

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.*

Blessings To You In 2018!



2018 Annual Meeting

*The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday,
February 4 at 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary.*

January 2018

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Calling a New Pastor

Christine Wenzel, Interim Senior Pastor

Calling a pastor to serve together with the lay members of a congregation is a very important task. According to your constitution, you will elect 7 or 9 Call Committee members at the Annual Meeting on February 4, 2018. If you are interested in serving on the Call Committee, and if you love the Lord, love St. Philip's, and can work collaboratively in a group, please fill out the Call Committee form which can be found in the church office, and tell us a little about yourself.

This past year, the Transition Team along with the Board of Administration and congregation, has been discerning how God is calling St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church into the future.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) believes that it is our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides the call process. The calling of your pastor represents a valuable partnership between God, your congregation, the Minneapolis Area Synod, and the ELCA. When the call process results in a good match between pastor and congregation, the total mission of the church is furthered.

Phases in the call process once the call committee is approved are:

1. Call committee meets with the synod representative, Rev. John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop, who will help equip the committee for their tasks.
2. The Call Committee will complete the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), if not finished.
3. Once the MSP is finished, the congregation will be invited to have a conversation with the Bishop.
4. Suggested names are invited from the congregation, the synod staff discusses names and Minneapolis Area Synod ministers interested in submitting their names to synod staff for the position, do so.
5. The call committee receives the names of candidates from the synod staff.
6. The call committee contacts candidates and arranges and conducts first and second interviews.
7. The call committee chooses a candidate.
8. The congregation council receives the call committee's recommendation and schedules a special congregation meeting to vote on issuing the call.
9. Pastors are allowed 30 days to respond to a call.

Throughout the process, the congregation is asked to pray for openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May God bless your journey into the future! Thank you for allowing me to journey alongside with you!

Ultimate Lock-In

Tory Pluchek, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Where can 500 middle school youth join together for an all-night event of inflatables, ice skating, swimming, basketball, escape rooms, service projects, etc? At the Maple Grove Community Center January 19 - 20! Local churches are once again partnering together to host the Ultimate Lock-In this January. It's an amazing event where youth from local churches can come together for a night full of fun and fellowship. Youth are dropped off at 10:30 pm and stay and play until 6:00 am with a seemingly endless amount of games and activities.

But this event is not just for our middle school youth! We need high school students to help with games and activities, and most importantly adults to chaperone and assist!! If you would be willing to join us for part, or even all, of the evening, please do! I can guarantee that the lack of sleep is worth it. Contact Tory to sign up as a volunteer [toryp@splcmn.org].

Loving Your Unique Self

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children & Family Ministries



Joy, laughter,
loving heart,
happiness,
kindness, warm
smile, thoughtful
mind, and a caring
soul...these are all

great qualities to have, wonderful to give and amazing to find in others, but we are all unique. The way you show these may not be the same as someone else. We are all unique. Learning to love your unique self can be easier said than done at times, but we must remember that God loves us and our unique selves.

This month, our Children and Family Ministry program will have the opportunity to gather and participate in activities that will help us love our unique selves. Please check out the calendar and join us! Bring your friends too!

January 2018

- 3 – No Children's Ministry Night
- 7 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 10 – Children's Ministry Night – Family Game Night!
Dinner: Tomato Basil Soup & Grilled Cheese
- 14 – Congregational Connection – LGBTQ/Sexism -
Speaker
- 17 – No Children's Ministry Night
- 21 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 24 – Children's Ministry Night - Christian Family Yoga
Dinner: Mostaccoli
- 28 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 31 – No Children's Ministry Night

GROW & SERVE

Lessons From a Deerstand *Mike Youngberg, President*

Over the past 40 years I've sat in more than a few trees waiting for a deer to walk past me. I've experienced a lot of frustration and some small amount of success. Through all those hours and years I've had time to make some observations. Time to think and ponder. Something the modern world does not much encourage. I've learned to observe more carefully. Most of the time my life feels like it's rushing a hundred miles per hour. Everything slows way down when I'm sitting still in the middle of the woods. I notice the little things. Always looking for a bit of movement or the shadow that doesn't belong. Sometimes it's not even about the deer. Like the sound difference between a downy and a pileated woodpecker. Or the difference in the shadows when the sun is in the west instead of the east. Sitting in a tree, silently, without moving, is almost therapeutic. How many times in the course of a normal week would I like to just stop everything and sit quietly and think.

I've learned a few other things along the way as well. Patience for instance. Waiting requires patience. And in hunting deer, there's no shortcut for waiting. Once I'm up in the tree, there's nothing to do but wait. Waiting is not something I do well when I'm not hunting. Hunting is good practice for me.

I've learned silence. In my everyday world, everyone seems to be talking all the time. It's almost as if silence is a bad thing. In my deerstand there's no one to talk to. I sit silent and still. Noise and movement are my enemies. Silence and stillness are my friends. A complete reversal of normal. Sometimes it is best to sit and listen for that still, small voice of God.

I've learned "hope." Since most years I don't get a deer, I have to have hope in order to come back for the next year. Or even the next day. I've sat through many days in a row without even seeing a deer. Hope keeps bringing me back. It's almost a Lutheran thing. Someone once asked Luther why he kept preaching to those who don't believe? His answer, "Because you never know when the Spirit will move in someone's life and they'll hear your words." I can't give up hope.

Unfortunately, the lessons are too often forgotten when I leave my deerstand and return to the bustle of the city. Fortunately, each year I have deer hunting to slap me on the side of the head and remind me.

It may not be in a deerstand, but I hope you have a place to restore your patience, practice your silence, and renew your hope.

St. Philip's 2017	Actual November	Actual YTD
Income	\$66,988.09	\$691,383.41
Expense	(\$59,090.30)	(\$704,633.28)
TOTALS	\$ 7,897.79	(\$13,249.87)

News From Nigeria

The Reverend Doctor Sekenwa Moses Briska, former member of St. Philip's, was appointed Provost of Bronnum Lutheran Seminary in Nigeria by the General Church Council of The Lutheran Church of Nigeria, November 28, 2017. He asks for our prayers as he accepts this important position.

Meals on Wheels

"Love makes a bridge from heart to heart and hand to hand." Brian Wren. We give thanks to those who connected hearts and hands in delivering Meals on Wheels from November 6 - 10. They included Ann Westby, Butch and Bobbi Tuey, Earl Hatten, Kathy and Chuck Eichelberger, Monica Anderson, and Bev and Wally Helmbrecht. The next time we deliver meals is at 11:00 am from January 8 - 12.

SERVE

St. Philip's Disaster Relief

2018 Fundraiser Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendars – the annual SPDR fundraiser lasagna dinner and sealed bid auction will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018.

Tickets for the dinner will be available for purchase after worship services on January 14, 21, and 28. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 to 12 years old (under 5 are free.) There will be two seatings for the dinner – 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. The dinner menu includes lasagna, salad, breadsticks, dessert, and beverages. All tickets must be purchased in advance. The dinner has sold out in the past, so be sure to purchase your tickets early. Auction items will be available for bidding after worship on February 11 and at the dinner.

The dinner and auction proceeds will provide most of the 2018 funding for SPDR. Please help by purchasing dinner tickets and bidding on auction items.

Southern Minnesota Rebuild Trips

From late October to early December, SPDR team members made five trips to Alma City (west of Waseca) to help with the rebuilding of a home that had been flooded due to heavy rainfall in September 2016. Three to seven team members on each of the Saturdays spent their time drywalling, painting, cleaning, and installing windows, doors, trim, ceiling material, flooring, lights, and smoke detectors. Thank you to the SPDR volunteers that helped make it possible for the 89-year old homeowner and her 63-year old daughter to be back in their home before Christmas.

Prayer and Produce from the Garden Group

The gardeners would like to share its prayer of thanks for the 2017 bountiful harvest. Approximately seven hundred pounds of fresh produce was delivered to two local food shelves. Next season, the plan is to donate some fresh produce to the St. Philip's Food Shelf.

Dear God,

We give thanks in 2017, for:

A wonderful balance of sun and rain.

Green and yellow and purple beans, happy to grow next to each other.

Artwork in the shape of a lettuce cross.

Big bright yellow squash blossoms that seemed to mimic the sun.

Rhubarb that provided and provided and provided.

A blanket of melon vines with orange sweetness playing hide and seek.

Sunflower seeds that refused to grow, while raspberry plants found the same space to their liking.

Tomato vines once again defying efforts at containment.

A critter that visited, then left without damage.

A grapevine in a corner, looking more worthy of its name (Martha's Vineyard).

The smell of buttered popcorn from a stroke of leaves.

Bless all the hands who plant and harvest and those who share in the excitement of this garden. May all of us rest now. May winter's blanket of cold quiet the earth to a soft whisper, and then greet us with a chorus in spring.

Amen



Knitters & Crocheters

The St. Philip's Knitters/Crocheters gathered Monday, November 27 in Room 3 carting in bags and bags of colorfully knitted/crocheted items (260 caps, 152 pairs of mittens, 75 scarves, 72 prayer shawls/ lap robes, 10 vests, three baby sweaters, and eight stuffed animals).

Most of the items are donated to local elementary schools to warm the "hands, heads and hearts" of children in need. Baby sweaters and some caps are donated to Bundles of Love. Prayer shawls/ lap robes are delivered to homebound members, nursing homes, and veterans. (If you know someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl/ lap robe please contact Betty Pray at 651-633-9047 or Dorothy Kuluvar at dkuluvar@comcast.net).

A special thank you to the Vision Loss Support group whose talented members so generously contributed many beautifully knit items to this year's collection.

A request: most of these items were created with donated yarn...the group always appreciates any additional yarn donations.

An invitation: this group meets the fourth Monday of each month (except December and July) at 1:30 - 3:30 pm in Room 3. Please join us if you would like to learn to knit/crochet or share your talents.

Mission Offering for Bille

We have sent annual contributions to our companion congregation, Bille Lutheran Church in Nigeria, since 2006, when St. Philip's entered into a covenant to work together with them.

The annual Global Mission Offering is our opportunity to continue to meet our commitment. Our donations provide the salary for Pius Kasuwa, an evangelist doing outreach ministry, salaries for two teachers' aids at the

Nazareth Primary and Nursery School, and scholarships for primary students.

To provide our part of these shared ministries as we have done for the past 11 years, we have an annual goal of \$3,800. Special Global Mission offering envelopes will be available during St. Philip's Mission Festival on Sunday, January 21. In advance, and on behalf of LCCN Bille, we say thank you for your contribution to this meaningful ministry.

Young Adults in Global Mission - YAGM

JANUARY 21, 2018

St. Philip's Global Missions Sunday will focus on YAGM, an ELCA program offering young adults ages 21 - 29 a transformative year-long journey in international service.

The program presently places YAGMs in Argentina, Uruguay, Australia, Cambodia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/ West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa and United Kingdom.

Young adults work in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development,

congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth.

Kurt Hellmann is a dynamic young man who recently participated in YAGM. He will preach during worship services and speak at the forum between services. If you are or will be in your 20's, know someone who might be interested, or want to support the involvement of young people in the future of the church, you will not want to miss this. As always, members of St. Philip's Global Missions Team will provide refreshments!



Baptisms

Bo Bolin Johnson on 12/3/2017

Lincoln Kenneth Bertozzi on 11/29/2017

Emerson Goldenstein on 11/5/2017

January Anniversaries

Kermit & Frances Hollen on 1/30/1960 for 58 years

Ronald & Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 57 years

John & Josephine Riley on 1/5/1961 for 57 years

Richard & Laurel Harris on 1/27/1962 for 56 years

Roger & Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 55 years

Steve & Lynn Britven on 1/11/1986 for 32 years

Steven & Gail Olson on 1/16/1991 for 27 years

Dennis & DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 18 years

David & Mollie Dvorak on 1/30/2010 for 8 years

One New Thing Pastor Margie, Visitation Pastor

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:18 & 19.

The New Year is upon us. We have hours and days and months to follow God's call to do a new thing. You will notice that in Isaiah "thing" is singular, not plural. You are called, in the New Year, to do at least one new thing. You may do only this one new thing in 2018, or you might do several new things, but you are called to do at least one new thing.

The possibilities for this one new thing are endless. Think about the possibilities and ponder them before you choose your one new thing. It is not to be a "New Year's resolution" which is certainly doomed to fail. But one thing, done in the name of Jesus, one time or many times. When you have accomplished this one new thing or are tired of it, choose another new thing in a few days or a few months down the road.

The important thing is to ponder and pray about this new thing.

In my call as Visitation Pastor I encounter people who may think there isn't another new thing in their lives that will be any good at all. But often there is. They simply must choose to see the good in all God gives to them. And they do. That is where I find joy in my ministry.

May you also find joy in the "new thing" that is springing forth for you.



GENEROSITY

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a blessing to Future Generations

Memorial & Gifts

Contributions were received in memory of:

Eleanor Haugen

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

"Endowment Fund".

For more information on the St. Philip's Endowment Fund, visit "splcmn.org"

and select Ministries and then Endowment.

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

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

www.splcmn.org • info@splcmn.org

Phone: 763.571.1500 • Fax: 763.572.2292

Worship Schedule

Please join us for Sunday Worship

8:30 am (Traditional)

10:30 am (Contemporary)

Church Staff

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

Mollie Dvorak, Associate Pastor
MollieD@splcmn.org, ext. 108

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor
MargieG@splcmn.org

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

Jerry Salitros, Bookkeeper
JerryS@splcmn.org, ext. 106

Tory Pluchek, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
ToryP@splcmn.org, ext. 110

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

Jennifer Thurman, Worship Band Director
JenniferT@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Kate Kremer, Interim Sanctuary Choir Director
ext. 103

David Geslin, Organist;
DavidG@splcmn.org

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director

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

Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian

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

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

Joel Young
young.joel.r@gmail.com

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

January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	2 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm NO Tuesdays Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	3 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Confirmation Small Groups; Children's Ministry; Youh Ministry; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg	4 11:30 am Youth Movie & Game Day 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	5 <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	6
7 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K. 10:30 am Worship	8 1:00 pm Joy Crcl; Global Health Ministries 6:00 pm Benevolence Mtg 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	9 10:30 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	10 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group; Women's Book Club 6:00 pm Confirmation Small Groups; Children's Ministry; Youh Ministry; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 3:00 pm Endowment Mtg 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	12	13
14 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Education Hour 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am ELCA Youth Gathering Mtg	15 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed 9:30 am Glory Circle 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	16 9:00 am Assemble "The Friend"; Library Group Mtg 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	17 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Confirmation Small Groups; Children's Ministry; Youh Ministry; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	18 1:00 pm 55+ Event 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	19 10:30 pm Youth Ultimate Lock-In	20 10:00 am Comfort & Joy of Quilting
21 Global Mission Festival 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K. Equal Exchange Coffee Sale; Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:30 am Worship	22 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	23 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice Global Health Ministries 6:45 pm Board of Admininstration Mtg	24 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Confirmation Small Groups; Children's Ministry; Youh Ministry; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	25 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	26	27
28 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K. 10:30 am Worship	29 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	30 10:30 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tues. Together 5:30 pm Solid Ground AA 6:00 pm Worship Band Practice	31 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Confirmation Small Groups; Children's Ministry; Youh Ministry; Community Supper 7:00 pm AA Mtg; 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)