



# The Friend

## Happy New Year 2021

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious unto you.*

### January 2021

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# PRAYER

## God Will Make All Things New

Matt Flom, Pastor

*5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. Rev. 21:5-8*

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. I must confess that after all that has taken place in 2020, I'm glad to write an article for 2021. That being said, we don't really know what is to come. We don't know what the future holds for our world, nation, or our own selves. We might flourish or we might perish. Most likely it will fall somewhere in between. This uncertainty can cause us much anxiety. This anxiety can lead to doubt and doubt can form a wedge between us and our loving God. A way to deal with this is to remember that God is the God of new beginnings. Jesus came that we might have forgiveness of our sins. The Holy Spirit brings transformation into our lives. At the end of all things, God will make all things new.

Many folks make new year's resolutions only to let them slip away as January blends into February. The most successful resolutions are done along with another person, whether it is dieting, going to the gym, or reading fine literature. I humbly suggest that if you would like to go deeper into your relationship with God in the new year, that you do it with a prayer partner or a small group. Yes, we do need quiet time for ourselves and God, but most of our faith journey should be done with others. It's a good thing to make a new year's resolution about praying, reading the Bible, or participating in worship. Make these resolutions together with someone else and make the journey together. Let the Lord do a new thing in your lives in the new year.



### The Light is Coming

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

*"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth. Do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:18-19*

I have little doubt that any of us will be sad to see 2020 make its way out. It has been a difficult year. We did not, of course, see it coming. New Year's Day, 2020 seemed full of promise and everything seemed normal. And then we began to hear rumbles of pandemic and our lives changed on a dime. We had no idea how difficult it would become.

But here we are again. Another year is on the horizon and we dare to be filled with hope. God is promising to do a new thing. A good thing, we're sure. There is hope that we will return to "normal" even though the normal we knew seems to be in the distant past.

The prophet says we are not to remember the former things, but we know there are things we cannot forget. We need to remember the lessons we've learned in 2020. Lessons of perseverance and generosity. Lessons of hope in the midst of chaos.

It has been dark, but the light is coming. Right now it seems very dim, but it is beginning to break through. Dr. Michael Osterholm continues to caution us that there are some things we must still give up for a time and assures us that next year will be different.

Even though I enjoy visiting with members on the phone, I cannot wait for the day when we will visit face-to-face and they will once again receive the sacrament.

Pray for those who continue to work on the front lines of the pandemic. Pray for those who are bringing the vaccine. Pray for those who will suffer from the effects of the virus and for those who have lost loved ones.

Give thanks for our God who holds us fast, for Jesus who brings us comfort and peace in the midst of uncertainty and for the Holy Spirit who fills us with hope and love.





# 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*

There are many words to describe 2020. While we do miss how things used to be, my family made the choice to make the most of what we have, and what we have is a blessing. We are grateful to have our health, and we pray often for those less fortunate. Because of this "new normal", we are thankful for more time to spend as a family, more time to focus on projects around the house and more time to find God. We trust in the Lord and fully believe that He has great plans for us. And just like it says in Jeremiah 29:11, He gives to us a future with hope.

As I write this, I am reminded of the joy that the 2020 Christmas pageant brought to us all. I hope you were able to view it and I hope you enjoyed it! Seeing the sweet faces of the children and their families not only brought me joy, but it brought me hope. I hope that one day we will gather again in fellowship with good health, tons of laughter and smiles.

I pray your year starts off well. I pray you and your family are healthy and happy. And I pray you have hope.

## Moving Forward

Eric Nelson, *Director of Adult Ministry*

Though things are still strange and difficult as we start the new year, there is much to be thankful for. I am immensely thankful to be invited to serve here as your associate pastor. I certainly did not anticipate first call and ordination in the midst of a pandemic when I started at Luther Seminary, but I remain grateful for this place for worship and ministry together.

For those looking toward my ordination, it will likely be scheduled toward the end of January. Due to current conditions with COVID-19, it will be almost entirely online for attendance. I'd love to celebrate the day in person with you, but we will do what is best for the safety of all involved as I am ordained into call at St. Philip's.

As I begin work as associate pastor here, I continue to work with adult and young adult ministry. Our young adults meet in a joined group with Faith Lutheran in Coon Rapids and have planned a great opportunity for discussion soon. We will be having a book study online for adults of all ages, discussing the book *Dear Church* by Lenny Duncan. Pastor Duncan is a Black American ELCA pastor who loves the ELCA, but writes to address the issues surrounding our denomination as the whitest denomination in the country. The book is thought-provoking and offers good conversation points to consider together. Please contact me via phone or e-mail to let me know of your interest. We will be acquiring books for the group and plan to start reading and discussions later in the month of January. Hope you can join in the discussion.

Though I've had the pleasure of working with you for the past year, much of that has been from a distance online and behind masks. I look forward to continuing to get to know you better. If you'd ever like to chat over coffee on the phone or via video, please contact me. I'm glad we get to be church together in whatever circumstance we find ourselves in. God's peace to you!

### Happy New Year

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

I am not much of new year's resolution person. So many resolutions seem to fall by the wayside before spring comes, so I typically don't make any. This year is no exception, but I am looking forward to seeing changes made to the way we are currently living. I am hoping that summer will see a drastic slowdown in the virus, and some sort of normalcy returning, which would mean more of us would feel better about coming into the Sanctuary for worship, joining in celebrations, maybe even having the garage sale! Better days are coming, and we have weathered this storm extremely well. God is smiling down on St. Philip's and pleased that we continue to help the needy in so many ways. We have wonderful ministries at work, so perhaps for those of you who do like new year's resolutions, you will choose to get involved with one of our many volunteer opportunities. What a great way to celebrate the new year! And, we have much to celebrate! Two pastors now guide us in our faith journey, and we welcome Pastor Eric as he formally begins his ministry! And, continued thanks to Pastor Matt for all the hard work he has done for St. Philip's. I think this will be a great, new year!

### Board of Administration Highlights



- Gratitude for the completion of several projects supporting our ministry
  - Hearing Loop installation
  - Parking lot lighting
  - New live streaming equipment installation and training
  - SPDR completion and delivery of 50 folding desks for local youth schooling at home
  - Multitude of volunteer hours to continue the Community Supper and Food and Clothing Shelf
- Congregational acceptance of Eric Nelson as part-time associate pastor at St. Philip's during the special meeting in the parking lot on Sunday, December 13
- While financially strong, we continue to await the results of the Stewardship campaign to plan the budget for 2021

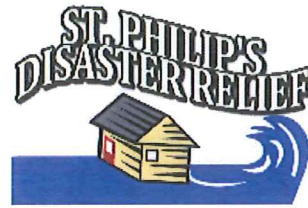




# PRAYER & THANKS

## Desk Project and Annual Fundraiser

St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team



### Desk Project "Trip"

The Desk Project trip didn't start with a flood, hurricane, or tornado somewhere in our country, but rather an email from a team member and a link to a Good Morning America video about a couple in Maryland that saw a need and started making desks for students in their area.

The Desk Project trip didn't come with the same challenges as a regular trip, but it did include hours of planning, scheduling logistics, working outdoors with temperatures near 30 degrees, and ever-changing COVID-19 restrictions.

The Desk Project trip didn't end with new sheetrock, flooring, or painted walls in homes of those impacted by disasters but, instead, 50 foldable desks, chairs, and school supplies for local students impacted by COVID-19 and distance learning. Seven social workers from Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Spring Lake Parks schools picked up desks, chairs, and school supplies in early December. One of them forwarded an email from a student that said, "I LOVE the desk!!! Thank you, it's definitely going to help me get some work done."

Like all of the SPDR trips, the Desk Project trip was made possible by many volunteers and financial supporters. 33 team members worked over 350 hours producing the desks and \$1600 was donated to cover the cost of the desk materials, chairs, and some school supplies. Pastor Matt ended his November *Friend* article with "In a time of hate, chaos, and fear God calls us to live and speak love and grace. It's time to roll up our sleeves, we have apple trees to plant." Thank you to all involved with the Desk Project trip for doing just that!

## Annual Fundraiser

Just a reminder – the annual SPDR Lasagna Dinner and Auction Fundraiser has been canceled for 2021. We thank all those that continue to financially support SPDR.

## Meals on Wheels —Thank You!



Special Christmas love was shared for Meals on Wheels during the week of December 14 – 18. The amazing volunteer drivers were Edd and Gidget Brooks, Phyllis Ehlers, Chuck and Kathy Eichelberger, Harlan Hohenstein, Roger and Ellen Musolf, Eldy and Sandy Nelson, and Ann Westby. A heart felt thank you to these wonderful Christmas angels!

## THANKS & JOY

### New Books for the New Year

The long, cold winter is upon us. We are glad to see a new year arrive. We're still stuck at home, really bored, looking for something to do. The St. Phillip's Library Group has a suggestion. Read!

Cozy up to your fireplace or cover up with a warm quilt or throw. Add a hot cup of tea or coffee and pick up a book. Remember the Library is open whenever the church is open. We've added new and intriguing titles. Something for everyone.

Two St. Philip's members are also authors. The Library has their latest writing. Bob Becker has published two books of poetry. Both are in the library. Look for *Poetry: Thoughts & Reflections* and *Poems Book 2: A Menagerie*.

Harold Kurtz (with son David) has revised and added to his "Village" books.

The three original books, *Hardly a Silent Night*; *Ring the Bell and Count the People*; and *The Missing Library Books* have been combined into a single volume titled *Stories from the Village*. Four new stories have been added.

Check recent back issues of *The Friend* for other recently added books, including novels, books on racism, climate change, and the pandemic. Happy reading. Stay safe and warm.

### The Garden in Winter

Lynette Thompson, Garden Group

Since colder weather now envelops us, I am enjoying re-reading some of the books in my home library. Often, I've forgotten details in the texts. Previously read words now pop in their freshness.

As I scanned my shelf of gardening books, I laughed while I extracted *The Garden in Winter*. I remember thinking what a marvelous concept, especially for Minnesota. The author is well known in the gardening world, but I doubt this book ever became a bestseller. Some of the photos have bright colors, but many display browns and evergreens, with snow and ice as accompaniments.

I'm guessing most of you have other topics of interest on your winter reading list. A cup of hot coffee, a lap blanket, and a page turner mystery can fill an afternoon. Why would you want to read about gardens in winter?

Here is my suggestion. Many of us found safety and enjoyment being outdoors this summer. I heard friends and neighbors make observations and express appreciation of nature in multiple ways.

That same enjoyment can be discovered this winter. It may take some patience, but your observational skills are keen. When leaves are gone, the structure of deciduous trees can be a surprise. A member of the congregation counted seven squirrel homes in one tree! Have you ever found a now apparent bird nest in a shrub just outside your window? Are there milkweed seeds and pods that you didn't see this summer? Have you found dogwood with red or yellow branches? Enjoy your searches. A smile may be a result.

# THANKS & PRAYER

## Endowment Committee



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

Be a Blessing for Future Generations!

#### November Memorials & Gifts

*Shirley Backstrom*

*Clem Coverston*

*Bob Eidem*

*Carrol Hauge*

*Meredith Hille*

*Patricia Larson*

*Mary Peterson*

*Bev Schillinger*

*Mickey Severson*

*Clark Theilmann*

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 November	Actual YTD
Income	\$63,601.84	\$716,589.18
Expense	(\$60,861.33)	(\$587,046.13)
TOTALS	\$2,740.51	\$129,543.05



## JOY & PRAYER



### December

Kermit & Frances Hollen on 1/30/1960 for 61 Years

Ronald & Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 60 Years

John & Josephine Riley on 1/5/1961 for 60 Years

Richard & Laurel Harris on 1/27/1962 for 59 Years

Roger & Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 58 Years

Susan & David Nelson on 1/1/1982 for 39 Years

Steven & Gail Olson on 1/16/1991 for 30 Years

Victoria & Kitah Emmanuel on 1/1/1993 for 28 Years

Dennis & DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 21 Years

Dane & Dena Froiland on 1/10/2004 for 17 Years



*The friends and family of:*

*Robert Eidem*

*Carrol Hauge*

*Meredith Hille*

### Greetings and Update from LCCN Bille

*"The Peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and the entire Congregation of St. Philip's throughout the Christmas and New Year Season."*

Mr. Clement B. Dah, who is our contact with LCCN Bille, suffered a stroke in September, so we have not received his usual full report of our joint ministries there. Mr. Dah is lay leader of the church and head of the Bille Tribe. He was primarily responsible for making the arrangements for visits which St. Philip's members have made to Bille. He sent the above greeting on behalf of LCCN Bille. Please pray for Mr. Dah's sure and swift recovery.

Be the change  
you wish to see in  
the world.

### St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

[www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org) ~ [info@splcmn.org](mailto:info@splcmn.org)

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

Pastoral Emergency Phone: 612-930-1588

### Church Staff

**Pastor Matt Flom, Pastor**

[MattF@splcmn.org](mailto:MattF@splcmn.org), ext. 112

**Pastor Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor**

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**David Geslin, Organist**

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**Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader**

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**Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director**

[AdamM@splcmn.org](mailto:AdamM@splcmn.org), ext. 103

**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
					1 Happy New Year! Staff Holiday Food & Clothing Shelf Closed	2
3 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	4	5 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	6 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 3:00 pm Endowment Mtg. 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	8 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	9
10 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	11 2:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg.	12 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	13 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup	14 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	15 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	16
17 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  Staff Holiday  Friend Articles Due 6:30 pm Executive Meeting	19 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	20 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	21 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	22 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	23
24 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	25 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg.	26 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together - Facebook Live 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	27 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup	28 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	29 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	30
31 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live						





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).