

# The Friend



HELLO  
*Spring*



## May 2023

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## All are Welcome!

9:00 am - Traditional

10:30 am - Contemporary

# GROW & WORSHIP

## Your Gift Matters

Eric Nelson, Associate Pastor

*Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on." - Luke 21:1-4*

As I returned home from work on one of these beautiful spring days, one of the neighbor kids was rollerblading around our driveway waiting for the boys to come out and play. As she saw my clothing, she asked, "Were you at church?" "Yep," I replied. Her mind rolled this thought around... "But today isn't Sunday!" I then was able to explain to her that despite popular belief, pastors do work more often than just Sundays.

It made me consider again the great number of folks I see here each week outside of our regular worship times. Many people who are not clergy or church staff, but freely giving of their time. Folks who gather to clean, to fix, to create, to feed, to clothe, to help, and to do so much more who are also able to point out that church and faith isn't just a Sunday thing.

It doesn't stop with those who are free to be here during the work week. So many people give of their time, talent, and treasure because they are invested in their life of faith and the life of their community of faith here. From brass ensembles to enter Easter Sunday to those unseen preparing communion trays for worship. From monthly gifts of \$5 to gifts of \$500. Your gift matters.

To list the vast variety of ways people give would extend far beyond the allotted space for this article. What you need to hear is 'thank you.' Thank you for giving money by app, online, in person, and by mail when you miss being here in person. Thank you to those who caught up on giving after the issue with our envelope company. Thank you for reading, stitching, cleaning, singing, and more. Thank you for the valuable gifts of time in tasks of church maintenance, outreach, worship, and more. Thank you for making your gift to the ministry at St. Philip's a priority.

Jesus doesn't needlessly go after the wealthy in the lesson of the widow's offering. He doesn't call wealth bad. He lifts up the gift of the widow that shows trust and priority of giving. As we read of offerings in the Old Testament, we might say. Okay fine, but I don't have a best sheep to give. No, but we do have ways of giving that give from our best rather than simply our abundance.

Thank you for the ways that you give of your best to the ministry here. Thank you for showing up with your time, your talents, and your hard-earned resources in good times and times of uncertainty to continue to make your giving a priority. Thank you for who you are. Thank you that ministry at St. Philip's is part of your story of faith. Thank you for the many who show up here throughout the week and come home to neighbors asking what you were up to at church this time. Thank you for all you give. Your gift matters.

Thank you.

### Live Into What God Has Planned

Margie Guelker, Visitation Pastor

*"I bless the Lord who gives me council. In the night my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Psalm 16:7-8*

I'm sure you have heard the phrase, "I think I need to sleep on that." Many times, when we are in the midst of a decision, it is best to "just give it a rest." Instead of tossing and turning, we can then just turn it over to Jesus and let him help to bring us to a conclusion.

When you wake in the morning your heart may be turned in a new direction. But still, you must listen to God's leading and prompting and walk through the process.

When we talk about our heart instructing us in the night, it is not as if all the answers come to you in a dream. It is rather that you have quieted your heart and soul and softened them so that they are ripe for the word of God to lead you forward. You will often know in your heart that matters are settled and now it is left to you to live into whatever God has planned for you.

This is all a process; it is hardly ever accomplished in a single night. What you are doing is letting God have God's way with you.

When I discerned that God was calling me to be a pastor, it happened in an instant. But then I had to live into it and own the decision. I had to put it on and walk around in it. I had to pray about it and share it with a few trusted friends until it became real.

It was the same when I bought my house. I knew it was mine when I saw it, but then I had to work through the process. I remember saying to the realtor, "I hope the inside is nice because this is my house." And then I had to sleep on it.

When you are experiencing changes in your life, let Jesus tuck you in for a good night's sleep and let him whisper to you the plans he has for you and then awaken to the goodness of God's blessing.



## GROW & SERVE

### Always With You

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

*I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9*

Grace and peace to you this beautiful spring day! As I write this, we have a light blanket of snow on the ground, and a few days ago it was summertime hot out. Mother Nature sure keeps us on our toes! It is easy to get sad about a late springtime snowfall...but there is beauty in it if you look closely. Beneath the new snow, the grass is growing, and the trees have buds on them...signs of new life everywhere. God is at work all around you, if you look closely, you will see Him in all things. I give thanks to God for each little reminder of new life, new beginnings and new opportunities.

This spring has been a busy one for the Children & Youth program. The kiddos did a fantastic job singing at our Palm Sunday worship services, and they prepared yummy cinnamon rolls that day too! Currently the kids are practicing two songs to sing for our Music Sunday worship services. Those songs are sure to put a smile on your face and fill your heart with joy...another sign of God at work.

Our older youth are looking forward to our summer Mission Trip to Chicago. While we are there they will have many opportunities to be God's hands and feet in the city where the need is so great. I look forward to spending that week with them and our two other chaperones. Seeing them experience the city and watching them serve others is going to be so fulfilling.

Coming up first is Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is 'Stellar - Shine Jesus' Light'. Kids will launch on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. I am still in need of volunteers. If you are feeling God calling you to Vacation Bible School volunteering, please let me know. You don't need to have a child in VBS to volunteer...just a caring heart and helping hands.

It is always my prayer that you take time to see where God is in your life. And like the Bible verse above says, be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed; God is with us wherever we go.



## Spring is Here!

Brian Munsterman, President

They say April showers bring May flowers, well, does the same apply to snow? April has felt more like winter than spring this year, other than the few days with the 80-degree weather. I hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy it! I see that the trees are budding, and flowers are starting to poke through the ground, but I wonder if we will jump straight into summer this year. I know spring is here as I see the robins in the yard, the grass is starting to turn green, and the snow is melting. While we should give thanks for all the moisture we have received and need to receive, let's pray for all that there won't be lots of damage from flooding this year as well. We welcome back the SPDR crew from Waverly, TN as they continue to help rebuild after the flooding in April 2021. Know that God is replenishing all and knows what is needed. Let's trust in the Lord and give thanks and praise for all the rebirth and beauty that He provides all of us every year.

## Board of Administration Highlights



- AC unit in Room 3 is being replaced.
- Looking forward to new projectors in the Sanctuary by end of May.
- Donating the baby grand piano in the Chapel to Keys 4/4 Kids. A used Yamaha Clavinova was purchased in its place.
- Last stage of roof project (office, Narthex, up to Fellowship Hall) to commence.

## Save the Date—Garage Sale Kick-Off Meeting

Ah, spring! When a young girl's fancy turns to love, and an old girl's fancy turns to the Annual Garage Sale! Join us for our kickoff meeting in the Chapel on Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 pm.

## Save the Date - Annual Spring Clean-up

Spring is here, finally, so much snow this year! It is time to clean up the church grounds and get them in shape for the summer. Please join us Saturday, May 20 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, as we get to spruce up the church grounds by weeding, raking, edging, trimming, etc. We will start the day with coffee, pastries, and receive instructions in the Fellowship Hall. Please park by Door 11. Bring your own tools with you and clearly mark them so they are easily identifiable. Necessary tools include wheelbarrows, shovels, leaf blowers, axes, rakes, trowels, and gloves. Contact Katie with any questions [KatieS@splcmn.org]. We look forward to seeing you on May 20.



## '65 Tornado Heritage Group



On May 6th, 58 years ago, a series of storms struck the area. Debate continues over whether two or three tornadoes were responsible. The storms lasted for three hours, with more than 20 touchdowns. Many St. Philip's families lost their homes entirely, many others suffered damage. Miraculously, no lives were lost.

On Sunday, May 9, 1965 – the first Sunday after the storm – three baby girls were baptized. Sara Rachele Nash, Melissa Lynn Duffee, and Lora Lynn Filipiak.

From the bulletin that morning: "The utter devastation in our community has caused all of us to marvel at the miracle of lives that were spared. There are no fatalities in our congregation, even if at least thirty families lost their homes entirely. There were several injuries; most were minor. We are thankful to God for the families of St. Philip's which are still intact."

After the storm, the members of St. Philip's got to work. The church was designated as a distribution center for clothing and food. Every person listed in the membership directory was contacted. Those making the contacts added notes to the 1965 directory: "home damaged", "house gone", "roof gone", "windows gone" "damage, but livable", and "no phone". Fortunately, "OK" was the most common response.

In addition to keeping in touch with members of the congregation, lists were created, and offers were made. Lists of members hospitalized, homes damaged, and homes gone, lists of volunteers to help with clean up. Lists of available rentals and members offering to share their homes with those in need.

A woman offered to sew clothing and stuffed toys for children while another offered to babysit in her home. Offers of cribs and highchairs, of transportation, to wash clothes, to donate blood.

Before the tornado, the members of St. Philip's were feeling the need to build a new Sanctuary with additional administrative and education space. The congregation had outgrown their current facility. Despite the devastation, the congregation rallied, supported one another, and moved forward with the planned building project.

In a May 18, 1965, letter to the congregation, Board President, Floyd Ordemann wrote in part:

"St Philip's has moved forward since its very beginning. There have been numerous challenges before – we've always accepted them and overcame them. Now again, in this time of adversity, by praying and working together we can take another step forward with the assurance that the challenge will draw us closer together and strengthen our faith in the fulfillment of God's plan for us."

"The following resolution was presented to the regular Board meeting on May 17, and passed unanimously. It contains the sentiments of your Board, and we are sure of you."

*Whereas the Lord has seen fit to embark us on an expansion program for the glorification of His Kingdom, and  
Whereas a disaster has beset us and serves now to test our faith in Him, and  
Whereas the need for such expansion has not changed one iota because of the disaster,  
Therefore, be it resolved that St. Philip's, in full reliance upon the power of the Holy Spirit,  
proceed with all plans for expansion of the church plant, and  
Be it further resolved that we re-dedicate ourselves to Jesus Christ  
for his many mercies during the ordeal which is upon us.*

## Waverly Trip & Storage Facility St. Philip's Disaster Relief Ministry



As you are reading this, a SPDR team is currently in or on the way home after working in Waverly, TN for the third time, assisting the survivors of a massive August 2021 flood to rebuild in their community. The team is working under the guidance of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMCOR). This is the 83rd trip that the SPDR Ministry has taken.

We decided this was an opportunity to share the accomplishments of the SPDR ministry over the past 17 years.

From the ministry's beginning in 2006, the mission has been to help survivors of natural disasters, hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes. During the previous 82 trips, SPDR teams have been to 11 states, traveling nearly 82,000 miles. Team members have worked 35,900 hours helping to build, rebuild, or work in hundreds of homes, businesses, churches, clinics, warehouses, retreat centers, rental homes, volunteer lodging centers, food banks, and distribution centers.

About 1,150 individuals have been team members over the years. Several team members have been on 40-50 of the 82 trips. It truly has been an amazing journey.

None of the accomplishments of this ministry would have been possible without the total support of St. Philip's congregation and staff, the northern Twin Cities community, family and friends, and the hundreds of friends and partners we have met along our continuing journey. Thank you for your unyielding support and friendship.

## The Journey Continues

### Meals on Wheels



April's weather was unpredictable to say the least! But our volunteer drivers who deliver Meals on Wheels were predictably awesome! Sharing an hour or so of their time is a priceless gift for the recipients. You are all so appreciated! Thank you: Steve Ess, Jerry & Carole Jensen, Chuck & Kathy Eichelberger, Pat & Donna Miller, Rob & Mary Shimanski, Mike & Deb Carroll, Eldy & Sandy Nelson, Dave & Shirley Hogan, Richard & Dawn Young.

# SERVE

## Updates from Bille

### Easter Greetings from LCCN Bille by Jotham Sumwashe

Greetings from all of us in LCCN Bille to our brothers and sisters of St. Philip's Lutheran Church in Fridley, Minnesota, USA. Thank you for your emails and wishing us a successful Easter celebration.

We don't know how you commemorate Easter week in Minnesota, USA, however, over here, we hold afternoon church services on Thursday morning and take Holy Communion. The following day, Friday, we have another church service in the morning with sister churches in our district. The story of the suffering and trial of our Lord Jesus is subdivided into twenty-five topics. Individuals of the various churches are given verses to read one after another while the pastor serves as a commentator. On Sunday, we have our normal Sunday service. On Monday, we have [an inter-] denominational service under CAN Christian Association of Nigeria. Please continue to pray for us and our country, Nigeria. Thank you.

### Happy Holy Week! From Mr. Clement B. Dah

I write to celebrate with you during this period when Christ suffered and died for us through which we are joined together as brothers and sisters.

I write to inform you of my improved health status. To the Glory of God, I can pray and fellowship with other believers in the Church during Sunday Service. Visiting friends and families is among the many things I have been able to do and I thank God for this great opportunity given to me by God Almighty.

As you pray this season, remember to include me in your prayers and to thank God for my speedy recovery. On behalf of my family, we wish you all and the congregation of St. Philip's a successful Easter celebration and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

(Note: Mr. Dah was instrumental in establishing our Covenant companion relationship with LCCN Bille. He was also the primary host for both visits by members of St. Philip's. Through the years, he kept us informed about the activities of the Bille congregation and of the Evangelist we co-sponsor. Mr. Dah suffered a serious stroke last year, and was unable to communicate until now.)

## Endowment Fund

### The St. Philip's Endowment Fund

Gifts were received in memory and honor of

*Don Fauteck*

*Kay Petersen*

*Eric Young*

For more information on the St. Philip's Endowment Fund, visit [[www.splcmn.org](http://www.splcmn.org)].

## Life Events

### May



Gloria and Leslie Coleman on 5/9/1959 for 64 years  
Clarence and Constance Asche on 5/30/1960 for 63 years  
Tom and Marlene Schonebaum on 5/19/1962 for 61 years  
Kenneth and Doris Moxness on 5/9/1970 for 53 years  
Edward and Sharon Aune on 5/22/1971 for 52 years  
John and Bonnie Shelton on 5/24/1975 for 48 years  
Mike and Deb Carroll on 5/19/1979 for 44 years  
Jon and Mary Johnson on 5/9/1981 for 42 years  
Tom and Kara Ruwart on 5/15/1982 for 41 years  
Jonathan and Neoma Haugan on 5/26/1984 for 39 years  
Thomas and Jill Kaufhold on 5/26/1984 for 39 years  
Dan and Patty Porter on 5/19/1984 for 39 years  
David and Christa Pullen on 5/3/2003 for 20 years  
Shawn and Kari Pederson on 5/28/2006 for 17 years  
Ronda and Seth Bertsch on 5/31/2008 for 15 years  
Chad and Gina Munsterman on 5/10/2008 for 15 years  
Bryant and Melissa Holmstrom on 5/22/2015 for 8 years

## Welcome

New Members

*Julie and Bill Lueck*  
*Sarah and Jade Mathre*  
*Piklu and Ratan Roy*

# Financials

St. Philip's 2023	Actual March	Actual YTD
Income	\$88,025.08	\$211,112.08
Expense	(\$75,706.25)	(\$202,707.85)
TOTALS	\$12,318.83	\$8,404.23

## 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

**Julie Lueck, Organist**

Julie@splcmn.org

**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

**Brian Munsterman, President**

bmunsterman@comcast.net

**Aaron Gondorchin, Vice-President**

zebular@gmail.com

**Barbara Cooper, Secretary**

cooperstory@msn.com

**Greg Rosholt, Treasurer**

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**Tom Mesenbourg**

tmes72@mac.com

**Kristine Poelzer**

kpoelzer@msn.com

**Missionaries: Jim & Carol Sack**

**Companion Congregation:**

**Bille Lutheran in Nigeria**

**Ministers: All members of the Parish**

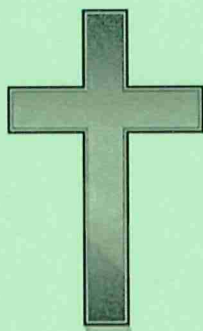
# May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 1:00 pm Joy Circle 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 6:00 pm Prayer Service 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	<b>6</b> 12:00 pm 55 and Under Crew
<b>7</b> <b>Music Sunday!</b> 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Parish Fellowship Mtg. 1:00 pm Global Health Ministries 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.; Gam-Anon Mtg.	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 2:00 pm Benevolence Committee Mtg; Heritage Group Mtg. 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg.; Women's Book Club 1:00 pm Women Walking Alone Together 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Mother's Day!</b> 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:30 am Worship	<b>15</b> Friend Articles Due 9:30 am Glory Circle 6:30 pm Executive Mtg. 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Library Mtg. 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 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 5:15 pm Community Supper 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Spring Clean-Up
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Worship 9:20 am Children & Youth Discipleship 10:00 am Youth Cinnamon Roll Sale 10:30 am Worship	<b>22</b> 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.	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 9:00 am WOW 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper	<b>25</b> 8:30 am Men's Book Discussion 7:30 pm AA Mtg.	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Food & Clothing Shelf	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day!</b> Office Closed 7:00 pm Gamblers Anonymous Mtg.	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.; Food & Clothing Shelf 1:00 pm Tuesdays Together 7:30 pm Worship Band Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 8:30 am Men's Work Crew 10:00 am EA Mtg. 5:00 pm Food & Clothing Shelf 5:15 pm Community Supper			



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).