

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.



HOLY WEEK

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship Schedule

Lenten Wednesday

March 7, 14, and 21 Holden Evening Prayer
12:00 pm Worship with a light lunch to follow
6:00 pm supper
7:00 pm Worship

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

"Cry of the Congregation"
March 25 Worship 9:30 am (One Worship Service)
Youth Pancake Breakfast at 9:30 am

Maundy Thursday

March 29 Worship with Holy Communion at 12:00 and 7:00 pm

Good Friday

March 30 Sanctuary Choir Cantata "Once Upon a Tree" at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

April 1 Worship with Holy Communion 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 am

March 2018

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Reach-In or Reach-Out?

Christine Wenzel, Senior Pastor

A colleague sent me an article written by Bill Easum. Over the past twenty-five years, Easum worked with almost seven hundred churches of all sizes and locations. One overarching truth has emerged from his experiences in these churches he calls it, "The Basic Law of Congregational Life." It goes something like this – Churches are the healthiest when they reach out to others rather than worrying about themselves.

Now that the Call Committee is in place, I have time to reflect over the past year spent with you. Yes, there has been conflict. Yes, there has been a need to "right-size." Yes, there has been resistance to changes. Having journeyed with you through all of this, I celebrate that you have chosen to head in the right direction as far as what church growth looks like. Easum says, "Churches grow when they intentionally reach out; they die when all they do is reach in."

"A Fable of a Loss of Purpose" - A story of what happens when churches choose in-reach!

Once upon a time, a group of concerned citizens decided to build a lighthouse in order to aid those in distress at sea. Even more, this group decided not only to provide a beacon of light for those who were lost, but also to form rescue squads who would brave dangerous waters to save those imperiled by shipwrecks.

In the beginning, the purpose of the group was clear; everyone who joined them knew that they, too would be trained to save people in distress. Within a short time, however, some who joined the group began to question whether it was necessary to answer every distress signal. "Perhaps," they said, "it would be acceptable to have only certain hours when they would be on duty."

Next, they began to wonder if it would be necessary for everyone to be part of the rescue mission. "Perhaps," they thought, "only certain members should go out, while most just watched from shore."

After a time, the rescue mission stopped altogether, and the group said, "Enough of this going out to sea. If the people are lost, we've got a light on our house to guide them. They can simply follow the light."

Next the group began to be more concerned about the comfort of the lighthouse and their own safety. They began to argue about the interior design and the exterior decorations of the lighthouse. In addition, they did not want wet and soggy people, rescued from the sea, messing up the lighthouse.

The more they argued, the dimmer the light of the house became. One day, the light went out, and no one even noticed. Finally, the group had a nice, comfortable house, and they changed its name from lighthouse to clubhouse.

-Author Unknown

May St. Philip's continue to grow and thrive to the glory of God!



Practicing Lent

Tory Pluchek, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Over the Lenten season, our middle school youth are delving into the devotion of "Practicing Lent." If you have been attending our Wednesday Lenten services you have joined our youth in this practice. So what does it mean to practice Lent? How does that statement even make sense?

We are constantly practicing in our lives. If we play sports, we practice multiple times a week to gain skills and knowledge in the game. We practice playing our instruments as we learn notes and rhythms.

As students, we practice a lot: through homework, projects, tests, etc.

Our lives are filled with practice! This Lent we are called to practice Lent. We are challenged to see the hope and light all around us as we stay present and awake to the injustices of the world. Each week we learn different practices for living out this challenge.

How do you practice Lent?

Going Beyond the 40 Days

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. - Joel 2:12-13

The Lenten season is upon us. Some of you may have chosen to give something up such as sweets and treats. Some of you may have chosen to add something to your daily routine such as a daily devotional, or even a phone call to a friend every day. Some of you may be participating in our 40 Days of Giving fundraiser, and I thank you for that! Whatever your Lenten journey looks like, I hope that this is a time of reflection, prayer and peace. I truly believe this is a wonderful time to grow in your faith. I encourage you to challenge yourself to go beyond the 40 days, and find a new way to give back to those in need, make special time for family and friends, take care of yourself or sit quietly with God.

I wish you many blessings this Lenten season and beyond.

March 2018

- 4 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 7 – Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm
Dinner: Tomato Basil Soup & Grilled Cheese
- 11 – Congregation Connection
40 Days of Giving Theme
- 14 – First Communion Class at 6:00 pm
Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm Dinner: Taco Bar
- 18 – S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
- 21 – First Communion Class at 6:00 pm
Lenten Worship at 7:00 pm
Dinner: Mostaccioli
- 25 – Palm Sunday
No S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – 5th grade)
Worship at 9:30 am
- 28 – First Communion Class at 6:00 pm
Dinner: Sloppy Joes
- 29 – Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00 pm
- 30 – Good Friday Cantata at 7:00 pm

Gratitude

Valerie Sperry, President

I want to start by saying thank you. Thank you to Mike Youngberg for his service and leadership over the last two years as our president. Thank you to all those who have given of their time and talents and served - on the board, on committees and teams, and as volunteers. Your service helps make our church and our ministries thrive. Thank you to our staff and pastors for their service to our congregation and the support, and leadership they provide to our ministries.

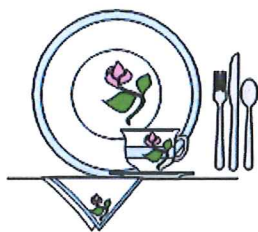
I am thankful for the spirit of service that runs deep at St. Philip's. I am grateful to have grown up in a congregation where I had so many examples of the different and wonderful ways we can serve our neighbors and God. And finally, thank you to all of you who have shown me so much kindness as I begin my time as President. I am grateful for your words of support and I will do my best to serve our congregation well. As I write this column, we have just begun the season of Lent.

During Lent we take time to reflect, do some soul searching and prepare for Easter. How appropriate that our newly elected Call Committee is beginning its work during this season of Lent. As we prepare for Easter, we are also preparing for the time when we will welcome our new pastor later this year. Let's take this time to reflect on how we as a congregation, and we as individuals, will welcome and support our new pastor. I encourage each of us to take time to really give this prayerful consideration. Our new pastor will need our support, trust, and our faith.

What amazing things might God have in store for us? I am excited to see where the Holy Spirit will lead us now and in the future.

St. Philip's 2017	Actual January	Actual YTD
Income	\$51,322.14	\$51,322.14
Expense	(\$66,730.89)	(\$66,730.89)
TOTALS	\$ 15,408.75	\$15,408.75

Festival of Tables



The 10th annual Festival of Tables will be held on Saturday, April 14, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$15 and will be sold between services on Sunday, March 25 and Sunday, April 8. There are still a few spaces left if you would like to decorate a table for this lovely fundraiser. A local author, lunch, and door prizes will make for a fun event. Please plan to attend! Proceeds will benefit local food shelves. Questions: email Julie Small [kjsmall74@msn.com].

St. Philip's Disaster Relief

Fundraiser

The SPDR annual lasagna dinner and silent auction fundraiser was held earlier this month and was very successful. We are so grateful to all those that contributed to the success of this event. Thank you to:

- over 50 SPDR team members that helped with the preparations for the auction and dinner in the weeks prior to the fundraiser, setup for the event on Saturday, served the meal on Sunday, and helped with all of the post-activities;
- approximately 250 dinner guests who contributed almost \$2000 in tips;
- an anonymous St. Philip's couple that, once again, underwrote the cost of the dinner and,
- those that donated or bid on an auction item. Over 500 bids were made on over 160 auction items that were donated by SPDR team members, friends, family members, and St. Philip's members. (Note: Auction items donated or won will not show up on St. Philip's members' giving statements.)

The SPDR ministry is able to do all that it does because of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee for a senior pastor is meeting and actively preparing to receive and consider candidates. In March, Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Synod will forward the names of potential candidates who have expressed interest in a call and/or

Spring Trip

The spring trip is scheduled for April 7 - 15, 2018 and the destination will most likely be the Galveston/Houston area to do rebuilding work from Hurricane Harvey. Watch for registration information in St. Philip's publications or contact Mike Anderson at [spdr@splcmn.org or 763-784-7977].

If you don't regularly receive the SPDR emails and would like to receive information about this trip and other activities, please send an email to [spdr@splcmn.org] asking to get on the SPDR mailing list.



who are anticipated to be a good fit for us. The congregation is invited to share concerns and information with members of the Call Committee: Jennifer Prasek, Bryant Holmstrom, Renee Youngberg, Bob Becker, Mike Anderson, Barbara Cooper, Andy Tjader, Gary Blomster, and Dana Rebelein.

Growing Through Loss

Support for Those Experiencing Loss in Their Lives

Growing Through Loss is a grief and loss support ministry jointly sponsored by the North Suburban Grief Support Coalition, of which 18 churches and organizations in our area are members. The coalition hosts two six-week series each year at various locations that address both the educational as well as support aspects of a variety of loss and grief issues.

The spring series will be held on Thursday evenings, April 12 through May 17 from 6:45 pm – 9:00 pm at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 6180 Hwy 65 NE, Fridley, MN 55432.

Each session offers an educational presentation by a professional from the community, followed by peer support groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process. Each session is complete in itself, so you may attend any or all sessions. Registration takes place the evening before each session. There is no cost, although donations are welcome. Free childcare is available, but please call a week in advance so they are prepared for your children. You may call [763-755-5335 or visit www.growingthroughloss.org] for more information.

Thank You!

The Parish Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of those who came to the, "Love That Olive" dinner in October! Eighty-six guests enjoyed a delicious four-course dinner and a tasting of oils and vinegars. Terri Chaffer and her staff from Love that Olive store in Maple Grove were the cooks and Terri was the educator.

We learned all about oils and vinegars and uses for them. The food was wonderful; everything was prepared using olive oil, and recipes were provided. This new fundraiser netted about \$1,500 for unbudgeted, "wish list" items at St. Philip's. Thank you for your support!



Life Events

March Anniversaries

Richard & Leora Carlson on 3/18/1950 for 68 Years
Clem & Eva Coverston on 3/23/1952 for 66 Years
Howard & Shirley Mosman on 3/26/1955 for 63 Years
Ralph & Kathryn Petersen on 3/11/1966 for 52 Years
Dean & Jeanne Enrooth on 3/15/1968 for 50 Years
Wesley & Jeanine Grandstrand on 3/31/1973 for 45 Years
Richard & Joan Kruse on 3/22/1975 for 43 Years



Funerals

Sandra Hahn on January 16

News From Nigeria

Easter Greetings From our Companion Congregations in Bille, Nigeria

Mr. Clement Dah wrote to us on behalf of Bille Lutheran Church in Bille, Nigeria. He said, "As we enter Lent period and begin to march to Easter period, the LCCN Bille wishes to send greetings to her companion members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church Fridley."

He wrote that they are also grateful to God for sparing their lives by protecting them during the upheaval caused by nomadic herdsman in some parts of Adamawa State late last year and early this year. Bille is located in Adamawa State. The Reverend Japhet Manu, who was serving Bille LCCN has been transferred to another Division, and the new pastor in Bille is the Reverend Arnold Umaru.

Troubling News From the Briskas in Nigeria

Prayers Requested



Nigeria

On February 4, 2018, Namsy and Simkama Briska and their university classmates in Nigeria had their college studies

interrupted by a group of Muslim students who burned down the lecture halls, fellowship and storage facilities, and mosques. They tried to burn down churches, but the Christians were able to stop them. A young man was killed. The school has been closed indefinitely.

The Muslims involved continue to threaten violence after the students return to school.

The reason behind the whole incident is still unclear, as they claim it is as a result of blasphemy against their prophet. Others are saying it is due to the result of the Student Union Government election in which a majority of the positions were won by Christian students. Namsy asks for prayers that the perpetrators will be apprehended, especially those who killed the innocent young man, that justice will be done in expelling students involved in causing the havoc, and that peace will reign now and after the students return to school.

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:

Sandra Hahn Memorial

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

The Endowment Committee members: Ron Ackerman, Judith Berglund, Edd Brooks, Joshua Glood, Jeanine Grandstrand, Jim Kugler, Dick Lekang (Chair), and Dawn Young.

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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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
BOA@splcmn.org
Val Sperry, President
sperryvs@aol.com
Jennifer Prasek, Vice-President
rjprasek@mac.com
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Andy Tjader
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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*:
March 5th for the April issue



St. Philip's

LUTHERAN

March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	2 9:00 am Middle School Retreat at Camp Wapo	3
4 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Youth Envelope Project Fundraiser 9:35 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K.; Middle & High School Ministry 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting	5 Friend Articles Due 1:00 pm Joy Circle 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	6 10:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesday 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 12:00 pm Lent Worship 12:30 pm Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Lent Worship; AA Mtg; TBD 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 9:30 am Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale and Envelope Project Fundraiser 9:35 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K.; Middle & High School Ministry 10:30 am Worship	12 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 4:45 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Benevolence Mtg; Mat Yoga 7:00 pm Gamanon; GA Mtg	13 10:45 am Staff Mtg 1:00 pm Tuesday 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 12:00 pm Lent Worship 12:30 pm Lenten Lunch 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise 7:00 pm Lent 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 - Cancelled
18 8:30 am Worship 9:30 pm Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale and Envelope Project Fundraiser 9:35 am Education Hour; S.P.A.R.K. Equal Exchange Coffee Sale; 10:30 am Worship	19 9:30 am Glory Circle 4:45 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Mat Yoga 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 Lent Worship 12:30 pm Lenten Lunch 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; Garage Sale Mtg 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	23	24 9:00 am Palm Sunday Choir Rehearsal
25 8:00 am Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:30 am Worship	26 1:00 pm Knitters & Crocheters 4:45 pm Chair Yoga - Cancelled 6:00 pm Mat Yoga - Cancelled 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 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise 7:00 pm AA Mtg 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	29 12:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship; Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg	30 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship	31



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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).