

# The Friend

## Christmas Worship Schedule

### Advent Worship Schedule

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

November 25

December 2, 9, and 16

December 23 (Blue Christmas)

### Christmas Pageant

December 13 at 9:00 and 10:30 am

### Christmas Concert

Featuring our Music Ministries

December 20 at 4:00 pm

### Christmas Eve:

2:00 pm - Family-friendly Service

4:00 pm - Worship Band

10:00 pm - Organ and Hymns

### Christmas Day:

9:00 am - Traditional

## December 2020

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We know most of our members are staying home, staying safe, and enjoying our livestreamed services and programming.

We are open for onsite participation if needed.

# PRAYER

## My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Matt Flom, Pastor

46 And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
Luke 1:46-48

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. The season of Advent is upon us and that means Christmas is around the corner. As I write this, the COVID-19 epidemic is still raging and there are many restrictions on how we can gather. If things continue as they are, extended families and friends won't be able to gather for holiday meals, parties, and caroling. This is quite an emotional blow for so many folks. We all want to be with family and friends for the holidays.

The extent to which this affects us, however, is completely within our own control. As life keeps teaching us, there are so many things we can't control. What we can control is how we react to our circumstances. It's a choice, and perhaps a hard choice at that. I offer these humble ways to positively react to a difficult Advent and Christmas time. Stay in touch the best way you can. For some this means a Zoom call for others, the good old-fashioned phone call. We can still spend some time with family and friends even if we are in different places. Pick a few holiday traditions and focus on them. Make and have a special meal. Sing Christmas carols as much and as often as you want. You don't have to go all out but decorate a little for the season.

The most important suggestion I have is to truly focus on the coming and birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Make or get an Advent calendar. Light a candle each Sunday and celebrate the Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace each represent. Set out a nativity set in a prominent place and add a couple of pieces each week to represent the different people as they enter the story. Advent is a time of holy preparation for the coming of our salvation. As Mary sang, "My soul magnifies the Lord." Let this be our song as well.



### Advent Blessings

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

As you read the words of this favorite Advent hymn, sing them also. The tune is solemn, but full of hope.

Come thou long expected Jesus Born to set thy people free;  
From our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art.  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.  
  
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

I have always had an Advent wreath on the table where I eat my dinner. Over the years I've gotten new ones as the old ones have worn out. The one I have now is in the form of a star and has a little platform. Years ago, members gave me a small nativity set and it fits on the platform perfectly.

An Advent wreath helps me to pass the days before the birth of Jesus. I use three blue candles for hope and waiting and a pink candle for the third week. A candle of joy. I grew up in a Catholic family and the word for the pink candle of joy was "gaudete." The pink candle serves as a reminder that the waiting is nearly over. Jesus is coming soon. Soon I will light the fifth candle, a white candle, a Christ candle. . . on Christmas Day.

But before all of this begins I must clear off a place for the Advent wreath and candles and nativity scene. My bottles of eye drops and contact lens paraphernalia, a small jar for toothpicks, and other treasures must be put aside for a time. This little bit of clean up reminds me that I must get things ready for Jesus in my soul as well.

My soul has become very cluttered in the past year with the election and the pandemic. It's been easy to forget that Jesus will come as Jesus has promised. But now the pink candle waits to be lit and this favorite Advent hymn to be sung to a different tune.

Here is a little known fact about this hymn. It can also be sung to the hymn tune for "Love Divine All Loves Excelling." Try it. Let it lift your heart.

Advent blessings of hope to you all, and though it seems dark and far away, a blessed Christmas as well. The light of the birth of our savior will overcome the darkness one morning ray at a time and soon the light of Christ's love will bring you the joy you seek!

## PRAYER & SERVE

### Christmas For Me Is . . .

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

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Peace to you and your families in this season of Advent. As we await the birth of Christ Jesus, I like to ask people, what does Christmas mean for you? What is this season of Advent like for your family?

Christmas to me is preparing. It is a time usually filled with to-do lists a mile long, flour-covered countertops, and children who like to help bake, plans to visit with family, lots of candy canes on the tree, and church pageant rehearsals. Preparing our homes and our hearts for the magic and wonder that is the birth of Jesus.

I am very excited for our Christmas program this year. You will get to hear stories from families as they share what Christmas means to them, along with some music too!

This year might not look the same as years past, because of COVID-19, but one thing that is the same, is the blessing we receive with the birth of that sweet baby who was born for us.

### Planting Our Apple Tree

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

What is your apple tree? After the tornado in 1965, the church council voted to move ahead with the building of our Sanctuary. Many of St. Philip's congregation lost their homes, and would face the daunting task of rebuilding their homes, and their lives. The decision to wait to build would certainly not have been questioned, but instead St. Philip's members decided to plant their apple tree. What a testament to the faith of the congregation. Now, so many years later, we are planning on planting our apple tree in the form of a new associate pastor. Financially, it will be a stretch for us, so do we have the faith of the congregation of the '60s? Some churches are laying off staff and some are closing permanently. St. Philip's is moving forward. We are doing great things, and with the support of the entire congregation, we will continue to grow and serve. So, let us dig a deep, deep hole and plant our apple tree with secure roots so we can watch it grow and thrive over the next years. Thanks be to God for the blessings we continue to receive, and thanks be to our congregation for planting their apple tree!



## Board of Administration Highlights



- Hearing Loop installation has begun and will enhance the worship experience for many parishioners
- Livestreaming equipment has arrived and is anticipated to be ready mid-December
- Approved use of facility space for the SPDR Desk Building Project - building 50 folding small desks for use by local youth who are distance learning
- Received progress report from the call committee and accepted their candidate recommendation at our November meeting

## Giving Trees

It is the giving season again, and this year we are providing gifts for Hope4Youth, an organization assisting homeless teens, and teens moving into transitional housing. We are also providing items for homeless men being assisted through In Love, Word and Deed. They also have a Christmas shop where these men can get items for their children. Gift tags are available on the Giving Trees in the Narthex and listed below. You can also designate a donation to, "Giving Trees," and we will do the shopping. Please bring all donations to the church by Sunday, December 13. Thank you for your support.

### Hope4Youth

~ \$10 Gift Cards for Subway, Chick-fil-A, and McDonalds or any denomination to Target or Walmart  
~ Single serve coffee maker ~ XL Bath Towel ~ Twin X Long sheets ~ Popcorn Tin ~ Body Wash/Lotion  
~ Earbuds ~ Warm gloves for teens ~ Brita Filter Water bottle ~ "Among Us" Shirts ~ Desk Lamp

### In Love, Word and Deed

~ Travel soap dish ~ Travel toothbrush holder ~ Toothbrush ~ Toothpaste ~ Men's Deodorant  
~ Men's socks ~ Duffle Bag ~ 20 oz. stainless coffee mug with handle ~ Small Flashlight  
~ Individually wrapped bars of soap ~ Individual Play-Doh ~ Hot Wheel cars ~ 24 pack crayons  
~ Coloring Books ~ Basic Barbie Dolls ~ Small Lego sets ~ Makeup palettes ~ Foldable headphone  
~ Small bottles of perfume

In partnership with the Fridley schools, we will also provide Christmas for two families. A wish list for those families will be published in the E-News. \$25 CUB gift cards will be collected for them as well.

## PRAYER & THANKS

### Projects and Annual Fundraiser

St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team



### Desk Project

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) team members have been unable to travel to help rebuild the homes and lives of those that have been impacted by the many recent natural disasters. But they have figured out a way to help those impacted by the COVID-19 precautions for schools and to utilize the skills of team members who have a passion for helping others. They built simple, folding desks for students that are distance learning and need a place in their home to do that. A total of 50 desks were initially requested by school administrators from Fridley, Spring Lake Park, and Columbia Heights and should be completed near the beginning of December. Much of the work was done with small groups working three or four hours outside in near freezing temperatures but neither heat and humidity in Houston or freezing temperatures in Fridley stop the SPDR team members from helping those in need. Thank you to the 20+ members of the Desk Project team!

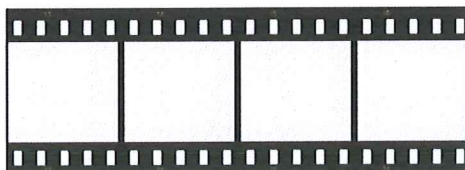
### Annual Fundraiser

With the projected timeline for a COVID-19 vaccination for all extending well into 2021, those involved in planning the SPDR Lasagna Dinner and Auction fundraiser have made the difficult decision to cancel the fundraiser for 2021. Over the past 13 years, the fundraiser has been the major source of funding for the SPDR trips and other activities. The support of St. Philip's members, family, and friends at the fundraiser has been amazing and we are so grateful for that. Look forward to enjoying delicious lasagna and bidding on wonderful auction items in 2022!

## The Journey Continues

### Worship Slideshows

We have assembled a small team excited to create video slideshows to highlight your St. Philip's ministry. The videos will be featured during Sunday worship. We ask that you provide photos from a ministry event or group pictures, and then provide captions for each photo. Send your photos to Cheri, and she and the team will add an original song recording by the Worship Band and add finishing touches to the video. If you have questions, contact Cheri Sykes at [[CheriS@splcmn.org](mailto:CheriS@splcmn.org) or 651-335-0048].



# THANKS & JOY

## Winter Reading From the Library

With winter almost upon us, what we really need is something good to read. Below are recommendations from the St. Philip's Library Group:

### Best Sellers

*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2018. This best seller is part mystery, part coming-of-age-novel, part love story, and outstanding natural description of the North Carolina coast.

*Educated* by Tara Westover. Named one of the best books of the year, *Educated* captures Westover's exceptional upbringing and her struggle to exceed the limitations of her birth and environment into a better life.

### Recommended by Twin Cities Area Church Library

*Ella Minnow Pea (or LMNOP)* by Mark Dunn. This satire is written as a series of letters about language. Ella is a girl living on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina, named after Nevin Nollop, author of the immortal phrase, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." The result is hilarious.

*Trains, Jesus, and Murder* by Richard Beck. This is the gospel according to Johnny Cash who sang about and for people on the margins. His music between light and dark makes Cash an authentic theologian of country music.

### More About Viruses

*The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History* by John M. Barry. Spellbinding, terrifying, fascinating, and sobering all describe this book as it provides us with a precise model in confronting the present epidemic.

*Virus as a Summons to Faith* by Old Testament theologian Walter Brueggemann. He uses Biblical reflections in a time of loss, grief, and anxiety.



## Men's Book Discussion

The Men's Book Discussion Group is reading, *Faith: A Journey for All* by Jimmy Carter. We generally meet every other Wednesday in Room 1, but we will not be gathering in December. Please stay tuned for more details about our next discussion date. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Lekang [[richardlekang@comcast.net](mailto:richardlekang@comcast.net)].

# PRAYER & THANKS

## Update from Tokyo

Jim and Carol Sack

Dear Partners in Christ,

We thought we would share with you a little about Japan and the wonderful four seasons that have a major impact on the people and the culture. This is especially true for nature and how Japanese respond to the luscious views that God has created here in this mountainous country. Japanese affinity with nature reminds us of the Creation Story in Genesis. We read, "Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good." As missionaries we have many opportunities to share that our God is the one who made all of creation, including the beauty that is found in Japan.

The four seasons are admired and quite distinct from one another. Each one has their own representative foods and activities that coincide with that season.

As you already know, Japan is a very densely populated country with many cities packed with lots of people. That may be one reason that nature plays such a big part on the psyche of the Japanese. No matter how populated a city you dwell in, just seeing the beauty of Mt. Fuji, whether from the air or on land, is an emotional experience. Besides Mt. Fuji, there are approximately 17,000 mountains here, depending on how you define "mountain". When it snows, these peaks can offer a splendid view of God's creation.

Beginning with spring, the cherry (sakura) trees are beloved by Japanese and God puts on a show that is hard to match. The blossoms are around for about 10-14 days and they provide a metaphor of our own human temporary existence. This season is also about beginnings, as it is the start of a new school year and business cycle. This season is known as a time to have flower-viewing festivals, spending many hours under the gorgeous cherry trees, eating, and drinking.

Once the cherry blossoms fade from the scene summer seems to quickly take over a place on the stage. First bringing the rainy season (tsuyu) and then the very high heat and humidity that can become almost unbearable. During summer there are many lively festivals that often come with huge and colorful fireworks. The Japanese will dress up in traditional cotton robes (yukata) and many will participate in traditional Japanese dances (odori). Very thin noodle dishes (somen) are served cold and dipped into a delicious watery sauce. When it gets very hot you also may be tempted to eat eel, which is very popular.

After the heat of summer, autumn brings some of the most pleasant weather during the year. Refreshing breezes and crisp sunny days are a delight to partake in. The changing colors of the leaves can be breathtaking as the Japanese may take long walks or hikes in nature. Some of the foods associated with fall are chestnuts, various kinds of fish, and expensive mushrooms. The pleasantness can often extend well into December.

### Update from Tokyo Continued

However, winter does indeed come and in the mountainous areas can bring many meters of snow. Many will enjoy the fun of skiing or sledding on the white stuff, while others are content to stay at home and gather around a low table with a heating element underneath and covered with a quilt (kotatsu). This is the time of year to drink hot tea and eat many Japanese Mandarin oranges called (mikan).

As you can tell, each season provides a number of activities where we can gather and enjoy time with our family and friends. Group activities have been a traditional part of being here in Japan. Of course, now with Covid-19, some of these cherished activities and gatherings have been cut back. Even going to church to worship together has been affected with a number of hurdles to overcome. Yet the Word of God is still preached and it is heard either in person or through some form of internet connectivity. We look forward with eager anticipation to the time when we can go back to gather freely with one another and not have to worry about effects of this pandemic.

Whether we are in a time of pandemic or not, as created beings of God, we still are able to venture out into God's wonderful creation called nature and enjoy the seasons graciously provided for ourselves and our souls.

May each of you find a special moment or object in the created world this day.

**Note:** If you would like to see the full letter, complete with colored photographs, please see the Mission Partners bulletin board located by the Nursery.

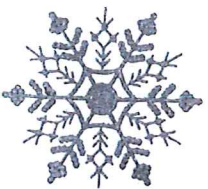
### New Advent Wreath

A new Advent wreath will adorn our Sanctuary this Christmas season. The wreath was donated by long-time member Jan Kunze. Jan and her brother originally donated the wreath to Jevnaker Lutheran Church in rural Montevideo, MN in remembrance of their dear mother, LuElla Nokleby, after she passed away in 2003. Unfortunately, Jevnaker recently closed its doors forever. As a result, Jan wanted to share the Advent wreath with all who worship at St. Philip's to continue to honor her mom, and also in praise of all mothers who worship at St. Philip's.



# THANKS & PRAYER

## Endowment Committee



### *The St. Philip's Endowment Fund*

Be a Blessing for Future Generations!

#### October Memorials & Gifts

*Clem Coverston*

*Bob Johnson*

*Mickey Severson*

Thank you to all who support the Endowment Fund!

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 October	Actual YTD
Income	\$40,352.16	\$652,987.34
Expense	(\$54,970.00)	(\$526,346.27)
TOTALS	(\$14,617.84)	\$126,641.07



## JOY & PRAYER



### December

JoAnn & Roger Kaye on 12/31/1949 for 71 years

Nila & Bud Carpenter on 12/7/1952 for 68 years

Donald & Charlotte Fauteck on 12/14/1957 for 63 years

Burton & Judith Ferrier on 12/30/1961 for 59 years

Mary & Ray Kukowski on 12/4/1965 for 55 years

Rodney & Sylvia Strand on 12/6/1969 for 51 years

Douglas & Miriam Haugland on 12/21/1974 for 46 years

Steven & LaVerne Poniatowski on 12/12/1981 for 39 years

Amy & Justin Simpson on 12/3/2005 for 15 years



*The friends and family of:*

*Arlene Clowning*

*Elaine Fisher*

*Clark Theilmann*

**From the Staff of St. Philip's, We Wish You and Your Family a  
Very Blessed, Happy, and Safe Christmas Holiday!**

PASTOR MATT

PASTOR MARGIE

ADAM MILLER

ANTHONY BLOCH

CHERI SYKES

CONNIE YERIGAN

DAVID GESLIN

ERIC NELSON

JEANNINE GRASSLEY

JENNI ANDERSON

JERRY SALITROS

KATIE SWENSTAD

MICHELLE HILL

## Friendly Takeaway



### St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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### Church Staff

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**Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director**

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**Anthony Bloch, Interim Drummer**

[Anthony.j.bloch@gmail.com](mailto:Anthony.j.bloch@gmail.com), ext. 103

**Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director**

**Katie Swenstad, Facility Coordinator**

[KatieS@splcmn.org](mailto:KatieS@splcmn.org), ext. 109

**Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian**

### Worship Schedule

9:00 am Traditional

10:30 am Contemporary

In person worship is 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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**Renee Falkum-Youngberg**


[falkum23@gmail.com](mailto:falkum23@gmail.com)

**Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack**

**Companion Congregation:**

**Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**

**Ministers: All members of the Parish**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Group - Facebook Live	<b>2</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Work Crew <b>4:00 pm</b> Adult Catechism - Facebook Live <b>5:00 pm</b> Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>5:30 pm</b> Community Supper Curbside Pickup <b>6:30 pm</b> Advent Service- onsite and Facebook Live	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Alanon <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Mtg.	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Worship - onsite and Facebook Live <b>10:30 am</b> Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Group - Facebook Live	<b>9</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Work Crew <b>4:00 pm</b> Adult Catechism - Facebook Live <b>5:00 pm</b> Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>5:30 pm</b> Community Supper Curbside Pickup <b>6:30 pm</b> Advent Service- onsite and Facebook Live	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Alanon <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Mtg.	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Pageant/Worship - onsite and Facebook Live <b>10:30 am</b> Pageant/Worship - onsite and Facebook Live <b>1:00 pm</b> Congregational Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>Friend Articles</b> <b>Due</b> <b>2:00 pm</b> Benevolence Committee Mtg.	<b>15</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Group - Facebook Live	<b>16</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Work Crew <b>10:30 am</b> Property & Grounds Mtg. <b>4:00 pm</b> Adult Catechism - Facebook Live <b>5:00 pm</b> Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>5:30 pm</b> Community Supper Curbside Pickup <b>6:30 pm</b> Advent Service- onsite and Facebook Live	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Alanon <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Mtg.	<b>18</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Worship - onsite and Facebook Live <b>10:30 am</b> Worship - onsite and Facebook Live <b>4:00 pm</b> Christmas Concert	<b>21</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Executive Meeting	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Group - Facebook Live	<b>23</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Work Crew <b>4:00 pm</b> Adult Catechism - Facebook Live <b>5:00 pm</b> Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>5:30 pm</b> Community Supper Curbside Pickup <b>6:30 pm</b> Blue Christmas Service- onsite and Facebook Live	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>2:00 pm</b> Christmas Eve Service <b>4:00 pm</b> Christmas Eve Service <b>10:00 pm</b> Christmas Eve Service <b>7:00 pm</b> Alanon <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Mtg.	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Christmas Day Service  <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Food &amp; Clothing</b> <b>Shelf Closed</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Worship - onsite and Facebook Live <b>10:30 am</b> Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	<b>28</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>6:30 pm</b> Board of Administration Mtg.	<b>29</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>1:00 pm</b> Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live <b>6:30 pm</b> Prayer Group - Facebook Live	<b>30</b> <b>8:30 am</b> Men's Work Crew <b>4:00 pm</b> Adult Catechism - Facebook Live <b>5:00 pm</b> Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup <b>5:30 pm</b> Community Supper Curbside Pickup	<b>31</b> <b>New Years Eve</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> Alanon <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Mtg.		



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).