The Friend

December
Worship Schedule

December 2, 16, 23, and 30
8:30 am (Traditional)
10:30 am (Contemporary)

Christmas Pageant
December 9 at 9:30 am
(One worship time this week)

Advent
Worship Schedule

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
November 28
December 5, 12
December 19 (Service of Light)

Christmas Concert
December 16 at 4:00 pm

Christmas
Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve: 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 10:00 pm
Christmas Day: 10:00 am

December 2018

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Advent: Healing and Reconciliation

Matt Flom, Pastor

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Colossians 3:13

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I'm really looking forward to our Wednesday evening Advent services this year. Our theme for Advent is Healing and Reconciliation. We will be using the story of the Prodigal Son as our text for the season and Holden Evening Prayer for our liturgy.

The first three Wednesdays of Advent, (November 28, December 5 and 12) will focus on the prodigal, the father, and the brother respectively.

The last Wednesday of Advent will be special. We will conclude our season of Healing and Reconciliation with a service for those who find the holidays difficult. It will be a service for those who need to grieve, mourn, remember, or heal. It will feature beautiful music and candlelight.

Please join us these Wednesdays at 7:00 pm for a time of peaceful, reflective worship. These services would also be a wonder time to invite a friend or loved one who needs God's presence in their lives.

Advent: The Season of Watching and Waiting

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

For me, the season of Advent has always been a tender time. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the holidays, Advent invites you to breathe. In the midst of our waiting, we seek hope.

The Savior is coming in the darkest of our days. We cannot hurry Advent. We can only mark the days with a special devotional or perhaps an Advent wreath or calendar.

In the midst of it all there are people for whom Advent and even Christmas are empty. Their families are grown and moved away. They are no longer able to celebrate the old traditions. And so they wait for someone to fill their days. Could that someone be you?

The book, *A Cup of Christmas Tea*, by Tom Hegg, tells of just such a visit. He filled his great aunt's day, but she also filled his. I dare you to read this book without a tear in your eye and a sniffle in your nose. It is such a beautiful story.

We wait for Jesus and Jesus waits for us. Blessings this Advent Season.

Come thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art.
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Charles Wesley, 1707 – 1788

Laughter and Joy

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:14

Excitement is in the air as we prepare for the most wonderful time of year. Families will gather, laughter will be shared, memories will be made, and the children will dress in costumes and act out the story of a sweet baby's birth. Join us on Sunday, December 9 at 9:30 am for our annual Children's Christmas Pageant, "Elf off the Shelf". The pageant this year has a modern twist that will make you laugh, but is sure to warm your heart with the traditional message and songs. It has been an absolute joy to watch this pageant unfold. The kids are working hard and are very excited to share this story with you.

Do you love winter, or at least playing in the snow for a bit? Are you a kid at heart? Do you have grandchildren who love to sled? If so, put on your winter gear, grab your sled, toboggan, or tube and please join us on Sunday, December 16 at Commons Park in Fridley, at 1:00 pm, for an afternoon of sledding fun!

My wish for you is that this Holiday season brings you laughter and joy and many opportunities to make memories to cherish for a lifetime.

December 2018

2 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – *grade 5)*
Pageant Rehearsal

5 – Advent Activities/Prayer Stations and Pageant rehearsal ***Dinner: Mostaccoli***

8 – Pageant Dress Rehearsal 10:00 to 11:30 am

9 – Christmas Pageant Day! Rehearsal at 9:00 am, Pageant during 9:30 am worship

12 – Advent Activities/Prayer Stations
Dinner: Sloppy Joes

16 – *No S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – grade 5)*
Sledding Fun – 1:00 pm at Commons Park in Fridley

19 – Advent Activities/Prayer Stations
Dinner: Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

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

26 – *No Children's Ministry Night*
Dinner: Chicken with Creamy Gravy

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

The Light of Christ

Tory Plucheck, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

This Advent as we wait in anticipation for the birth of Jesus I want to take time to reflect on how Christ shines His light in, through, and with us. Throughout the month of December, there are countless ways our youth will shine the light of Christ. Here are a few highlights:

December 2: Exploring our call as Children of God, and discerning what we are created to do. What are ways that we can share the light with our neighbors?

December 9: Participating in the Christmas Pageant and Christmas Sale. Our young people will spread joy and light through the telling of the Christmas story, and supporting our youth mission trip this summer.

December 16: Gathering together in community to celebrate the birth of Christ at our Christmas party!

Wednesdays in Advent: Worshipping with Holden Evening Prayer and Prayer Stations. People of all ages will have the opportunity to delve into the story of the Prodigal Son and reflect on God's love for us through Christ.

Prepare, Await, and Anticipate

Valerie Sperry, President

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

I love Christmas. And I have the, "This girl loves Christmas" t-shirt to prove it. But really, it's not just Christmas. I love the time leading up to Christmas just as much, if not more. But they didn't have a "This girl loves Advent" t-shirt.

I steep myself in the season. I hold off until after Thanksgiving, but then it's full steam ahead. I spend that weekend getting a fresh cut tree and decorate it with my collection of ornaments. My car radio lands on Christmas music and I spend my commutes singing along. I get my collection of nativity sets out of storage and figure out where to display them all this year. I watch for sales on the ingredients needed for all the batches of fudge I need to make. I search out deals on gifts for the tags I've taken from the Giving Trees at church. I scroll thru Pinterest for ideas and plan games and activities for our family Christmas in Iowa. I wonder each year if I'll learn all the right notes to sing with the choir at the Christmas concert. I *think* about writing a Christmas letter and sending out cards. I worry I have more to do then I have time to do it in. Sound familiar?

We can so easily get mired down in speeding full tilt toward Christmas. I think we almost lose Advent, I know I do sometimes - lose what Advent has to offer us. The season of Advent offers us 24 days. 24 days of time. Time to wait, to wonder, to anticipate, and to prepare. Not for the gifts, or the goodies, but for the gift. The gift given to us by God. The gift of Christ's birth, given in love to be the light of the world.

So how do we not lose Advent? How do we slow the steam engine down as it barrels toward December 25th?

For me, this year I've made an appointment. I've put Advent on my calendar. Literally. Starting on December 2 (the first day of Advent this year), I've placed a reoccurring appointment on my electronic calendar. A reminder will appear each of the 24 days of Advent on my iPhone and iPad. I hope this popup will cause me to stop and take a few moments each day. To remember that it is not time to rush, not time to get more done, and not time to stress out. But that it is time to take a deep breath, time to anticipate, and time to prepare for the joy of Christ's birth and the light He brings to the world. Will you join me?

Service Sunday

Thank you to those who participated in our November Service Sunday event on November 11. Together we prepared 500 sandwiches for The Sandwich Project. Wow! There will not be a service project in December, as we will be gathering to enjoy the Children's Christmas Pageant on the second Sunday. Check back for more information on our January Service Sunday soon!

Book Club - Special Presentation by Harold Kurtz

Come join us Wednesday, December 12, at 10:00 am for our book club meeting in the Lounge. We will be having a special presentation by Harold Kurtz on his book, "Hardly a Silent Night." All are invited.

Board Meeting

The December board meeting will be held on Monday, December 17. All are welcome to attend.

Harvey Disaster Recovery in Galveston County
St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team

Shelli Williamson, is the Texas Disaster Response Coordinator for Lutheran Social Services located in Houston, TX. On our recent trip to the Galveston area, she drove from her Houston office to visit the team as we worked at the Galveston County Food Bank. Later that day she joined the team for supper and participated in our team meeting by offering devotions and saying a few words about her work and the work we were doing. Later, Shelli chatted with individual team members about working with Harvey survivors. Below is the article she recently wrote for, "Connections," a blog that contains stories of ministry within the ELCA Texas - Louisiana Gulf Synod.

"During the week of September 23 - 30, St. Philip's Lutheran Church's Disaster Relief Team from Fridley, MN ventured to the Gulf Coast to participate in long-term hurricane recovery work in Galveston County. This was their 72nd disaster relief trip since forming in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2006. Mike Anderson and Renee Johnson, the co-coordinators, work diligently with community partners throughout the US in determining where they will focus relief efforts next. And, the need for volunteers continues to be great as disasters become more common. This particular journey was St. Phillip's 2nd visit to Galveston and neighboring towns due to Hurricane Harvey. With the assistance of the Galveston County Long Term Recovery Committee and Galveston County Food Bank, 3 - 5 projects were determined for the week. The 24 wildly talented volunteers poured their hearts and hands into a variety of ways of serving, including: building steel walls, sheetrocking, floating/taping/painting, insulating walls, tearing out carpet and installing new laminate flooring throughout a home. Each evening the work teams would return to Zion Retreat Center in Galveston for a hearty meal and to debrief about the day's activities. I had the great honor of joining the team one evening to share in devotions and to extend a warm, Texas-sized thank you for their commitment to heeding the call to "love thy neighbor." As the evening unfolded, stories were told of previous disaster relief adventures, skills-based trainings required prior to the trip, multiple experiences with worn out homeowners who are living in only one room of their homes due to the exceeding amount of repairs that remain. We concluded with prayer (and cookies, of course!). This is a very organized, fine-tuned, outgoing, vivacious group who truly know what serving the world really means. "

Christmas Giving
Church-wide Outreach

Our annual tradition of Christmas Giving Trees continues. Trees will be in the Narthex and decorated with gift suggestion tags. Please take a tag, purchase the gift, and return it by the date indicated on the tag. This year we are partnering with the following organizations: Kinship of Anoka County, CEAP, Hope4Youth, SACA, and Stepping Stone. We will also have a tree with gift suggestions for residents of Lynwood Care Center. Gifts for Lynwood will need to be dropped off at the church by Saturday, December 15.

* Kinship of Anoka County - an organization where children are paired with an adult mentor. Children and mentors meet and spend time together doing a variety of activities. Kinshoppe is held at St Philip's and gives the children an opportunity to shop for their parent, grandparent, and siblings. We are collecting teen and adult gifts items.
* CEAP - serves hundreds of families, especially around the holiday season. Children and teen items are needed.
* Hope4Youth - a program for homeless teens.
* SACA - providing services to residents of Anoka County. They have asked for teenage items, as that is the most underserved age group.
* Stepping Stone - A transitional housing organization serving men and women in Anoka County. Adult items are needed.

New Communion Pottery

We have purchased new pottery for Communion, which is being created at Studio 2 Ceramics located in Northeast Minneapolis. These beautiful new pieces will complement the worship space and make serving communion much easier. We hope to have them before Christmas.

Each paten (or bread plate) will have a small cup on one side to hold the gluten-free wafers. Each cup will be divided into two parts – one larger side for wine and one smaller side for grape juice. These cups will be shallow for intinction (or dipping). A shallow cup allows you to dip your wafer without getting your fingers in the wine. We are also getting a chalice (or cup), a chiboram (or wafer bowl), and a flagon (or pitcher for the wine) to use on the altar.

Studio 2 Ceramics is a husband and wife team, Grace and Jim Alworth. They are local artists working in the Solar Arts building. Grace is a Luther Seminary student. They purchase their supplies from local businesses and use sustainable earth-gentle practices whenever possible. They don't use molds or heavy machinery and their kiln is powered by the solar panels above the studio. Because each piece is made by hand, there may be slight variations between them.

A Japanese Tea Ceremony

Who would have thought a Japanese woman, Chieko Takadate, would have come to the United States, not to see a Broadway play, the Statue of Liberty, or the Grand Canyon, but to visit churches in Minnesota that had sent prayer shawls to Japan after the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster that devastated Japan on March 11, 2011. It was her graciousness and her thankful heart that prompted this visit to St. Philip's Church on November 11, 2018, and to offer the Japanese Tea Ceremony as her way of saying "Thank You". Chieko Takadate speaks very little English so Carol Sack accompanied her to St. Philip's to interpret her message of thanks as well as telling of her own pastoral harp ministry in Japan using Lyra Precaria techniques.

Carol showed photos depicting the reality of the triple disaster and explained that when the prayer shawls arrived, Chieko arranged with a Japanese school to have a St. Lucia service at the school for the children and distribute the prayer shawls to them. The St. Lucia Celebration was a Service of Light overcoming Darkness and celebrated throughout Scandinavia in honor of St. Lucia. Carol played her harp and lit candles for the healing service, which has been held at the school for three years, which was the first time that state schools allowed any Christians to have a service at the school.

After the slide show, Chieko told her story of thankfulness to the group and sang for us. She also informed us that every year on March 11, people go out to sea to pay homage to the victims of the tsunami and pray for their souls. They also remember them every month with prayers for the dead and missing.

Both Chieko and Carol wore traditional silk kimonos during the presentation. Chieko prepared the traditional tea, (green tea) and volunteers served the tea and sweets to those present. She presented St. Philip's with two ceremonial tea cups as presents to the congregation. Chieko also made a piece of parchment paper for each person there with the date, a note of thanks, and then signed the message.

Carol wrote a song entitled, "I, You, We" which she played on the harp and sang as a duet with Chieko. The afternoon finished with all singing the doxology.

The Advocacy Group

The Advocacy Group did not meet in October. However, the ELCA Advocacy Action Center continued to be promoted through email, Facebook, and the St. Philip's advocacy bulletin board. If you would like to be included in the Advocacy Group contact list, please contact Bob Becker at rabecker32@me.com.

By accessing the ELCA website at elca.org you can get involved in supporting the many ELCA advocacy issues which include:

- Support of a strong farm bill in 2018.
- Support of Federal programs that improve our nation's infrastructure.
- Help to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths globally.
- Combat gender-based violence.
- Join faith leaders and to act on campaign finance reform.
- Meet Palestinian humanitarian need by supporting Augusta Victoria Hospital.
- Stand for peace not walls and support H.R. 4391.
- Support domestic and international environmental programs.
- Take action on gun violence.
- Urge Congress to use the budget to keep families together.

advocacy

The ELCA also asks congregations to support areas such as:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Education and Opportunity
- Higher Education
- Women and Girls
- Medicare and Social Security
- Climate resiliency
- Veterans
- Investments in Housing and Homeless Assistance.

Bryan Stevenson spoke at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Suggested by Tory Plucheck, I watched a video outlining his passionate advocacy action points. I have highlighted his four action points on how we can make a difference.

1. We need to engage the power of proximity
   In order to make a difference we need to put ourselves closer to those in need.
2. We need to change the narratives
   We need to reject the politics of fear and anger
   Denounce the super predator myth
   Claim those that are rejected
   Change racial inequality
3. We need to stay hopeful
   He says sometimes it is easier to be faithful than to be hopeful.
   It takes courage to be hopeful.
4. We need to do uncomfortable things
   The opposite of poverty is justice.

You can access and watch this powerful video, "Grace, Justice, & Mercy: An Evening with Bryan Stevenson and Reverend Tim Keller on You Tube.

Endowment Fund

Look back

to those who nurture your 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 into the future.

Support the St. Philip's Endowment Fund

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Memorial & Gifts

Contributions were received in memory of:

Kay Hansen
Mike Johnson
Erv Walhof

Contributions were received in honor of:

St. Philip's 60th Anniversary

Gifts in memory of someone, to celebrate a special occasion, or in simple gratitude, please specify as contributing to the "Endowment Fund."

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

Food & Clothing Shelf

Through the advocacy of St. Philip's, the Food & Clothing Shelf continues to serve those in need of food and clothing. October 2018 was our busiest month:

- We served 72 visitors, distributed 1,801 pounds of food, and gave out 309 pounds of clothing.
- We spent $1,413.53 over and above the tangible food donations from the congregation, brought in over 1,708 pounds of food, and received $840.00 of monetary donations from members of the congregation.
- 13 volunteers worked a total of 107 hours feeding and clothing our neighbors in need.

As numbers of people in need continue to rise we remain humble and thankful for the support of the congregation in this amazing ministry.

December

Donald & Charlotte Fauteck on 12/14/1957 for 61 Years
Burt & Judy Ferrier on 12/30/1961 for 57 Years
Rod & Sylvia Strand on 12/6/1969 for 49 Years
Charles & Bunny Nara on 12/14/1969 for 49Years
Douglas & Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974for 44 Years
Steven & LaVerne Poniatowski on 12/12/1981for 37Years

The friends and family of:
Harlen Gjerde

Passion Play

St. Philip's is pleased to offer the opportunity to travel to Germany for the Passion Play in Oberammergau, June 9 - 19, 2020. The trip will be led by Pastor Matt and Pastor Margie.

The Passion Play is presented only every ten years. It began as a vow in 1633 when the Black Plague raged through Europe. The people in Oberammergau prayed to be saved and made a promise to perform A Passion Play of Christ's Passion and Death if their village was spared.

The first Passion Play took place in a church yard in 1634 and has continued with rare exceptions to this very day.

This is an incredible opportunity. The tour will begin in Vienna, Austria and we will travel through Croatia, Slovenia, and Venice before touring the French Alps on our way to Oberammergau.

This 12 day trip includes our flights, ground transportation, many tours, lodging, most meals, and tickets for the Passion Play. A tour manager will accompany us.

Pastor Matt has lived and toured in Germany and Pastor Margie has led Passion Play trips in 2000 and 2010.

Brochures are in the office. We encourage you to pick one up and read through it. The pastors will be happy to answer any questions you might have. We will host a travel meeting on Sunday, February 24 at 4:00 pm. A representative from Trans World Travel will be present to share information and answer questions. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign up with an initial deposit.

Financials

St. Philip's 2018	Actual October	Actual YTD
Income	$50,159.81	$623,504.07
Expense	($75,822.77)	($649,696.10)
TOTALS	($25,662.96)	($26,192.03)

Friendly Takeaway

A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN FOR US, A SON IS GIVEN TO US; AUTHORITY RESTS UPON HIM; AND HE IS NAMED JESUS.

ISAIAH 9: 6, MATTHEW 1:25

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA
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Phone: 763-571-1500 Fax: 763-572-2292
Pastoral Emergency Phone: 612-930-1588

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DavidG@splcmn.org
Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director
Chris Porter, Utility Musician
Katie Swenstad, Full-Time Custodian
KatieS@splcmn.org, ext. 109
Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian

Worship Schedule

8:30 am Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary

Board of Administration
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Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack
Companion Congregation:
Bille Lutheran in Nigeria
Ministers: All members of the Parish

St. Philip's LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 **8:30 am** Worship **9:35 am** Education Hour; No SPARK; Pageant Rehearsal **10:30 am** Worship	3 **12:30 pm** Joy Circle **5:15 pm** Chair Yoga **6:15 pm** Mat Yoga **7:00 pm** Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	4 **10:30 am** Staff Mtg. **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **5:30 pm** Solid Ground AA **6:00 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal	5 **8:30 am** WOW & Men's Work Crew **9:00 am** Quilters **10:00 am** EA Group **1:00 pm** Poinsettia Pick-up **6:00 pm** Bells of Praise Rehearsal; Community Supper **6:30 pm** Advent Activities/ Prayer Stations **7:00 pm** Advent Worship; AA Mtg. **8:00 pm** Choir Rehearsal	6 **7:00 pm** Recovery International **7:30 pm** Alanon; AA Mtg.	7	8 **9:00 am** Kinshoppe Event **10:00 am** Pageant Dress Rehearsal
9 **8:00 am** Youth Christmas Sale **9:00 am** Pageant Rehearsal **9:35 am** Christmas Pageant **9:35 am** No Education Hour	10 **Friend Articles Due** **1:00 pm** Global Health Ministries **2:00 pm** Lynwood Bingo **5:15 pm** Chair Yoga **6:15 pm** Mat Yoga **6:30 pm** Executive Mtg.; Benevolence Committee Mtg. **7:00 pm** Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	11 **10:30 am** Staff Mtg. **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **2:30 pm** Heritage Group Mtg. **5:30 pm** Solid Ground AA **6:00 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal **6:30 pm** Parish Fellowship Mtg.	12 **8:30 am** WOW & Men's Work Crew **10:00 am** Women's Book Club; EA Group **6:00 pm** Bells of Praise Rehearsal; Community Supper **6:30 pm** Advent Activities/ Prayer Stations **7:00 pm** Advent Worship; AA Mtg. **8:00 pm** Choir Rehearsal	13 **7:00 am** Men's Book Discussion **7:00 pm** Recovery International **7:30 pm** Alanon; AA Mtg.	14	15
16 **8:30 am** Worship **9:30 am** Equal Exchange Coffee Sale **9:35 am** Education Hour; No SPARK **10:30 am** Worship **11:30 am** Youth Denver Mission Trip Mtg. **1:00 pm** Winter Sledding Fun **4:00 pm** Christmas Concert	17 **9:30 am** Glory Circle **7:00 pm** Board Of Administration Mtg.; Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	18 **9:00 am** Assemble The *Friend;* Library Group Mtg. **10:30 am** Staff Mtg. **1:00 pm** Tuesdays Together **5:30 pm** Solid Ground AA **6:00 pm** Worship Band Rehearsal **6:30 pm** Property and Grounds Mtg.; Young Adult Ministry	19 **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 Activities/ Prayer Stations **7:00 pm** Service of Light Worship; AA Mtg. **8:00 pm** Choir Rehearsal	20 **7:00 pm** Recovery International **7:30 pm** Alanon; AA Mtg.	21	22
23 **8:30 am** Worship **9:35 am** Education Hour; No S.P.A.R.K. or Youth Ministry **10:30 am** Worship; Scarlett Thomson Baptism	24 **1:30 pm** Knitters & Crocheters **2:00 pm** Worship **4:00 pm** Worship **7:00 pm** Gam-anon; GA Mtg. **10:00 pm** Worship	25 **Merry Christmas!** **Office Closed** **10:00 am** Worship **5:30 pm** Solid Ground AA	26 **Office Closed** **10:00 am** EA Group **6:00 pm** Community Supper **7:00 pm** AA Mtg.	27 **7:00 am** Men's Book Discussion **7:00 pm** Recovery International **7:30 pm** Alanon; AA Mtg.	28	29
30 **8:30 am** Worship **9:35 am** Education Hour; No S.P.A.R.K. or Youth Ministry **10:30 am** Worship	31 **7:00 pm** Gam-anon; GA Mtg.					

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St. Philip's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

6180 Highway 65 NE
Fridley, MN 55432-5158

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

Place Label Here

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).