries "over time." We are called, some of us through location, some of us through the passing of years.*

*That is to say, I have recently been struck with the importance of Sunday School.*

*When we are teaching little ones or young people, we trust that seeds are indeed being planted, but oftentimes we may not "see" the plant that has emerged, nor realize how deeply those roots have extended into the fertile ground.*

*A patient that I met recently at the hospice where I serve taught me this lesson. I will call this woman*

*Suzuki san. She was in her 80's, and she was close to the end of her life.*

*I was asked to offer pastoral harp ("prayerful present through voice and hand") at Suzuki san's bedside. When I started to play, Suzuki san listened pensively to the Gregorian chant and Taise musical prayers. Very soon into the music some tears ran down her cheeks. When I brought the music to a close after 30 minutes or so, Suzuki san immediately began opening up to me. She said that, as a child, eight decades ago, she had regularly gone to Sunday School in a neighborhood church, and, listening to the music, somehow she felt as though she was right back there in her Sunday School. Mind you, I had not said a word about the meaning of the unfamiliar music sung in Latin, nor the fact that I was a missionary or even Christian, so I was so surprised to hear the music had connected her with that particular memory.*

## A Letter From The Sacks *ELCA Missionaries in Japan - CONTINUED*

Con't from page 6

Then, it was quite endearing, as she continued to evangelize me, in essence. She explained that in Japan, there are "The gods" (and she put the palms of her hands together as one would when bowing before a Buddhist family altar) and then there is also KI-RI-SU-TO SAMA (the term for Lord Christ - then she made the sign of the cross.) She was taught in Sunday that KI-RI-SU-TO- SAMA is always watching over her, protecting her. She mentioned that her mother, being Japanese, took care of the family Buddhist altar, but she and her mother also loved KI-RI-SU-TO SAMA ~ so they were very busy!

She had forgotten these memories of Sunday School for many decades, but the music brought it all back to her in an instant. This lovely woman made her Great Travel to Heaven just three weeks after that. I'm so grateful that I could meet her at that precious time, and again twice after that.

The hospice director told me that in her eternal resting

form in her casket, there was a cross bookmark lying upon on her shoulder. We do not know who put it there. Yesterday I happened to share this story at a church where I was asked to preach. I received the most wonderful present at the Congregational fellowship after the service. One man in his late thirties told me he had heard me play "Jesus Loves Me" at another program three months ago, and hearing that, he recalled his Sunday School days, and decided to return to church after many years of being a prodigal child. And he will be baptized at Christmas!

So, dear brothers and sisters, remember your calling of being the missionary "over time". We just never can predict nor imagine how, or when, or why those seeds will take root. It may be tomorrow, it may be in the late thirties, or it may be at the time of someone's eternal journey.

God bless us, one and all,  
Carol (and Jim) Sack, Tokyo



# SERVE

## St. Philip's Disaster Relief



### Donations

Thank you to all that designated funds for hurricane relief or made a donation to SPDR this fall. A check for \$5000 was sent to Lutheran Disaster Response to aid hurricane victims and following

the team's trip to Eureka, MO a check for \$1500 was sent to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Eureka for them to continue to assist the flood victims in the area.

### Alma City, MN Trips

SPDR team members spent the last two Saturdays in October working on a house in Alma City, MN (southwest of Waseca.) This house had experienced flooding in

September of 2016. The main work by these two teams included replacing windows and doors, installing window trim, and installing light fixtures and smoke detectors. There is still much work to be done but the hope is to get the homeowner back in her home before winter. Additional SPDR trips will probably be a part of that effort.

### Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendars! The annual SPDR lasagna dinner and sealed bid auction will be Sunday, February 11, 2018. Tickets for the dinner will go on sale in mid-January. Watch for additional information in St. Philip's Enews, bulletin announcements, and the Friend.

## St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf *New location!*

The St. Philip's Food and Clothing Shelf is expanding and has moved to Rooms 11 and 12. The ministry is moving forward reaching out to new people every week. Stop by

and see the new rooms and volunteer some time or items when you can. Thank you for your support!

## Giving Trees



St. Philip's will be supporting the following organizations with Christmas Tree Giving opportunities. SACA, CEAP, Alexandra House, Stepping Stones, and Kinship with the Kinship project. Closing dates will be December 13

for SACA, CEAP, Alexander House, and Stepping Stones. Kinship's deadline is Friday, December 8. Each of these organizations will be at the Sunday, December 17

Education Hour to explain their organization's outreach and how much St. Philip's helps in their missions.

Giving Trees will be up on Wednesday, Thanksgiving evening. Tags will be on the trees and you may choose one or more and purchase the item listed. Deadlines will be listed on each tree. As always, thank you for your generosity. We hope to brighten the holiday for many!

Lynwood Care Center (The Estates) will also have a gift giving area but rather than using a tree there will be post-it notes with ideas for gifts. Return the gifts to the boxes and please do not wrap. Thank you!

## Life Events

### December Anniversaries

Donald & Charlotte Fauteck on 12/14/1957 for 60 years  
 Burton & Judith Ferrier on 12/30/1961 for 56 years  
 Rodney & Sylvia Strand on 12/6/1969 for 48 years  
 Charles & Bunny Nara on 12/14/1969 for 48 years  
 Lee & Margo Tech on 12/26/1970 for 47 years  
 Douglas & Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974 for 43 years  
 Steven & LaVerne Poniatowski on 12/12/1981 for 36 years

### Baptisms

Conley Michael Mortenson on October 22

### Funerals

Harold Haglund on October 25  
 Wilbur "Willy" Jacob Ertl on November 1



## Poinsettia Sale *Decorate the Sanctuary and Take Home*



The Sanctuary Decorating Committee asks you to help beautify St. Philip's for Christmas. Purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary and take it home with you on Christmas Day. The sign up sheet is in the office. Red poinsettia plants are \$20. There are only 15 plants available so sign up by Sunday, December 18. Questions? Call Becky Becker [763-913-4059].

## Thank You St. Philip's!

### Thank you!

The family of Eleanor Haugen wishes to thank St. Philip's members for your kind remembrances of her and your help with her funeral. Your memorial money has been given to the St. Philips music ministry to be used during the Easter season to celebrate our hope in the resurrection of our Lord.

### Thank you!

The family of Glennys Knutson would like to express their thankfulness for the many prayers and acts of kindness shown by the pastors and members of St. Philip's. Truly you were a blessing to him and to us. He loved worshipping at St. Philip's. Now he is in heaven with his Lord and Savior, praising his great God. We miss him greatly but are thankful for many blessings. One of Glennys' favorite Bible verses was Psalm 46:1 *"God is our refuge and strength"* thanks be to God. - Margaret and Family

### Thank you!

14 trunks were decorated and ready to greet the trick-or-treaters on a chilly Halloween night. We had over 180 warmly dressed kids stop at our event. Best costumes included dinosaurs, ninjas, princesses, and cats! Thank you to all the volunteers who worked and members who donated candy to the Trunk-or-Treat event!



# GENEROSITY

## The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

*Look back*

to those who nurture you faith from birth to the present.

*Look around*

at what your church is doing for you, for those in need in your community and in places far beyond our borders.

*Look ahead*

to what you can do to make sure the ministry of St. Philip's continues in the future.



Support the St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Gifts have been received in memory of:

*Eleanor Haugen*

*Glenny Knutson*

*Jordis Mittelstadt*

*Conley Mortenson's Baptism*

*Jim Plumedahl*

*Marlene and Roger Sonstegard*

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" and select Ministries and then Endowment.

Thank you for your support!

## 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

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**Connie Yerigan**, Director of Children & Family Ministries  
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**Lori Peterson**, Nursery Ministry

**Jennifer Thurman**, Worship Band Director  
JenniferT@splcmn.org, ext. 106

**Rick Prescott**, Sanctuary Choir Director  
RickP@splcmn.org, ext. 106

**David Geslin**, Organist;  
DavidG@splcmn.org

**Dawn Hansen**, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director

**Katie Swenstad**, Full-Time Custodian  
KatieS@splcmn.org, ext. 109

**Michelle Hill**, Part-Time Custodian

## Worship Schedule

**Please join us for Sunday Worship**

8:30 am (Traditional)

10:30 am (Contemporary)

### Board of Administration

BOA@ splcmn.org

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**Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack**

**Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**

**Ministers: All members of the Parish**

**St. Philip's Deadlines for The Friend:**

January 1st for the February issue

E-mail typed copy (250 word max) to: [info@splcmn.org](mailto:info@splcmn.org)



# St. Philip's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Newsletter Articles Due	2
3 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K.; Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:30 am Worship	4 1:00 pm Joy Circle Christmas Potluck 4:45 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	5 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	6 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 1:30 pm Poinsettia Fundraiser Pickup 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Rehearsal; Advent Wednesday; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	8	9 9:00 am Christmas Concert Rehearsal 10:00 am Kinshope Event
10 8:45 am Pagaent Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship: Christmas Pageant 10:30 am Youth Bake Sale 4:00 pm Christmas Concert and Reception	11 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 4:45 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga Benevolence Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	12 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 2:30 pm Heritage Mtg 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Budget Mtg; Worship Band Practice 6:30 pm Property & Grounds Mtg; Parish Fellowship Mtg	13 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group; Women's Book Club 6:00 pm Advent Wednesday; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 6:00 pm Budget Mtg 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	15	16 10:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting
17 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Education Hour; Equal Exchange Coffee Sale 10:30 am Worship	18 9:30 am Glory Circle 4:45 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	19 9:00 am Assemble 'The Friend'; Library Group Mtg 11:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice 6:45 pm Board of Administration Mtg	20 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm Advent Wednesday; AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 2:00 pm Worship 4:00 pm Worship 10:00 pm 31 New Year's Eve 9:30 am Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 10:00 am Worship	26 Office Closed 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Global Health Ministries	27 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	28 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	29	30



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**Mission:**

**God calls us to receive and share God's  
love and grace with all people.**

*Vision:*

*With God's help, we will be joyful,  
compassionate and generous as we worship,  
grow and serve in community.*

We invite and welcome those of every spiritual background, ethnicity,  
gender orientation, or economic situation. We are committed to our place  
within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)