



The Friend

Pastor Appreciation Day Sunday, October 11

Dear Pastors,

Thank you

for the early Sunday mornings & the late Wednesday nights.

Thank you

for the seeds you plant & disciples you nurture.

Thank you

for the sermons you preach & the prayers you lift up.

Thank you

for the wise counsel & the words of encouragement.

Thank you

for the sacrifice and service.

October 2020

In this issue:

Pastor Appreciation Day	1
Pastor Matt's Column	2
Pastor Margie's Column	3
Children, Youth & Family	4
Video and Slideshow Creators!	5
President's Column	5
BOA Highlights	5
God's Work. Our Hands.	6
SPDR	6
Growing Through Loss	7
New Books in the Library	7
Pandemic Update from Tokyo	8
Update from Tokyo Cont'd	9
Endowment Fund	10
Thank You	10
Life Events	11
Financials	11
Friendly Takeaway	12
Contact Info	12
October Calendar	13
Mission & Vision	14

PRAYER

Expanding Communication

Matt Flom, Pastor

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. Isaiah 25:1

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. As everyone is keenly aware, 2020 is a year of change. There has been a lot of tragedy, fear, loss, and anxiety. It has also been a year of hard work, dedication, and creativity. We have a wonderful new website, a new mobile app, and a new E-News format. These communications channels are more user friendly and folks can access all our programming.

Our next area of update will be our online worship broadcast. Back in March when the world shut down, the supply of online streaming equipment was bought out in a couple of days. We had to cobble together the best system we could from the equipment we could get our hands on. It works, but both the sound and the picture quality could be better. We have since ordered much better and more reliable equipment. The new system will be able to live stream the worship services directly to our website and simultaneously to other platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo. The quality of sound and picture should be a nice step up from what we have now.

When will it arrive? We wish we knew too. When it does arrive and is installed, we will host several training sessions for folks who would like to serve in audio/visual ministry. Please consider this area of ministry. Going forward we all know that online presence is essential for congregations and it's a way to reach out to members, people in the community, and folks around the world. I also want to thank all the volunteers and staff that have put in thousands of hours of hard work putting together the worship services and the new online tools. Their dedication, good cheer, and creativity have blessed us all.



It is in God's Hands

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits - who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. Psalm 103:1-4

This was a favorite psalm of one of my parishioners many years ago. Her name was Alma, and in my Bible I've written "Alma's Psalm" on the page next to it. As we would visit in her later years, I'd ask what she would like me to read for her. It never varied. She would smile and say, "Psalm 103", close her eyes and settle into it.

This psalm is full of promise. We don't know how God will heal all our diseases, but we know God will. We may indeed be cured, but not always. But we are always healed even if it is at our last breath.

Like many of you, I feel as if I've been cast into a "pit" the last many months. There has been much anxiety, many sleepless nights, and much waiting and hoping. There truly is a certain angst assailing us as we deal with the uncertainties of Covid-19 and the election. We all want and indeed, need comfort and assurance.

Certain psalms and scripture verses come to mind, do they not? And hymns - for sure hymns. In my prayer time this morning an old friend, Ken Medema, sang Charles Wesley's hymn, "Jesus, Lover of my Soul." I stopped my praying and took a deep breath knowing how much Jesus loves me and you.

I cast my ballot on the first day possible. I prayed and dropped it in a blue box knowing there was no going back for it. I let go and left it in Jesus' hands. The strange thing is, it has given me great peace knowing it is in God's hands. After all, don't we pray, "Thy kingdom come, they will be done?" No matter what happens we are crowned with steadfast love and mercy. Let that be your comfort this day.



PRAYER & SERVE

A Future With Hope

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

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

The definition of hope is, "an optimistic state of mind, an expectation of positive outcomes". If I have learned anything this year, it's important to have hope. 2020 has given many of us a reason to lose hope in one way or another, but if we take a minute to look at all that God has given us, I think we could see that actually, hope is all around us. I see hope in the start of the school year. Between hybrid learning and full distance learning, teachers have put in countless hours of hard work to ensure that our children can have a great year. I see hope in the changing of the seasons. The beauty of autumn, offering a time to reflect on the past year and prepare us for a new year coming.

I see hope in the start of our program year here at St. Philip's. Classes may not be held in-person right now, but with the ability to connect through technology, there is hope. Our S.P.A.R.K. of Faith children (3 years old through grade 5) will be taking a journey through the Bible this year. We are using the Spark Activate Faith - All Kids curriculum. This is quite similar to our curriculum of last year, but instead of lectionary based, this is a journey through the Bible, beginning with Creation. Our Middle and High School aged youth will be continuing their journey through the Bible using the Echo The Story curriculum. This program connects the Bible stories to their everyday lives. Our Confirmation program kids will be taking a journey through Lutheran History and the Catechism this year as well.

It is with great excitement that we will get to celebrate and support some of our youth as they take the step to affirm their faith and become confirmed. If that isn't a picture of hope, then I don't know what is. Our youth are our future. I hope you will join me in congratulating and supporting Allie Yerigan, Logan Gondorchin, and Sam Gemlo.

I hope you always take a minute to look around and see all that God has provided for us. Sometimes they may be small things, sometimes they may be more, but always they are amazing. I thank God each and every day for calling me to St. Philip's and being able to walk this journey with everyone here and in our community is truly a blessing.



Video and Slideshow Creators!

We are looking for people who would like to create inspirational videos and slideshows for Sunday morning worship services. Ideally, the videos would be 3 – 5 minutes in length and cover a theme appropriate for worship: gratitude, hope, struggle, faith, peace and justice, service, and stewardship. We'll use one of the Worship Band's pre-recorded songs to match the video or slideshow theme and play in the background. For more information, please contact Cheri Sykes at [CheriS@splcmn.org or 651-335-0048].

We All Have a Part to Play

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

Fall! Leaves are beginning to turn, there is that feeling in the air and the sandals are being stored for another year. I am always reminded of the song, "To Everything, There is a Season" by the Byrds, which is taken from the third chapter of Ecclesiastes. It is time to do a lot at St. Philip's. Children's programming is beginning for another year, although a little different than in the past. We are working on projects for God's Work, Our Hands, and our call committee is getting close to beginning the interview process. Even though we don't see everyone in the Sanctuary, people of St. Philip's are busy doing God's work. And, there is so much to be done! Our hallmark ministries, the Community Supper and the Food & Clothing Shelf are busy and could use more volunteers. Our Benevolence Committee is organizing for projects occurring each fall, so watch for information regarding those activities. Stay involved and active, even if you are not yet worshipping in the Sanctuary. There is much to be done, and many hands needed! Each of us has a part to play, and we are all important to every project. Praise God for the faithfulness, energy, and enthusiasm of our congregation!

Board of Administration Highlights



- Call committee work for the part-time associate pastor is proceeding as expected, having completed the Ministry Site Profile and awaiting candidate packets
- Bishop Ann met with the congregation via Zoom on Tuesday, September 22 for member input regarding the part-time associate pastor candidates
- Thank you to all who are participating in God's Work, Our Hands, by taking a project home to complete
- Congratulations on the new St. Philip's Website - very well done!
- St. Philip's remains financially stable with the continued giving of our members

PRAYER & THANKS

“God’s Work, Our Hands,” Sunday

“God’s work., Our hands,” Sunday is an annual opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) - one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. Like most everything else this year, “God’s Work, Our Hands,” Sunday was different. Instead of gathering in the Fellowship Hall or going out into the community we still found ways to be *church together* – at home.

55 kits were assembled for St. Philip’s members to take home and roll bandages, tie fleece blankets, cut out mittens, sew t-shirts into diapers, or to decorate notecards. When finished, these items will be distributed to those in our community and beyond.

If you haven’t returned your kit yet, please do so by Sunday, October 4. Contact Connie Yerigan at [\[ConnieY@splcmn.org\]](mailto:ConnieY@splcmn.org) or 763-571-1500 ext. 107] if you’d like someone to pick up your kit.

Thank you to everyone that took a kit and for your willingness to love and serve your neighbor. Watch St. Philip’s publications for more information on God’s work that we were able to accomplish with our hands.



St. Philip’s Disaster Relief

With the spring trip cancelled and no fall trip planned, St. Philip’s Disaster Relief has been unable to physically help the many people in our country that have been impacted by disasters. Instead, most of the money that would have been used to cover the cost of those trips has been donated to organizations that are active in disaster relief efforts.

Two of the recipients of donations had past connections with SPDR. A donation was made to Faith Lutheran in Lebanon, TN following the tornado in the Nashville area in March. In 2011, following the Cumberland River flooding, Faith Lutheran housed 24 SPDR team members - in the unique Orphan Grain Train housing units. Another donation was made to St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids following the derecho in Iowa in August. In 2008-2009, following the Cedar River flood, several families from St. Stephen’s hosted the members of four SPDR teams in their homes – another unique, but very comfortable, lodging situation.

Another connection, that SPDR has utilized in the past, is donating through Thrivent Financial’s Disaster Response. Currently, Thrivent is matching \$1 for every \$2 donated to several organizations providing disaster relief efforts. SPDR made a \$1500 donation (plus \$750 match from Thrivent) to Inspiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in Tennessee) that is working in St. Charles, LA following Hurricane Laura. Another donation of \$1000 (plus \$500 from Thrivent) was made to Lutheran Services of Iowa to help those impacted by the Iowa derecho.

Additional donations to support the recovery from the wildfires out West, Hurricane Sally, and Tropical Storm Beta are being considered. The journey continues...

PRAYER & THANKS

Growing Through Loss

This 6-week series provides an opportunity for individuals to obtain information and support for a variety of loss and grief issues. Each session begins with an educational presentation by a professional from the community, followed by small groups facilitated by leaders who understand the grieving process. Although there is no cost, donations are welcome. Registration takes place each evening before the program. Church affiliation is not necessary. Each session is complete in itself; attend any or all sessions. We will be following Incarnation Lutheran Church's facility use policy during this pandemic. Child care will not be provided for safety reasons. You are required to wear a face mask. For more information, call [763-755-5335] or visit [\[www.growingthroughloss.org\]](http://www.growingthroughloss.org). The next series will be held Thursday evenings, September 10 - October 15, from 6:45 - 9:00 pm at: Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Rd., Shoreview, MN 55126.

New Books in the Library

St. Philip's Library has added more new books on the subject of race and racism. The Library is open when the church is open. Checkout is on the honor system.

Be the Bridge by LaTasha Morrison. WaterBrook, 2019. This book presents a vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder and be committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel.

New Kid by Jerry Craft. Harper, 2019. Jordan Banks' parents enroll him in a prestigious private school instead of the art school of his dreams. This graphic novel follows Jordan as he tries to fit in as one of the few students of color.

Dear Martin by Nic Stone. Ember, 2017. Seventeen-year-old Justyce McAllister writes letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He's a good kid, honor student, but in an instant, sparks the fury of a white cop. Words fly, shots are fired, and Justyce is caught in the ugly violence.

America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis. Brazos Press, 2016. Fifty years ago, the author was driven away from his faith by a white church that considered dealing with racism to be taboo. His participation in the civil rights movement discovered a faith that commands racial justice.

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. One World, 2019. This best-selling book takes readers through antiracist ideas and helps them to see and understand the consequences of racism and how to oppose them.



PRAYER & THANKS

Pandemic Update from Tokyo

Jim and Carol Sack

Dear Partners in Christ,

It is always a joy to be able to share with you what is happening in Japan every couple of months. Of course, the whole world has been participating in this year's coronavirus pandemic. No country has been exempted from the influence and effects of this devastating virus. We know how much the US has been impacted by this pandemic. In contrast, Japan has been fortunate to have had relatively few cases compared to other countries up to this point in time. Even with over 30 million people crammed into Tokyo, there is only an average of between 100 – 300 new cases each day. Through the end of August, the tally brought Tokyo's cumulative total to about 21K people.

Tokyo has kept its alert for the coronavirus pandemic at the highest of four levels, which means, "infections are spreading." In an effort to stem the spread, Governor Yuriko Koike declared last month that Tokyo will extend until September 15, a request for establishments serving alcohol to shorten their business hours, since many cases have come from there. Around 50% of the new cases are people in their 20s and 30s, who often visit such establishments.

There are a number of thoughts about why Japan has continued to see relatively few cases of infected people. Some of them revolve around the national characteristics and culture of Japan. As a group of people, Japanese tend to be reserved and self-restrained. I have heard that in America even asking people to wear a mask has become politicized and there is much resistance to being told what to do. The Japanese person, in general, shrugs and thinks, "It can't be helped," and then quietly complies.

Some will argue that this conformity without much resistance is the result of Japan being a society based on rice farming where cooperation has been essential for a village to survive over the centuries. The Japanese also have been taught from a very young age to be patient or to endure. This may be due to the great number of disasters that occur here: earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, landslides, flooding, and volcanoes. Submission to – even reverence of – uncontrollable forces, be they natural or human made, has been a refrain you hear throughout Japanese history.

Another line of thinking is that the Japanese are quite healthy with good access to affordable and quality healthcare, as well as built-in social distancing that comes by bowing instead of handshakes or hugs, a strict attitude towards cleanliness and handwashing (e.g. removing shoes at the entrance of one's home) all of which may have contributed to Japan being able to keep the number of infections low. Early on in the pandemic, one of our long-time Japanese friends sent us several masks she had made. When we called to thank her, she mentioned that since elementary school age, the Japanese are taught that when they have a cold, they would automatically wear a mask to school, so as not to spread the cold to others. So evidently this has been instilled as a common courtesy for generations. Now, with Covid-19, it is only all the more natural to be vigilant out of consideration for others.

Update from Tokyo Cont'd

The spread of coronavirus drastically changed summer traditions in Japan, with new forms of seasonal events emerging thanks to digital technologies. Fireworks and summer festivals have been increasingly going digital. There is also a service that enables users to make a virtual visit to their ancestors' graves, instead of the usual annual return to their hometowns to see relatives and make a pilgrimage to the gravesite. As you know, this pandemic has prompted authorities worldwide to introduce entry restrictions on border traffic. Regulations in Japan have sparked a particularly strong reaction from the international community, as it was the only Group of Seven member denying entry to long-term and permanent residents. Only very recently have some of those restrictions loosened up slightly.

Speaking of natural disasters, a very powerful typhoon is currently approaching southwestern Japan and has intensified into a dangerous storm, with officials warning of record rainfall, huge waves, and high tides. Another typhoon just passed through virtually the identical path just two days ago. The weather agency is warning that people in affected areas should not hesitate to evacuate their homes and find shelter, even though they may be worried about becoming infected with new coronavirus. The typhoon is projected to have an atmospheric pressure of 915 hectopascals, strength that would put it on par with a Category 5 hurricane in the States.

As we remember you back in the States through our prayers, please pray:

- ♦ that we may continue to be able to bring God's grace to the people of Japan who do not know Christ.
- ♦ for protection for people who will soon be in the path of the coming destructive typhoon, and others that will also be coming this year.
- ♦ for our college and seminary, as later this month we will attempt to start some of the classes at the campus, while others will continue online during the pandemic.

May God richly bless you all during these days of stress and anxiety.

Peace

Faith

Love

THANKS & PRAYER

Endowment Committee

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a Blessing for Future Generations!

August Memorials & Gifts

Clem Coverston

Vern Johnson

Kurtz/Moss Fund Donation

Thank you to all who support the Endowment Fund!

Gifts in memory of someone, to celebrate a special occasion,

Thank You

Thank you, dear St. Philip's Friends, for the many cards, texts, and Facebook comments to help us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary! We had a wonderful day and weekend with our family!

Hugs and Love. Please be well.

Carol and Mike Anderson

I would like to thank all of you for the calls, cards, e-mails, texts, and prayers over the last eight months during my various illnesses and pending back surgery. I am doing very well and appreciate all your support. My church family is an important part of my life and I thank you again. Dee Blomster

JOY & PRAYER



October

John & Marlys Hinsverk on 10/26/1957 for 63 Years
Richard & Betty Nordling on 10/11/1958 for 62 Years
Arthur & Bonita DeMeyere on 10/8/1960 for 60 Years
Larry & Phyllis Ehlers on 10/28/1962 for 58 Years
Richard & Bette Blair on 10/20/1962 for 58 Years
Gary & Linda Morris on 10/21/1967 for 53 Years
LaRae & Elwyn Kazmierkoski on 10/3/1970 for 50 Years
Duane & Arlene Retzer on 10/23/1971 for 49 Years
Don & Val Habig on 10/4/1975 for 45 Years
Lonnie & Marsha LeClair on 10/9/1976 for 44 Years
Kay & Steven Loucks on 10/29/1977 for 43 Years

George & Cheryl Mills on 10/8/1977 for 43 Years
Mark & Tamara Zroka on 10/21/1978 for 42 Years
Michael & Kristy Dettle on 10/25/1986 for 34 Years
James & Lori Manecke on 10/4/1986 for 34 Years
Don & Jan Nelson on 10/14/1989 for 31 Years
Jack & Michelle Angerhofer on 10/7/1989 for 31 Years
Gregory & Wendy Hundt on 10/7/1995 for 25 Years
Dustin & Elizabeth Lauby on 10/30/2005 for 15 Years
Jeffrey & Melissa Loven on 10/29/2005 for 15 Years
Lynn & Diane Monson Cooch on 10/5/2013 for 7 Years

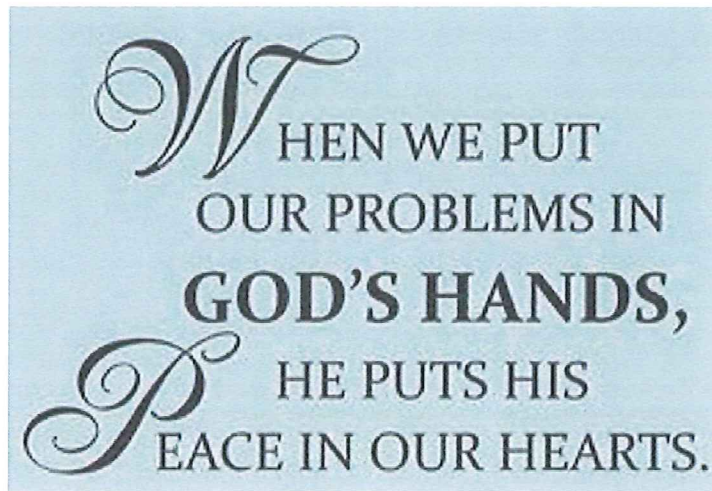


The friends and family of:

Bob Johnson

Financials

St. Philip's 2020	Actual August	Actual YTD
Income	\$44,009.84	\$562,862.34
Expense	(\$61,202.55)	(\$420,305.27)
TOTALS	(\$15,192.71)	\$142,557.07



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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AdamM@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Anthony Bloch, Interim Drummer

Anthony.j.bloch@gmail.com, 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

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Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

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



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).