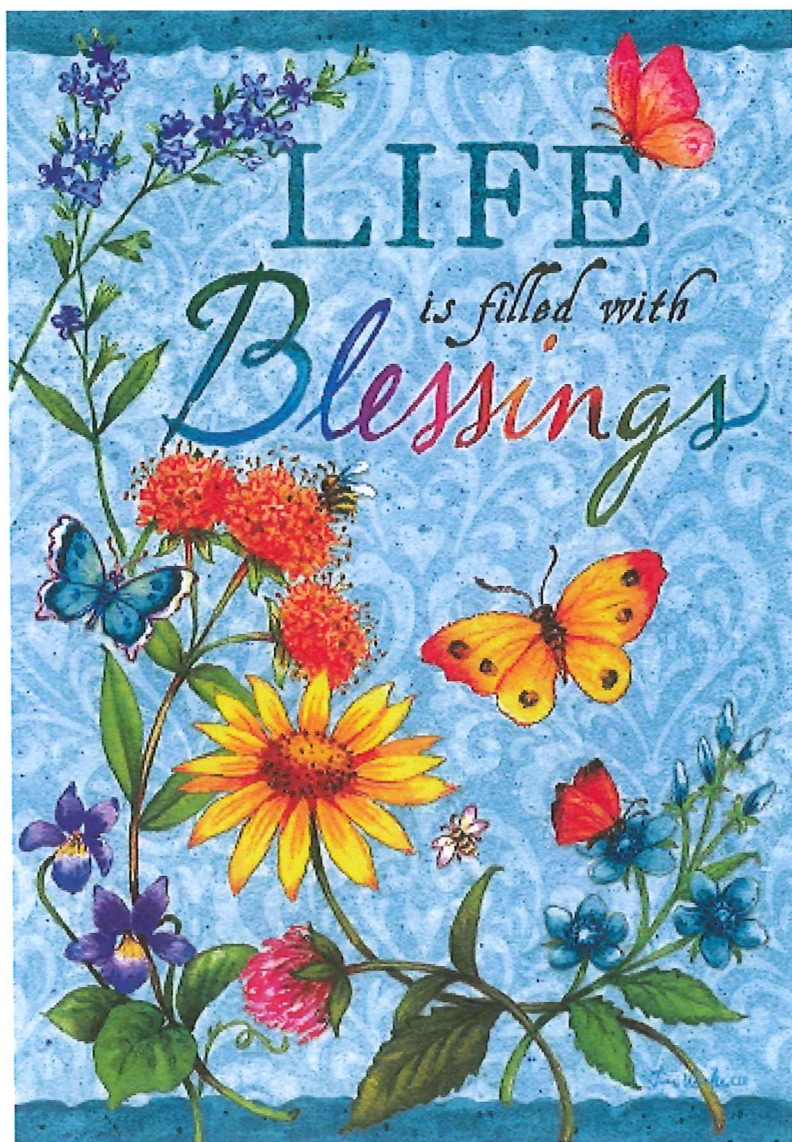


The Friend



May 2021

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PRAYER & JOY

Worship Wednesday

Matt Flom, Pastor

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:1-5

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Summer is around the corner; that wonderful time of year in Minnesota. This year we would like to bring back Wednesday night outdoor services. The service would start at 6:30 pm so folks could have supper at the community meal. We will invite people to bring their own lawn chairs, but we will have chairs available. We don't know yet if we will have the equipment ready to livestream the service, but that is our intent. We will start in June and either have every other Wednesday or each Wednesday on the schedule. If it rains we will move the service indoors. Holy Communion will be with the all in one individual cups we use on Sunday that contain a wafer and grape juice. The theme, text, and sermons will be different from the Sunday services.

If you are interested in coming or are interested in helping please let me know. We welcome feedback, questions, and suggestions. This is also a good opportunity to invite a guest who may be hesitant to come to a worship service indoors. Because we will be outdoors, folks will have a chance to see friends, visit, and spend more time together. See you soon!



Seasons of Change

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart. The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that the Lord planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees. Psalm 104:14-17

We see signs of life and hope around us. Despite seasonal allergies, I love to see the buds on trees, flowers blooming, grass greening, animals and birds stirring, people going outside, and all these beautiful signs of spring. We in Minnesota know, spring doesn't come until you've gone through winter. We wait through the time when birds migrate, outdoor time is limited, and many plants pause their growth for a while. Yet, we cannot say that nothing comes from the winter months here. The snows melt to begin the watering of fields. The change of season brings a change of rhythm for people, plants, and animals and each has their own purpose.

We find ourselves this spring with a change of seasons around us and many of us eagerly watching this change as more people get vaccinated. Many have longed for this. The previous season has been hard. But as we see life come about in new ways again, let us give thanks. Give thanks to God for all those who have worked through the seasons to bring comfort, to develop vaccines, to care for the ill and hurting, and to feed when food was scarce. Our new season continues with its challenges. We face issues in our society that demand our attention, action, and our honest learning and conversation alongside our neighbors. In these times, we continue to seek the God of life in whose image we are made. We give thanks for the life around us and seek to honor God's creation in each season we are given.

A note to our young adults:

We are excited to have our young adults from St. Philip's and Faith gather together in person outside during these warmer months and as we celebrate more and more folks being able to get the COVID vaccine. Our plan (weather permitting) is to gather for a bonfire at St. Philip's on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 pm. Watch St. Philip's publications for more information about young adult gatherings this summer and join the Stir Young Adult Ministry page on Facebook for updates of our shared ministry and gatherings between Faith and St. Philip's.

I pray you all are well and wish you blessings this May.

God's peace.



JOY & PRAYER

Waking of the Earth

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." Song of Solomon 2:12

"The redbud tree is a haze of softer violet, almost as if the air itself were lightly stroked and blushing. The redbud is beautiful. In her there is no violence or pride, although she is royal. The redbud is the clemency of God. So who stroked the air to wake her red? God." Walter Wangerin, Jr., Measuring the Days, March 26 devotion.

Solomon's scripture verse and Wangerin's devotion speak of the waking of the earth in spring.

I have such a redbud tree in my garden. It is so beautiful as it begins to come back to life. The blossoms line the branches as if they are velvet. I can see it from my bedroom window and it always make me catch my breath.

During the time of the Covid pandemic there were three people I could not visit in person, nor could I reach them by phone. And so I prayed for them and for the day we could visit and receive the sacrament again. Finally their facilities opened up and I was fully vaccinated.

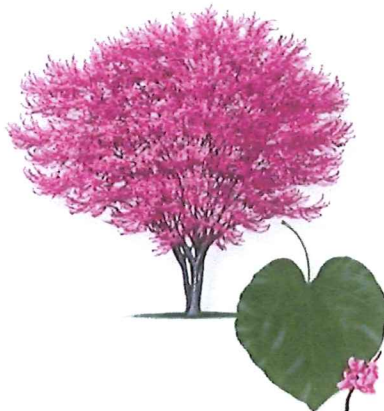
I went to see the first person the middle of April. I learned she had been moved to the memory care unit during the long time of Covid. I wondered if she would know me, but when I walked into the day room, she looked up and smiled as if she'd been waiting for me.

She asked to be taken to her room so we could have devotions. She was like the redbud tree, "lightly stroked and blushing" beautiful and smiling, waiting for scripture, the sacrament, and prayer.

I told her that even though I hadn't been able to visit, I had prayed for her. She told me she had prayed for me as well.

Such is the nature of faith. We trust that even in the dark frozen ground of our times of lamentation, God is there holding us, keeping us alive, and waiting with us.

These remain difficult times. We must still pray and wait. Like the redbud tree we must permit no violence or pride to overtake us, but only peace and the love of Christ.



May You Be Filled With Joy

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

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Grace and peace to you this spring season. Springtime always brings me joy. The birds are chirping with excitement, trees are budding, the grass is getting green, and plants are growing. This year I'm even finding myself smiling at the few dandelions that are already sprouting up. This season always amazes me, but I am feeling a bit more joy this year.

This past program year has been one filled with changes. Our children, youth, and their families all participated in lessons and activities virtually. Hearing Bible stories and chatting through computer screens was unusual and may not have been ideal, or easy at times, but we did it. We stayed connected. It was my hope that this program year would offer families an opportunity to grow in their faith together. And they did. Our older youth missed the lock-ins and fundraisers, but we stayed in touch with weekly chats, devotions, and games. Our children and youth weren't able to gather and give our congregation an in-person Christmas Pageant or Easter music presentation, but they were able to send in video clips that were put together, shared, and enjoyed by many.

Last year everything changed when the world turned upside down. So much was taken from our lives that, in many ways, we may have lost joy. I think if we take just a minute to see how far we have come this past year, we will see that even in the most difficult of times...there was joy.

It has been an interesting year, but one that I am proud of. We did more than make the best with what we had...we learned, we adapted, and most importantly, we grew. We grew in our ability to overcome obstacles, and we grew in our faith. And we did this all together.

I look forward to this summer. I have some exciting things planned for our children, youth, and their families. More information will be sent out soon. Until then, I pray that you experience joy in your lives this springtime season and all year.



2021 Spring Clean-Up

It was a difficult 2020, followed by a long winter, but spring is finally here and it's time to get the church grounds in shape for the summer! Please join us Saturday, May 15 from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, as we get together to spruce up the church and grounds by weeding, raking, edging, etc. We will start the day with coffee, pastries, and receive instructions in the Fellowship Hall, so please park by Door 11. Please also bring the tools you will use such as: wheelbarrows, shovels, leaf blowers, axes, rakes, trowels, and gloves. Also, mark your tools so you can identify them. Please contact Katie with questions [KatieS@splcmn.org]. We hope to see you on May 15!

SERVE & THANKS

Emerging Confidence

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

With warmer weather coming, people are beginning to emerge from the cocoon of their homes, where they have spent the past winter. In-person attendance at church has grown and it is so good to see people we have not seen for quite some time. Confidence seems to be growing and hope that there will be an end to this pandemic sooner, rather than later, is the conversation taking place. Don't misinterpret my words – I am not saying this is over, but rather I think we are beginning to let go of some of the fear in which some have been living. Plans are being made to hold our garage sale, a "normal" event! How exciting! Life will return to some kind of normal, and I think this summer may be quite different from last year. As a congregation we remain faithful in our support of our church, and we continue to move forward. Go out and breathe the fresh air. Give thanks to God for all He has given us and for all St. Philip's continues to do. Go in peace. Continue to serve the Lord!

Board of Administration Highlights



- Congregation financials continue to do well with income greater than expenses
- Lawn care was inadvertently left out of the budget; \$1,600 was approved to go to Property & Grounds for this expense
- Summer worship plans are underway and will include some Wednesday evening outdoor services
- Work has begun on a members only page on our website
- Revision of the congregation's constitution and bylaws has started utilizing a model from the synod and an example from another congregation

Knitters & Crocheters Group Update

The Knitter/Crocheters Group continued to work their craft at home from March to May. Dozens and dozens of items, such as: children's hats, mittens, prayer shawls, baby blankets, cowls, lap robes, and dish cloths were created and donated to local schools, a nursing home, an adult emergency shelter and the St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf. With social distancing and masking we will be holding our May meeting on Monday, May 24 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm in Room 3. If you feel comfortable please come. Select donated yarn to work on projects to be donated in the fall or work on your own project.

Companion Planting

Lynette Thompson, Garden Group

Anyone who enjoys gardening will likely listen for tips and tricks shared by other gardeners. Have you ever noticed blooms in a neighbor's yard that seem so much bigger and prolific than anywhere else? Or noticed tomatoes that exceed expectations growing in an ordinary community garden? Gardeners are almost always willing to share their recipe for such success, if one exists.

Those recipes may have scientific basis, edge of scientific basis, or may be based on folklore or hearsay. It can be confusing to know what will work for your plants. I have a 200 - page book titled *The Truth About Garden Remedies - What Works, What Doesn't and Why*. In the book each remedy is presented in easy to understand theory and practice sections. The author then adds a valuable "What It Means to You" regarding each remedy.

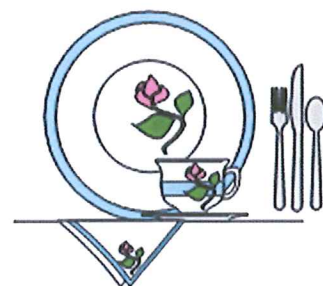
Piggybacking onto the above garden conversation is a concept known as companion planting. Certain plants grown in close proximity to each other may provide supplemental benefits. The benefits are touted as improvement in pest control, increased pollination, increased productivity, and more. How exciting! Your beans may be happier next to carrots than to beets. On the other hand, certain plants are not recommended as companions. Asparagus and mint may collide. Oh dear!

This companion planting technique is suddenly sounding like a lot of work. Could it get as complicated as planning guest seating for tables at a wedding reception? Will Aunt Bertha speak to Cousin Henry if they are seated at the same table? Does grandma need to be close to the center of activity or would she prefer a side table, even if she has to eat with _____(fill in the blank)?

Let's take a breath and reflect. Are there similarities in this companion planting to our lives? How do we select our companions? Do we need to receive benefits from the "other" who may look and grow differently? Can we find ways to share the sun, the rain, and beautify the immediate surroundings without some sort of compatibility test? Can surprises be discovered in new ways?

Virtual Festival of Tables - Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in and/or watched the Virtual Festival of Tables. This is a fundraiser for the St. Philip's Food and Clothing Shelf and the Wednesday Night Community Supper. If you missed the event or would like to watch it again, you may directly access the video at https://splcmn.org/worship_video/festival-of-tables-2021/. We look forward to returning to our Festival of Tables event on April 9, 2022 in person.



JOY & PRAYER

15th Anniversary

St. Philip's Disaster Relief Team



April 30th marks the 15th anniversary of the day the first St. Philip's Disaster Relief (SPDR) Team left for Mississippi to help with the rebuilding efforts eight months after Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast. Hats off to the original 13 team members that made that first trip:

Mike Anderson	Renee Johnson	Thelma Nash
Bob Brenden	Chad Leon	Paul Rebelein
Gidget Brooks	Spence Minear	Barb Salter
Don Foss	Myron Nash	Mike Trancheff
Jim Hougen		

The journey certainly has continued. Over the 15 years, the combined trips of these 13 individuals total 307, with seven of those team members on at least one of the 2019 trips. Following in their footsteps were an additional 161 SPDR team members - with 770 combined trips. Work, totaling more than 34,600 hours, has been done in approximately 200 homes and 25 churches, health clinics, food distribution centers, volunteer lodging facilities, and retail establishments.

None of these trips and all of the accomplishments of SPDR would have been possible without the support of the members of St. Philip's that have journeyed with the team members throughout these fifteen years. Thank you!

The Journey Continues

Food & Clothing Shelf Re-Opening Indoors in a New Space!

St. Philip's Food & Clothing Shelf will be re-opening its doors to inside service beginning Tuesday, May 4. We will be in our newly expanded space with entrance through Door 3 (the same door previously used for curbside service). Hours of operation: Tuesdays: 10:00 – 11:30 am, Wednesday: 5:00 – 6:30 pm, and Friday: 10:00 – 11:30 am. Visitors are welcome to receive two bags of food and one bag of clothing every 30 days per family/household. Masks and safe distancing will be required due to CDC pandemic guidelines. If you don't have a mask a volunteer will supply one during check-in.

Updates & Welcome!

Library Group



As we are slowly coming out of pandemic mode, going to church, meetings, some social events; the members of the St. Philip's Library Group would also like you to know that the Library is open.

If you haven't visited us, now is the time to come back. Are you running out of reading material? It's time to check the Library for new books. The Library has added books on current topics of interest: the pandemic, race relations, the environment, spiritual topics, and new novels.

New books have a sticker that say "New" and are on display. This may be a good time to check your shelves at home to see if there are any St. Philip's Library books that need to be returned. No fines are ever charged, but other borrowers may like to have a chance to read the book.

Have you wondered about the Library Group? You are welcome to, "Come and see." We meet the third Tuesday of the month in the Library at 9:00 am. Can't make that? We will accommodate your schedule as much as we are able.

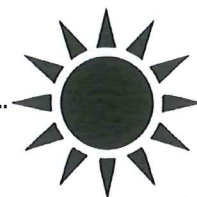
What do we do? We order new books, take donations, process books, tend the Library on Sunday mornings, have one fundraiser a year, attend conferences with other churches to hear speakers, and exchange ideas. Plus, you get to see the new books first!

Call Judy Simko [651-636-2675] or Grace Kurtz [651-631-3726] for more information.

Financials

St. Philip's 2021	Actual March	Actual YTD
Income	\$58,576.82	\$180,530.02
Expense	(\$56,228.18)	(\$169,136.27)
TOTALS	\$2,348.64	\$11,393.75

Endowment Committee



The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." James 1-17

2021 Endowment Grants

St. Philip's Sanctuary Decorating Team: \$1,000

(Continue to replace old paraments)

Property & Grounds: \$5,000

(New Parking Lot Lighting)

Property & Grounds: \$3,000

(Tree Removal)

St. Philip's Church: \$5,843

(Technology Upgrades)

St Philip's Library: \$60

(Standing grant)

.....
March Memorials:

Glen Byl

Helen Eberhart

Beverly Schillinger

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.

Ron Ackerman, Judith Bergeland, Edd Brooks, Josh Glood,

Jeanine Grandstrand, Jim Kugler, and Dawn Young

THANKS & PRAYER



May

Gloria & Leslie Coleman on 5/9/1959 for 62 years

Clarence & Constance Asche on 5/30/1960 for 61 years

Thomas & Marlene Schonebaum on 5/19/1962 for 59 years

Donald & Ila Stradal on 5/12/1962 for 59 years

Kenneth & Doris Moxness on 5/9/1970 for 51 years

Edward & Sharon Aune on 5/22/1971 for 50 years

John & Bonnie Shelton on 5/24/1975 for 46 years

Michael & Deborah Carroll on 5/19/1979 for 42 years

Jon & Mary Johnson on 5/9/1981 for 40 years

Tom & Kara Ruwart on 5/15/1982 for 39 years

Jonathan & Neoma Haugan on 5/26/1984 for 37 years

Thomas & Jill Kaufhold on 5/26/1984 for 37 years

Dan & Patty Porter on 5/19/1984 for 37 years

Scott & Sandy Long on 5/18/1985 for 36 years

David & Connie Yerigan on 5/31/2003 for 18 years

David & Christa Hart Pullen on 5/3/2003 for 18 years

Shawn & Kari Pederson on 5/28/2006 for 15 years

Ronda & Seth Bertsch on 5/31/2008 for 13 years

Chad & Gina Munsterman on 5/10/2008 for 13 years

Bryant & Melissa Holmstrom on 5/22/2015 for 6 years



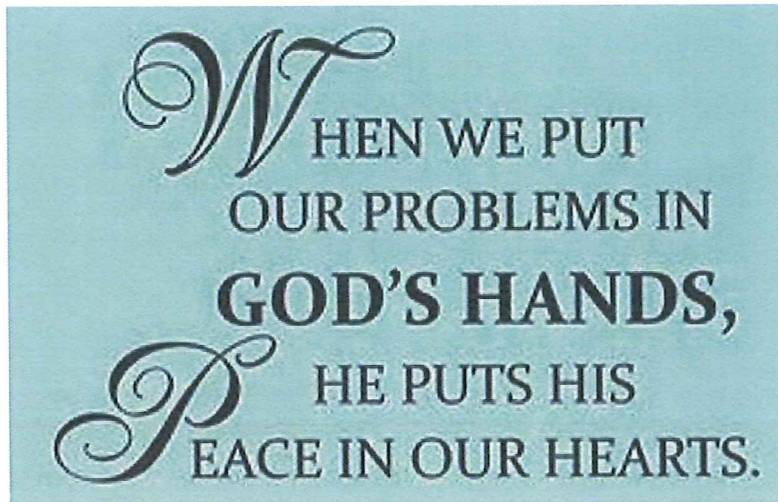
Hailey Ellyn Brooks

5/16/2021



The friends and family of:

Byron Teska



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

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Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director

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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

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

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Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 am Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	3	4 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 1:30 pm Columbarium Mtg. 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	5 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW (Women on Wednesday) 9:00 am Quilters 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup 7:00 pm Choir Practice	6 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	7 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	8
9 Happy Mother's Day! 9:00 am Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	10 1:30 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg.	11 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	12 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW (Women on Wednesday) 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup 7:00 pm Choir Practice	13 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Young Adult Bonfire; Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	14 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	15 8:30 am Spring Clean-up
16 9:00 am Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	17 Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg.	18 9:00 am Library Group Mtg. 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	19 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW (Women on Wednesday) 9:00 am Quilters 10:30 am Property & Grounds Mtg. 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup 7:00 pm Choir Practice	20 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	21 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	22
23 9:00 am Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	24 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg.	25 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live	26 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW (Women on Wednesday) 4:00 pm Adult Catechism - Facebook Live 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper Curbside Pickup 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:00 pm Alanon 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	28 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	29
30 9:00 am Worship - onsite and live streamed 10:30 am Worship - onsite and live streamed	31 Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed					



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).