

The Friend



WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

January 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

9:00 am (Traditional)

10:30 am (Contemporary)

January 2023

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GROW

Mountaintop Experiences

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

*"How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain."
How Good, Lord, to Be Here! ELW 315*

We continue to celebrate God coming into the world with us as Jesus Christ. We move from who God is shown to be in Jesus' humble birth into who God is shown to be in Jesus' ministry on earth in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a joyful revealing of who God is and how God is a light to all the world. Readings in Epiphany span from Jesus' baptism to Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain top.

In Jesus' baptism and the mountaintop transfiguration, a voice comes from heaven saying the same words, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17, 17:5) In Matthew 17, the voice from heaven also says, "Listen to him!"

While the disciples want to remain on the mountaintop in Matthew 17 where they have seen the glory of the Lord, Jesus leads them back down the mountain.

So often, we would wish to remain in the highest points, reveling in the glory and splendor of God. There is a place for that, but Christ shows that it is not where we are to always dwell in this life.

Christ leads his followers back down the mountain and out into the world. Upon return, Jesus is back to ministering to those in difficult places as he cures a boy with a demon.

Jesus reminds us that the revelation of who God is and what God can do is meant to be carried out into the world. We are to show up alongside each other when troubled in sin, sickness, pain, and whatever else comes our way to show and speak of the healing love of Christ.

The Holy Spirit sends us to carry the light of Christ out into the world. I pray Christ is continually revealed to you. I pray you have your own mountaintop experiences, seeing the glory of God. And I pray we will all courageously be sent out to share the joy and healing of our Lord in the world each day.



Jesus is Everywhere

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

"But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother."

Psalm 131:2

I usually enter the New Year with trepidation as well as anticipation. I've been around long enough to know that wonderful things and terrible things will come my way. And you just never know when . . .

2022 was difficult for me in many ways, but it was also a time to reflect on the ways God was with me in those difficult times. Without a calm and quiet soul, there were many times that I could have flown apart. What is the secret? It is to look for the good in all things. Where was I being held in the love of God? Who stepped in to take care of me when I needed taking care of? Where did I find unseen resources?

I will just mention three of those times. The first was the death of my father of 98 years. It was truly a long Minnesota goodbye - two funerals - one on the west coast and one here. It took a lot of coordination and not a little travel. The church where we held the Minnesota funeral was a blessing to us as well as the funeral home who worked with us. My father was finally home with my mother at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. It was blessing upon blessing as people gave us what we needed. Even the funeral luncheon was perfect!

The second was coming down with Covid two days after I returned from the trip to the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. My doc said I needed to be quarantined for ten days. I live alone so this wasn't going to be easy. But my brother called, and he and his wife dropped off sacks of groceries for me, twice! Neighbors dealt with yard work, mail, etc. and a friend dropped off my medication and I was more than fine and grateful for all that people did for me.

The third thing happened just before Thanksgiving when my garage door opener broke, and emergency service was not an option. A neighbor came and opened my door so I could drive my car out and park it in the driveway. I live in a wonderful neighborhood, so I called my neighbors to tell them why my car was outside. The neighbor across the street said he had a new garage door opener he'd never used, and would I like him to come and install it for me? And so, he did. When I asked him what he wanted for it, he said, "Merry Christmas." It was a most welcome blessing.

You see, Jesus is everywhere watching over us and caring for us in unexplained and inexplicable ways. Jesus knows that terrible and wonderful things will happen in 2023, and Jesus is getting ready to take care of us. We simply need to see the blessing and be grateful and pay it forward. An attitude of gratitude is no small thing. It is a gift from God.

GROW & SERVE

There's Power in Prayer

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

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Blessings to you this new year and always! It's amazing how quickly time passes. Here we are at the start of a new month in a new year...it seems as though 2022 flew by in the blink of an eye. For my girls and I, it was the most difficult year of our lives losing my wonderful husband and their amazing dad. We will forever wish Dave was here with us, but we feel him with us in our hearts and we honor his life in every way we can.

One of the many things that help me get through each day is prayer. Prayers from loved ones for my girls and I, and prayers that I lift up throughout the day. For me, prayer is a time to sit quietly and talk to God. Thanking Him in all that he has blessed me. Thanking Him for carrying my girls and I through each day, one day at a time. And it's a time to ask for Him to watch over loved ones. For me, prayer is a conversation with God, and sometimes there are no words, but I have faith that He knows exactly what is on my heart.

There are many ways that you can pray... through journaling, reading scripture, and even through song. However you choose to pray, I hope you find it meaningful. I truly believe in the power of prayer. In the coming year, I will be introducing and encouraging the children, youth, and their families to try out different prayer methods. What might work for some, may not work for others...and that's ok. Prayer should feel like a conversation with a friend.

What are some of your favorite prayer methods? I'd love to hear from you!

Seeking Electric Guitarist

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader



The 10:30 am Worship Band seeks an electric guitarist with basic skills. Must be proficient in chords, strums, and musical counting. If you've been playing solo so far, this could be your time to take it to the next level with a quality band experience, a chance to share your gift and passion. All ages are welcome! We rehearse every Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 pm and lead the 10:30 am worship every Sunday morning (warm-up is at 9:30 am).

If you know of someone potentially interested, please contact Cheri Sykes at [CheriS@splcmn.org]. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Philip's; this is a volunteer position.

Happy New Year!

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

A new year is beginning and a chance to wipe the slate clean and begin again! Much as I hate the cold and snow, I have to admit it is beautiful. Everything is fresh and new snow coats the landscape, making everything look so clean. The new year begins that way as well. There is always the hope for good in the new year, promises made and goals set. I don't get into new year resolutions, as I never seem to keep them anyway, but I think this year I will try to be more intentional with my relationship with God. I will try to read the Bible on a more consistent basis and have more quiet time to talk with God. Maybe this is a new year's resolution we can all strive to keep! Join me in this plan!

Board of Administration Highlights



- We welcome our new Sanctuary Choir Director, Jamison Wendlandt.
- We welcome our new Organist, Julie Lueck, who joins us in mid-January.
- We are grateful for our congregation's generosity through their offerings, donations, and special giving.

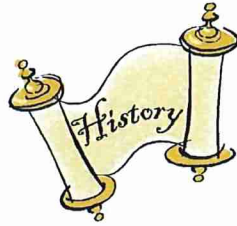
Meals on Wheels

December and the holidays are known to be a time for giving. The St. Philip's Meals on Wheels drivers make sure that every month is a time for giving. A big "Thank You" to everyone who shared their gift of time to bring a meal and a smile to those in need in 2022. Our wonderful December drivers were Mike & Deb Carroll, Chuck & Kathy Eichelberger, Harlan Hohenstein & Flo O'Donnell, Dave & Shirley Hogan, Rob & Mary Shimanski, Jennifer Prasek & Jody Davis, Jerry & Carole Jensen, and Larry & Phyllis Ehlers.



WORSHIP & GROW

Happy New Year! Heritage Group



Happy New Year from the Heritage Group!

2022 was a busy year for us and it was good to be back to regular meetings and work sessions.

We continue to search for and organize the history of this congregation. Whenever possible, documents are scanned, and the digital copy is stored on the church computer. Paper copies are organized and kept in archival quality storage boxes.

The donation of a scanner from Renee Johnson's nephew, Jason Waldron, owner of a Cartridge World in Maple Grove was very much appreciated. The scanner and an old laptop from the church office have made the scanning process much easier.

During the year, information was organized and scanning started on anniversary celebration events (2023 is 65 years!), annual meetings, board minutes, confirmation classes, endowment fund, marriage certificates, membership directories, music events, newsletters, and worship bulletins.

We learned about the kindergarten program offered by the early church and later the pre-school program.

Two boxes containing items and letters from missionaries were found. St. Philip's has a long history of missionary support for Ron & Ruth Nelson in Africa, Jim & Carol Sack in Japan, and many more.

The congregation helped identify several items – Hmong banners, altar cloths, silver serving pieces.

Extra picture membership directories from previous years are available. Anyone interested in receiving a copy, should contact the Heritage Group. Extra copies will also be available at the Annual Meeting in February 2023.

New group members are always welcome!

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in Room 1.

Carol Anderson, Diane Campeau, Arlene Hamernik, Dick Lekang, Kathy Swenson, and Erna Thomley

Ron Nelson - Former St. Philip's Missionary

Pastor Ron Nelson passed from this life to the next on December 2, 2022. St. Philip's supported Ron and his wife, Ruth, when they served as missionaries in Cameroon. The shadow box built into the wall near the East entrance contains artifacts from Cameroon that they gave to St. Philip's.

The funeral was held in Hettinger, ND, in December. A memorial service will be held on January 8, 2023 (3:00 p.m. Eastern Time). According to Ron's son, that service should be available on the YouTube channel of Berlin Church Columbus (www.BerlinChurchColumbus.com).

Message from LCCN Bille

Mr. Jotham Sumwashe, our new contact person at the Lutheran Church of Christ in Bille, Nigeria, sent greetings from everyone in Bille to all of us. He wrote, "Praise be to God for your continued partnership with us in Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Catechist at our joint outreach project, Amos Antibas, is doing fine with his family. They are presently constructing a new Church building which is now at lintel level.

The members of Women's Fellowship had their annual gathering for a week in May. Their activities included Bible Studies, Bible Quiz, Citations and Drama. They made visitations offering gifts to widows.

The Covid 19 pandemic is now over. Most people have received vaccines, and they go about their normal business without wearing face masks.

The letter closed, "Finally, we appreciate you very much for the companion congregational support for our joint project despite of the Covid 19 pandemic you are encountering there in the US.

Trip and Updates St. Philip's Disaster Relief Ministry



A SPDR Team will be traveling to Waverly, TN for the third time in a year. The trip will take place during the last week in April or the first week in May of 2023. In August of 2021, the area received 20 inches of rain in a 24-hour period causing severe flooding, throughout the community, resulting in 20 deaths. The SPDR team will assist in the rebuilding efforts in Waverly and the surrounding area. Once again, the team will stay at the Waverly United Methodist Church.

The SPDR coordinators have decided not to have a fundraiser dinner this coming February. Over the past six months and continuing into 2023, many hours of the team members' time has been spent on the planning, construction, organization, and physical move into the SPDR "stall" of the new St. Philip's Storage Facility. Thank you to everyone that was a part of planning and construction of the new building.

The Journey Continues

GROW & SERVE

Financials

St. Philip's 2022	Actual November	Actual YTD
Income	\$49,119.79	\$606,145.26
Expense	(57,306.61)	(\$623,714.96)
TOTALS	(\$8,186.82)	(\$17,569.70)

Endowment Committee



The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Be a Blessing to Future Generations!

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

Mike Miller

Richard & Beverly Schillinger

Sylvia Strand

Gifts in memory of someone, to celebrate a special occasion, or in simple gratitude should be specified for, "Endowment Fund".

For more information on the St. Philip's Endowment Fund, visit [www.splcmn.org] and select, 'Ministries' and then 'Endowment'.

Thank you for your support!



January

Kermit and Frances Hollen on 1/30/1960 for 63 years
Ronald and Marlene Hirth on 1/28/1961 for 62 years
John and Josephine Riley on 1/5/1961 for 62 years
Richard and Laurel Harris on 1/27/1962 for 61 years
Roger and Sandra Goman on 1/26/1963 for 60 years
Tom and DeeDee Kozlak on 1/28/1967 for 56 years

Susan and David Nelson on 1/1/1982 for 41 years
Steven and Gail Olson on 1/16/1991 for 32 years
Victoria and Kitah Emmanuel on 1/1/1993 for 30 years
Dennis and DeeAnn Gritti on 1/15/2000 for 23 years
Dane and Dena Froiland on 1/10/2004 for 19 years



The friends and family of:

*Hazel Falldin
Donald Fauteck
Elaine Knoff
Dorothy Langie
Eric Young*



New Members:

*Dave and Lucy Edlund
Tom and DeeDee Kozlak
Patrick and Donna Miller
Karma Ryals*

Friendly Takeaway

Five - Finger Prayer:

Thumb - Pray for those closest to you (friends, family, coworkers)

Index - Pray for those who teach and guide (teachers, pastors, counselors)

Middle - Pray for leadership/those in power (elected leaders, CEOs)

Ring - Pray for those with weakness (oppressed, sick, poor)

Pinky - Pray for yourself

St. Philip's Lutheran Church

A member of the ELCA

www.splcmn.org ~ info@splcmn.org

Phone: 763-571-1500

Pastoral Emergency Phone: 612-930-1588

Church Staff

Pastor Matt Flom, Pastor

MattF@splcmn.org, ext. 112

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

EricN@splcmn.org, ext. 110

Pastor Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

MargieG@splcmn.org

Katie Swenstad, Business Manager

KatieS@splcmn.org, ext. 104

Jenni Anderson, Communications Director

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

Cheri Sykes, Worship Band Leader

CheriS@splcmn.org, ext. 103

Michael Croy, Drummer

croy0001@umn.edu

Jamison Wendlandt, Sanctuary Choir Director

JamisonW@splcmn.org

Dawn Hansen, Bells of Praise Handbell Director

Dawng48@hotmail.com

Rianna Swenstad, Nursery Ministry Worker

Ryan Gorka, A/V Technician

Michelle Hill, Part-Time Custodian

Everett Washington, Part-Time Custodian

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: 9:00 - 11:30 am for children 3 months - 3 years

Board of Administration

BOA@splcmn.org

LaRae Kazmierkoski, President

laraekaz@aol.com

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Barbara Cooper, Secretary

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Kristine Poelzer

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Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack

Companion Congregation:

Bille Lutheran in Nigeria

Ministers: All members of the Parish

January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Happy New Year! 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	2 Office Closed 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.	3 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	4 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	6 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	7 12:00 pm 55 and Under Crew
8 9:00 am Worship - 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm WMA Mtg.	9 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon Mtg.	10 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg.; Heritage Group Mtg. 6:30 pm Prayer Group 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	11 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg.; Women's Book Club 1:00 pm Walking Alone Together 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	12 3:00 pm Endowment Mtg. 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	13 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	14
15 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:00 am Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Budget Forum	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg. 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.	17 9:00 am Library Mtg. 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	18 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 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 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	19 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	20 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	21
22 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Mission Trip Mtg.	23 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 1:30 pm Knitters & Crocheters 6:30 pm Board of Administration Mtg. 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon Mtg.	24 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	25 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:30 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal	26 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	27 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	28
29 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	30 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.	31 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 6:30 pm Prayer Group 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal				



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).