

The Friend



Annual Meeting

Please Join Us in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 2

11:30 am Luncheon

12:00 pm Meeting

February 2020

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PRAYER & JOY

The New Adult Forum

Matt Flom, Pastor

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

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. When we changed up the times for our worship services, we gave up our education hour and this posed a problem for our existing model of adult forums. We decided to take a break, regroup, and try something new. Starting in February we will try out having an ongoing adult forum the first Sunday of the month from 10:15 -11:15 am. We understand that this takes place during the second service, but change brings many new things with it.

The newly restarted adult forum will kick off on Sunday, February 2 at 10:15 am. It will finish in time for folks to get to the Fellowship Hall for the luncheon and Annual Meeting. The first topic is suicide awareness and prevention and our speaker is Toni Plante. Toni is a dynamic and passionate advocate in the prevention of suicide. She comes to this mission in a very personal way; in 2016, Toni's daughter Ana took her own life. Since then Toni has written a blog, spoken at many events, moderated support groups, and been an outspoken advocate. She tirelessly researches and studies so that she can help others to come to grips with this problem.

Suicide is a rising epidemic in our nation. It is important as Christians that we learn how to minister to our communities and neighbors; that we learn how to bring grace and healing. Please join us on Sunday, February 2.



Serving With Joy

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

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10

I'm going to take a moment to climb to the rooftops and shout praises for our youth! New this year, as a requirement for their confirmation program, they are asked to participate in twelve worship service-related activities of their choosing. You may have seen them around ushering, reading, serving communion, greeting, and although you may not see them behind the scenes, a few have helped with puppet shows and running PowerPoint worship slide presentations. Each youth has chosen one or two, some even three things they wanted to try, and they have loved it! Embracing the challenge of stepping out of their comfort zones, our youth have done an amazing job and you can see the pride in their faces. They may have started their service-related activity because of a requirement, but they are continuing it because they choose to.

My prayer is that our youth continue to serve with joy, and that we may all follow the example they have set. I'll climb down from the rooftop now, but my heart will forever be full of pride for our youth. If you see them around, please stop and say hi.

February 2020

2 – Youth Time (9:35 am – 10:20 am)

S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – Grade 5)

5 – Middle School & High School Ministry & Children's
Ministry Night

Dinner: Taco Bar

9 – No Youth Time today due to the fundraiser

S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – Grade 5)

Youth Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser

(between services and after 10:30 service)

12 – Middle School & High School Ministry

No Children's Ministry Night

Dinner: Mostaccioli

16 – Youth Time (9:35 am – 10:20 am)

S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – Grade 5)

19 – Middle School & High School Ministry & Children's
Ministry Night

Dinner: Sloppy Joes

23 – Youth Time (9:35 am – 10:20 am)

S.P.A.R.K. of Faith (Ages 3 years – Grade 5)

26 – Ash Wednesday – Worship at 6:00 pm

Dinner (at 5:30 pm) : Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

JOY

PRAYER & JOY

Faith, Trust, and Grace

Val Sperry, President

"Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace."

— Martin Luther

As I write this, my time as president is coming to its conclusion and I find myself reflecting. Four years ago, I took a leap of faith, stepped out of my comfort zone, and accepted your nomination to serve as vice president and then as president of this congregation. I am so grateful for the faith and trust you've given me during my time in these roles and for the grace and kindness you've shown me when I needed it. I am thankful for those who have served alongside me. I am so appreciative of those who have served before me. I am grateful for all I've learned and for the experience I have gained. I am thankful to God for giving me the courage to serve and lead, as an adult, the congregation I grew up in. I am hopeful for the future and joyful for the passion this congregation has to serve in God's name. I look forward to supporting our leaders now and in the future with faith, trust, and grace.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Board of Administration Highlights



- Preparations finalized for the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 2
- Membership directory anticipated the end of February
- Redesign of the new website continues to move forward
- Pushpay app for communication and giving is also progressing towards implementation with trials expected soon
- Wireless equipment installation will begin in February for seamless internet throughout the building

ALL Committee Meeting

Please join us Monday, February 10 at 6:30pm in the Chapel for our quarterly ALL Committee Meeting. We encourage all committees, ministries, groups, task forces, teams, etc., at St. Philip's to send a representative to the meeting. We'll update each other on what we have planned for the next few months. Come and share. And if you don't have a group to report on, still come and hear all the awesome things going on at St. Philip's. All are welcome!

THANKS & SERVICE

Fundraiser, Trips, and Updates

St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team



Lasagna Dinner and Auction Fundraiser

The annual SPDR fundraiser will be held Sunday, February 16. Ticket sales for the lasagna dinner ended January 26 but there may still be tickets available. If you didn't purchase tickets and want to attend the dinner, contact Renee Johnson at [763-571-6828] to check for availability. Sealed bids can be made on the auction items before and after both worship services on February 16 and at the dinner. Items up for bid include many gift certificates, toys, tools, household items, puzzles, handcrafted items, and more. 50% of the auction proceeds will be earmarked for the proposed storage facility at St. Philip's that will house the two SPDR trailers, tools, and supplies.

Morton, MN Rebuilding

In early January, four SPDR team members were part of the second trip this winter to Morton, MN to help a young family rebuild after their home was flooded in July following heavy rain in the area. Another trip to Morton is possible in the next month or two. The journey continues.

The Journey Continues

Thank You, Don Gilbertson

Richard Young, Usher Coordinator

In 1958, Charter Members, Don and Ann Gilbertson attended their first service at St Philip's. At that time, services were held in what is now the Chapel. St. Philip's was a rapidly growing congregation. To accommodate the congregation, five services were held every Sunday. Don told me, "everyone was expected to have a job at the church". He decided that ushering would be a worthwhile job of service to the church. On Sunday, December 29, 2019 Don ushered his last service at the 9:00 am service. That is 61 years (7 decades) of service to the church as a volunteer. A very enviable record. Thank you for your faithful service.

We currently have a need for ushers (men, women, and youth) at the 9:00 and 10:30 am services. Please consider this your personal invitation to step forward. If you are interested, please contact the church office, and I will get back to you.

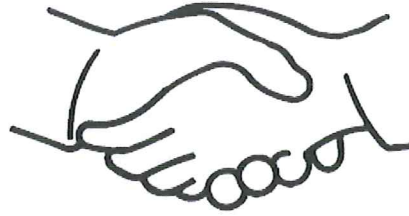
Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone for your support after my car accident last month. I am on the road to recovery and your support has been a great comfort. ~ Katie Swenstad

PRAYER & JOY

Update from Tokyo, Japan

Jim and Carol Sack



Dear Supporting Congregation,

Happy New Year to you all. We have just finished up Christmas and have entered into the three-day New Year's celebration here in Japan. Many Japanese go to a Buddhist temple or a Shinto shrine either on January 1 after the stroke of midnight or during the first three days of a new year. We visited a Buddhist temple on January 2 to take some pictures to show you what the Japanese do at this time (see Global Missions bulletin board). These customs demonstrate the natural search of forgiveness and protection. Here is what we observed.

Just before midnight, the temple bell is rung 108 times as the old year fades and the new year comes in. It is said that humans have 108 impure desires. The visitors wait in long lines in order to offer a New Year's prayer. At that time, they throw money into an offertory box after they ring a bell. They may buy a fortune for the year that comes in the form of paper strips, in various grades from great blessing to ill luck. Usually fortunes of good luck are kept and bad luck fortunes are tied either to a tree or in a designated area so that any bad misfortune can be left at the temple. Some people also purchase a wooden plaque onto which they write a wish for the upcoming year.

Used charms and amulets from the previous year are brought back to the temple to be burned and new ones are then purchased. At the temple we visited, an arrow that was blessed by a priest and said to have power to destroy evil, was a popular item. Homes and entrance gates are decorated with ornaments made from pine, bamboo, and plum trees. Buckwheat noodles are very popular as they symbolize longevity. In the homes many Japanese eat traditional foods that are supposed to bring happiness to the family. This food is prepared so that it will last over the entire New Year period.

Within the Christian Church, Christmas is much more important than New Years and often Christmas Eve or Christmas Day is a time for Japanese to be baptized. Candlelight services provide a great opportunity to tell the story of our Lord and Savior to those who may not have heard about Jesus. We went to a service where friends had their newly born child baptized.

Like every year at the Japan Lutheran College, we had a special Christmas worship service a week before Christmas. This year's theme asked what the reason was for Jesus to be born. The students did a play that was not only about the birth of Jesus, but also about his death on the cross. They wanted to make the connection of the baby Jesus with the Christ and Savior who brings us salvation.

Please pray for the new Christians who received baptism this year and for all of those who attended a Christmas Eve service for the first time.

May each of you receive the light of Christ in your life this year.

THANKS & SERVICE

Bells of Praise

Have some free time on Wednesday evenings? Interested in joining the Bells of Praise?

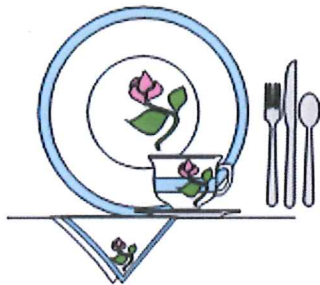
We have openings for you! There are only four requirements:

1. Ability to read music
2. The need for a new adventure
3. Want to meet new friends
4. Enjoy having fun!

If you are interested, just pop into the Lounge on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm or call Dawn Hansen at [763-780-0360].



Save the Date!

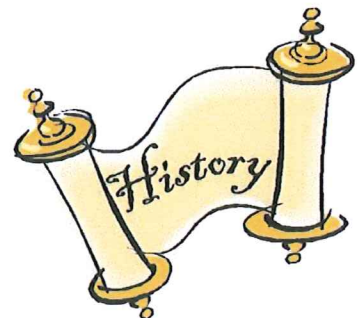


The Parish Fellowship Committee is beginning plans for the 2020 Festival of Tables. It will be held on Saturday, April 18 at 11:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be looking for decorators for this beautiful event. If you have ideas for hosting a table, please contact Julie Small at [kjsmall74@msn.com]. Doug Ohman will provide our entertainment this year. Doug is an entertaining story teller, historian, and expert photographer. Tickets will go on sale in March so make plans to attend this lovely fundraiser that benefits area food shelves.

Heritage Group Works on Future Project

The Heritage Group is continuing its work with the website redesign group to determine the items included on the heritage portion. At its recent meeting, the group invited St. Philip's Members, Ralph Petersen and Harold Kurtz to brainstorm about the type of historical material to feature on the web site, which they both agreed upon.

The Heritage Group works on updating stories and collecting material. The group asks that if you have any items of historical interest to please donate them. These items could be print material, programs, pictures, newspaper articles or objects. Please leave these items in the office marked for "Heritage Group". If you have an interest in preserving St. Philip's heritage, we meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 2:30 pm in the conference room and would love to see you!



THANKS

New Books Recently Added to the Library

The Library Group

For Young Readers

These books have been added to St. Philip's Library to diversify the collection. Although technically children's literature, adults will benefit as well.

A Different Pond by Bao Phi. From a Vietnamese American author who remembers fishing with his father at a small pond in Minneapolis and hearing about another pond in Vietnam.

Home in the Woods by Eliza Wheeler. A single parent family rebuilds its life during a year in a tarpaper shack in the woods.

The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson. A Caldecott Medal winner for illustrator Beth Krommes, the easy-to-read text makes a home at night filled with light.

A Map into the World by Kao Kalia Yang. This is the story of Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong American girl who teaches a grieving neighbor about the beauty of the world.

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld. When Taylor's block castle is destroyed, all the animals have advice, but only the rabbit listens to how Taylor feels.

Deb Grant Collection

The St. Philip's Disaster Relief team donated two books by Pastor Deb Grant. SPDR and Pastor Grant have worked together in a variety of ways during their many trips to Texas.

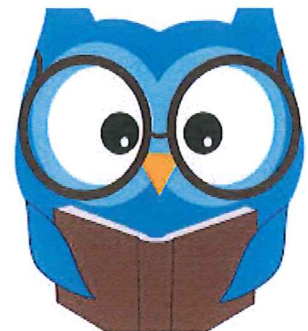
Pedestrian Theology. The story of Pastor Deb's faith journey.

Passage: A freighter passenger's Lenten Devotions. This is in large print.

Religious Adult Non-Fiction

God Loves You by David Jeremiah. Examines the most basic definition of God.

Making Sense of Scripture by David J. Lose. The author tackles the big questions.



Financials

St. Philip's 2019	Actual December	Actual YTD
Income	\$83,620.72	\$687,249.99
Expense	(\$73,380.37)	(\$680,448.88)
TOTALS	\$10,240.35	\$6,801.11

JOY & PRAYER



February

Philip & Shirley Eddy on 2/19/1955 for 65 years

Richard & Dawn Youngberg on 2/14/1965 for 55 years

Mike Youngberg & Renee Falkum-Youngberg on 2/20/1986 for 34 years

Cindy & Don Tollefson on 2/13/1987 for 33 years

David & Yvette Christensen on 2/16/1991 for 29 years

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

Aaron & Staci Gondorchin on 2/2/2002 for 18 years



The friends and family of:

Vern Johnson

Margaret Knutson

Margaret Oelschlager

Gloria Wellan

Endowment Committee

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Faith-based living includes faith-based giving! Support the St. Philip's Endowment Fund!

December Memorials & Gifts

Paul Ikier

Marie Zegland

Gift acknowledgement cards are available in the church office for you when informing families/friends that you have made gifts to the Endowment Fund in their honor or in memory.

When giving gifts in memory, honor, special occasion, or just because you care, please specify "Endowment Fund" on checks or envelopes.

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

SERVE

Friendly Takeaway



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

Worship Schedule

9:00 am Traditional

10:30 am Contemporary

Church Staff

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MattF@splcmn.org, ext. 112

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MargieG@splcmn.org

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David Geslin, Organist

DavidG@splcmn.org

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

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Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director

AdamM@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director

Chris Porter, Utility Musician

Katie Swenstad, Facility Coordinator

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Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian

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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 9:35 am Youth Time 10:15 am Adult Forum - Suicide Awareness & Prevention 10:30 am Worship; SPARK concurrent w/ worship 11:30 am Annual Meeting Luncheon 12:00 pm Annual Meeting	3 12:30 pm Website Redesign Meeting 1:00 pm Joy Circle Women's Bible Study 5:15 pm Chair Yoga 6:15 pm Mat Yoga 7:00 pm Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	4 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	5 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:30 pm Children's, High School and Middle School Ministry Night 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; AA Mtg.	6 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg.	7	8
9 8:30 am Youth Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship; SPARK concurrent w/ worship	10 9:00 am LEAFs Planning Meeting 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 2:00 pm Lynwood Bingo 5:15 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg. 6:15 pm Mat Yoga 6:30 pm ALL Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	11 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together; Stewardship Cohort Meeting 2:30 pm Heritage Group Meeting 6:30 pm Parish Fellowship Committee Mtg. 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	12 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group; Women's Book Club 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:30 pm High School and Middle School Ministry Night 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; AA Mtg.	13 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg.	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 	15
16 9:00 am Worship 9:35 am Youth Time 10:30 am Worship; SPARK concurrent w/ worship 12:00 pm CYF Team Mtg. 4:00 pm SPDR Silent Auction Dinner 6:00 pm SPDR Silent Auction Dinner	17 Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 5:15 pm Chair Yoga 6:00 pm Executive Meeting 6:15 pm Mat Yoga 7:00 pm Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	18 9:00 am Library Group Meeting 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	19 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Group 10:30 am Property & Grounds Meeting 6:00 pm Community Supper; Bells of Praise Rehearsal 6:30 pm Children's, High School and Middle School Ministry Night 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; AA Mtg.	20 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg.	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 9:35 am Youth Time 10:30 am Worship; SPARK concurrent w/ worship	24 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg. 7:00 pm Gam-anon; GA Mtg.	25 Assemble The Friend 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:00 pm Global Health Ministries 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	26 8:30 am WOW & Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Group 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship; Bells of Praise Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal; AA Mtg.	27 7:00 pm Recovery International 7:30 pm Alanon; AA Mtg.	28	29



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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).