



The Friend



From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Psalm 13:3-4

August 2020

In this issue:

Happy Summer	1
Pastor Matt's Column	2
Pastor Margie's Column	3
Children, Youth & Family	4
Worship Band	5
President's Column	6
BOA Highlights	6
St. Philip's Disaster Relief	6
Psalm of Silence	7
Holiday Book Fair	7
Community Supper	7
Endowment Fund	8
Financials	8
Life Events	9
Friendly Takeaway	10
Contact Info	10
August Calendar	11
Mission & Vision	12

PRAYER

Looking to the Future

Matt Flom, Pastor

"37 Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" Matthew 9:37-38

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are all experiencing the ups and downs of this new COVID-19 world, but the ministry of St. Philip's continues. We are still preaching, teaching, praying, connecting, and serving the community. We are moving forward with ministry, even though we are doing it in different ways. We want to continue to grow, but we need more workers in the vineyard. St. Philip's for many years has had two or more pastors. In 2018, the decision was made to go to only one pastor necessitated by a declining budget, not out of declining ministry need. It was the intention that when the congregation began to grow, St. Philip's would call another pastor. I think we are now at that point. The Board of Administration has approved a team to formally explore the call of a part time associate pastor. The team will update our Ministry Site Profile, and if we formally assess the need, the team will transition to a call committee. Five folks have volunteered to serve, and we will formally elect them at a congregational meeting on Sunday, August 2 at 1:00 pm in the parking lot.

If the assessment shows the need for a second pastor and the team transitions to a call committee, the Synod will give us several profiles of pastors to look at. The team would then interview at least three candidates. If we do start a call process, one of the profiles we would ask for is Eric Nelson, who has just graduated from Luther Seminary and serves at St. Philip's leading ministry with young adults and new members. I can assure you that Eric, myself, and the leadership of St. Philip's want this to truly be a process of discernment of God's will for the congregation. We don't know how it will all end up, but we are committed to trusting God's leadership and guidance. Eric will continue to be open to calls from other congregations during this process.

Since announcing this process, we have received quite a bit of feedback. All of it so far has been very positive about calling a second pastor. Many folks have expressed their opinion that it is indeed time to move forward. Several folks have asked about the finances. We are currently doing OK, despite the COVID upheaval, thanks to the continued faithfulness of our members, careful use of resources, and the SBA. During our annual fall stewardship appeal we would need to ask for the same level of increase we have asked for in the last two years.

We want to hear from as many members as possible about the possibility of a part-time associate pastor. Whether you agree or disagree with it, we really do want to hear from you. Please call, text, or email your thoughts and opinions. Please come to the congregational meeting.

Strength

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

"My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept." Psalm 119:136

We seem to have run out of descriptions for the time in which we now live - the COVID-19 Pandemic. "Difficult times." "Unprecedented times," and so forth, simply do not cut the horror with which many of us live each day. Our days are filled with uncertainty. Will our churches reopen as we've known them? Will our children go to school as they've gone in the past? We watch business after business close. What is to happen to us?

As we wait for a vaccine there is this one little thing we can do. It is such a simple thing that it defies belief. We can wear a mask when we are in public. It will save lives. Many lives. And yet in our sinful, selfish nature we defy this "law."

All of our laws and commandments were given by God so that all might go well with us. All of them. I can hear God from Mt. Sinai bellowing, "Put your masks on, you brood of vipers!" And I can hear us whining that it's hot. It's not attractive. It's uncomfortable. It steams up our glasses.

Look. This is not about you. It's about saving the life of your neighbor. Remember that one? Love your neighbor as yourself? Put it on and put it over your nose too. Just do it.

Let us pray for the healing of the earth and all who dwell upon it. Be with us all and bring us enough love to do the right thing, enough strength to pray each day and to pray hard, enough compassion to help all in need and enough holiness to be wholly yours.



JOY & PRAYER

Let Us Rejoice

Connie Yerigan, *Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

It is often said, every day is a gift, so we then must be a gift. Being a gift to others can be done through kindness, lending a hand, staying in touch, or visiting with them. During our temporary “new normal,” for some, it may be more difficult to stay connected. Even though we should all strive to take the extra time and use our imagination a little to be that gift for someone.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the amazing opportunity to visit some of our kiddos and their families. We are physically distancing and socially connecting. Having fun and catching up. My heart is so full! I hope to meet with more families in the next few weeks. For some, this may be the year we’d like to forget, but for me, I feel this is the year we became more connected. More connected by means of technology and physically distancing, making intentional time to check in by video chat, phone call, email, text, or a quick visit across the driveway. This is the year we become the gift to so many we love.

I always encourage our youth to take time each day to look for God moments in their lives. Times where something stops you and makes you smile. God is all around us giving us strength, encouraging us to love, and guiding us to be the gift for others. How are you a gift? Where do you see God? Let us rejoice in that.

*This is the day the
Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Psalm 118:24

How the Worship Band Is Thriving in the Pandemic!

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

When COVID-19 restrictions hit us in March, it felt like the bottom fell out of our Worship Band. Up to that point, every Sunday had been more exciting than the last, as we were forging our big 9-piece sound. In Autumn of 2019, I joined as the new Worship Band Leader and we welcomed a new electric guitarist (Al Davies) and new percussionist (Don Severson), with our six band veterans. Since then, each week we were getting tighter, musically and communally. Tuesday evening rehearsals were creative and super fun, as we were learning and growing together.

Then, with no warning, the quarantine hit. It looks as if restrictions and cautions may be with us for some time. So, we've had to think outside the box, like everybody else. Here's what we have come up with: We are taking a hybrid approach.

On Sunday mornings, a quartet, consisting of two singers, keyboard, and drums joyfully lead a portion of our songs. Our wonderful singers Roger and Judy are behind plexiglass shields procured as a precaution during the pandemic. Our live "skeleton crew" combo does not rehearse on Tuesday nights, but instead each prepares at home, with a 30-minute warmup prior to worship.

The rest (except one) of our former nine-piece band are busy recording! Our goal is to contribute two recorded songs a week, which are played and live streamed on Sunday morning, while the congregation in the Sanctuary and at home sings along with the lyrics projected on the screen.

What is our recording process? On Garageband multi-track recording software, I create the basic tracks of keys and bass, which are downloaded at home by the musicians. Each musician's track is then personally recorded via iPad, also using the Garageband app. Parts are then uploaded and sent back to me and I mix and master to create a recording for Sunday.

Our home musicians began with no knowledge of Garageband, so I produced a tutorial. They willingly jumped in and quickly caught on. Every week, we all are learning by leaps and bounds. The process is not unlike studio recording, with a quick output.

Recording is a wonderful way for us all to continue creating and contributing to worship leading, while staying safe. We are learning valuable new skills. We are maintaining our sense of community as a band. And, amidst COVID-19, the congregation still gets to hear most of our gifted musicians every Sunday, live and recorded!



PRAYER & THANKS

The Good Things

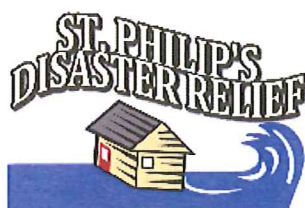
LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

As summer rolls by, I find myself thinking of how things should be going in a typical year. I would have gone to and returned from Luther Point - would be grandparent/grandchild camp with my granddaughter, we would be finished with our garage sale, complaining about the heat, getting together with friends and family for barbecues, and so many other summer things. While this year is certainly different, I am also reminded of the good things that have come about this year. People are spending more time with family, keeping in touch with friends on a more frequent basis, and just connecting more. That is the good that has come out of this! In our church life, we have wonderful livestreaming availability for those who want to stay home and worship, services being held in the Sanctuary, and now we are beginning the process of calling a part-time associate pastor. So, God is ever present walking with us and guiding us to new paths. I am anxious to see what is in store for us in the coming year!

Board of Administration Highlights

- The BOA has authorized the selection of members for a call committee to pursue the addition of a second part-time associate pastor to our staff.
- On Sunday, August 2, a meeting of the congregation will be held in the church parking lot with attendees listening via FM 99.5 in their vehicles. Members will have the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Green and red cards will be used to indicate votes for the members presented for the call committee.
- In-Sanctuary worship began on Sunday, July 12 and will continue with recommended safety measures in place.
- Live streaming of worship and other activities will continue along with research into additional equipment to improve this experience.

St. Philip's Disaster Relief



In these uncertain times, difficult decisions need to be made far in advance. As the coordinators of St. Philip's Disaster Relief, we have made the decision to do no planning for a long - distance trip this fall. With the current COVID-19 numbers, guidelines, and predictions we do not feel that we would be able to ensure the safety of our team members during our travels, dining, lodging, and work. A tough, but necessary decision.

We continue to monitor situations where disasters have occurred and offer monetary support to organizations helping out in those areas. We are also looking at some possible local projects that fit our mission of helping people rebuild their homes and lives. Take care of yourself and others! The journey continues...

PRAYER & THANKS

Psalm of Silence

Jim and Carol Sack

The last week has been chaotic here in Japan with a rain front that has settled into place and has brought a great deal of flooding in various places throughout the country. Already over 80 lives have been lost and they are thinking another 2 - 3 days of more rain is going to take place. Please pray for people who have been (and will be) affected by this natural disaster. A major problem is that when many people have to be evacuated they are put into close quarters with others and of course that is not good because of the spread of Coronavirus. Also, we ask for prayers for our college and Seminary. Currently the schools are deliberating about what to do for fall classes and having to make decisions. Pray for wisdom from the Lord. We are sure that you are dealing with similar issues in the States. Below is some information about a project that Carol did when the pandemic started a number of months ago and we were in a lockdown situation. Please read about this below and then visit the site.

This is Carol Sack, one of your ELCA partners in mission, serving in Japan. Jim recently sent a letter explaining our regret at not being able to visit you in person this summer. As we all know, travel is prohibited in various global directions. At the time of this writing, it is impossible for us to re-enter Japan upon leaving the country due to the pandemic. My ministry is mainly in musical prayer at the bedside of hospice patients, along with doing retreats and classes on the spirituality of the Psalms. During this pandemic time, I am not able to go to the bedside. Classes and retreats have also been cancelled. But I kept thinking, "now is the time that the message and spirit of the Psalms is most needed. What could we do?" I shared this query with the president and a few others here at our Japan Lutheran Seminary. With their input, we put together a humble video series, "Psalm of Silence". Each video about five minutes in length. In each one, I light a candle, read a verse from a Psalm (in Japanese and then in English), ring a "singing bowl," extend a few more moments of silence, then close with a simple musical moment on harp and voice. The idea is for you to hear the Psalm verse, then in the silence, to listen to your heart as one specific prayer intercession comes forth, and to hold that prayer intention through the music. The site listed below is written in Japanese, but if you scroll down just a bit, there are twelve Psalm verses listed and a short introduction video in English. You can click on any one of these for a short meditative prayer time.

Please visit, [http://www.luther.ac.jp/lutheran/about/dale_pastoral/psalmofsilence.html].

Holiday Book Fair Cancelled

It is with great regret that the Library Group has cancelled its annual Holiday Book Fair, usually held the weekend before Thanksgiving. It seems highly unlikely that the pandemic will have run its course by then. We hope to resume the Book Fair in 2021 and work again with our partners, The Red Balloon Bookshop in St. Paul.

The Library is open for browsing and book check out. Group members will be tending to the collection as necessary. We will be working to add some new titles on the subject of race and race relations. Watch for those.

Plastic Bags Needed

Thank you for your dedication to recycling plastic for the Community Supper. We are in strong need of plastic bags. There is a box at Door 2 to place your donation.

THANKS & PRAYER

Endowment Committee

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a Blessing for Future Generations!

June Memorials & Gifts

Clem Coverston

Legacy Circle Gift:

Ronald & Mary Mattson

Thank you to all who support the Endowment Fund!

To learn more about the many ways you can contribute to the growth of the Endowment Fund, go to our website at www.splcmn.org click on Ministries, click Endowment Fund. Also, envelopes and pamphlets are in the church office.

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

Financials

St. Philip's 2020	Actual June	Actual YTD
Income	\$86,163.55	\$444,955.78
Expense	(\$50,724.69)	(\$317,400.34)
TOTALS	\$35,438.86	\$127,555.44

JOY & PRAYER



August

Dennis & Mardell Olesen on 8/31/1957 for 63 Years
Shirley & Clark Theilmann on 8/30/1957 for 63 Years
Myron & Thelma Nash on 8/14/1960 for 60 Years
Wayne & Mary Ellen Carlson on 8/18/1962 for 58 Years
Charles & Kathleen Eichelberger on 8/10/1963 for 57 Years
Spencer & Gay Minear on 8/27/1966 for 54 Years
Sandy & Eldon Nelson on 8/12/1967 for 53 Years
Edd & Gidget Brooks on 8/31/1968 for 52 Years
Mike & Carol Anderson on 8/22/1970 for 50 Years
Daryl & Carol Gabrielson on 8/11/1973 for 47 Years
Larry & MarJean Stromberg on 8/3/1974 for 46 Years
Cynthia & Richard Grove on 8/27/1977 for 43 Years
Cheryl & Paul Jones on 8/6/1977 for 43 Years
Norman & Karen Schultz on 8/26/1979 for 41 Years

Roy & Mary Loberg on 8/4/1979 for 41 Years
James & Diane Felton on 8/9/1980 for 40 Years
Judy & Michael Greer on 8/28/1982 for 38 Years
Brian & Sheila Ranum on 8/21/1982 for 38 Years
Paul & Nancy Buerkle on 8/4/1984 for 36 Years
Eric & Denise Young on 8/16/1997 for 23 Years
Jeffry & Julie Overlie on 8/15/1998 for 22 Years
Jennifer Kunze & Jay Williams on 8/8/1998 for 22 Years
Howard Thompson & Elaine Knutson on 8/1/1998 for 22 Years
Todd & Lyudmila Sandell on 8/8/2001 for 19 Years
Joshua & Kris Glood on 8/17/2002 for 18 Years
Jeremy & Krysta Wells on 8/22/2015 for 5 Years
Anna & Joe Heinrich on 8/6/2016 for 4 Years



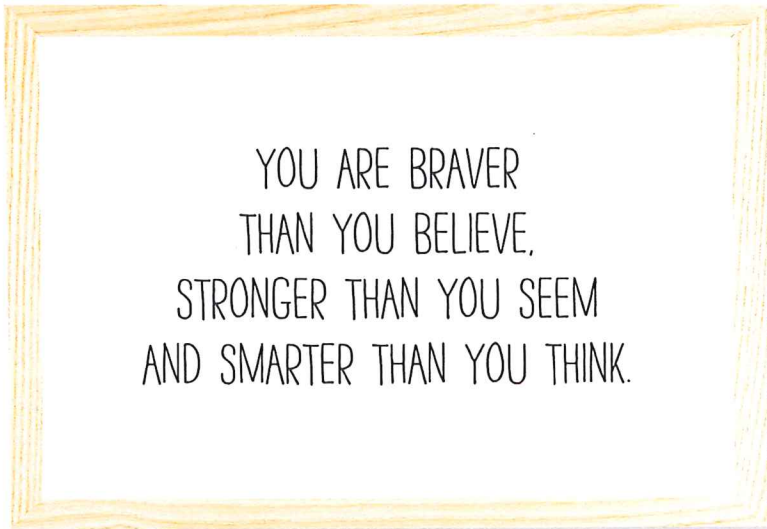
Adam Jonathan Onchanu

7/12/20

Willow Ann Osterloh

7/12/20

Friendly Takeaway



YOU ARE BRAVER
THAN YOU BELIEVE,
STRONGER THAN YOU SEEM
AND SMARTER THAN YOU THINK.

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

www.splcmn.org ~ info@splcmn.org

Phone: 763-571-1500 Fax: 763-572-2292

Pastoral Emergency Phone: 612-930-1588

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Eric Nelson, Director of Adult Ministry

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DavidG@splcmn.org

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

CheriS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director

AdamM@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director

Katie Swenstad, Facility Coordinator

KatieS@splcmn.org, ext. 109

Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian

Worship Schedule

9:00 am Traditional

10:30 am Contemporary

In person worship now open

Currently streaming on Facebook Live

Past links can be found on our website,

E-News, and on our App

Board of Administration

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Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack

Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 am Worship - Facebook Live and onsite 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	3	4 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	5 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup	6	7 10:00 am Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup	8
9 9:00 am Worship - Facebook Live and onsite 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	10 6:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg.	11 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	12 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup	13	14 10:00 am Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup	15
16 9:00 am Worship - Facebook Live and onsite 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	17 Friend Articles Due 6:30 pm Executive Meeting	18 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	19 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup	20	21 10:00 am Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup	22
23 9:00 am Worship - Facebook Live and onsite 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	24 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg.	25 9:00 am Library Mtg. 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	26 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup	27	28 10:00 am Food Shelf - Curbside Pickup	29
30 9:00 am Worship - Facebook Live and onsite 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	31					



6180 Highway 65 NE
Fridley, MN 55432-5158

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST

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).