

The Friend



Annual Meeting

Please Join Us in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 6 at 12:00 pm

You may also join the meeting remotely through
Google Meet.

Connection information is listed in the
announcements online and in the E-News. Please
make sure you are able to use Google Meet prior to
the meeting as the staff and pastors will not be able
to assist during the meeting.

February 2022

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PRAYER

Biblical Knowledge

Matt Flom, Pastor

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, 15 and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:14-17

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, love, and peace be to you from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Years ago, when I was new in ministry, I was watching a rerun of an old tv game show from the 1970s. Couples answered trivia questions and charted a path across a board. The category of Bible trivia came up and the host, with his loud plaid sports coat and incredibly wide tie, joked with the couples about how easy Bible trivia would be. The couples answered all the Bible questions quickly and correctly and they all had another laugh about how easy the questions were. Most of the folks in our churches today would not be able to answer those questions. In fact, they were much harder than Bible trivia questions you would see on the trivia show Jeopardy, for which you have to take a difficult test to apply. I don't feel the need to complain about the loss of Biblical knowledge in our American population, but I do feel the need to try and improve it.

I'm a proponent of daily Bible reading and meditation on the scriptures. It's an important part of every disciple's life. That said, it's nice to have help understanding the Bible and what it has to say for our lives. St. Philip's has purchased a subscription to RightNow media. It is a streaming service that hosts quality Christian content. There are Bible studies, topical studies, children's programming, material for youth, and much more. They even have Veggie Tales (I'm 53 and I love to watch them) We sent out an invite to those folks whose emails we currently have. If you didn't get one, please contact the office. Video learning is the format of our age. It's something families can do together and then have something to talk about. I urge you to check it out and let me know what you think.



May it Be Well With Your Soul

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

*"When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."
When Peace like a River (ELW 785)*

We began the new year a short month ago and already it seems to me that Christmas and New Year's were ages ago. What a lot, both good and bad, can happen in a month's time. What a lot of change can occur and begin to overwhelm us as we move through each day.

As we face these changes, we must hold to our firm foundation as well. Much may be shaken in the impermanence of this life, but our foundation built in God remains. I am reminded of this in my devotional time in nature, but few words remind me of this better than psalms and hymns.

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." - Psalm 18:2

When you find yourself in need of a fortress, there are threats around you. You aren't yet in the safest of places. When sorrows are rolling like great waves on the sea, one is in desperate need of the peace of waters like a gently flowing river. This is the life of faith. While we have seasons of life in peaceful places, the circumstances of chaos come too. But in those places, we still hold to our foundation of faith in God. "Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

Those words were written by Horatio Spafford after the loss of his four children at sea. What courage it takes to remind ourselves of God's presence near the calm river and the violent sea. Sometimes we must just be reminded of these promises again and again when the sorrows keep rolling like sea billows.

Wherever you find yourself in this season, use bible verses, hymns, and more to remind yourself that you are loved and held in God's care. As changes come in days and months, may you face all of it with sure confidence in Christ. Let us trust in our difficulty and rejoice in our safety. May it be well with your soul today and always.



PRAYER

God is Leading Us Through

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, a woman by the name of Kitty O' Meara wrote this poem. Needless to say, it went viral. It was a comfort to many people and to many families.

I think that as we enter deeply into the continuing pandemic in the middle of winter it would be good to ponder her words, because they are for us all.

Last month I spoke of learning to listen more deeply for the voice of God moving in us and to be comforted by this voice and the places it is leading us. I believe as the author does, that we are being led ever more deeply into healing. This healing needs cold, frozen earth, February earth, to be cleansed, and then to begin to thaw and to come together again.

The danger will end and we will be new again and we will celebrate and give God thanks and praise for leading us through.

And people stayed home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper

someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow

and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal

and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life

and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

Ponder these words as we move through February. Blessings to you all, and thanks to Kitty O'Meara for her beautiful words.



Endowment Committee

The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

December gifts were received in memory and honor of

Nelda Berry

Tom Kallroos

Lorraine Mattson

Debra Pederson

For more information on St. Philip's Endowment Fund visit our website at [\[www.splcmn.org\]](http://www.splcmn.org).
Select the *Ministries* tab and click on *Endowment*. Envelopes and pamphlets are in the office.

The Endowment Committee is happy to announce that the grant monies available for 2022 is \$16,440. Grant request forms are available in the church office and will be accepted through Friday, April 15.

Thank you for your support!

Financials

St. Philip's 2021	Actual December	Actual YTD
Income	\$76,602.35	\$711,497.67
Expense	(\$72,424.85)	(\$707,067.55)
TOTALS	\$4,177.50	\$4,430.12

THANKS & JOY

Spread Love

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

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Grace and peace to y'all in this wonderful season made to celebrate love. It's a bit hard to believe we are already turning the calendar to February but here we are, and I hope this season brings you joy and many opportunities to spread love!

Our youth have been busy fundraising for their upcoming summer Mission trip to Nashville. Because of your generosity and support, we are on the path to fully pay the way for each of the nine kids and three chaperones! This is amazing...a simple thank you will never be enough, but *thank you!*

Because of your support, we are going to spread love this season by hosting a different kind of fundraiser. This time we are collecting items for our Food & Clothing Shelf. Our youth have set a goal, and if this goal is reached, I have promised to dye my hair pink/purple, or the youth will get to throw a pie in my face. Spreading the love can be fun and silly at the same time!

We invite you to join us in the fun!

Sock-it to a SOUP-er Fun Youth Fundraiser

We invite you to help our youth reach their goal of 100 pairs of socks (Men's, Women's or Kids' warm weather socks) and 100 cans of soup or chili (chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, or chili) which will go to our Food & Clothing Shelf. Donations will be collected in the Narthex through Sunday, February 13.



Thank You!

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

A new year is beginning for the church, and another annual meeting is upon us. We have ended a very successful year, to the credit of this congregation. So many churches are struggling financially, and we have come through another year in a sound financial position. We all know that costs in many areas are rising, and it will be a challenge to continue to meet the expenses of the church, however, we have proved that we are up to the challenge. Thank you for the support you have given, and for the continued support I am hopeful we will receive. To those who served in many capacities during the past year, our thanks. A special thank you for the invaluable service given by the Board of Administration. To those having fulfilled your terms and are leaving the BOA; thank you! We look forward to working with new BOA and committee members, and thank you for volunteering. Here's to a busy, productive, ever changing year!

SERVE & THANKS

Board of Administration Highlights



- The proposed Constitution and Continuing Resolutions are posted in the Members Only section of the St. Philip's website
- Congregational 2021 year - end income surpassed expenses by just over \$4,000
- The generosity of our members has grown our ministries, both within our church and into the community

Meals on Wheels



Congratulations to St. Philip's for participating in the service ministry of Meals on Wheels! Each time we deliver a meal we fulfill a part of God's command to love our neighbors. We never really know how much it means to the recipient until you see their smile. Thanks to our January drivers for your commitment to this program: Cathy and Neal Anderson, Phyllis and Larry Ehlers, Kathy and Chuck Eichelberger, Steve Ess, Harlan Hohenstein, Ellen and Roger Musolf, Sandy and Eldy Nelson, Jennifer and Ron Prasek, Lynette Thompson, Bobbie and Roger Tuey, Ann Westby, and Dawn and Richard Young

Bells of Praise

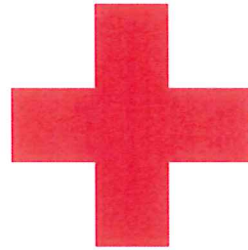
The Bells of Praise is a dedicated volunteer group who participate monthly in both worship services using music to praise God. There are also special musical events in which they participate: the Christmas concert and Music Sunday.

St. Philip's has 5 octaves of handbells and 3 octaves of handchimes. Many different techniques are incorporated into our ringing.

The Bells of Praise welcomes additional ringers any time during the season. We are looking for additional ringers, beginning now. Requirements include: love of music and interest in fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Lounge. Please feel free to join us. For further information, please contact Dawn Hansen at [763-780-0360 or at dawng48@hotmail.com].



Red Cross Aid at St. Philip's

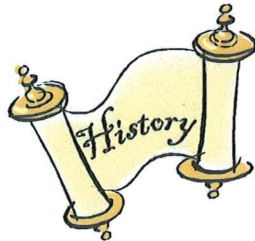


The article below was written by Tim Harlow at the Star Tribune:

"Several residents are without a home after a fire heavily damaged a Fridley apartment building early Thursday. Alarms in the 5840 building of the Georgetown on the River Apartments sounded just after midnight, alerting the Fridley fire and police departments of the blaze, said Sgt. Kevin Titus of the Fridley Police Department. Heavy smoke was pouring out from the building on East River Road when crews from Fridley and four neighboring fire departments arrived on the scene, Titus said. The building was evacuated and police went door to door to ensure that residents got out safely, Titus said.

No residents or firefighters were injured, he said. Metro Transit buses were brought in to give residents a place to go. The Red Cross also set up a temporary shelter, Titus said. The cause of the fire remains under investigation, Titus said."

The temporary shelter that some of the residents found was at St. Philip's. For about a week, some of those from the apartments found shelter and meals in the Fellowship Hall, and necessary items from our Food & Clothing Shelf. St. Philip's became certified as a Red Cross shelter over ten years ago.



Heritage Group

The role of the Heritage Group is to gather, organize, and preserve data from years past. During 2021, the Heritage Group continued gathering documents relating to St. Philip's history. The group resumed monthly meetings in November and December.

Areas of focus include Board of Administration meeting minutes, confirmation pictures and class lists, marriage certificates, monthly newsletters, Sunday morning bulletins, announcements, and E-News.

If you have any information relating to the history of St. Philip's that you no longer wish to keep, please consider giving them to the Heritage Group. Suggested items include newspaper articles, event pictures, cookbooks, directories, etc.

Several members of the group have stepped down for various reasons. We thank them for their participation in the past. Please contact current group members for more information if you have an interest in actively preserving the past, present, and future of St. Philip's heritage.

Current members are Carol Anderson, Diane Campeau, Arlene Hamernik, Dick Lekang, Kathy Swenson, and Erna Thomley.

SERVE & PRAYER

Tokyo Update

Jim and Carol Sack

January 1, 2022

Dear Sponsoring Congregations:

I think we all are familiar with the question put to Jesus in the well known verses from John 9:1-4. "As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.'

In this Newsletter we would like to share about a pastor of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church who has been an inspiration to us. Her name is Sana Ito and I (Jim) first met her in 1996 when she entered the Japan Lutheran College as a sophomore transfer student in what was known at the time as the "Counseling Course" in the Theology Department. I had the privilege of being her graduation thesis advisor. She wrote about "The Change from Just Living to Being Alive in God." The title is important, as Sana has been living with an incurable disease. After graduating from the college, she entered the Theological Seminary here on the same campus. She graduated from the seminary and was ordained in 2003.

Sana has a disease called Spinocerebellar Ataxia or SCA. This is a progressive and degenerative genetic disease with no known effective treatment or cure. It is associated with loss of fine coordination of muscle movements and leads to unsteady and clumsy motion. Sana has full mental capacity but progressively has been losing physical control. As an undergraduate student she was able to walk well with a cane, but by the time she graduated as a Seminary student she had to use a wheel chair for mobility. In recent years she prefers texting as trying to speak has become more difficult and she can no longer write by hand. She still is able to use a keyboard to write with difficulty. Each year she is hospitalized three or four times for about two weeks at a time. She receives rehabilitation training during those stays.

After ordination, Sana was assigned as a pastor to a Lutheran Church for three years at a church only a few kilometers from the campus. Simultaneously she served as the chaplain at the Tokyo Nursing Home, near her church. She did chaplaincy for 14 years. Since 2007 she has been used as a stand-in preacher at various churches in the East District, which includes Tokyo.

SERVE & PRAYER

Sana has done a number of recordings for the Christian radio station FEBC (Far Eastern Broadcasting Company). Her talks were broadcast each week for half a year, which became 24,15-minute segments. During these talks she wanted to talk about the importance of each person's existence with Genesis 1:31 as the main theme: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

Currently she is writing a two-year series of articles called "The Word of Life," for our national JELC Monthly Newsletter. This is a series about what it means to live a meaningful life as a Christian in Japan. In these articles she wants to tell people that Jesus is always with each one of us, no matter what issues we have to deal with in our lives.

Since Sana is still dealing with her SCA disease, her words carry a lot of meaning for the readers of the newsletter. As a believer who continually has to deal with her progressively debilitating disease, she is always forward-looking and presents a very positive outlook on life in Christ.

I asked Sana if there was anything else she wanted to share with you people back in the States. She merely said, "please let them know that God can use each and every one of us, even if we are sick like I am. This is because Jesus is with us, each and every day of our lives." Amen to that. I can sense what Jesus meant in his discussion about the blind man. Paraphrasing his words, "Neither this woman nor her parents sinned; she was born with this disease so that God's works might be revealed in her." I can only believe that Sana will continue to be an inspiration not only to us, but to all who are blessed to receive the message she has to share. Please pray for Pastor Sana Ito and the ministry she has as chaplain, speaker, and writer. May she continue to find the grace and peace of God as she minister's in Jesus' name.

In Christ,

Jim and Carol Sack, Tokyo





February

Shirley & Phillip Eddy on 2/19/1955 for 67 Years

Richard & Dawn Young on 2/14/1965 for 57 Years

Mike & Renee Youngberg on 2/20/1986 for 36 Years

Cindy & Don Tollefson on 2/13/1987 for 35 Years

David & Yvette Christensen on 2/16/1991 for 31 Years

Christine & Ronald Boettcher on 2/25/1995 for 27 Years

Aaron & Staci Gondorchin on 2/2/2002 for 20 Years



The friends and family of:

Nelda Berry

Mike Blair

Dennis Christensen

Dave Yerigan



Thank you to the St. Philip's Church family for your prayers and well wishes, as well as flowers and cards while I was recuperating from surgery. I greatly appreciate all of the love and support! ~ Love, Karla Ackerman



St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

www.splcmn.org ~ info@splcmn.org

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Pastoral Emergency Phone: 612-930-1588

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KathyH@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

CheriS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Adam Miller, Sanctuary Choir Director

AdamM@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Volunteer Handbell Director

dawng48@hotmail.com

Katie Swenstad, Facility Coordinator

KatieS@splcmn.org, ext. 109

Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian, ext. 114

Worship Schedule

9:00 am Traditional

10:30 am Contemporary

- Access worship livestreams on our website [www.splcmn.org]
- Past worship links can be found on our website, E-News, and app
- Nursery is available Sundays 9:30 - 11:30 am for children 3 months to 3 years

Board of Administration

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Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack

Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf; Annual Audit 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	2 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm JUSTMove Mtg.	3 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	4 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	5
6 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Annual Mtg.	7 8:00 am Totino Grace Retreat 1:00 pm Joy Circle 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.; Conference Assembly	8 8:00 am Totino Grace Retreat 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:30 pm Heritage Group 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	9 8:00 am Totino Grace Retreat 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am Women's Book Club; EA Mtg. 1:00 pm Widow's Group 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm SPARK Generosity; Bells Rehearsal	10 8:00 am Totino Grace Retreat 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	11 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	12
13 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 1:30 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon Mtg.	15 9:00 am Library Group 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	16 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 10:30 am Property & Grounds Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm SPARK Generosity; Bells Rehearsal	17 7:00 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	18 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	19
20 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	21 Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg. 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.;	22 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food and Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group - Facebook Live 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	23 8:30 am Men's Work Crew; WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:30 pm SPARK Generosity; Bells Rehearsal	24 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	25 10:00 am Food and Clothing Shelf	26
27 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Youth Mission Trip Mtg.	28 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg. 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon 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).