

The Friend

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

February 2017

Never-Ending Epiphany *by Pastor Mollie Dvorak*

I may be going out on a limb here but I would guess many people, even long time Lutherans have little awareness to the Church seasons. In this fast-paced, entertainment-driven, over-stimulated world, most may just see the Church seasons or liturgical colors are more of a Dark Age memory tied to the church long ago.

Why am I even bringing this up? Well, perhaps you noticed Easter comes quite late this year, April 16th. This is almost as late as it could possibly get. Fun fact, in AD

325 the Council of Nicaea issued the "Easter Rule". Easter should be celebrated "the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox" (the day in the spring when day and night are equal in length). Because of this rule, Easter must fall between March 25 - April 25. Still with me?

With Easter moved back, the season of Lent also moves because it is the forty days of preparation before Easter. This year Ash Wednesday falls on March 2, and because of this, the season of Epiphany has to stretch to fill the gap between the day of Epiphany (January 6) and Ash Wednesday. This year there are seven Sundays in Epiphany, versus last year, where there were only five.

The word Epiphany, in case you haven't used it in a sentence lately, means appearing, revealing, or showing. In common usage, one might say "I just had an epiphany!" meaning "Ah, HA!" "NOW I see it!" "Now I understand!"

The Gospel texts for the Sundays of this season are chosen to show us how Jesus appeared to people who saw and experienced his ministry, and to show how his acts of healing, his miracles, and his teaching were designed to reveal his nature, power, and purpose in the world. They, in short, are trying to bring us to that "Ah, HA!" moment for ourselves, so that through the Word, Jesus is revealed to us. Some of the texts we will focus on this season are the Beatitudes and how Jesus uses metaphors like, salt and light to help us understand not only who we are but whose we are.

Have you had an "Ah, Ha!" moment about Jesus? As we continue through the remainder of Epiphany, may our hearts and minds remain open to allow Jesus to reveal himself to us!



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~Pastor Mollie

Greetings!

Christine Wenzel, Interim Senior Pastor

Thank you for inviting me into your community of faith as your Interim Pastor. I have met many of you by now and I look forward to meeting others of you during my time here. I have been asked questions about what an Interim Pastor does. So, here is my short version of introducing this ministry.

Interim ministry is a unique vocation for experienced pastors with particular gifts and abilities for serving congregations in transition. Interim pastors use the time spent with congregations to discover and reaffirm the congregation's strengths in ministry and identity. Usually, skills are in the management of change, the ability to help members envision the future, and affirm, encourage, and reinforce the ministry of the laity.

Grounded in prayer and scriptures, members and staff may use this window of opportunity to discern God's call for the future. The congregation will study its needs and the needs of the surrounding community. A Transition Team will be formed to work with the pastors and leaders to develop and clarify the unique mission of your congregation.

At this time and place in the life of St. Philip's, I thought the article "Healthy vs. Unhealthy Anxiety" would be helpful (see page three). Part of Interim ministry is helping congregations deal continuously with change both internal and external to the congregation. When congregations experience change, anxiety increases. Change increases anxiety. People who feel pushed into change respond with active resistance as they seek to restore an equilibrium that seems threatened. *"The give and take, the push and pull, is not always gracious"* - Gil Rendle. In the article on page three there are some helpful and healthful ways we can all approach change in this congregation.

~Pastor Christine

Great Things Can Happen!

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children & Family Ministries

When you lead by example and encourage kindness great things can happen. Throughout most of my adult life, I have heard the phrase, "Stop and smell the flowers" or since becoming a parent, "Enjoy every minute, it goes so fast". While I completely agree with these statements, I like to look at things instead as, "Take time to stop and find God".

Everyone will see God differently. The cry of a baby, the snuggle of a puppy, a rainbow after a storm, the sun after a week of cloudy weather, someone volunteering at a school or church, a teacher taking an extra minute for a child who needs help. Working here at St. Philip's, I get to see God at work in so many ways. Worship on Sunday mornings, the buzz of laughter from children in their Sunday school classes, families gathering on Wednesday nights for dinners and fellowship, and the countless volunteers throughout the week who help to make our church amazing.

One big way I have seen God at work here at St. Philip's is through the children's offerings each week. From pennies to dollars, the families here are so generous. Well, it was time to put those offerings to good use! On behalf of the children and families here at St. Philip's, a donation was made to The Heifer Project, in their name. A 'Joy to the World' basket was purchased. This donation includes two sheep, four goats, one heifer and two llamas. Amazing!

God is so good! Families, I praise you for leading by example and encouraging your children to make their offerings with pride each week. I thank God for each of you!

~Connie

Healthy vs. Unhealthy Anxiety

Healthy

1. Attitude: Conflict is inevitable. It is a chance to grow.
2. Personalized: Is clearly able to see the difference between the people and the problems and do not mix the two.
3. Communication is open, people speak directly to one another, and everyone has the same information.
4. The balance sheet is short. They address the issue at hand, not what happened months or years ago.
5. The Church Is INTERACTIVE: There is give and take, an exchange of ideas, and a spirit of cooperation and openness. There is careful listening and thought-out statements.
6. Acceptance: Acknowledge the existence of a problem and the need to solve it.
7. Timeliness: Resolution takes as much time as needed. The parties take the time to go through the journey together, to experience the pain, and to come out together on the other side.

Unhealthy

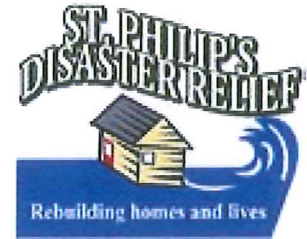
1. Attitude: Conflict is wrong or sinful.
2. Personalized: Is quick to mix people and problems together and assume that by changing or eliminating the people, the problem will be solved.
3. Communication is diminished, with people only speaking to those with whom they already agree. Third parties or letters are used to carry the message.
4. The Balance Sheet is long. A list of grievances grows and examples are collected. People recall not only what they think was done to them, but what was said or done to their friends as well.
5. The Church is REACTIVE. It cannot be "touched" without exploding. i.e. I write a memo to you and you immediately fire back a nasty letter to me.
6. Acceptance: Tend to ignore the real problems and deny what is going on
7. Lack of Time: There is a strong need to solve the problems too quickly. People are very solution-oriented and seek to avoid the pain of conflict by saying, "Let's get it over with."

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St. Philip's Disaster Relief

2017 Fundraiser Dinner and Auction

If you haven't purchased your tickets for the annual Disaster Relief Lasagna dinner on Sunday, February 19, the last day of ticket sales is February 5. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 to 12 years old (under 5 are free). All tickets must be purchased in advance. Seatings are at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. The dinner menu includes lasagna, salad, breadsticks, dessert, and beverages.



Auction items will be available for bidding after worship on February 18 and 19, and at the dinner. A portion of the auction proceeds (up to \$2,500) will be earmarked to help fund the storage facility that is under consideration and, once built, will house the Disaster Relief trailers.

The dinner and auction proceeds provide most of the funding for St. Philip's Disaster Relief and ensure that the journey continues.

Spring Trip

A return trip to Eureka, MO is planned from Sunday, May 7 through Saturday, May 13. The Eureka area (west of St. Louis) experienced major flooding after heavy rains in late December 2015. Watch for more information regarding registration. If you have any questions, contact Mike Anderson [612-209-8529 or spdr@splcmn.org].

55+ Retirees: February and March Events

55+ February Event: Fridley Community Theater

Come out on Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 pm for an entertaining afternoon at the Fridley Community Theater, 6085 7th St. NE, Fridley, MN 55432. The comedy play "The Dining Room" was scripted as a series of overlapping vignettes, which feature a host of characters as they go about their daily business. Each of the eighteen scenes, which range from the comic to the serious, explores the dynamic relationships of family life. Tickets are available at the door for \$15/per person. We hope to see you there!

55+ Retirees: Capital and Cathedral Tours

Politics, religion, and lunch; should be an interesting outing! Meet us at the church on Thursday, March 9 at 9:00 am. We'll bus to the State Capitol for a guided one-hour walking tour. After the tour, we will take a short bus ride to Fabulous Ferns for lunch. Following lunch, we'll take another quick bus ride to the Cathedral of St. Paul for the second tour of the day. The cost of \$23/per person includes the school bus transportation, both guided tours, and lunch. Sign up in the church office by Sunday, March 5. Please make a non-refundable check payable to St. Philip's Church. Non-members of St. Philip's please sign-up on our wait list. Any questions, contact Arlene or Duane Retzer [763-574-9559].

St. Philip's	December 2016	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
	Income	\$814,437	\$786,787
	Expense	(\$814,437)	(\$800,659)
	TOTALS	(\$0)	(\$13,872)

Annual Congregational Meeting

Make sure that you've marked your calendars to attend the Annual Meeting of St. Philip's congregation on February 5, 2017 at 12:00 pm. As usual, the annual budget for 2017 will need to be approved. We will be voting for new Board of Administration positions and Committee Chairs. There will also be a very important Amendment to the Constitution proposed. Following the cancellation of the Saturday night worship service, a group of congregation members presented a petition for an amendment to the Constitution. The core of the amendment follows: "The BOA shall not have authority to terminate or add worship services unless specifically authorized to do so by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of members present and voting at a special

meeting called for that purpose." A second part of the amendment makes the amendment retroactive to September 2016. For this amendment to take effect, it must first be approved by a simple majority vote at the February 5, 2017, Annual Meeting. It must then be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote at the February 2018 Annual Meeting. Only then will it become part of the Constitution. The proposed amendment has far reaching effects for the pastors and staff in terms of their ability to manage the worship life of the congregation. It also has a long range impact on the way the BOA functions. The BOA is recommending a "No" vote on this amendment. It is important that people come to the meeting to have a voice in St. Philip's future.

New Books!

Library Group members have added more new books for winter reading. Stop in soon to find these favorites.

"The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd. The story follows Hetty, a slave, and Sarah, the daughter of the wealthy Grimke family. On Sarah's 11th birthday she is given ownership of 10-year-old Hetty. The novel follows them over the next 35 years of their lives as both strive for freedom.

"A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. This novel is translated from Swedish and is about a grumpy yet lovable old man who finds his world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door. They begin by backing their u-haul into his mailbox. It's also a recent film.

"Good God, Lousy World, and Me" by Holly Burkhalter. This is the story of the improbable journey of a Human Rights activist from Unbelief to Faith.

"The Woman Who Wasn't There" by Robin Gaby Fisher is the story of an incredible deception. Tania Head falsely claims to be a survivor of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Parents! Are you ready to have "The Talk" with your children? NO, not that talk! The one about MONEY. It's never too soon. Here are three books now in the library that will be helpful to get the conversation started.

"Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday" by Judith Viorst. Although Alexander and his money are quickly parted, he comes to realize all the things that can be done with a dollar.

"The Berenstain Bears' Trouble with Money" by Stan and Jan Berenstain. Brother and Sister Bear learn some important lessons about earning and spending money.

"Bunny Money" by Rosemary Wells. Max and Ruby learn a lesson about money. They are shopping for Grandma's birthday presents, but unplanned for emergencies eat away at their budget.

*"Time to
create a
space for
newness."*

-Mike
Youngberg

President's Column *Mike Youngberg*

Things are changing everywhere around us: a new President in Washington, new legislators in St. Paul, new pastors here at St. Philip's. A year and a half ago, Pastor Mollie joined us. This past November, we paid off our mortgage. In the next year we will call another new pastor. It is a time of transition. At St. Philip's it is a time for looking forward. Where are we headed in this new century and millennium? The uncertainty of the future can be frightening and unnerving, but it can also be exciting.

For many that uncertainty is facing the sunset years of life. A drawing down to a close. I know I feel that myself more and more often. James, our new grandson, is a sign of the renewal of life, but he is also a reminder that I am not getting younger and will soon be handing my world over to a new generation. What will that world look like? And what about the church? Will we have anything to hand off to our grandchildren? We could just continue to do what we have always done and fade off quietly into the sunset. When those who sit in these pews are

done, we will quietly close the doors and the church will be done. Or we can begin planning for the future, guaranteeing a strong St. Philip's for our children and grandchildren.

We need to look forward, move St. Philip's ahead as a congregation. In times of great change, it is easy to cling to what is old and familiar. It is good to remember the past, we can learn from it. But we cannot afford to be anchored to the past. We cannot dedicate ourselves to the status quo. It is a time to move forward, seeing with new eyes. In the words of a staff member, it is "Time to create a space for newness."

I am excited that Pastor Christine Wenzel has joined us as Interim Pastor. She can help us with our many transitions. We have a Call Committee to put together, a Worship Task Force to form, and transition work to do between pastors. Together we will begin building a strong future for St. Philip's. Trusting to God on our journey, we will move St. Philip's forward into newness.

LEAFs in the Spring

LEAFs = Life Enrichment Adult Forums

- April 10 and 24 at Christ the King Lutheran Church
- May 8 and 22 at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Registration forms will be mailed early in March to participating churches and to all individuals who have attended LEAFs events in the past four years. We hope you join us.



Festival of Tables

Saturday, April 22 is the date of this year's Festival of Tables. The Festival is a unique fundraiser. Fellowship Hall will be filled with beautifully decorated themed tables; lunch will be served followed by entertainment. The proceeds will go to area food shelves. If you would like to decorate a table, please contact Julie Small [ksmall74@msn.com] for more information. Watch for updates coming soon!



Life Events

February Anniversaries:



Shirley & Phillip Eddy on 2/19/1955 for 62 years

Walter & Dorothy Hansen on 2/2/1957 for 60 years

Donald & Susan Davis on 2/23/1957 for 60 years

Richard & Dawn Young on 2/14/1965 for 52 years

William & Diane Schreier on 2/20/1965 for 52 years

John & Carol Crowley on 2/26/1966 for 51 years

Harold & Barbara Lundberg on 2/16/1979 for 38 years

Mike Youngberg & Renee Falkum-Youngberg on 2/20/1986 for 31 years

Cindy & Don Tollefson on 2/13/1987 for 30 years

David & Yvette Christensen on 2/16/1991 for 26 years

Christine & Ronald Boettcher on 2/25/1995 for 22 years

Daniel & Jacqueline Campeau on 2/1/2001 for 16 years

Aaron & Staci Gondorchin on 2/2/2002 for 15 years

Chad & Tina Huston on 2/28/2004 for 13 years

Baptisms:

Elliott Heitland 12/4/16

Kaison Campbell 12/11/16



Meals on Wheels

"Love is a bridge from heart to heart and hand to hand." (unknown) Thanks to all those who connected hands and hearts through delivering Meals on Wheels December 27 - 30. They included Dawn and Richard Young, Roger Musolf and Ellen Raeker, Monica Anderson, Steve Ess, Harlan Howenstein, Ann Westby, Bobbi and Butch Tuey, and Thelma and Myron Nash. The next week we deliver meals is at 11:30 am February 27 - March 3.

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

*"For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."*

Matthew 6:21

Share your love for the Lord through
your St. Philip's Endowment Fund

December 2016 gifts were received in
memory of

Bernice Grandstrand

Jane Hokenstrom

Roger Kaye

Alice Strandlund

&

Margaret Williamson

Thanks to all who support the
St. Philip's Endowment Fund.

For more information about St. Philip's Endowment Fund, 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. Or visit the St. Philip's website at [splcmn.org], select the Ministries tab and click "Endowment."

Japan Donations: Dale Pastoral Center

This past summer, Jim and Carol Sack, our missionaries from Japan, were with us to visit and preach. During their visit, the members of St. Philip's contributed \$1,250 toward a program of their choice. The Global Missions Team has been in contact with them and the Sacks have requested the money raised be put toward the Luther Seminary Dale Pastoral Center. Within the Center, there is a group that provides grief support for children who have lost parents or siblings to death. This is the "social activities" section of the center and it provides a very

needed ministry to these children. However, there is not a lot of income available to them. So, it was Jim and Carol's request that these funds be donated to this. The check for \$1,250 has been sent to the ELCA with the instructions to forward it to the Dale Pastoral Center. On behalf of Jim and Carol, the Global Missions Team would like to thank the members of St. Philip's for their generous support for Jim and Carol and the work they continue to do in the name of Jesus Christ. Blessings to each and everyone.

Looking Forward Together In Christ

Sara Quarberg, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

We're already a month into the New Year. Can you believe it? As we find ourselves settling into a new year with so many new possibilities, both in our lives here at St. Philip's and out in God's world, I find myself excited about all of the ways in which God continues to do incredible things in our lives. I'm grateful for the ways in which God works in the ministry here at St. Philip's and through the young people here in this community.

We continue to engage in service, learning, and fellowship activities on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. This balance provides us with the opportunity to dig into Scripture together, wrestle with what it means to be a Lutheran, and explore ways in which God calls us to serve. As we look forward into this year, many opportunities for both youth and young adults will emerge for service, learning, and growing closer together in Christ.

This summer, our young adults will have the opportunity to serve on a mission trip together with the young adults of Faith Lutheran Church. We are excited about this continued partnership with Faith and the ways in which our monthly meetings invite us together into deeper questions and conversations. Our High School youth will be traveling to Chicago for their summer mission trip in July. We, again, will be participating with the Serve Boldly organization and interacting with the people of Chicago through social outreach organizations. These trips provide a space for community growth and faith growth in a way that can't be experienced otherwise. On behalf of the youth and young adults, I can't thank you enough for your support and prayers of these experiences!

As we look forward together in ministry this year as an entire community of faith, I pray that we will seek God for continued guidance, direction, and love as we worship, wonder and work together in Jesus' name.

In Christ's love,
~Sara

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday

March 1 Worship with Holy Communion at 12:00 and 7:00 pm *(No Meal)*

Wednesdays

March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5

Service of Holden Evening Prayer

12:00 pm Worship with a light lunch to follow

6:00 pm Light supper

7:00 pm Worship

"Encounters On the Way to the Cross"

Deepen your Lenten journey each Wednesday as we hear from five biblical characters including Simon of Cyrene, Mary, the mother of James and John, Caiaphas the High Priest, and others who encountered Jesus in their lives. As we stand in these character's shoes (sandals), seeing Jesus through their eyes, we will become more deeply engaged in our own journey to the cross. Through their encounters with Jesus, may we come to better know Jesus and understand what it means for us to encounter him in our own life and time.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday


April 13 Worship with Holy Communion at 12:00 and 7:00 pm

Good Friday

April 14 Sanctuary Choir Cantata "Rose of Sharon" at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

April 16 Worship with Holy Communion 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 1:00 pm LifeGroups 6:00 pm LifeGroups Middle & High School Ministry Bells of Praise 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	2 6:30 pm LifeGroups 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	3 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	4 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
5 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Buy a Mile - HS Fundraiser Middle & High School Ministry Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 11:00 am Luncheon 12:00 pm Annual Meeting	6 1:00 pm Joy Circle 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA	7 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg	8 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group Women's Book Club 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Middle & High School Ministry 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	9 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	10 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	11 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 pm Saturday Supper
12 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Summer Kick-Off 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry 10:30 am Worship	13 9:00 am Glory Circle 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg Parish Fellowship Mtg Benevolence Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA	14 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 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg Property & Grounds Mtg 	15 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Middle & High School Ministry 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	16 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	17 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	18 10:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
19 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Adult Forum Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry Equal Exc. Coffee Sale 10:30 am Worship 4:00 pm SPDR Lasagna Dinner 6:00 pm SPDR Lasagna Dinner	20 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA	21 9:00 am Library Mtg Assemble <i>The Friend</i> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 3:00 pm Endowment Mtg 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Mtg Worship Band Practice 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg	22 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Middle & High School Ministry 7:00 pm AA Sanctuary Choir	23 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	24 1:00 pm EA Group 6:00 pm Women's GA	25 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Worship
26 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship	27 Articles due for <i>The Friend</i> 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:30 pm Cub Scout Mtg 7:00 pm GA; Gamanon	28 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice Global Health Ministries 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg 6:45 pm Board of Administration Mtg				



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Ministers: All members of the Parish

The Friend deadline:

February 27 for the April issue

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