

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.*

PLEASE JOIN US



2018 Annual Meeting

Worship at 9:30 am

Chili Luncheon at 10:30 am

*The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday,
February 4 at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary.*

February 2018

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Theme For Lent

Mollie Dvorak, Associate Pastor

We all have our routines. The day to day things we do, without even thinking about it most of the time. Making coffee, brushing our teeth, getting dressed, driving, eating, sleeping.

We are entering into the season of Lent. This can be a time of routine or it can be a time of awakening. Just as a green shoot breaks through the winter earth, so the church stirs into action to proclaim the Easter mystery.

This year "Practicing Lent" is our theme for our midweek services during this Lenten season, which begins Ash Wednesday, February 14.

The past couple years we have asked members to help us in leading our midweek worship services. Two years ago our theme was "The Story", so we asked different members to share a piece of their faith story with us. Last year, we heard from different characters from the Holy Week texts, and through monologues heard their perspective.

As we "Practice Lent" this year, we are going to hear from members about ways in which they practice Lent, and the importance of why it's so important.

Tools such as scripture, meditation, and themes of action will be provided each week as a guide for us. Each week will be designed to deepen our journey through these next 40 days of awakening and stirring as we get ready for the Proclamation of Easter. Practice them alone, or with a partner, friend, or family, sharing experiences and insights.

May Lent not just become a routine, where we don't even have to think about it... but a time for us to awaken, practice, and reflect on the meaning of Lent in our lives.

Epiphany

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

This is the season of the church year known as Epiphany. During this season we get to know Jesus. In fact, we learn a great deal about him.

The season begins with a star shining on him so that the Magi might find him to bring gifts and to adore him. Jesus is in the spotlight! We are focused on Jesus, learning about him and learning how to be more like him.

During this season I would challenge you to be a spotlight to show others the way to Jesus. How can you light up one dark corner? Think of someone you know who has a hard time getting to church this time of year. Plan to be a light and bring light to them in a visit. Maybe take a special treat with you to share with them. Chat a little. Remember old times. Talk about children and grandchildren and then pray with them.

Bring them the light of Christ on a dark winter's day. Remember that you are blessed to be a blessing.

Joy to you and yours!

Seeing God in One Another

Tory Pluckeck, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

There's the age old conversation of what Christ actually looked like. The perfect-hair, olive-skin, blue-eyed Jesus that is so often portrayed doesn't quite line up with what historians believe to be true. I have heard countless arguments trying to decide what Christ really looked like, and in turn what God looks like. To me, God looks like you. He looks like me. He looks like our best friend, our neighbor, the teenager checking us out at the grocery store, the man sitting on the street corner. One of the greatest beauties of God living in us, with us, and through us, is that we are able to see God in one another.

I thrive on relationships and community. My relationship with God is strengthened when I form

and strengthen relationships with others. I love seeing the light of Christ shine through all, creating amazing community.

Our middle school and high school ministry is based on this through small groups, retreats, mentoring, fellowship, and whole community events. When we are gathered together in community and have strong, trusted relationships with each other, we can grow in our relationship with God even more. We can see the light shining through our peers and know that God is present with us always. We can strengthen our understanding of faith, sometimes challenging our ideas and beliefs. We are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) in the image of God.

Spreading Love

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children & Family Ministries



I recently found a quote from Mother Teresa that said, "Spread love everywhere you go, let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." With the start of this new year, it really spoke to me. To spread your love can be as simple as a kind word of encouragement, a warm smile, a helping hand or even giving your time to do something for others. We will be working on a few different service projects on Wednesday, February 7, I hope you can join us in spreading love!

Also this month we will be entering the season of Lent, and I would like to challenge you to think of ways you can spread your love.

February 2018

- 4 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 7 – Children's Ministry Night - Spreading our love with service projects.
Dinner: Scalloped potatoes and ham
- 11 – Cross Generational Activity – Mental Health/40 Days of Giving Theme
- 14 – Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm – Ash Wednesday - No dinner
- 18 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 21 – Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm
Dinner: Baked potato bar
- 25 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 28 – Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm
Dinner: Tator-tot/Green bean casserole

My wish for you is to be blessed, and to be a blessing.

GROW & SERVE

Thank You

Mike Youngberg, President

I just read a final column by a favorite newspaper writer. He's retiring after many years and was saying good-bye. I realized while I was reading that I would be doing the same soon, and this is it my last column as President. I will say that it has been an interesting two years. Certainly not boring or hum-drum. There have been staff changes, worship changes, and program changes. St. Philip's is on the move. The move to right-size ourselves in terms of staff and budget has not been without some discomfort. We have gone from being a 4 pastor church 30 years ago to being a 1 pastor church. We worship 300/Sunday instead of 900. We have gone from a building teeming with children to not so much. To recognize and accept those facts is difficult and an act of courage in itself. Through the last year, the Transition Task Force has helped us see who we are, and, as important, has begun helping us figure out what this "new us" can and wants to do going forward.

It has been my pleasure to serve this congregation as President. It has not necessarily been an easy time, but in the end, it all feels worth while as we continue together what has already begun. To those among you whom I have offended at some point along the way, I apologize. It is not always easy to notice that

among a large group. I assure you it was not intentional. To those who expressed their support, you can't know how much it meant and how much it helped me to continue moving forward.

To those who served with me on the BOA during these past 2 years, my heartfelt "Thank You," and congratulations on a job well done.

Unlike the newspaper columnist, whom most people will never hear from again, I'll still be here February 5th. Not as often probably and not having to play the responsible leader role. I look forward to being a worker bee again.

Some great things are happening at St. Philip's led by some great people, and more great things are on the horizon. I urge you to join hands with those who are leading St. Philip's forward as we continue our work together. I'm going to end by stealing St. Philip's Disaster Relief's catch phrase. I am excited about what is happening at St. Philip's and look forward to our future.....AS THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.

As always...In Jesus' name

St. Philip's 2017	Actual December	Actual YTD
Income	\$108,825.38	\$800,208.79
Expense	(\$67,778.54)	(\$772,411.82)
TOTALS	\$ 41,046.84	\$27,796.97

Festival of Tables

Save the date! The 10th annual Festival of Tables will be held on Saturday April 14, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to come to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this lovely fundraiser for area food shelves. Themed tables, lunch, and a local author will

make for a fun day. Watch for more info on ticket sales. If you would like to decorate a table and invite your own guests please contact Julie Small at kjsmall74@msn.com for details. Let's make this one the best yet!

SERVE

SPDR Lasagna Dinner and Auction Fundraiser

Sunday, February 11 is the annual SPDR fundraiser and will again be a lasagna dinner prepared and served by the Disaster Relief team members and a sealed bid auction with many wonderful donated items.

The dinner includes salad, lasagna, breadsticks, dessert, and beverages. Dinner seatings are at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12 (under 5 are free.) Sunday, January 28 is the last day to purchase tickets for the dinner.

The auction items will be available for bidding after worship services on Sunday, February 11 and at the dinner. The auction items include hand crafted items, gift baskets, tools, jewelry, housewares, electronics, various gift cards to merchants and local activities, and much more.

New to the auction this year is a 7-day Hawaiian stay in a condo on the sunny side of the island of Kauai - with a value of \$1200. This timeshare condo is owned by a SPDR team member (and Mike Anderson's former boss.) The unit (remodeled four years ago) sleeps up to four people with one bedroom and a sleeper sofa in the living area. There is a full kitchen, one bathroom, washer and dryer. This is a RCI Gold Crown Resort that features 3 swimming pools and spas, mini golf, tennis court, fitness center, BBQ area by the pools, a rooftop deck and garden. The resort has 176 condominiums on seven acres overlooking Lawai Beach. The area is excellent for snorkeling, surfing, bodyboarding, swimming, and beach parties.

The minimum bid for this great item will be around \$750. The winning bidder would be responsible for resort fees and taxes (approximately \$175) and transportation. (A rental car is recommended and airfare is generally around \$700 per person.) The owner will work with the winner to reserve a week sometime in July through October, 2018. (Flexibility on the week or month is important.)

The website for the resort is www.lawaibeach.org. Check it out for more details about the resort and the surrounding area. If you have any questions about this auction item, please contact Mike Anderson at flooddog97@gmail.com or 612-209-8529.

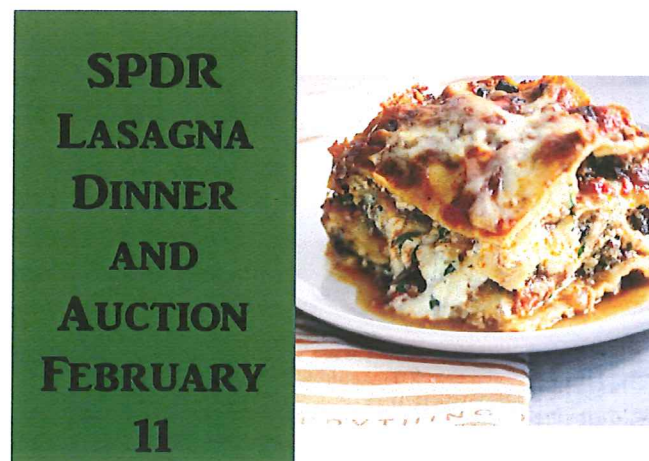
Your support of SPDR through the purchase of dinner tickets and high bids on the auction items ensures that the journey continues for the St. Philip's Disaster Relief ministry. And, hopefully, a generous bidder will journey to Hawaii!

Spring Trip

Planning has started for the spring trip with the tentative dates of April 7 - 15. The destination is tentatively set for southern Texas to help with the rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Harvey. Watch for more details in future St. Philip's publications. Direct any questions about the trip to spdr@splcmn.org.

~~~~~  
Dear Friends, I would like to thank all of you who remembered me with prayers, cards, meals and support during my surgery and after at home. I am doing better every day,

Regards, Karla Ackerman  
~~~~~



55+ Retirees Activity

Como Zoo, Conservatory, & Lunch

Are you tired of the cold and snow? Join us for an early spring outing! Meet at church on Thursday, March 8 at 9:30 am - 2:00 pm. We will travel by school bus to Como Zoo and the Conservatory.

You can stroll, at your own pace, through the many indoor gardens. In the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory is the "Jewel of Como" the Sunken Garden. The Japanese Bonsai exhibit is inspiring. Explore also the Tropical Encounter Exhibit; a neo-tropical rainforest combining both the plant and

animal world. We can also venture outside and see some of the animals or purchase a unique treasure in the gift shop!

Following our self-tour, we will bus to the Panda Garden Buffet for lunch. They serve a variety of Chinese and American food.

The cost of only \$13 per person includes transportation, the Conservatory and Zoo, lunch, with beverage. Sign up in the office by Sunday, March 4. Please make a (non-refundable) check to St. Philip's Church. Any questions, call Retzers at 763-574-9559 or Schonebaums at 763-786-2483.

Jim and Carol Sack, Japan

Dear Churches in Ministry with us:

We pray that you have had a meaningful Christmas experience and that the grace of God has blessed you and your families during this season.

Late in November, the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church had its national pastors' gathering in the city of Nagasaki. This event was held at the Urakami Catholic Church. The atomic bomb that fell on Nagasaki (August 9, 1945) exploded a mere 500 meters from the cathedral and the church was completely destroyed. The cathedral was replaced in 1959. Now a beautiful new building is standing in the place where once only ruins of war could be seen. It holds up to 1,500 people.

On November 23, there was a joint Catholic-Lutheran worship service to remember the Protestant Reformation, that began exactly 500 years ago. It was both an honor to be able to participate in the service as well as an inspiration to see so many Catholic priests and Lutheran pastors sitting side by side, remembering not only the reformation, but the mutual coming together once again 500 years later as a community of believers in Christ. In many ways, this service represented a healing of differences between the two churches as well as a recognition that we are truly brothers and sisters in Christ. The church was filled to capacity, with many members of our Lutheran churches traveling to Nagasaki to be part of this historic worship service.

On the day before the actual joint worship service, we had a little time to look around Nagasaki. I went to the Nagasaki Peace Park, which is very near the Urakami Catholic Church. A statue has been erected there in 1955. It is almost 10 meters high. It is said that the statute's right hand is raised upward to point to the threat of nuclear weapons while the left arm is extended out symbolizing peace.

While it was wonderful to be able to be part of this joint worship, we still live in a world that is divided in so many different ways. The threat of destruction and war seems to be right at our doorstep, and yet we are called by Christ to be instruments of God's peace. May all of us be able to participate in bringing words of healing, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation to those who live in our respective communities.

We are called to be beacons of light in a dark world. In the letter of Paul to the Romans we read, "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." (Rom. 12:9-12)

May we all be able to be worthy representatives of God to a world in need of healing and peace.

Life Events

February Anniversaries & Baptisms

Shirley & Phillip Eddy on 2/19/1955 for 63 years

Walter & Dorothy Hansen on 2/2/1957 for 61 years

Donald & Susan Davis on 2/23/1957 for 61 years

Roger & Marlene Sonstegard on 2/27/1960 for 58 years

Richard & Dawn Young on 2/14/1965 for 53 years

William & Diane Schreier on 2/20/1965 for 53 years

John & Carol Crowley on 2/26/1966 for 52 years

Harold & Barbara Lundberg on 2/16/1979 for 39 years

Lee & Deb Lind on 2/14/1984 for 34 years

Mike & Renee Youngberg on 2/20/1986 for 32 years

Cindy & Don Tollefson on 2/13/1987 for 31 years

David & Yvette Christensen on 2/16/1991 for 27 years

Christine & Ronald Boettcher on 2/25/1995 for 23 years

Daniel & Jackie Campeau on 2/1/2001 for 17 years

Aaron & Staci Gondorchin on 2/2/2002 for 16 years

Chad & Tina Huston on 2/28/2004 for 14 years

Vivian Joyce DeWitt on 1/14/2018



News From Nigeria *Letter From Pastor Musa Filibus*

Following is a message from Dr. Musa Filibus, Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, in response to an email. He and family were members of St Philip's when he was studying at Luther Seminary some years ago.

Dear St Philip's Lutheran Church;

I send you greetings from the confluence town of Numan in Adamawa State, Nigeria that is the location of the national head office of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria.

Thank you very much for your message and commitment to continue to support the mission work of the LCCN through partnership with the Bille Congregation.

Our daughter Rubiyasima, my wife Ruth and I remain very much grateful for the opportunity to be part of St. Philip's in Fridley. We have very fond memories of our time together and continue to pray for the

ministry of the congregation. Since we left in 1998 Ruth has not had the opportunity to return to the USA. I only came back to Fridley once. We are eager to visit. Indeed so eager that we wish its this Christmas.

I have received an invitation from Bishop Ann Svennungsen to the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly at the beginning of May 2018. My hope is that Ruth could also join during this trip and we will have some time to also visit St. Philips. Can't wait to share the story what this congregation meant for us.

In the event we do not get to exchange messages sooner, please convey our greetings to the members of the congregation. We wish you all God's special blessing during this Christmas season and new year 2018.

Please pray for us as we continue to live under an atmosphere where we have been bereft of peace.

Still, I say, peace to you.

GENEROSITY

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

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

Matthew 6:21

Memorial & Gifts

Contributions were received in memory of:

Wilbur Ertl, Eleanor Haugen, Michael Hollen, Glen Knutson, Jordis Mittelstadt, James Plumedahl, and to honor Jim & Jan Kuglers 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Gifts in memory of someone, to celebrate a special occasion or in simple gratitude should specify "Endowment Fund".

Please welcome our new Endowment members: Joshua Glood, Judith Berglund & Jim Kugler.

Continuing members: Dick Lekang, Dawn Young, Edd Brooks, Ron Ackerman, and Jeanine Grandstrand.

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

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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Phone: 763.571.1500 • Fax: 763.572.2292

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JenniferT@splcmn.org, ext. 103

David Geslin, Organist
DavidG@splcmn.org

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director

Kate Kremer, Sanctuary Choir Director, ext. 103

Chris Porter, Utility Musician, ext. 103

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

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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:

February 5th for the March issue

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



St. Philip's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30 pm New Member Class 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Annual Meeting Luncheon 11:30 am Annual Meeting	5 <i>Friend Articles Due</i> 1:00 pm Joy Circle 4:45 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	6 10:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	7 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Confirmation Small Groups; Youth Ministry; Community Supper; Bells of Praise; Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Children's Ministry 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	9	10
11 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 4:00 & 6:00 pm SPDR Lasangna Dinner and Silent Auction	12 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 6:00 pm Benevolence Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	13 10:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 2:30 pm Heritage Mtg 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice 6:30 pm Property & Grounds Mtg; Parish Fellowship Mtg	14  8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group; Women's Book Club 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 pm Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship; AA Mtg; 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	16	17 10:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting
18 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K. Equal Exchange Coffee Sale; Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale; Youth Envelope Project Fundraiser 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Youth Gathering Mtg	19 9:30 pm Glory Circle 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	20 9:00 am Assemble "The Friend"; Library Group Mtg 10:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	21 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Lent Worship; AA Mtg; 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	23	24
25 8:30 am Worship 9:35 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K.; Youth Envelope Project Fundraiser 10:30 am Worship	26 1:00 pm Knitters & Crocheters 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	27 10:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Global Health Ministries; Worship Band Practice 6:45 pm Board of Administration Mtg	28 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Lent Worship; AA Mtg; 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal			



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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)