



# The Friend

## *Lent Worship Schedule:*

### Sundays

March 7, 14, 21, and 28  
9:00 and 10:30 am

### Wednesdays

March 3, 10, 17, and 24  
6:30 pm Worship

## *Holy Week:*

Palm Sunday - March 28  
9:00 and 10:30 am Worship

Maundy Thursday - April 1  
6:30 pm Worship

Good Friday - April 2  
6:30 pm Worship

## *Easter Sunday - April 4*

9:00 and 10:30 am Worship

## March 2021

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The Sanctuary is open for worship or services can be accessed by clicking the, '[Watch Live](#)' (in real-time) or "[Watch on Facebook](#)" (if viewing in real-time or at a later date) buttons on the website's homepage.

# PRAYER

## Building Up God's Kingdom

Matt Flom, Pastor

*31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? (NRSV)*

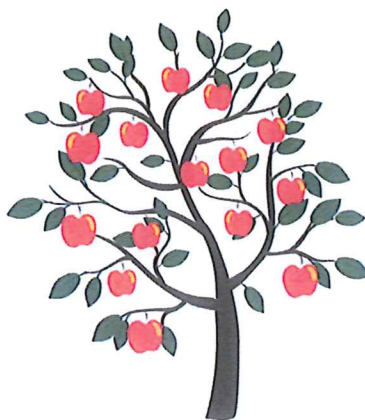
*31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (ESV)*

*Romans 8:31*

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. This month is the one-year anniversary of the pandemic shutdown. It would be the understatement of the decade to say that things have changed. As disciples of Jesus how are we to take all this into account and more importantly to move forward in building up God's kingdom? The Bible verse at the beginning is one that is familiar to many. Romans 8 is often used at funerals and Romans is St. Paul's greatest work. Our denomination uses the NRSV translation for worship readings. It is quite good, but as with all translations from the ancient language, there is a bit of interpretation. It's the version you've heard read in church. The second version is a bit different and, in this case, I think it's a bit more accurate. It also helps us talk about our situation. When tragedy or difficult times come, we need to talk it through in order to deal with our emotions and help us get a handle on things. We have a lot to say *about* these things. This processing is important and necessary for our well-being. However, we can't stay in that place. After a while, we need to deal more actively with our new life situation. There is a bumper sticker which read, "Stop telling God how big your problems are and start telling your problems how big your God is." What then shall we say *to* these things? What then shall we say to the world?

We are children of the Heavenly Father and heirs to eternal life in God's kingdom. Christ's death on the cross defeated sin, death, and the devil for all time. The true battle has been won. We live in the in between time from when Christ's resurrection to His return to complete all things. I would not downplay the struggles, hurts, and tragedy of this age one bit, but I will never give up the true reality of Christ's ultimate victory on the cross. We need to trust in God, hold tight to each other, and do our part. We continue to live out our theme for this year as Luther said, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."



## The Practice of Love

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

Greetings and warm wishes to you this March,

We have been the church together (while frequently physically apart) for a year now. A year in, we find ourselves in a variety of places: some still in comfort while some struggle, some at peace and some in turmoil, some things the same as a year ago and some things quite different. I don't presume to assume everyone's experience, but we do need to declare that God is still present and we are still church together in this time.

We all know that as much as much social gathering seemed to come to a stand-still, events of the world and life did not come to a stand-still. The world keeps moving. Much has happened locally, nationally, globally, and personally over the past year. We continue to recap and discuss the events of note in our local, national, and global news. Yet, there are things going on for each individual. For many, these personal experiences have been lived mostly alone, lacking many of the normal supports one might have.

In the gospel of John, after Jesus washed the disciples' feet in his last Passover with them, he said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

It has been a wonderful act of love for one another to physically distance, wear a mask, and take precautions in love for one another. We ought to continue this practice of love. However, I also want to encourage an additional act of love for the neighbor. Let us be present for one another. As a pastor and part of the church community, we also declare that the mental and spiritual health of our neighbor deserves love and care. Jesus stepped into love for the disciples that involved making himself a servant and giving everything he had in love.

And Jesus calls us to go out to show the love he has shown us to our neighbor. Jesus' love?! Love that sacrificed everything. Only in Christ's love can we then step out into this call.

So, a year in, I plan to continue showing love in precaution for the health of my neighbor, but I also want to share a message of hope in care of mental health of the neighbor. As pastors, Matt and I will continue to be with you in whatever you are experiencing. Phone call or in-person visit. You are a beloved child of God and do not need to be alone. Just as faithful servants continue to feed and cloth people at St. Philip's and in the community, we continue to care for the other ways we need to be fed.

Whatever your personal experience, God and God's community of believers is still here for you. Support each other in notes, phone calls, safe in-person conversations, and whatever ways possible. Jesus sends us out to love each other in every season. Though pandemic is still different for us, we know that Christ is still in this with us, now and always, and call us to be the community of believers together.



## JOY & PRAYER

### Rituals and Practices or Something New?

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

*With what should I come before the Lord? What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6*

There are a myriad of ways to practice your faith. It might be easier if there really was just one right way when it comes to rituals and practices, but we keep trying something new, and this is a good thing. We've truly had to reinvent worship and rituals in this time of COVID-19. And God has blessed our efforts.

Who would have thought that you would worship in front of a screen in your pajamas on a Sunday morning or have a Zoom Bible study? We are invited to pick up prepackaged communion wafers and juice from the church and partake in Holy Communion virtually.

But what about Lent and Ash Wednesday? We find ourselves wondering how we're going to do that? Some congregations are passing out kits with ashes and Communion elements and we will place the ashes on our foreheads and commune ourselves. Still others are doing "drive by" imposition of ashes with pastors in the parking lot masked and distanced using a Q-tips cotton swab to impose the ashes on foreheads.

The Q-tips idea kind of made me giggle, but after many years of having to dig ashes out from under my fingernails for several days, I think it might have merit.

My point here is that there is no one way to do worship or ritual. God must be smiling at our innovations knowing how much we want to be faithful.

In the same way, there is no one way to do our Lenten practices. Each of us should ponder what God would have us do as a spiritual discipline. A spiritual discipline is meant to get us out of our comfort zone and open our hearts to Jesus. More prayer time? OK. Meditation? Great. Taking time to visit a neighbor or a loved one? Wonderful. Giving to a food or clothing shelf? Outstanding. The beauty of this arrangement is that you can't really do anything wrong so long as your heart is in the right place.

What does the Lord require of you these 40 days? Be blessed in your practices and spiritual disciplines to be a blessing in the name of Jesus. Amen.



### 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.

### Patience

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

Yay! March is here, which means spring is just around the corner! But, first, we have to get through this month. The month that sometimes starts turning warm and sunny, but most of the time adds more snow to our already frozen tundra. I am not the most patient of people, so March is a difficult month for me. The tease of warmer weather, followed by snowfalls makes me crazy! However, this year, we have all learned how to take a breath, sit back and wait for whatever comes. And, we know better things are on the horizon, as is true with spring. It will come, and it will be welcomed! And as we wait for spring, we enter the season of Lent, the waiting before Easter. It is a time when many give up something as a sacrifice before Easter. This year, I have decided to give something, rather than give up something. Maybe you want to do the same, and give your time, your talents, or your money. There is much need in many areas! Whatever you choose be patient as Easter and spring are coming. And, better days are on the horizon. Blessings to all!

### Board of Administration Highlights



- Year-end financials show income 8% below budget and expenses were even lower resulting in a surplus that will be used for roof repair and 2021 general administrative expenses
- Discussed preparations for the Annual Congregational Meeting
  - ◆ Budget for 2021 approved
  - ◆ Slate of candidates for the Board and Committees received



# SERVE & THANKS

## Support and Donations

St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team



The year 2020 was a challenging and different year for SPDR. We continued to assist survivors of natural disasters by making donations to Lutheran Social Service and Lutheran Disaster Response. We also took on a student desk building project.

But with no disaster relief trips in 2020, the SPDR spending was down significantly.

With the passage of the Faith Based Budget, the SPDR leadership would like to suggest that for the remainder of 2021 any donation that you would have made to the SPDR ministry be directed to the St. Philip's General Fund instead.

We value your support and realize it is your choice to continue to donate to SPDR if you wish. With the current balance in the SPDR designated account we will be able to continue our ministry when it is once again safe to travel. Thank you for your continued support.

## Update from LCCN Bille

Clement B. Dah

Happy New Year to all members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church.

I also wish to congratulate the people of America on the successful inauguration ceremony of His Excellency, Joe Biden as the President of the United States of America. It is our prayer that the Lord will preserve him and grant him wisdom in the course of discharging his duties to Americans.

The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic is on the increase here in Sub-Saharan Africa. The number of affected persons is on the increase even though we are lacking test kits most especially in the rural areas. We are happy that vaccines are now available and in distribution to various parts of the World. Nigeria hopes to receive one hundred thousand vials of the vaccine by the end of this month.

As a church, we are in constant prayer for God's intervention to bring an end to this pandemic and other related issues befalling the whole World.

Accept as always, our esteem regards. The blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

## Men's Book Discussion

The Men's Book Discussion Group is currently holding their meetings via Zoom at 12:00 pm every other Wednesday. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 3 and we will be starting to read, *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism* by Dan Rather. Please send your email address to Dick Kruse at [[dick.kruse@gmail.com](mailto:dick.kruse@gmail.com)] if you wish to join the discussion, and Dick will send you the Zoom meeting Link.



### Amending the Soil or the Soul?

Lynette Thompson, Garden Group

How do you make something better? Well, for example, a cook may add ingredients, such as salt, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, or numerous other spices to a food preparation. A mother may add a Band-Aid, a kiss on the forehead, or a hug to her injured child. A teacher may add words of praise or a gold star sticker to a student's work.

Gardeners also like to make things better. In a vegetable garden, there may be desires for bigger tomatoes, sweeter corn, and juicier melons. Minnesota's short growing season brings temptation to plant at the earliest but safest spring date. Gardeners comfortably announce when seeds and starter plants are in the ground. Their anticipation to the harvest then begins.

But have you ever encountered a less than desirable result to a project? I am somewhat embarrassed to admit my lack of proper preparation in some of my ventures. Even worse, I have knowingly skipped steps so I can get to the end faster.

In the world of horticulture, there is active discussion about our soil resources. Can you imagine not having enough soil to grow food as we know it today? Developing new varieties of vegetables and fruits which can feed more of the world's population is useless if there is an inadequate soil base to support such growth. As boring as it may sound, soil deserves our attention.

How will I prepare the soil in our church garden? A soil test can reveal pluses and minuses already present in the ground. I may not be able to eliminate all the invasive weeds or other destructive growths, but I can recognize them easier now. I will help my colleagues dig deep. The rich compost we have developed will not be wasted. The compost will be equally distributed over the garden beds.

How will I prepare my soul for the rest of 2021? Just as described above.

### Meals on Wheels - Thanks You!

The second week of February was the coldest week this winter, yet our volunteers ventured out to deliver meals to those in need, the elderly, handicapped, and homebound. A big thank you to the following ice angels: Edd & Gidget Brooks, Phyllis Ehlers, Chuck & Kathy Eichelberger, Steve Ess, Harlan Hohenstein, Eldy & Sandy Nelson, Flo O'Donnell, and Ann Westby. You definitely bring a ray of sunshine to many lives. If you are interested in joining the Meals on Wheels ministry or have any questions, please contact Dawn Young [612-270-0326].



# PRAYER & THANKS

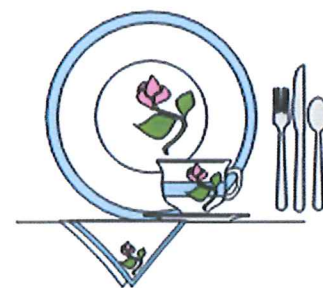
## Growing Through Loss Series

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 Abiding Savior 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. Call [763-755-5335] or visit [[www.growingthroughloss.org](http://www.growingthroughloss.org)] for more information. The next series will be held Tuesday evenings, April 6 - May 11, from 6:45 - 9:00 pm at:

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church  
8211 Red Oak Dr  
Mounds View, MN 55112

## Virtual Festival of Tables

Parish Fellowship is preparing a virtual event to be aired on Facebook , Saturday, April 17 at 1:00 pm. We encourage you to "tune in" and to invite friends and family to watch, too. You may also watch from the Sanctuary that day. This year the we will be raising funds for our St. Philip's Food and Clothing Shelf and the Wednesday Community Supper. During our event there will be several speakers, music, and a slideshow of our beautiful tables from past Festival of Table events. If you have never attended the Festival of Tables, this is a good way to find out what we're all about! Mark your calendars and plan to join us April 17. Watch for further updates!



## Financials

St. Philip's 2021	Actual January	Actual YTD
Income	\$65,654.21	\$65,654.21
Expense	(\$55,652.00)	(\$55,652.00)
TOTALS	\$10,002.21	\$10,002.21



Endowment Committee



*The St. Philip's  
Endowment Fund*

Be a Blessing for Future Generations!

December Memorials & Gifts

*Robert & Marlene Eidem*

*Laura Rahn*

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.



March

Howard & Shirley Mosman on 3/26/1955 for 66 Years

Anne & Darrel Kudebeh on 3/17/1961 for 60 Years

Ralph & Kathryn Petersen on 3/11/1966 for 55 Years

Wes & Jeanine Grandstrand on 3/31/1973 for 48 Years

Dick & Joan Kruse on 3/22/1975 for 46 Years

## Friendly Takeaway

Note to self...  
My struggles and mistakes do  
not define me. My pain and  
what I've been through does  
not define me. My identity is  
found in Christ and who He  
says I am.

### 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

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

**Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor**

[EricN@splcmn.org](mailto:EricN@splcmn.org), ext. 110

**Pastor Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor**

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**Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader**

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**Anthony Bloch, Interim Drummer**

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**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
- Access worship livestreams from the [www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org) homepage
- Past links can be found on our website, E-News, and on our app

### Board of Administration

[BOA@splcmn.org](mailto:BOA@splcmn.org)

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[andrewtjader77@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewtjader77@hotmail.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	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 9:00 am Quilters 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 Lent Worship	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 live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	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 6:30 pm Lent Worship	11 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	12 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf - Curbside Pickup	13
14 Daylight Savings Time Starts 9:00 am Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	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 Happy St. Patrick's Day! 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 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 Lent 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 live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	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 Palm Sunday Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship - onsite and live streamed	29	30 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	31 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			





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).