

# The Friend

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

March 2017

## Dear Members and Friends of St. Philip's

*by Pastor Christine Wenzel*

In a fast changing world, the one thing that remains constant is change itself! If your neighborhood is changing as quickly as mine is, I can only guess how the community around St. Philip's is changing. This time of year, the weather changes constantly. Our presidential administration is quickly making changes which affect all of us. Closer to home, your Saturday night worship service closed at the end of February.



It is important to note that along with change comes loss. And with loss, comes grief. Scripture is not a stranger to loss and grief. Through Scripture we know that God is always with us. Scripture responds to what we are going through by giving voice to where we are in the moment, especially through the Psalms, which are full of laments. Laments help keep the conversation open with God. They are a way to keep talking when we would prefer to draw away from God in doubt, or anger, or even fear. Laments are perfect during change because they are not examples of the way things are supposed to be, rather, they are a description of the way things are!

Transition time in the church also means change. One reason, we refrain from calling a new pastor right away, is that we need to live through the grief and loss of the past. The next reason is to have time to do a self-study. I am meeting with numerous members and friends of this faith community to listen to their story of this congregation. It has been obvious to me from the very beginning, that there are a lot of people who care very deeply about this church.

At the present time, I am in the process of putting together a Transition Team. The work of this team is to guide the members of St. Philip's as you look at your changing congregation and at the changing community, and through this process, develop directions of ministry that seem to be calling this congregation. This will take a lot of work for everyone, but it is from this work, that St. Philip's will be better able to discern what kind of leader it needs.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *In this issue*

Pastor Christine Wenzel	1
Youth Ministries	2
Children Ministries	3
LEAFs	3
Burn the Mortgage	4
55+	4
Worship Life Task Force	4
Newborn Kits	4
Letter from Bille	5
Festival of Tables	5
President's Column	6
Lent & Holy Week Schedule	6
Life Events	7
January Budget	7
Endowment Fund	7
Knitters & Crocheters	8
First Communion	8
March Calendar	9
<i>The Friend</i> Deadline	10
Contact Information	10



(Continued from page 1)

It is my prayer that we can all recognize that through this transition time, God will be with us, calling us, urging us, and most likely challenging us to move forward with trust and grace knowing that in the end, new life for this congregation is our promise. I have a lot of confidence in what God will do with you in this journey ahead of you!

You are in my prayers, please keep me in yours!

*~Pastor Christine*

## God's Profound Love

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

It's amazing how life can change in an instant. At 3:23 pm, on January 2, 2017, my life completely changed in the most profound and incredible way possible. I would like to thank you from the depths of my heart for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and gifts in honor of the birth of our beautiful baby Grace! There really isn't anything quite like seeing your child for the first time. Grace filled such a huge void that was present in my life and I couldn't possibly love that little girl any more than I do.

As I enjoy countless minutes and hours of snuggle time with Grace, I find myself reflecting about God's love for each one of us. I know that my love for her by no means is equivalent to God's love for us, but it's helped me even more to understand God's love for me. Grace has heard countless times in her short life that she is so loved and so beautiful. I want my children to grow seeing the beauty that God has placed within them. The love of God is so deeply profound that God would come into the world through Jesus Christ to accompany us, journey with us, teach us, love us, and die for us. We've asked the question before of where we've seen God in our lives and we should continue to look for God in our daily lives.

As we enter into Lent, I am reminded of the journey to the cross and how Christ's death on the cross means that we never will be alone. When we experience trials, frustrations, sorrow, struggles in our lives, God sits with us. How beautiful it is that our God weeps with us, rejoices with us, and shares in our place with us when we just can't find the strength to take that next step forward. These are the ways in which I see God at work each day of my life and I hope that you are able to witness them also.

Our youth will be journeying through Lent alongside a mentor. They will worship together and reflect together on the most beautiful grace and love that God constantly extends to each one of us. Our hope is for both our youth and their mentors to grow together in God's love.

My prayer for each one of you this Lenten season is that you will experience God in whatever profound ways that you can as we encounter Jesus in His journey to the cross. Just as those we read about who were a part of Jesus' life had their own experiences and journeys, we do also, but we live knowing that we are God's beautiful children and so loved beyond all measure.

Blessings and peace,  
*~Sara*



## Busy as Bees

*Connie Yerigan, Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Wow! Time is flying by! It's so hard to believe that I have been working here for almost four months already. In that short time I have been honored to accomplish many wonderful things and have been blessed to have made some amazing connections with the families here at St. Philip's. From Sunday School lessons to the Christmas Pageant, and bringing back Wednesday night activities to planning VBS, it has been so much fun! I can't wait for what is coming next.



First Communion classes will be starting this month. This year they will be held on two Wednesday nights during Lent. Children will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. I am so excited to be taking this journey with this year's group of kiddos and their families. It is such a special time.

Looking forward, the theme for this year's VBS is 'Maker Fun Factory'. Our kids will learn that they were created by God, and built for a purpose. Join us June 19 - 23 for a week of fun!

I want to take time to thank our wonderful Sunday School teachers and volunteers. I could not do my job without them.

Blessings,  
~ *Connie*

## There will be 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

**Here are some of the presenters and topics coming this Spring:**

*Rev. Dr. Margaret Guelker – Holy Land and Jordan*

*Rev. John Kerr – Ruth's Story*

*Joe Kimball – Congdon Murders*

*J.B. Anderson – Memorial Day*

*Steve Marking – a musical presentation on The Mighty Mississippi*

*Doug Ohman – State Parks*

Registration forms will be mailed in March to participating churches and to all individuals who have attended LEAFs events in the past four years. For registration forms or more information [[www.leafsforums.org](http://www.leafsforums.org)].

## Burning of the Mortgage



For most churches, the monthly mortgage payment is one of the biggest long-term expenses. It takes a lot of generous donations and tenacity to pay off the mortgage for a church building, and since the majority of churches rely solely on tithes and offering from the congregation, a mortgage getting paid off is a major achievement. In early 2016 an initiative to pay off the mortgage balance by the end of the year was spearheaded by Greg Rosholt. In November 2016 (ahead of schedule) St. Philip's satisfied it's final mortgage payment. St. Philip's is acknowledging this fulfillment with a special mortgage burning celebration!

On Sunday, March 5, we encourage everyone to join us for a ceremonial liturgy. The liturgy will be offered at the end of both the 8:30 and 10:30 am worship times, followed by a march outside to burn the mortgage.

This a huge milestone for St. Philip's. We are looking forward to giving thanks and honoring all the hard work and dedication that was put in this accomplishment. Thank you congregation members for giving so generously to this cause and thank you to Greg for seeing this through.

Everyone is invited to honor this joyous occasion!

## 55+ Retirees: April Event

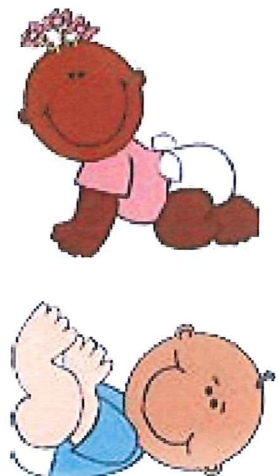
55+ will NOT meet in April but we suggest you check out the Annual Festival of Tables on Saturday, April 22, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to seeing you at the next 55+ event in May!

Check out the website for more information [[splcmn.org](http://splcmn.org)].

## Newborn Kits

The Benevolence and Social Committee, along with the Global Mission Team and Global Health Ministries has again been alerted to the need for "New Born Kits" for mothers in developing countries in Africa. Please prayerfully consider donating some of the following items that we will use to make the kits; regular size light-weight new or gently used bath towels and wash cloths, bath-size Ivory soap (in original packaging), newborn cotton t-shirts size 0-3 or newborn (not onesies), newborn stocking caps (14" circumference), cloth diapers, diaper pins, 2-gallon or larger Ziploc bags, and cash. Please drop your items off in the Narthex near the office by Monday, March 13. Thank you for your generous support!





## Just Received: *Letter from LCCN Bille*

*St. Philip's received a letter from our companion congregation in Bille, Nigeria, updating us on the projects we jointly support in our Covenant relationship and sharing many additional aspects of the situation facing our Nigerian brothers and sisters in Christ. Included here are paragraphs specific to our joint projects. Watch for more excerpts in **The Friend** and check the Global Missions bulletin board for additional information.*

Greetings to you in Christ's name.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to give you an update of LCCN Bille activities as follows:

### 1. NURSERY/PRIMARY SCHOOL

The LCCN Bille Nazareth Nursery Primary School has a total of 134 pupils, 73 in the pre-nursery and nursery, and 61 in primary grades one to four; 76 are boys and 58 are girls. There are seven teachers and one nanny at this time.

**Facility:** The school consists of two blocks with three classrooms and an office in each. The first block is complete with metal doors, and windows fixed with iron-rods. The interior of the first block has been plastered and the floor cemented; while the second block is yet to be done.

**Health:** The school has a first aid box which is always stocked with some emergency drugs to be given to pupils who experience minor ailments during the school period.

**Toilet facilities:** Pit toilets are provided for staff and pupils.

**Water source:** The nearest source of water is a public, hand-pump bore hole which was sunk by the state government 200 meters from the school area. The nanny fetches water from this bore hole and stores it in a large pot for pupils to drink.

### 2. EVANGELISM

Evangelist Pius Kasuwa has continued his evangelical work at Wasi-Daka. He has been assigned additional responsibilities in the absence of the district Pastor there. He hopes to visit LCCN Bille at the end of February.

Early last year, LCCN Bille received an evangelist named Godwin Sofiagi for internship; after he had completed his theological training at the Lutheran Seminary. He has been very active and helpful to the church; especially with programs for the youth.

God's blessings,

*Clement B. Dah*

## *Festival of Tables*

The 8th Annual Festival of Tables will be held on Saturday, April 22 at 11:00 am. Please consider decorating a table for this beautiful event. Tickets are \$15 and will be sold April 2 and April 9 at 9:30 am in the Narthex. Proceeds will benefit area food shelves. Guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items.

More updates to follow.



For more information contact Julie Small [kjsmall74@msn.com] or Kathy Swenson [kswenso@comcast.net].

## President's Column *Mike Youngberg*

And so a new year has begun. And there is much work that needs to be done. Now that the Annual meeting is behind us, we begin the hard work. St. Philip's is in transition. Several actually. As always, that means assessing where we are as a congregation not just where we are, but where we want to go. What do we want St. Philip's to look like in twenty years? What is our mission and to whom? Will this place even be here for our children and grandchildren? Do we want it to be? The current feeling in Washington is to look inward and protect our own. Is that where we want to be?

If nothing else, recent events have shown us that we are not all necessarily on the same page concerning St. Philip's direction for the future. The coming months are critical for us as we look at who we are, who we want to be, who we will serve, and how we will do it.

- We are implementing a Worship Task Force. This could have a dramatic impact on who we serve and how.
- We are establishing a Transition Team to prepare for a new pastor. In the past the Call Committee has taken care of this function. This will likely be a separate group this time with the Call Committee coming later in the year.
- The Board will be looking at new Governance structure. Our current standing committee structure has served us well for many years, but is it what will serve us best moving forward?

We are blessed to have Pastor Christine here with us as we begin this journey. As an intentional Interim Pastor, she is specifically trained to help us work on these things. She is specially trained in Conflict Resolution, Bridging, and Communications. Now is the time for us to gather ourselves as a community, affirm each other and all our blessings, and figure out how we can stretch ourselves to become more than we are and all we were meant to be . . . in Jesus' name.

*~Mike*

### **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**

#### **Palm Sunday**

April 9 Worship 8:30 and 10:30 am

#### **Maundy Thursday**

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

#### **Good Friday**

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

#### **Easter Sunday**





## Life Events

### March Anniversaries

Richard & Leora Carlson on 3/18/1950 for 67 years

Clem & Eva Coverston on 3/23/1952 for 65 years

Howard & Shirley Mosman on 3/26/1955 for 62 years

Ralph & Kathryn Petersen on 3/11/1966 for 51 years

Donald & Joyce Olson on 3/11/1967 for 50 years

Dean & Jeanne Enrooth on 3/15/1968 for 49 years

Wesley & Jeanine Grandstrand on 3/31/1973 for 44 years

Richard & Joan Kruse on 3/22/1975 for 42 years

Rodney & Prisana Nelson on 3/20/1982 for 35 years

Timothy & Deborah Kidder on 3/2/1985 for 32 years

Steve & Brenda Malark on 3/25/2006 for 11 years

Mark & Michelle Nicklow on 3/14/2009 for 8 years

## Worship Life Task Force

St. Philip's is currently seeking members for a task force to look at the overall worship life of St. Philip's. Please prayerfully consider if this is something you feel called to be a part of. If you are interested in this ministry, talk to a Board member or one of the Pastors. The Board members may be reached individually or as a group at [BOA@splcmn.org]. Pastor Christine is available at [ChristineW@splcmn.org or 763-571-1500].

## The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

January gifts were received in

memory of

*David Kramber,*

*in appreciation of Pastor Joel,*

*and in honor of*

*Give to the Max Day.*

~ ~ ~

Gifts in any amount may be given in memory of someone, to celebrate an occasion or to participate in the present and future ministry of St. Philip's through the Endowment Fund. Gifts may take the form of cash, real estate, personal property, stocks and bonds, life insurance benefits, or bequests from 401k, IRA, and other retirement accounts

For more information on St. Philip's Endowment Fund visit our website at [splcmn.org] select the Ministries tab and click Endowment. Or contact a member of the Endowment Fund Committee; Bob Becker (Chair), Ron Ackerman, Edd Brooks, Virg Herrick, Joan Kruse, Jeannine Grandstrand, Dick Lekang, and Dawn Young.

~ ~ ~

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

### St. Philip's January 2017

Income

### Budget YTD

\$63,716

### Actual YTD

\$64,259

Expense

(\$73,713)

(\$69,662)

TOTALS

(\$9,997)

(\$5,403)



## Knitters and Crocheters

*"It's Hat Heaven! Can I Keep It?"*

This is one comment from a delighted child who received a colorful cozy hat and mittens created by the St. Philip's Knitters/Crocheters and the Knitters/Crocheters with Low Vision (a group from Vision Loss assisted by volunteers from St. Philip's).

The November meeting was a special time when all the knitted/crocheted items were collected and sorted for delivery to local schools and other organizations. Donations this year included: caps (444), mittens (57), scarves (30), shawls/lap robes (35), baby blankets (11), vests (18), bears (41), and sweaters (6).

Lap robes and shawls are comforting gifts for veterans and shut-ins. Vests are distributed by CEAP. Items for infants are donated to Crisis Nursery and Bundles of Love. Knit bears are distributed to local police departments who donate the bears to children who may be experiencing a stressful encounter during a police call. And the avalanche of hats, mittens, and scarves make their way to several schools in the metro area. (To read more quotes from recipients check out the community bulletin board by the office.)

Much of the yarn for these projects has been donated by congregational members and we can always use more...that is yarn and knitters/crocheters. All levels of talent are present. If you want to learn how to knit/crochet....this is the group for you. No sign up needed just stop by. This group meets monthly on the fourth Monday in Room 3 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm.

## First Communion

First Communion classes will be held on Wednesday, March 15 and 22 at 6:00 pm. Class will take place while we eat dinner, so make sure to arrive in the Fellowship Hall on time, there's a lot to cover in these two weeks! After dinner and class, everyone will attend the Lenten worship at 7:00 pm. Children will receive their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 13 during 7:00 pm worship.









# St. Philip's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1 Ash Wednesday</b> 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Middle & High School Ministry 6:15 pm Middle School Mentor Orientation 6:30 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm AA; Worship	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm LifeGroups 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	<b>3</b> 1:00 pm EA Group	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry Morning Forum 10:30 am Worship	<b>6</b> 9:30 am LEAFs Planning Mtg 1:00 pm Joy Circle 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 5:00 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice Worship Task Force Mtg 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg	<b>8</b> 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group Women's Book Club 12:00 pm Worship 12:30 pm Luncheon 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Lent Supper 7:00 pm Worship; AA 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>9</b> 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	<b>10</b> 1:00 pm EA Group	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry Morning Forum 10:30 am Worship	<b>13</b> 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 Benevolence Mtg 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA All Committee Mtg 7:30 pm Parish Fellowship	<b>14</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 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg Property & Grounds Mtg	<b>15</b> 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Worship 12:30 pm Luncheon 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Lent Supper First Communion Class 7:00 pm Worship; AA 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	<b>17</b> 1:00 pm EA Group 	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting
<b>19</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry Equal Exc. Coffee Sale Morning Forum 10:30 am Worship	<b>20</b> 4:30 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA 	<b>21</b> 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	<b>22</b> 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Worship 12:30 pm Luncheon 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Middle & High School Ministry Lent Supper First Communion Class 7:00 pm Worship; AA 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>23</b> 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon AA	<b>24</b> 1:00 pm EA Group	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Sunday School Middle & High School Ministry Morning Forum 10:30 am Worship	<b>27</b> 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	<b>28</b> 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	<b>29</b> 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Worship 12:30 pm Luncheon 6:00 pm Bells of Praise Middle & High School Ministry Lent Supper 7:00 pm Worship; AA 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir	<b>30</b> 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm AA; Alanon	<b>31</b> 1:00 pm EA Group	



6180 Highway 65 NE  
Fridley, MN 55432-5158

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
TWIN CITIES, MN  
PERMIT # 2705

place label here

## 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

**Christine Wenzel**, Interim Senior Pastor  
ChristineW@splcmn.org, ext. 112

**Mollie Dvorak**, Associate Pastor  
MollieD@splcmn.org, ext. 110

**Jeannine Arcand**, Office Manager  
JeannineA@splcmn.org, ext. 104

**Amada Simula**, Publications and Membership Coordinator  
AmadaM@splcmn.org, ext. 101

**Jerry Salitros**, Bookkeeper  
JerryS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

**Sara Quarberg**, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
SaraQ@splcmn.org, ext. 108

**Connie Yerigan**, Director of Children & Family Ministries  
ConnieY@splcmn.org, ext. 107

**Eva Jensen**, Visitation Ministry Leader  
EvaJ@splcmn.org

**Lori Peterson**, Nursery Ministry

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

**Stephanie Phelps Johnson**, Sanctuary Choir Director  
StephanieP@splcmn.org, ext. 106

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

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

**Michelle Hill**, Part-Time Custodian

### Board of Administration

BOA@splcmn.org

**Mike Youngberg**, President  
zubazwizard@gmail.com

**Val Sperry**, Vice-President  
sperryvs@aol.com

**Leif Ronken**, Treasurer  
leifronken@gmail.com

**Carol Anderson**, Secretary  
caa0204@aol.com

**Angela Anderson**  
bargela@msn.com

**Barbara Cooper**  
cooperstory@msn.com

**Dawn Hansen**  
dawn48@hotmail.com

**Bryant Holmstrom**  
bryantholmstrom@gmail.com

**Kathy Pullen**  
kathyfpullen@gmail.com

**Betty Schweppe**  
bschweppe@hotmail.com

**Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack**

**Companion Congregation: Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**

**Ministers: All members of the Parish**

March 27 for the May issue

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