

The Friend



Annual Meeting

Please Join Us in the Main Parking Lot

Sunday, February 7 at 1:00 pm

The meeting will also be livestreamed simultaneously on Facebook and can be accessed by clicking the, "Watch Live" button on the homepage of the St. Philip's website.

February 2021

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PRAYER

Come and See

Matt Flom, Pastor

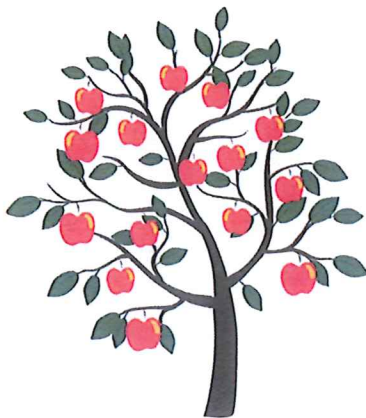
46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." John 1:46

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. "Come and See" was the title for the first sermon preached at the new congregation of St. Philip's Lutheran Church back in 1958. Come and See is our motto. Come and See is how we invite people into the family of God. Evangelism is one of the seven purposes of the church. We seek to connect people to Christ just as Philip sought to bring Nathanael to Jesus of Nazareth.

In the time of COVID-19, many folks have given up on evangelism. They think that because we can't invite people to come join us for worship in the Sanctuary, that we should just wait. Folks, now is the time to invite people into a life giving relationship with Jesus Christ. People are hurting, disconnected, and anxious about the future. People need God in their lives. How then are we supposed to evangelize? We use the tools at hand. We use Facebook, the website, the E-News, the app, the phone, and good old fashioned paper and pen. Like and share our videos. Offer to have a discussion of a study after watching it separately. Let people know how we are reaching out and serving the community and include links to our website. If people sound interested in what we are doing, send them the E-News or invite them to download the app. Calling people and just checking up on them is wonderful. If you haven't seen someone since things shut down, give them a call and let them know you were thinking of them. If they express a lot of worry, offer to pray for them. I also want to encourage you to write to people. In this ever increasingly electronic world, a handwritten note is a rare and precious gift. If you don't like electronics, then handwritten notes are your way to shine. Keep connecting, keep praying, and keep inviting folks to, "Come and See."

Remember what Luther said, "Even if I knew the world would go to pieces tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree."



Love and Kindness

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

"If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Love is patient; love is kind . . . it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." From I Corinthians 13.

As I make my calls to members of St. Phillips, I hear stories of love. Love of neighbor. Love of family. Love of God. Love of their church.

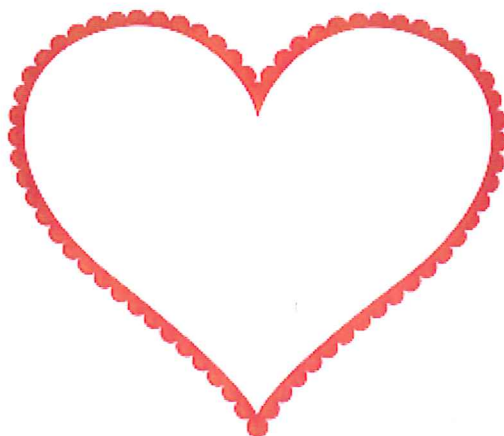
These can be difficult days for us seniors. We spend a lot of time in our homes. We worry about the pandemic and about our own health. Things that used to be so easy are no longer easy. Trips to the doctor and the grocery store require forethought and planning. Even a trip to the mail box presents challenges!

So when we are gifted with a kindness, it is a big deal. It means someone has gone out of their way to be kind and that shows us love in unique ways. A card or a phone call can mean a great deal.

This is February, the middle (we hope) of winter. And in the middle of February is Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day is a reminder to us to remember those who may not necessarily be remembered. It is a day to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ in our midst. So, be Christ to someone. Even if you are out and about and wearing a mask, smile at those you encounter. They'll see the crinkle around your eyes and maybe a twinkle. Keep saying, "Have a great day!"

And, don't neglect to pray for your friends and your family. Use your church photo directory as a prayer book and pray for each person in turn. They will feel Jesus' love through you in your prayers.

Have a great and blessed day!



PRAYER & SERVE

Engaging Through Discussion

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

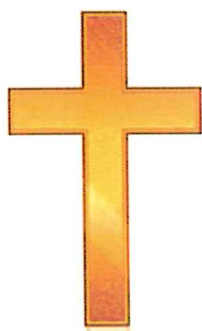
We are entering a book study on Lenny Duncan's, *Dear Church* with Faith Lutheran in Coon Rapids. Meetings will be conducted over Zoom on Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 pm during Lent. (February 18 and 25, March 4, 11, and 18). Contact me via e-mail to get involved and I will send you the link. We also may have a book for you as we ordered a couple of extra. It is not too late to get involved with our book study!

Duncan's book promises to challenge and bring discussion. He is a black pastor in the ELCA which is the whitest denomination of the Christian church in our country. He addresses many of the issues we frequently remain silent on regarding race throughout history and in the present state of our ELCA church. Each of us come to the conversation from different places and with varying perspectives. We plan for thoughtful and engaging discussion that honors and respects each person. Let me know if you would like to join us.

I am so grateful to be your newly ordained associate pastor. We may not have been able to gather together at the ordination last month, but I still look forward to getting to know each of you better as I serve here at St Philip's. If you'd ever care to chat via phone, video, or distanced in-person, let me know and I'd be happy to have some coffee, conversation, and prayer with you. Thank you for welcoming me as your associate pastor.

God's blessings to you.

Lent Worship Schedule:



Wednesdays

February 17 - March 24

6:30 pm Worship

In-person or Livestreamed



The services will be livestreamed simultaneously on Facebook and can be accessed by clicking the, "Watch Live" button on the homepage of the St. Philip's website.

Faith, Hope, and Love

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

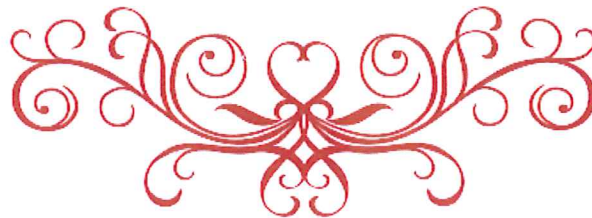
And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

With the start of a new year, this verse brings me comfort. A lot of what is going on in our world right now is scary, confusing, sad, and sometimes frustrating, but I have faith in our Lord and because of that, I feel hope and am able to give and receive love.

I long for the days when we can safely gather together. I feel like a broken record, repeating the same words over and over again, but I remind myself that this is not forever and we will be able to gather one day soon.

Our Children, Youth & Family Ministry program is still going strong throughout the upside down times. Virtual youth hangouts continue to be a big hit. We gather weekly for devotion and check in time and then play games. All children and youth lessons are being emailed weekly, and it is my constant goal to keep families connected in any way possible.

I pray for the safety and good health of our St. Philip's community. May you keep your faith strong, have hope, and feel love always.



Love Thy Neighbor

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

February, the month that conjures visions of hearts, cupids, and valentines. It is a month about love. This is a great time to think about our relationships with others. Choose kind words. If you disagree with someone's opinion, fine, it is their opinion. Choose to listen and try to understand. If you post on Facebook, post positive words. Go the entire month thinking about how you impact others. Love God, love thy neighbor. I know how difficult it is to sometimes love thy neighbor, but they may be thinking the same! We can all use some optimism and positivity after the past year, and I am optimistic that things will get better. Hopefully, we can continue the wonderful programing and ministries that St. Philip's offers and perhaps by summer, we may be able to gather together to celebrate. Choose to be positive! Choose to be optimistic! Choose to continue to support our wonderful ministries! Choose joy! God loves us! Let us show him how much we love him! Happy Valentines Day, and love to all my St. Philip's family!

PRAYER & SERVE

Board of Administration Highlights



- Acknowledged the extra effort on the part of St. Philip's staff to continue our ministry in spite of major challenges
- Expressed grateful appreciation to the congregation for the amazing financial support in 2020, but seeing fewer "giving intent" cards coming in for 2021
- Expressed continued appreciation for the volunteers who support the ministries providing food and clothing and the community supper, as the need in our community grows

Weariness and Hope

Lynette Thompson, Garden Group

Mid-winter is upon us. Many of us have settled into familiar routines of past winters. Flannel and sweatshirt fleece dominate our wardrobes. Outdoor temperatures and wind chill readings announce themselves as uninvited guests. A hearty bowl of soup is almost always welcomed.

But this winter has brought along an added element, a potent powerful sum of conditions from last spring, summer and fall. The COVID-19 virus is still interfering with our "normal".

Around the Christmas holiday, I was struck by the word weary, when used by a pastor to describe our circumstances. I pledged I would remember that descriptive word and pull it out when I needed to vent my anger at our virus predicament.

Weary, weary, weary, oh so weary. Hear my prayer.

Hope arrived in my snail mail. It was the Burpee seed catalog. Did you know gardeners often do their best work during the winter? It's their time to dream. Their dream gardens overflow with lush beautiful color. Their vegetables grow amazingly well. Ideas are plentiful and cost nothing.

Traditionally seed companies attract attention in their catalog's first pages. New varieties are introduced, with desirable enticing features such as early harvest or disease tolerance. This year I was especially delighted with the names given to some of the new introductions.

A new coneflower is named Marry Me. A summer squash described as a gold bar is named Fort Knox Hybrid. A hot pepper received the name Ring Leader. My favorite is the spaghetti squash labeled Hasta La Pasta.

I know a few packets of these new seeds can give me hope. I've seen the strength of other seeds planted in our church garden. Perhaps you will be able to visit some of these newcomers this summer. Hasta La Pasta anyone?

Update from Tokyo

Jim and Carol Sack

Dear Friends in Christ: I (Carol) am by DNA make-up a night owl, always have been. For decades now I have envied my husband who will work like a beaver all day, and at 9:30 pm declare, "think I'll head for bed." And in no time he is blissfully "sawing zzz's," only to awaken bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for the tasks ahead on the next morning. Me? It seems like my creative juices for ministry are just gearing up around 10:00 pm. Many hours remain in the night, so I will tend to keep going until I run out of gasoline, at which time I can plop into bed and dive into overdue sleep without further ado. Morning is a reluctant reality.

But miracles can happen.

Twenty years ago, when I was being trained in the field of pastoral harp, (harp and voice at the bedside of the dying) Philipp, one of my colleagues, told me he would awaken and play the harp before the sun came up. This was his practice time, but also his time for meditation. My imagination delighted in his comment, but for me, I knew this would be the classic case of "the spirit is willing but the flesh definitely won't pull through." Nevertheless through all these years I never forgot the inkling.

My spiritual discipline usually follows the Psalms. This fall, when I came across Psalm 57:8 ~ "Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn" ~ Imagination finally managed to be incarnated into a new morning ritual, after all these years! Nowadays I set the alarm for the predawn hours and get up even about an hour before Jim. Unbelievable!

In the silence I make my requisite cup of caffeine, then turn on a stained glass lamp to offer minimal but inviting light with which to tune my harp. A harp needs to be tuned every day, often several times a day. A harp out of tune is not a "joyful noise." So before anything, this is what I do in the darkened morn. As I tune my harp, I remember that I too am out of tune. It happens without effort that I get out of tune. I may not even realize that I am out of tune, but surely those around me will hear the unjoyful noise that ensues. So this tuning is a wonderful spiritual practice in itself.

Then I sit at the harp and see what notes of worship will come forth. I never know from day to day what will exude from the strings. Sometimes my voice joins in, sometimes it remains in the resonances of the harp strings alone. But it is a rich, and to me, miraculous way to begin the day with and in prayer.

This Christmas, services in Japan were done in a new way. Out of reverence for the Lord and reverence for life, churches held services observing a holy distance between congregants as we quietly celebrated the coming of our Savior. In this unique year, something manifested that I had not anticipated. Because of a care to limit the familiar singing of the carols, but with the indispensable need to include the voice of adoration through music, I was asked to play the harp at six different services in five different churches between December 20 and 27. It was a deep privilege to offer the voice of praise through pastoral harp.

May we awaken the dawn of this new year, with a new and joyful song to the Lord, through whatever "harp and lyre" is at our fingertips! Joy to the World. (The Lord has come!)

God bless us, everyone.

PRAYER & THANKS

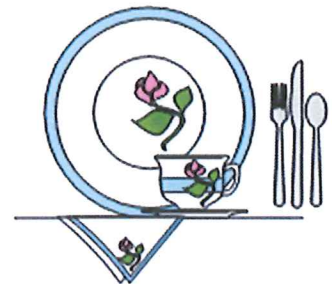
Easter Flowers

You are invited to help decorate our Sanctuary for Easter by purchasing a beautiful plant. After Easter, you may come in and pick up your plant to enjoy at home. This year's plant sale will run through Sunday, February 28. There are three options to choose from, and all plants are \$20 each.

Please follow this link <https://forms.gle/UyuGUZGBieCpwNMD9> to fill out the order form, and mail in your payment to the church office. You can also find the link on our church app and website.

Virtual Festival of Tables

The Parish Fellowship Committee has made the hard, but necessary decision to cancel the in-person 2021 Festival of Tables. However, we are making plans for a virtual Festival of Tables this year on Saturday, April 17 at 1:00 pm. As always, it will be a fundraiser for food shelves. Please watch for updates as we put a program together for you to view on Facebook. You will be able to invite friends to watch too. We are eager to try this new idea and will keep you updated as the date gets closer.



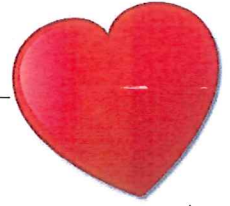
Community Supper - Thank You!

Thank you all for so generously donating bags and containers to the Community Supper. Thankfully we do not need any more at this time. We were blessed with donations of 10,000 containers and bags from a local food shelf/meal that closed due to the age of the volunteers. Please consider recycling your bags at your local Goodwill or grocery store.

Financials

St. Philip's 2020	Actual December	Actual YTD
Income	\$58,800.41	\$775,389.59
Expense	(\$71,276.44)	(\$658,277.62)
TOTALS	(\$12,476.03)	\$117,111.97

Endowment Committee



The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a Blessing for Future Generations!

December Memorials & Gifts

Robert & Marlene Eidem

Violet & Timo Graves

Carroll & Mavis Hauge

Virgil & Shirley Herrick

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.



February

Shirley & Phillip Eddy on 2/19/1955 for 66 Years

Richard & Dawn Young on 2/14/1965 for 56 Years

Mike Youngberg & Renee Falkum-Youngberg on 2/20/1986 for 35 Years

Cindy & Don Tollefson on 2/13/1987 for 34 Years

David & Yvette Christensen on 2/16/1991 for 30 Years

Christine & Ronald Boettcher on 2/25/1995 for 26 Years

Aaron & Staci Gondorchin on 2/2/2002 for 19 Years

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

Church Staff

Pastor Matt Flom, Pastor

MattF@splcmn.org, ext. 112

Pastor Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

EricN@splcmn.org, ext. 110

Pastor Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

MargieG@splcmn.org

Jeannine Grassley, Office Manager

JeannineA@splcmn.org, ext. 104

Jenni Anderson, Publications & Membership Coordinator

JenniA@splcmn.org, ext. 101

Jerry Salitros, Bookkeeper

JerryS@splcmn.org, ext. 106

Connie Yerigan, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

ConnieY@splcmn.org, ext. 107

David Geslin, Organist

DavidG@splcmn.org

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

CheriS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director

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 is open

Currently streaming on Facebook

Past links can be found on our website,
E-News, and on our App

Board of Administration

BOA@splcmn.org

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

laraekaz@aol.com

Brian Munsterman, Vice-President

bmunsterman@comcast.net

Diane Campeau, Secretary

dccampeau46@gmail.com

Greg Rosholt, Treasurer

gsrosholt@comcast.net

Mike Anderson

flooddog97@gmail.com

Michelle Angerhofer

mangerhofer@hotmail.com

Barbara Cooper

cooperstory@msn.com

Danielle Nestrud

danielle87anderson@gmail.com

Andy Tjader

andrewtjader77@hotmail.com

Renee Falkum-Youngberg

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 10:00 pm Annual Audit	2 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	3 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 12:00 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	4 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	5 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	6
7 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 1:00 pm Annual Meeting	8 2:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg.	9 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	10 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	11 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	12 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	13
14 Happy Valentine's Day! 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	15 Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Meeting	16 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	17 Ash Wednesday 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 10:30 am Property & Grounds Mtg. 12:00 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 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	18 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	19 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	20
21 9:00 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live 10:30 am Worship - onsite and Facebook Live	22 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg.	23 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	24 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 6:30 pm Lent Worship	25 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	26 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	27
28 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).